





Andrej Gaćina

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|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nickname: | Gaca |
| Nation: | Croatian  |
| Date of birth: | 21 May 1986 |
| Height: | 1.86 m |
| Place of birth: | Zadar, SR Croatia, SFR Yugoslavia |
| Playing hand: | right  |
| Style of play: | Shakehand grip, Attacker |
| Coach: | - |
| Current world ranking (week 51 - 2024): | 78 |
| Current European ranking (December 2024): | 10 |
| Clubs as the active player(s): | Apuania Carrara, Croatian national team |

Senior Career Highlights

Medals and Titles

2023:

- Secured the ETTU Europe Trophy with Olympiacos, contributing to the club's continental success.

2022:

- Achieved a treble with Apuania Carrara Tennistavolo, winning the Europe Cup, Supercoppa Italiana, and Coppa Italia, showcasing his versatility and skill across different competitions.

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2011:

- Clinched the gold medal in men's doubles at the European Table Tennis Championships held in Gdańsk-Sopot, partnering with Portugal's Marcos Freitas to secure the title.

2009:

- Gaćina earned a silver medal in the men's singles at the Mediterranean Games in Pescara

2007:

- Won a silver medal in the team event at the European Table Tennis Championships in Belgrade, contributing significantly to Croatia's performance.

2016:

- Attained his career-high ITTF world ranking of 18 in February, reflecting his status among the world's elite table tennis players.

2008:

- Made his Olympic debut at the Beijing Games, marking the beginning of his participation in the world's most prestigious sporting event.

Breakthrough Moments and Achievements

2024:

- **WTT Feeder Prishtina**

Men's Singles 3rd

2022:

- **WTT Star Contender Doha 2022**

Men's Singles Winner

2011:

- **European Championships**

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Men's doubles champion

2009:

- **Mediterranean Games**

Men's Singles Silver

Men's Doubles Silver

2007:

- **Europe Championships**

Men's Team Silver medal

Junior Career and Early Achievements

Medals and Titles

2004: Secured a bronze medal in men's doubles at the World Junior Table Tennis Championships in Kobe, Japan, indicating his potential on the global stage from a young age.

Breakthrough Moments and Achievements

2004: The bronze medal at the World Junior Championships served as a significant milestone, propelling him into the senior

2024: Detailed Overview and Achievements

Medals and Titles

July 2024: Competed in the men's singles event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, representing Croatia on the grandest stage of international sports.

Breakthrough Moments and Achievements

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- **WTT Feeder Prishtina**

Men's Singles 3rd

- **July 2024:** Participated in his fifth Olympic Games in Paris, underscoring his enduring presence and competitiveness in the international circuit with heightened confidence and international experience.

Biography and Career

Born in Zadar, Croatia, Andrej Gaćina began playing table tennis at a young age. Gaćina moved to Zagreb at the age of 12 to access better training facilities. His professional career commenced in 2000 with the club STK Zadar, and he has since played for various clubs across Europe, including teams in Italy and Russia. Notably, he has represented Croatia in five Olympic Games (2008 Beijing, 2012 London, 2016 Rio de Janeiro, 2020 Tokyo, and 2024 Paris), achieving significant milestones such as a gold medal in men's doubles at the 2011 European Championships and multiple national and international titles.

Early Life and Background

Gaćina was born on May 21, 1986, in Zadar, Croatia. At the age of 12, he and his parents moved to Zagreb, where he could practice with better facilities, marking the beginning of his development as a top player.

Playing Style and Personality

Gaćina is known for his right-handed, shakehand grip attacking style, characterized by powerful forehand loops and quick footwork. He is known to use the Butterfly Viscaria blade with Dignics 09C rubber on both forehand and backhand, which supports his aggressive style of play. Off the table, he is recognized for his dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship, earning respect from peers and fans alike.

Legacy and Future Goals

As of December 2024, Gaćina's career reflects a legacy of perseverance, skill, and significant contributions to Croatian table tennis. His participation in five Olympic Games and numerous international tournaments has inspired a generation of players.



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Looking forward, Gaćina aims to continue his involvement in the sport, potentially transitioning into coaching or mentorship roles to foster new talent in Croatia and beyond.

Conclusions

Andrej Gaćina's journey from a young enthusiast in war-torn Croatia to a celebrated international table tennis player exemplifies resilience, dedication, and passion for the sport. His achievements, including five Olympic appearances, a gold medal in men's doubles at the European Championships, and multiple national and international titles, highlight his exceptional skill and enduring competitiveness. Gaćina's career serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes, not only in Croatia but globally, demonstrating that hard work and perseverance can overcome even the most challenging circumstances. As he continues to contribute to the sport, as a player and a potential mentor, his legacy will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on table tennis.

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