

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUALS



**TOP STORY: MORE GOLD
FOR CROUIN**

**TINNE GILIS WINS
THE SISTER BATTLE**



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FROM THE EDITOR

“After hosting three French Nationals we thought let’s be crazy and organize the European Championships,” says Denis Bourret, who enjoys a punchline or two. With the support of all the partners, the C’Chartres Squash & Badminton director and his team delivered. The tournament was run smoothly from start to finish and the attendance at Halle Jean-Cochet was a good surprise. At this time of the year it wasn’t a given, and the atmosphere was hot on semis and finals day. One of the club's greatest achievements is

to have created a strong momentum based on these events. Every time we come to Chartres it seems like there are more volunteers and that they are even more enthusiastic. Is it the joy of contributing to the success, as well as watching top level athletes performing that help them carry their tasks during these long days, always with a smile? These 2025 European Individual Championships are now over, they can go and get some rest!

Jérôme Elhaik

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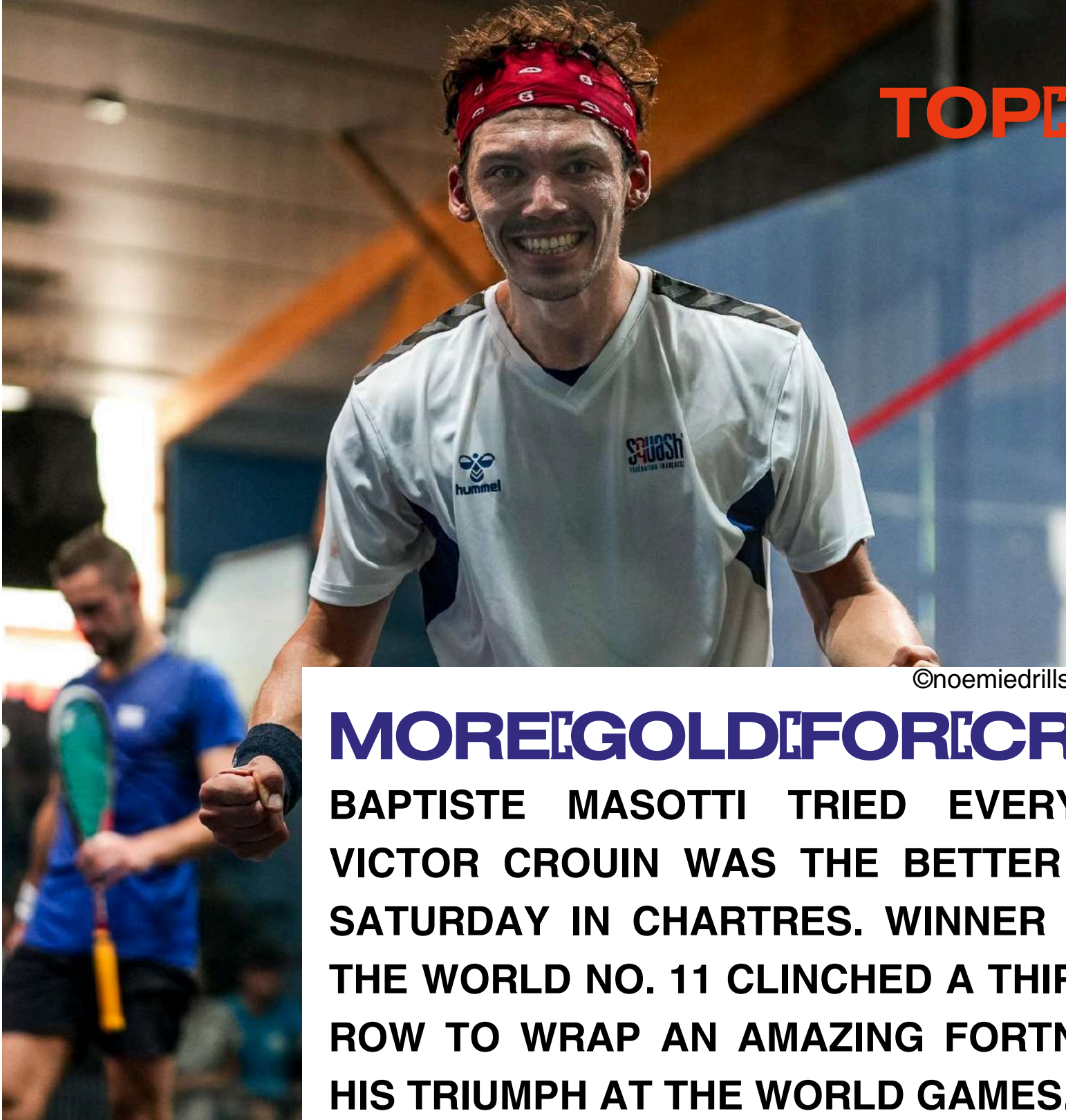
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MORE GOLD FOR CROUIN

