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High level on and off court

The stars of the future battle it out on court in Lucerne. But there is also a lot of class in the stands and among the coaches.

It was the most thrilling match of the day. A doubles match which ended 15.13 in the Match Tiebreak and which was won by Brian Bencic and Gianluca Coloma-Heck. It was to the joy of Brian's sister Belinda, who had landed in the morning coming from NYC and then headed straight to Lucerne. The former finalist of the ITF Lucerne and present number 12 of the world spent seven hours on the grounds and witnessed two wins of her younger sibling. Between his matches, she signed plenty of photographs and posed for pictures.



Of course, the biggest female Swiss hope since Martina Hingis generated most interest. However, there are also several men in Lucerne working as coaches, who have left their mark worldwide. The most famous is Georges Goven, the 67-year-old Frenchman who hasn't lost anything of his passion. At the age of 17, he had won the boys event at the Australian Open, later he reached the semifinals of Roland Garros, bowing out in a tight five set to Czechoslovakian Jan Kodeš before later becoming captain of both the French Davis Cup and Fed Cup squad. He also worked with top professionals such as Alizé Cornet, Kristina Mladenovic and Tatiana Golovin.

Juan Albert Viloca obtained his best results later. In 1997, the Spaniard advanced to his sole two finals on ATP tour level, including one in Gstaad. He spent a fabulous week in the mountains of the Bernese Oberland. One after the other, he eliminated Ivo Heuberger, Marcelo Rios, Nicolas Kiefer and Alex Corretja, the last three all having been members of the Top 4. In the all-

spanish final he was beaten by Felix Mantilla in a decade where Gstaad was firmly in spanish grip with the iberians claiming nine titles in ten years. Viloca's best ranking was ATP 47.

Also the Swiss hopefuls in Lucerne can benefit from the advise of former top players. Stéphane Bohli made it to number 113 in the world and won four of his six Davis Cup matches and also Roland Burtcher made it close to the Top 300.

REMEMBER THE PLAYERS-NIGHT THIS EVENING IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 8 pm