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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Malisse out in European Open, Sinner and Schwartzman play singles final

Antwerp, October 23, 2021 - Xavier Malisse, at the side of his pupil Lloyd Harris, did not qualify for the doubles final after a very strong tournament week. In singles, Jannik Sinner and Diego Schwartzman are in the final. Lloyd Harris could not cause problems against Sinner at any point. Qualifier Jenson Brooksby again sold his skin dearly in the first set, but could not keep Schwartzman out of his third final in Antwerp.

Jannik Sinner played the first semifinal of the day against Lloyd Harris. The young Italian quickly proved to live up to his role as favorite. He went through the South African's serve no less than twice in the first set. He served out the second set at a score of 5-2 and won set one: 6/2. Harris could not find an answer to Sinner's game in the second set either and immediately lost on his serve. For the 24-year-old South African, there was nothing left to do but acknowledge his superiority, despite some clever points. Harris lost the match with two times 6/2 in less than one hour and a half. The 20-year-old Sinner thus advanced to his first final at the European Open. "I'm very happy to be here in the final, it's nice to play in front of such a full house. Two years ago I played my first semi-final here on the ATP tour, this court suits me. I'm very happy with my level that I'm reaching this week."

Qualifier Jenson Brooksby played the final singles semifinal against world number 14 Diego Schwartzman. In the first set, it was the Argentine who had the upper hand. He quickly punched in a break to cash in. Brooksby did not give in and was able to rebalance the score to 4-4. Schwartzman speeded up the pressure and was once again able to go through Brooksby's serve. The first set went to Schwartzman with a score of 6/4. The Argentine seemed unstoppable and was soon able to build a 3-0 lead in the second set. With a double break in his pocket, things could hardly go wrong for Schwartzman. The Argentine did not slow down and won the second set 6/0. "I found well the balance between a solid game and aggressiveness on the court", Schwartzman said afterwards. "It's still very special to play here, especially now that I'm in the final here for the third time."

The second semifinal of the doubles was also on the program. Earlier, Mahut and Martin had already qualified. Saturday evening the Dutchmen Koolhof and Rojer also qualified for that final. Xavier Malisse, with Lloyd Harris at his side, did not manage to stunt again. The Belgian can however leave the tournament with his head held high after some impressive points in the past week. Against the Dutch duo, it was 4/6 in a balanced first set. Also the second set remained balanced, but it was the Dutch duo who decided the match in their favor with 2/6.

Earlier in the day, there was also a wheelchair tennis match between Jef Vandorpe/Ruben Spaargaren and Tom Egberink/Maikel Scheffers. The latter duo seemed to be on their way to victory for a long time, but Vandorpe and Spaargaren came back and made it 6/6 after all. In contrast to the beginning of the set, the tiebreak for Vandorpe and Spaargaren started off excellently. The duo quickly built a lead. Vandorpe and Spaargaren won the match. The Belgian world top Joachim Gérard could unfortunately not be there, but earlier this week tournament director Dick Norman handed him a trophy.

The Flemish government joins hands with the city of Antwerp through EventFlanders to make this top event possible. EventFlanders operates within Tourism Flanders, but is a collaboration between Tourism Flanders, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Culture, Youth and Media and Sport Vlaanderen.

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