BAPTISTE MASOTTI TRIED EVERYTHING BUT VICTOR CROUIN WAS THE BETTER PLAYER ON SATURDAY IN CHARTRES. WINNER IN 4 GAMES, THE WORLD NO. 11 CLINCHED A THIRD TITLE IN A ROW TO WRAP AN AMAZING FORTNIGHT AFTER HIS TRIUMPH AT THE WORLD GAMES.

Victor, you'd said your goal was to retain your titles at the World Games and the European Championships, mission accomplished!

Even though I like being the favorite, it's not an easy position and these two weeks have been tough. The pressure is coming down now, that's why I had tears in my eyes during the interview on French television. To win titles you have to be good in the key moments, and I am proud of what I did.

Playing these two events in a short period of time wasn't easy, there was no doubt in your mind when you made the decision?

No, and I prepared accordingly. If it hadn't worked out, we would have

looked at ourselves in the mirror with my staff and been more humble in the future. No doubt that the return trip from China was tiring, but I had five days at home to recover with my girlfriend and my family. As far as the squash goes, I think it's been improving, I played better here than in Chengdu.

Baptiste Masotti did not make things easy for you in the final, and you had to play at a very good level to beat him.

In the first game, I wasn't able to respond to what he was throwing at me because of a lack of discipline. Then I managed to play faster and be more accurate, which helped me take the upper hand. He fought like hell and with a lot of passion, like he always does. It shows that he's worked hard this summer, and it motivates me that the other French players are doing everything to try and beat me. If we keep pushing each other, I am confident that several of us will break into the top 10, and that one day we will hopefully win the World Team Championship.

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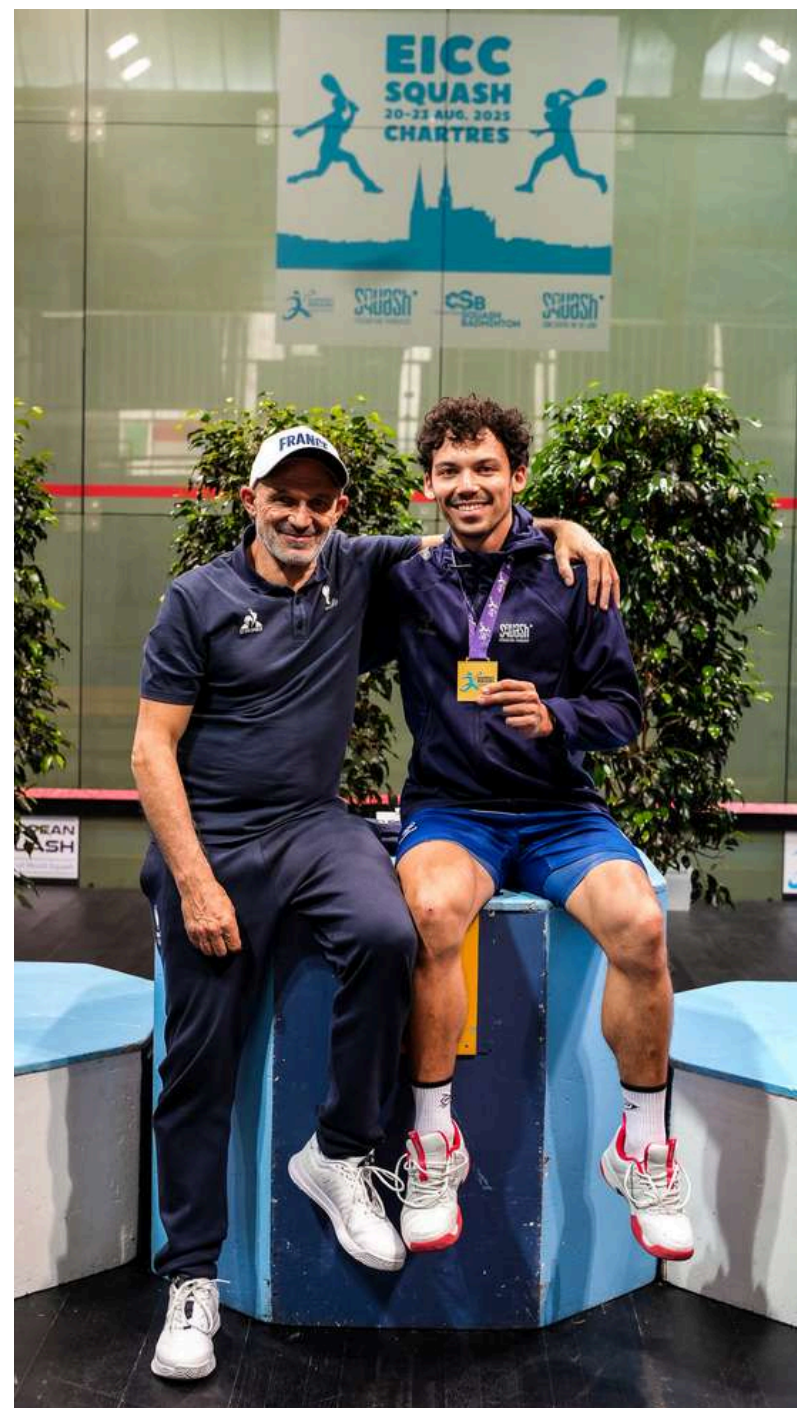
As I always say, it wouldn't bother me to be French No. 3 but World No. 5 in the meantime! We have strength in depth at the moment, but we are not at former number ones Thierry Lincou and Grégory Gaultier's level. Let's not forget Mathieu Castagnet, who reminds me every day that his highest ranking was 6 while mine is only 7 (he laughs)!

