PRESS RELEASE

European Open is off the ground: courageous Geerts can't stunt

Antwerp, 18 October 2020 - Sunday the European Open officially started and immediately the Lotto Arena almost witnessed a small stunt: Michael Geerts kept a steady pace with Salvatore Caruso for a long stretch, but the Italian managed to win in the end in two sets: 7-6 and 6-4. At 21h30 the UTS final duel is still on the menu between Gasquet and de Minaur. Remarkable: both players also meet each other in the first round of the European Open.

Michael Geerts (ATP 391) almost pulled a stunt on the opening day. However, the 25-year old from Antwerp lost against the Italian Salvatore Caruso (27), number 77 on the ATP ranking in two sets: 7-6 and 6-4.

Striking: UTS finalists play against each other in the first round

The final of the UTS (Ultimate Tennis Showdown) will be played on the evening of Sunday 18 October at 9:30pm. between Richard Gasquet (ATP 53) and Alex de Minaur (ATP 29). In the first round match on Tuesday, the two players meet again to decide who will advance to the 1/16th finals. Frenchman Richard Gasquet, who has won as many matches as he has lost this season, will probably has to show his best tennis on Tuesday against the young Australian. This season they already encountered each other once, at the US Open. This match was decided in four sets. In the end it was de Minaur who went home with the victory.

Kei Nishikori: "I can't wait"

Kei Nishikori (ATP 35) made some time for the press this morning. "I am very excited to be here in Antwerp. I'm still on my way back after an injury last year, but I'm eager to finish a good tournament." The 30-year-old Japanese player will play in the first round on Tuesday against Spaniard Pablo Andujar (ATP 54). Both players already battled five times on the court, Nishikori managed to win four times.

All results and pictures of today can be found on the website of the European Open: www. europeanopen.be.

Tickets are still available via this link.