

Minsk 2019 2nd European Games

Wednesday 26th June – Quotes of the Day

by Milica Nikolic ETTU Press Officer

4.00 pm: Women's Singles Bronze Medal

Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg) beat Yang Xiaoxin (Monaco) 11-3, 8-11, 10-12, 11-7, 11-7, 11-8)

"It was never as important as it was today. In 2004, I was in the top eight in the world; it came easy that time. However, now I have to fight very hard; if today I had not succeeded I don't think there is any other way I could have qualified. The system is so difficult; that is why I fought so hard. Today, when I lost third game after being 10-6 up it hurt so much. Oh how it hurt! Yang is very dangerous. I had to study her game but even that sometimes did not help; that's why I am so excited now."

"The key ingredient is love. I have a family who supports me and loves me. My 88 years old mother, two children, siblings, they all support; also I have Luxembourg Federation, Olympic Committee, all of them supporting me. They are all there for me and they support me. They are devoted to this sport, otherwise I could not succeed. Young generations work so hard and they are better and better; I only get older." Ni Xia Lian

5.00 pm: Men's Singles Bronze Medal

Tomislav Pucar (Croatia) beat Kou Lei (Ukraine) 11-2, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-2

"Both of us were very tired; that is why the key points were on the service and return game. In that department I was much better. We could not rely on long rallies. I am so happy I will play in my first Olympic Games. I was at the Youth Olympic Games but this is ultimate dream in our sport." Tomislav Pucar

6.00 pm: Women's Singles Final

Fu Yu (Portugal) beat Han Ying (Germany) 11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 11-7

"I was calm. We played against each other five or six times before and I knew what to do. Previously I rushed into mistakes, now I did not let it happen. I waited for her errors. I am so happy I reach the Olympics again."

"It is hard when you lose the final match but in a week or two I am sure I will be happy for the medal and the place at the Olympic Games. If only this match could have been played tomorrow; I was so tired after the semi-final against Yang Xiaoxin. It was a very hard match and my legs were shaky in the final. I was tired and could not play at my best." Han Ying

7.00 pm: Men's Singles Final

Timo Boll (Germany) beat Jonathan Groth (Denmark) 6-11, 12-10, 12-14, 11-9, 11-6)

"Physically I was not 100 per cent fit; mentally and tactically everything was perfect. It was a strange match because I had to change my style; I had to play very passive, very slow. It was a good schooling for the future; I might change some things in my game and add some new weapons. However, today it worked. It was also important that I could try something different that will work my way. Groth has the game to beat me, he already did it in the semi-final of the Champions League and do not forget he beat Ovtcharov in the round of 16, so he is in very good shape here. I had a cramp this morning, so I was a little bit worried. We have a good medical team here and I hope I will manage until the end. It is very hard tournament."
Timo Boll

"He proved once again that he could change his style in the middle of a match and win. He is a true champion. I started better, won opening game and went ahead 9-4 in second. Then, Timo changed his service game. I could not find the answers for his service anymore."
Jonathan Groth