A final is always special, even more so on home soil.

Of course, and it was very emotional to share this win with my dad/coach and the rest of my staff. The arena was packed, kudoz to Denis Bourret and his team for organizing such a great event. We must not only thank them, we also need to highlight what they've been doing.

Another positive thing is that there was some good media coverage during these championships.

Squash has been getting more exposure, especially since we've been added to the 2028 Olympic Games and it needs to continue. Having said that we can't take anything for granted, it is up to our squash community to take advantage, create opportunities and ensure that it becomes a more popular sport.



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One of your short-term goals is to return to the world top 8. What are the things you are specifically working on to achieve that?

I have to be more physical and pass interferences, and we are working on core strengthening with my fitness coach Philippe Molendi, especially on the upper body. Even though I am someone who's never injured, it also helps reduce stiffness the day after matches. Meanwhile, there is also a lot of work to be done to improve



explosiveness.

You've faced some very good players over the last two weeks, but what makes the top 8 even stronger?

The key word is adaptability, these guys are able to cope with all conditions. Then, one of the main differences is that if you are not accurate enough, you'll get punished straight away.

Baptiste Masotti : “A great way to start the season.”

We all know Baptiste Masotti's skills but the consistency is not always there. The mercurial Frenchman produced two high-quality matches in Chartres, which makes one want to see if he'll be able to keep the momentum going at the start of the PSA season.

"I started the final well, even if I could have closed the first game more quickly. He deservedly levelled with some good winners, and I believe the end of the third was crucial with a funny bounce at 9-10 after I'd closed the gap, I should have been more ready for that. I lacked focus a little, especially with the refereeing, a few times I stopped to ask for a decision instead of playing the ball. However it's been a very good week overall, first of all with this silver medal which means a lot but also with my squash. I believe that never in my career I've played this well for my first tournament of the season, and it makes me think that good things are going to happen."



Baptiste will start his PSA campaign at the London Squash Classic (Gold) on September 2. He'll face Raphael Kandra in round 1 and the winner will play Diego Elias. The best-of-three format will be used for these matches.

*Like in 2022,
Tinne Gilis beat
her older sister
Nele in the
European
Championship
final, after a
high-quality
squash match.*



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TINNE WINS THE SISTER BATTLE

Even if Tinne Gilis has overcome Nele Gilis-Coll in the rankings for a few months, the World No. 7 says that that her sister is "one of my hardest opponents on tour. She perfectly knows how to test me physically. For me, it's all in the head, I must be careful not to rush and play the right shot when it's on. Luckily the Europeans are early

in the season, so I am still fresh mentally and up for the challenge!" The two Belgians threw the kitchen sink at each other, to the delight of the crowd at the Halle Jean-Cochet ("the atmosphere was great, they appreciated our efforts."), especially at the end of an amazing rally in the middle of game 3 which earned them a



standing ovation. Even if Nele clawed back to 2-1, Tinne put her foot on the gas in the fourth and won after 69 minutes of play. She continues to build a great career with this third European crown, a gold medal at the World Games and an European team championship title. “We are all very competitive, and it’s great to get another title to start 2025/26,” says the 27-year-old. “Besides, one of my goals for the upcoming season is to win a PSA Gold event.” She will have a first opportunity in a few days in London: the Big 3 (Gohar, ElSherbini, El Hammamy) will not be featuring and therefore the draw looks very open...

