

Minsk 2019 2nd European Games

Monday 24th June – Quotes of the Day

by Milica Nikolic ETTU Press Officer

10.00 am: Mixed Doubles Quarter-Final

Patrick Franziska / Petrissa Solja (Germany) beat Niagol Stoyanov / Giorgia Piccolin (Italy) 11-2, 11-4, 11-6)

"Everyone told us it is going to be much easier match against Italians that the one from yesterday against Falck and Ekholm but we were on alert. We did not want to take anything by chance. At the end everything was fine. All segments of the match worked fine." Petrissa Solja.

We were focused. I cannot remember not even one stroke was wasted." Patrick Franziska

Patrick Franziska / Petrissa Solja now meet Lubomir Pistej and Barbora Balazova

"Balazova has spent a lot of time trainings in Düsseldorf, we know her. For sure it will not be easy match." Petrissa Solja

10.00 am: Mixed Doubles Quarter-Final

Ovidiu Ionescu / Bernadette Szocs (Romania) beat Aleksandar Shibaev / Polina Mikhailova 11-3, 11-7, 11-8

"They beat us recently at the Hungarian Open, so we learned from that experience. Polina is a very dangerous player but we managed to impose our tactics. Our team spirit prevailed." Ovidiu Ionescu

"We lost against them in Hungary after being 2-0 up. Our mistakes caused the defeat. Here we were prepared." Bernadette Szocs

10.45 am: Mixed Doubles Quarter-Final

Tristan Flore / Laura Gasnier (France) beat Pavel Platonov / Nadezhda Bogdanova (Belarus) 11-4, 7-11, 11-6, 12-14, 11-4

"We started really well, everything went smoothly until the second game; then they started to block very well, they pushed the ball deep and kept us far from table. We regained control in third game, before once again they raised their game. In the decisive game Laura was the player in charge. She brought us here." Tristan Flore

I managed to be near the table but the returns of Bogdanova were very difficult for me. Platonov tried to slow the game in order to regain the control. I maintained focus, despite great tension in the match.” Laura Gasnier

1.00 pm: Women’s Singles Round Four

Linda Bergström (Sweden) beat Georgina Pota (Hungary) 11-6, 11-4, 11-8, 15-13

“I knew how good she is, so I had nothing to lose. I was focused on my game; I tried to play to the corners of the table, to play with a lot of variations and use my forehand as much as I could. I got her out of a rhythm and kept her out of her pace. However, in the fourth game I did not change the game, Pota adjusted, she played to my backhand and narrowed the difference. I made an easy mistake at 10-9, then I got lucky with one point. I was three games ahead and I knew I had space if something went wrong. I was under pressure, but not severe.” Linda Bergström

1.00 pm: Women’s Singles Round Four

Li Jie (Netherlands) beat Shao Jieni (Portugal) 9-11, 9-11, 11-6, 12-10, 13-15, 11-5, 11-7

“I played three times against her and I lost on one occasion. She is very fast. I needed some time to adjust my game. I recovered, but her service game is very strong, so my only option was to attack. I could not risk with defense.” Li Jie

2.00 pm: Women’s Singles Round Four

Han Ying (Germany) beat Sofia Polcanova (Austria) 12-10, 13-11, 13-11, 11-8

“It was close, because in each game Polcanova commenced with new tactics. She did not play in her usual style and she changed things in each game; that gave her a little advantage but I have a good record against her and I was very confident. I managed to recover every time.” Han Ying

3.00 pm: Women’s Singles Round Four

Yang Xiaoxin (Monaco) beat Viktoria Pavlovich (Belarus) 12-10, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7)

“I love to play against players with a defensive style but you never know what is going to happen. They are all different. Viktoria never attacks, her style is very specific. I had to change my rhythm, to change everything, service, receive. It was a difficult match.” Yang Xiaoxin

3.00 pm: Women’s Singles Round Four

Polina Mikhailova (Russia) beat Matilda Ekholm (Sweden) 11-5, 11-13, 9-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8

"I never won against Matilda before and we have played so many times against each other; when I managed to win the opening game; that give me slight advance. It boosted my confidence and I think it affected her game too. She made mistakes on first ball, which is not usual. Also, I had my downs. I lost the second game after I led 10-8. After that I lost third very easy. When we reached decisive game I told myself "yell, shout, do whatever it takes, just win". I do not know how I managed to win." Polina Mikhailova

At the quarter-final stage Polina Mikhailova meets Yang Xiaoxin

"Good thing is that we played against each other in French League. I know her style. I beat her once and lost in two occasions; nevertheless I know how to prepare myself." Polina Mikhailova

