

## Minsk 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Quotes of the Day

by Milica Nikolic ETTU Press Officer

1.00 pm: Women's Singles Semi-Final

**Yang Xiaoxin (Monaco) beat Polina Mikhailova (Russia) 11-7, 11-9, 11-1, 11-5**

*"I played her twice before in French League and won both times. I like to play against her style. I know what to do to win. Most important thing is to change the rhythm of the match constantly. I kept changing my service and kept changing the direction of my play. I changed forehand to backhand, went close to the table, then back. In second game she had a chance, she came close but after I won I think she just lost the edge to her game." Yang Xiaoxin*

1.00 pm: Women's Singles Semi-Final

**Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg) beat Linda Bergström (Sweden) 11-8, 11-7, 11-9, 5-11, 11-9**

*"I beat her already twice, so I had some mental advantage. Nevertheless, I was cautious. I knew I could not risk too much, I had to play conservatively and to be patient. Even though I was prepared, she surprised me a little. She has improved her game a great deal." Ni Xia Lian*

2.00 pm: Women's Singles Semi-Final

**Han Ying (Germany) beat Li Jie (Netherlands) 11-5, 8-11, 14-12, 11-7, 11-5)**

*"I tried to be more aggressive, not to be too passive. I have mixed record against her. I beat her recently but I still remember our match from Baku when I lost." Han Ying*

At the semi-final stage Han Ying meets Yang Xiaoxin

*"If I repeat my today's game I do not have reason to worry. I am very satisfied with my performance." Han Ying*

2.00 pm: Women's Singles Semi-Final

**Fu Yu (Portugal) beat Petrissa Solja (Germany) 11-8, 12-10, 10-12, 11-6, 8-11, 7-11, 13-11**

*"It is always in a match like that. I did not panic when she recovered to level. It was important that I kept a clear head for the decisive game." Fu Yu*

3.00 pm: Men's Singles Semi-Final

**Jonathan Groth (Denmark) beat Wang Yang (Slovakia) 11-9, 7-11, 12-14, 10-12, 12-10, 11-3, 11-7)**

"I am exhausted; a few times in the match I thought I would get cramp. It was such a long and hard duel. At the end everything had to be perfect to beat him. I can tell that I am not satisfied with one or two strokes I played during the match, everything else was perfect. Even if I had lost I would be still thinking the same. He is so fast, maybe the fastest player in the field. I started well; I won the first game by a narrow margin. If the gap had been 11-4 or 11-5 maybe he might not have been so motivated but because it was close, he lifted his game."  
Jonathan Groth

3.00 pm: Men's Singles Semi-Final

**Tomislav Pucar (Croatia) beat Emmanuel Lebesson (France) 12-10, 10-12, 10-12, 7-11, 6-11**

"I had a shaky start to the match; I had two game points at 10-8 but made it easy for him, I made easy errors and lost the game. However, I kept a positive energy and attitude and continued with lot of self-confidence. Next two games I won by narrow margins and it was only the third game, when I finally read the Lebesson's style." Tomislav Pucar

4.00 pm: Men's Singles Semi-Final

**Timo Boll (Germany) beat Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) 10-12, 11-6, 16-14, 12-10, 11-7**

"It was very intense match; the second and third games were very important. I had to be focused on each ball. Quite simply, when Samsonov is playing like he did today, he can beat anyone. It was important for me to stay calm, not to crack under pressure. He went after each ball with full strength, you cannot be any mistakes. The home crowd gave him strength. There was lot to think about but most important I had to stay focused." Timo Boll

4.00 pm: Men's Singles Semi-Final

**Kou Lei (Ukraine) beat Cédric Nuytinck (Belgium) 10-12, 11-6, 16-14, 12-10, 11-7**

"I am happy I managed to get over my injury. Now I am very happy the way I play. Tomorrow I will give my best to reach the place in the Olympics." Kou Lei