A delightful medal for Mélissa Alves

After losing the first game, Mélissa Alves upped her game to beat up and coming Spaniard Marta Dominguez. It's a fourth medal for the French Guiana born in the event, and she feels optimistic for the season ahead.

Satisfaction

"I enjoyed everything, the match and sharing with the crowd afterwards. Marta won the first game comprehensively, but Yann gave me a boost and I took the upper hand relying on my strengths. I did like Mohamed ElShorbagy, telling her that she was going to have a great season (she laughs). Marta has made huge improvements, and it's nice to see other countries emerging in women's squash. I'm really happy with my week, I started hitting the ball only a few days ago and I hardly played any



matches in training! I suffered from a back injury at the end of last season, so the priority during the summer was to heal completely. I did swimming, cycling on a home trainer and even Nordic walking, things I love! I dedicate this bronze medal to my coach Yann Menegaux, because I know I am not easy to deal with on a daily basis."



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Ambition

“There is strength in depth on the tour at the moment, it’s nice to be World No. 20 but I want more than that. I’ve had a lot of physical issues, right now I have no pain at all and it changes everything. Having said that there is no way around it, to go up the rankings you need to beat higher-ranked players and perform in the big events.”

Leadership

“My French No. 1 status, and everything that comes with it, I was not really aware of it.

It kind of changed here when I saw all these people behind the court for my first round, I told myself, what are they doing there?? I missed a lot of tournaments in France because of injuries, and I haven't played in the French Nationals since I've been #1. So getting a medal at home makes me happy, and I loved seeing all the kids in the stands. The other thing that really matters to me, and it's been a common thread throughout my career, is to put French Guiana in the spotlight, in fact my main goal this season is to win the tournament overthere in December (laughs)!”

OUR SPECIAL MATCH

Kara Lincou versus Franka Vidovic

In a tournament, you often come across a match which you'd not planned to watch in its entirety and you end up staying until the end... At the European Championships, for me it was the 5-6 playoff women's match won by Croatia's Franka Vidovic against Kara Lincou, 11-9 in the fifth. These two youngsters, aged 21 and 22, have been playing each other since the U13s, and they are both studying in the US at Penn and Trinity. That's why their world rankings of 220 and 153 do not do them justice,



and their recent results at the World Games and in Chartres prove that. Besides their squash related abilities, we loved their attitude and the spirit on court, and they had a long embrace at the end of this great battle. Their time at university is not over yet, but we can't wait to see them start their full-time career on the PSA World Tour!



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FRENCH CORNER



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All the results

Women's draw

  Mélissa Alves

Kara Lincou, 6th

Énora Villard, 17th

Ana Munos, 19th

Léa Barbeau, 26th

Men's draw

  Victor Crouin

  Baptiste Masotti

Edwin Clain, 6th

Melvil Scianimanico, 8th

Toufik Mekhalfi, 15th

Brice Nicolas, 27th

France grabbed 3 of the 6 medals at stake and strengthened its status of number 1 nation at the European Individual Championships. The host country's tally is now up to 22 titles - England, 10, is well behind - as well as 15 silver and 16 bronze medals.



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The 2025 event in fact and figures

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Victor Crouin became the third man to win three times in a row, after Chris Walker and Grégory Gaultier, but he is still far from the French General's 9 gold medals... Winning her third title Tinne Gilis joins Jenny Duncalf and is now three titles behind Camille Serme.

We told you about Franka Vidovic and Kara Lincou, and some even younger players shone in Chartres. 16-year old Dutch girl Renske Huntelaar and 18-year old Czech Karolina Sramkova showed what they are capable of, upsetting world top 80 players in the round of 16.



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The 2025 event in fact and figures

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At the other end of the age spectrum we find Nicolas Mueller, who turned 36 yesterday and who delighted the crowd in his quarterfinal match against Farkas Balasz. Sadly, the Swiss Rocket had to pull out injured in the first game against Victor Crouin – he was up 9-6. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on court very soon.