3.00 pm: Women's Singles Round Four

Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg) beat Bernadette Szocs (Romania) 11-7, 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7

"This was a crazy game that made everyone nervous. I had a chance to finish the duel in the fifth game but I lost my focus. In next game, Bernadette was really good but when the decisive fifth game came, I had a better head. Szocs is very young and she improves with each tournament; sometimes more experience could help a little. Everybody comes prepared here, there is no doubt about it but sometimes the pressure is too high." Ni Xia Lian

4.00 pm: Women's Singles Round Four

Petrissa Solja (Germany) beat Li Qian (Poland) 12-14, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6, 5-11, 12-10, 11-5

"I expected long match; that was the only way to beat her. In opening game and in third she beat me by narrow margins, she even had a match point but I changed the tactics. I did not go for 100 per cent clear winners. I tried to put as many balls on the table as needed to look for a good opportunity. I was looking for long rallies. Also, I had the German team, people from the Olympic Committee and other sports to support me. It was something special." Petrissa Solja

5.00 pm: Men's Singles Round Four

Timo Boll (Germany) beat Marcos Freitas (Germany) 11-7, 13-11, 11-8, 11-7

"I am satisfied with the victory. Key to success was the receive; his service game is very dangerous for me but this time I coped well. If I had let him win the second game the match may have much different course." Timo Boll

5.00 pm: Men's Singles Round Four

Tomislav Pucar (Croatia) beat Panagiotis Gionis (Greece) 8-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9

"At 1-1 and 9-5 in third game I was already see myself as a winner. So many times it worked against me and this was the case again. However, I managed to learn from my mistakes and after I lost that game, I did not lose my head. I stayed calm and keep on playing. I overcame situations where Gionis was few times in lead. I did not crack under pressure. Two years ago I lost against Gionis 4-0, now I beat him."
Tomislav Pucar

6.00 pm: Men's Singles Round Four

Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) beat Kirill Skachkov (Russia) 8-11, 11-4, 16-18, 11-4, 11-7, 13-11

"Similar to yesterday I had a very close game. The third game was long. I had several good chances to win it but, unfortunately, I lost. It was good that in the next game I started well. In the last game I was losing 5-9, it was 10-10, 11-11 then we had a controversial point where Kirill had questions. It seemed to me that the ball went down which means my point. In any case, I gave the right to resolve this issue to the umpires. They gave me a point. I am glad that I won but I don't like it when such situations happen. Kirill is my very good friend and this is not pleasant." Vladimir Samsonov

Vladimir Samsonov meets Timo Boll in the quarter-finals.

"In the past few years, Timo Boll has played great; he is again at the top. I hope that the audience will help me tomorrow." Vladimir Samsonov

7.00 pm: Men's Singles Round Four

Jonathan Groth (Denmark) beat Dimitrij Ovtcharov (Germany) 11-7, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9

"I started very well and I gained an early control in the match. In the opening game it was 9-3 for me; I called for "Time Out" after he narrowed the gap at 9-7. Luckily it was good decision, I won the opening game. In the third game, I was in the trouble again but I could not let him recover. If I gave him chance it could be fatal; this is the best win of my career. I do not know who I play next; when you see Dimitrij Ovtcharov in your part of the draw you look no further." Jonathan Groth

Jonathan Groth meets Wang Yang in the quarter-finals.

"I have played close matches against him so far, so I do not expect it will be any easier this time. He played very well at the World Championships this year." Jonathan Groth

"He started well. I never managed to settle into the rhythm throughout whole match. I came here to win; this time he was better player." Dimitrij Ovtcharov

7.00 pm: Men's Singles Round Four

Emmanuel Lebesson (France) beat Kristian Karlsson (Sweden) 11-6, 11-7, 11-9, 8-11, 12-14, 11-5

"I made a good start, had good backhand; that was important because when such players like Karlsson make a lead it is hard to catch them. Even leading 2-0 I was not safe. I had all the time in the back of my mind that he is capable of making comeback. He is great fighter, one of the best players in Europe and in the world. In fifth game I had a match point but did I not lose my spirit and went to the sixth game." Emmanuel Lebesson

Emmanuel Lebesson meets Tomislav Pucar in the quarter-finals.

"He has had incredible season; reached the round of 16 at the World Championships and has played every time in the main draw of World Tour tournaments. It will be a difficult match." Emmanuel Lebesson

7.00 pm: Men's Singles Round Four

Kou Lei (Ukraine) beat Aleksandar Shibaev (Russia) 11-9, 11-4, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9

"The receive was the key. I was good in that part and it gave me opportunity to play a backhand on backhand game. No one feels the ball well here; it is important to get every ball on the table." Kou Lei