



Andrej Gacina

AGE

39

EU RANKING

16

NATION

CROATIAN

PLAYING STYLE

ATTACK

PLAYING HAND

RIGHT

CLUB

APUANIA CARRARA

DATE OF BIRTH

21 MAY 1986

HEIGHT

186 CM

PLACE OF BIRTH

ZADAR, SR CROATIA, SFR YUGOSLAVIA

GRIP STYLE

SHAKEHAND

COACH

NEVEN KARKOVIĆ / DRAGUTIN ŠURBEK JR.

WORLD RANKING

91

CLUBS AS THE ACTIVE PLAYER(S)

APUANIA CARRARA

MEDALS AND TITLES

World Junior Championships

- 2004 Kobe Doubles, Bronze medal – third place

European Championships

- 2011 Gdańsk-Sopot Doubles, Gold medal – first place
- 2007 Belgrade Team, Silver medal – second place

European Games

- 2009 Pescara Singles, Silver medal – second place

Europe Top-16 Cup

- 2024 Montreux Singles, Bronze medal – third place

Club Competitions (ETTU / European club)

- 2023 Europe Trophy (Olympiacos), Gold medal – first place
- 2022 Europe Cup (Apuania Carrara), Gold medal – first place
- 2022 Supercoppa Italiana (Apuania Carrara), Gold medal – first place
- 2022 Coppa Italia (Apuania Carrara), Gold medal – first place

PLAYING STYLE AND PERSONALITY

Andrej Gaćina is a right-handed offensive player using the shakehand grip. His game is built around powerful forehand loops, fast footwork, and the ability to control rallies from mid-distance. He plays with a Butterfly Viscaria blade paired with Dignics 09C rubber on both forehand and backhand, supporting his aggressive and balanced approach. On court, he is known for his discipline, resilience, and consistency against top opponents. Off the table, Gaćina is widely respected for his professionalism and leadership within the Croatian team. He has long served as a role model for younger players, combining quiet determination with a strong work ethic.

BREAKTHROUGH MOMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2025

European Team Championships (Zadar)

- Selected as a veteran leader for the Croatian team on home soil, underlining his continued importance in national team competitions.

Mixed Team World Cup (Chengdu)

- Represented Croatia in the prestigious year-end event, contributing to the squad's sixth-place finish.

Europe Cup (Club Competition)

- Played decisive matches for Olympiacos in key spring-summer rounds, reaffirming his value in European club play.

WTT Star Contender (London)

- Reached the Round of 16, recording a win over Lilian Bardet before exiting against Kristian Karlsson.

2024

Olympic Games (Paris)

- Competed in his fifth Olympic Games, showcasing longevity and elite-level consistency on the world stage.

WTT Feeder (Prishtina)

- Secured a bronze medal in men's singles, adding another podium finish to his career.

2022

WTT Star Contender (Doha)

- Won the men's singles title, one of the most significant victories in his individual career.

2011

European Championships (Gdańsk-Sopot)

- Captured the gold medal in men's doubles, partnering with Marcos Freitas for a breakthrough continental title.

2009

Mediterranean Games (Pescara)

- Earned silver medals in both men's singles and doubles, confirming his status as a rising international talent.

2007

European Championships (Belgrade)

- Won silver in the men's team event, contributing significantly to Croatia's overall performance.

2004

World Junior Championships (Kobe)

- Won a bronze medal in men's doubles, marking his emergence on the global junior stage.

CAREER

Born in Zadar, Croatia, Andrej Gaćina began playing table tennis at a young age and moved to Zagreb at 12 to access better training conditions. He launched his professional career in 2000 with STK Zadar and went on to compete for top clubs across Europe, including in Italy, Greece, Russia, the Czech Republic, and Belgium. A right-handed attacking player, Gaćina has been a pillar of the Croatian national team, representing his country at five Olympic Games (2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024) and collecting numerous titles and podium finishes over two decades. In 2025, he remained a key figure in both national and club competitions—playing for Olympiacos in the Europe Cup cycle and representing Croatia at the European Team Championships in Zadar and the Mixed Team World Cup in Chengdu.

LEGACY AND FUTURE GOALS

As of December 2025, Andrej Gaćina stands as one of Croatia's most respected and enduring table tennis players. His legacy is marked by Olympic longevity, a European title in men's doubles, and club victories across the continent. In 2025, his leadership role in Croatian team events and ongoing contributions in European club competitions further cemented his status. Looking ahead, Gaćina aims to continue competing internationally, support Croatia's team campaigns, and eventually transition into mentorship or coaching roles to help shape the next generation of Croatian talent.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Instagram: @andrejgacina
- X: @andrejgacina