WOMEN'S DRAW

| Round of 16 August, 21 | Quarters August, 21 | Semifinals August, 22 | Final August, 23 |
|---|---|--|--|
| <div>[1] Tinne GILIS </div> <div>11-3, 11-9, 11-2</div> <div>[17/32] Hannah CHUKWU </div> | <div>[1] Tinne GILIS </div> <div>11-2, 11-3, 11-5</div> <div>[17/32] Kara LINCOU </div> | <div>[1] Tinne GILIS </div> <div>7-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-2</div> | <div>[1] Tinne GILIS </div> |
| <div>[17/32] Kara LINCOU </div> <div>11-9, 11-4, 4-11, 11-9</div> <div>[5/8] Saskia BEINHARD </div> | <div>[9/16] Jacqueline PEYCHAR </div> <div>11-9, 11-8, 11-3</div> <div>[3/4] Marta DOMINGUEZ </div> | <div>[3/4] Marta DOMINGUEZ </div> | |
| <div>[17/32] Karolina SRAMKOVA </div> <div>11-6, 11-7, 12-14, 3-11, 11-7</div> <div>[9/16] Jacqueline PEYCHAR </div> | <div>[3/4] MéliSSa ALVES </div> <div>11-3, 11-3, 11-6</div> <div>[5/8] Emilia SOINI </div> | <div>[3/4] MéliSSa ALVES </div> <div>11-9, 11-7, 11-5</div> | <div>[2] Nele GILIS </div> |
| <div>[9/16] Cristina TARTARONE </div> <div>11-5, 11-8, 11-9</div> <div>[3/4] Marta DOMINGUEZ </div> | <div>[3/4] MéliSSa ALVES </div> <div>11-5, 11-4, 11-5</div> <div>[2] Nele GILIS </div> | <div>[2] Nele GILIS </div> | <div>[3/4] MéliSSa ALVES </div> |
| <div>[3/4] MéliSSa ALVES </div> <div>11-8, 11-5, 11-0</div> <div>[9/16] Ambre ALLINCKX </div> | <div>[17/32] Franka VIDOVIĆ </div> | | <div>[3/4] MéliSSa ALVES </div> |
| <div>[17/32] Olivia BESANT </div> <div>11-3, 11-1, 11-7</div> <div>[5/8] Emilia SOINI </div> | <div>[2] Nele GILIS </div> | | |
| <div>Renske HUNTELAAR </div> <div>11-5, 7-11, 10-12, 11-8, 11-3</div> <div>[17/32] Franka VIDOVIĆ </div> | | | |
| <div>[9/16] Katerina TYCOVA </div> <div>14-12, 11-8, 11-3</div> <div>[2] Nele GILIS </div> | | | |



MEN'S DRAW

Round of 16
August, 21

[1] Victor
CROUIN 

11-2, 11-7, 11-3

[9/16] David
BERNET 

[9/16] Toufik
MEKHALFI 

11-3, 11-5, 11-5

[5/8] Melvil
SCIANIMANICO 

[5/8] Balasz
FARKAS 

11-3, 11-9, 11-6

[17/32] Louai
HAFEZ 

[9/16] Ivan
PEREZ 

5-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-8

[3/4] Nicolas
MUELLER 

[3/4] Iker
PAJARES 

12-10, 11-5, 5-1 ab.

[9/16] Viktor
BYRTUS 

[9/16] Edwin
CLAIN 

11-6, 5-11, 11-6, 11-8

[5/8] Raphael
KANDRA 

[5/8] Rui
SOARES 

8-11, 14-12, 11-7, 11-9

[9/16] Jakub
SOLNICKY 

[9/16] Edmon
LOPEZ 

11-9, 11-5, 11-7

[2] Baptiste
MASOTTI 

Quarters
August, 21

[1] Victor
CROUIN 

11-7, 11-9, 11-5

[5/8] Melvil
SCIANIMANICO 

[5/8] Balasz
FARKAS 

11-6, 6-11, 13-11,
10-12, 11-9

[3/4] Nicolas
MUELLER 

[3/4] Iker
PAJARES 

11-2, 11-6, 11-6

[9/16] Edwin
CLAIN 

[5/8] Rui
SOARES 

11-7, 11-3, 8-11, 11-7

[2] Baptiste
MASOTTI 

Semifinals
August, 22

[1] Victor
CROUIN 

7-9, ab.

[3/4] Nicolas
MUELLER 

[3/4] Iker
PAJARES 

6-11, 13-11, 8-11,
11-5, 12-10

[2] Baptiste
MASOTTI 

Final
August, 23

[1] Victor
CROUIN 



[1] Victor
CROUIN 

10-12, 11-3, 11-9, 11-5

[2] Baptiste
MASOTTI 



[3/4] Iker
PAJARES 

THANK YOU CHARTRES

