

Minsk 2019 2nd European Games

Saturday 22nd June – Quotes of the Day

by Milica Nikolic ETTU Press Officer

10.00 am: Women's Singles – Round One

Tin-Tin Ho (Great Britain) beat Anna Kirichenko (Finland) 11-3, 11-5, 11-6, 11-5

"I enjoyed my chance to play for the Great Britain team. There were a few spectators here and I wanted to give a good performance." Tin-Tin Ho

Looking ahead to the second round match against Yang Xiaoxin (Monaco)

"It is going to be tough match, but there are no easy matches here." Tin-Tin Ho

11.00 am: Men's Singles – Round One

Aleksandar Karakasevic (Serbia) beat Andrei Putuntica (Moldova) 11-6, 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 12-10

"Tough match for me, but it ended well. It was an opportunity to feel this venue, to get into the tournament. I hope it will help latter. Andrei is a god player, young but with experience from playing in Bundesliga for several years." Aleksandar Karakasevic.

11.00 am: Men's Singles – Round One

Ewout Oostwouder (Netherlands) beat Faith Karabaxhak (Kosovo) 11-6, 11-1, 11-6, 11-3

"I did not know much about my adversary; for me, it was important to play my own game and to maintain focus; that proved as good tactics. I faced no difficulties throughout the match." Ewout Oostwouder

1.00 pm: Women's Singles – Round Two

Nadezhda Bogdanova (Belarus) beat Dana Cechoca (Czech Republic) 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 13-11, 12-10

"Nadezhda was very nervous 30 minutes before the match. I had to make her believe she could win. She just needed a little bit of self-confidence. She played very well. She followed the tactics we designed and used a great deal of variation in her strokes; her powerful backhand and service proved very good." Alexandre Petkevitch (coach)

"I was the first player from Belarus to play today and I had problems trying to calm down. My coach and I studied Dana's matches and we saw the chance playing against her forehand. It is

not as strong as her backhand. I realized there was an opportunity. In addition, I made a lot of variations in my service game. She could not read them.” Nadezhda Bogdanova

1.00 pm: Women’s Singles – Round Two

Laura Gasnier (France) beat Lisa Lung (Belgium) 11-8, 11-4, 11-8, 11-9

“Lisa is a very good player and this match meant a lot mentally to me. I moved well, my service game and backhand were both strong; that was important for my confidence. In the next round I will play against the number one seed Bernadette Szocs of Romania. I am relaxed. I have nothing to lose there.” Laura Gasnier.

1.00 pm: Women’s Singles – Round Two

Amelie Soljia (Austria) beat Charlotte Carey (Great Britain) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5, 11-6

“I did not give myself much time to be under pressure. I was focused only to the match when it started. I am looking forward the match against Ni Xialian. I will play against my hero. We met last time in 2007 in Belgium Open and she beat me. Now I have my chance.” Amelie Soljia

1.00 pm: Women’s Singles – Round Two

Linda Bergström (Sweden) beat Maria Yovkova (11-5, 13-15, 15-13, 11-8, 11-5)

“I started very well and won the opening game but after that she put every ball on the table. She blocked very well, I had big problem with my attack game. It was very close match, I had to stay calm and to play strong for each ball.” Linda Bergström

4.00 pm: Women’s Singles – Round Two

Sarah de Nutte (Luxembourg) beat Tatiana Kukulko (Slovakia) 9-11, 17-19, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7

“It has been few weeks since I returned from the tournaments in Asia and I still have problems with feeling sick. I have a cold and I feel weak. I was favourite in this match but Kukulko made a much better start. However, I did not lose hope. All the games concluded by narrow margins. I kept on fighting until the end.” Sarah de Nutte

5.00 pm: Men’s Singles – Round Two

Kirill Skachkov (Russia) beat Adam Szudi (Hungary) 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7

“I was the favourite and I was expected to win but it is always easier said than done, especially in your first match. I started well, I led 2-0 but then Szudi started to risk. It made me nervous, I lost the third game and I was 1-3 down in fourth. I did not give up, I recovered to lead 7-3; it

boosted my confidence. I was able finish the winner. Now, I meet Darko Jorgic of Slovenia. Last time we played against each other was in Croatia, I won 4-2 but all the games finished close. Maybe I will have slight advance by playing already one match here, but this is such a big tournament. I do not think that anyone will come unprepared.” Kirill Skachkov

5.00 pm: Men’s Singles – Round Two

Jakub Dyjas (Poland) beat Laurens Tromer (Netherlands) 11-6, 10-12, 11-2, 11-6, 8-11, 8-11, 11-9

