

Minsk 2019 2nd European Games

Friday 28th June – Quotes of the Day

by Milica Nikolic ETTU Press Officer

10.00 am: Women's Team Semi-Final – Nina Mittelham and Han Ying (Germany)

GERMANY 3-2 POLAND

Shan Xiaona replaced the injured Petrissa Solja in the German team. Nina Mittelham and Shan Xiaona lost to Natalia Bajor and Natalia Partyka (11-8, 11-2, 14-12). Han Ying beat Li Qian (11-9, 11-7, 11-3), Shan Xiaona lost to Natalia Partyka (11-5, 11-8, 5-11, 11-4), before Han Ying accounted for Natalia Bajor (11-2, 11-6, 11-8) and Nina Mittelham overcame Li Qian (4-11, 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9).

"For the doubles, I have not had much many chances to partner Shan, so it was very difficult for us. It was also her first match here and it did not end up well for us. Luckily, Han played two amazing matches. She won quite easy and it opened the door for us. I am happy I seized the opportunity that has been given to me." Nina Mittelham

In the vital fifth match of the fixture Nina Mittelham recovered from 6-9 down, winning five points in a row to secure victory.

"I did not think about the fact she is the European champion. What really was on my mind is the thought that I can play well against a player with the defensive style of play. I was shaking before the match but after it started I felt well; I felt the ball and my confidence rose. I believed I could win. In the fifth game she was up. I was tired, but I realised she was also tired too. I kept on attacking and I was thinking only about the next ball." Nina Mittelham

"I am so happy for Nina; this was an amazing match for her. She deserved this win." Han Ying

1.00 pm: Women's Team Semi-Final – Elizabeta Samara & Bernadette Szocs

HUNGARY 2-3 ROMANIA

Daniela Dodean and Elizabeta Samara lost to Szandra Pergel and Dora Madarasz (11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 9-11, 12-10); Bernadette Szocs beat both Georgina Pota (11-9, 11-7, 11-9) and Szandra Pergel (7-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-4) Sandwiched in between Elizabeta Samara suffered at the hands of Dora Madarasz (11-7, 10-12, 11-9, 11-4). Daniela Dodean accounted for Georgina Pota to seal the victory (11-6, 7-11, 12-14, 11-6, 12-10).

"In the doubles we had a chances but the unfortunately we suffered the same fate as at the Portugal Open. We lost the decisive game by a narrow margin. I should not have lost the singles match but it happened. I was just not good enough today and she was better. The good thing is that we have a very strong team and if one of us makes mistakes, we have great support and enough quality from the others. Daniela was a real hero today." Elizabeta Samara

"I was well prepared for all players but I hoped it will be Pota first. Mentally that would have been easier for me." Bernadette Szocs