“I did not feel as if I was completely in the match at the beginning but still I had a better the start. In four opening games I was in control, very active, aggressive. My service game allowed me to play that way; then all of a sudden, it was 3-3 and 5-1 for Tromer. I lost my focus, he played very well. I did not lose confidence; recently I have won many matches in the deciding game and that helped. Timo Boll is favourite in our tomorrow’s duel but I will give my best to be competitive and to try to beat him.” Jakub Dyjas

5.00 pm: Men’s Singles – Round Two

Lubomir Pistej (Slovakia) beat Hunor Szocs (Romania) 5-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-5, 2-11, 9-11, 11-9

“We both started very nervously but I was first to get into a rhythm. Szocs was behind but he recovered. I think I was over thinking; when I decided not to complicate too much and just to stick with my game I regained control. My service was semi-long, it affected my attack; when I stopped thinking about the tactics, everything was better.” Lubomir Pistej

6.00 pm: Men’s Singles – Round Two

Sam Walker (Great Britain) beat Pavel Platonov (Belarus) 13-11, 12-10, 5-11, 8-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-6)

“I won two opening games very closely; in the third I let him recover. To be honest, he played much better; Pavel also won few really lucky points in the fifth game, so I had to call for “Time Out”. My coach Marcus Gustafson told me to be more aggressive, I was able to come back. The atmosphere is really great, the spectators are very enthusiastic. I did not mind they were cheering for Pavel; I enjoyed the moment and it did not affect my game in bad way,” Sam Walker

6.00 pm: Men’s Singles – Round Two

Robert Gardos (Austria) beat Jesus Cantero (Spain) 12-10, 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 10-12, 12-10)

“It is one of those matches that none of us likes; you have to play against club mate or team mate, it is so difficult. We know each other very well; you cannot depend on tactics too much. We know each other’s service game, so it was very hard. I also think that Jesus did not manage

to adjust to the table. It seems a little bit slippery, so a player with his style of play is in bad position.

Robert Gardos plays Kristian Karlsson (Sweden) in round three.

"I played against him long-time ago. I beat him last time we played. He has improved his game dramatically in past six or seven years. It will be very difficult." Robert Gardos

6.00 pm: Men's Singles – Round Two

Anders Lind (Denmark) beat Aleksandar Karakasevic (Serbia) 13-11, 11-3, 90-11, 11-8, 9-11, 13-11)

"I knew I had to stay focused. I could not afford to lose easy points, I made less mistakes. Tomorrow I will meet Emmanuel Lebesson and I have a chance there." Anders Lind

7.00 pm: Men's Singles – Round Two

Panagiotis Gionis (Greece) beat Luka Mladenovic (Luxembourg) 11-8, 11-6, 13-11, 11-7

"I lost against him in the European League; that proved as a "good" defeat in the end. I was very cautious here. I learned that he has a very specific style, so different from most of players. I was aware he was dangerous, so I had to be totally focused. Now I have more time to rest. I have to be ready for Liam Pitchford. Liam has improved his game; he is now among top 20 players in the world, so I will have to play at the top level to beat him." Panagiotis Gionis

7.00 pm: Men's Singles – Round Two

Bojan Tokic (Slovenia) beat Merdardas Stankevicius (Lithuania) 3-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 12-10

"He really surprised me. I did not expect such a match against a player low in the rankings and not well known. I came here in good shape but nevertheless I failed to play at top level today. Maybe it could be good for tomorrow. I could not have bad day again. Also, because of the late flight I did not manage to train in this hall, so I was unprepared for these conditions. Next match is against Daniel Habesohn who is higher in the rankings. I have chances; a lot will depend on daily inspiration." Bojan Tokic

7.00 pm: Men's Singles – Round Two

Kou Lei (Ukraine) beat Ovidiu Ionescu (Romania) 13-11, 8-11, 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 8-11

"I did not come here in top shape here. I am happy that I have opportunity to play at the European Games because I am coming back from the long injury. I had tennis elbow, so I was out of the top training for two or three months. I do not want to think about my next match. Now the pressure is not on me." Kou Lei

8.00 pm: Men's Singles – Round Two

Andrej Gacina (Croatia) beat Nandor Ecseki (Hungary) 11-3, 11-7, 11-9, 11-4)

"I am satisfied with my performance. Forehand was good, I did not allow him to attack with the backhand after the service. I was ready to face the difficulties in long rallies but generally all the points concluded in two or three strokes. After a straight games match I have more time to recover for tomorrow's duel against Simon Gauzy. He is higher ranked, so I hope I will be more relaxed." Andrej Gacina