

May 23, 2024

Mar del Plata Premier Padel P1, day 3

Eternal Belasteguin: three-hour marathon and a place in the round of 16

Un Belasteguin nunca se rinde. Literally, a Belasteguin never gives up. And he doesn't even do so at the age of 45, in what could have been his last professional match in his native Argentina. But '**Bela**' wanted to treat himself to at least one more, and so in three hours and 11 minutes paired with **Juan Tello** he won a place in the round of 16 of the **Mar del Plata Premier Padel P1**. It was an epic match against **José Diestro** and **Pablo Lijó**, in which the number five seed in the men's draw had won the first set on tiebreak, before losing a hard-fought second set 6-4 but having the strength to bounce back and earn the challenge against **Javier Barahona** and **Teo Zapata**, who had defeated **Lucho Capra** and **Alex Chozas** on Tuesday. *"If we had lost, I would have left with the peace of mind of having run three hours as I have done for the last 30 years – said Belasteguin, acclaimed by the Mar del Plata crowd –. The last four months were the worst: my elbow and calf were not healing. But I didn't want to miss the tournament in Mar del Plata".*

MEN The one between **Belasteguin/Tello** and **Diestro/Lijó** was the best match of a third day in which the top pairs in the men's draw got through their first match. **Arturo Coello** and **Agustin Tapia**, coming from their success in Asunción, gave up four games (6-1 6-3) to **Gutierrez/Ruiz**, as did **Fede Chingotto** and **Ale Galan** (6-2 6-2) to **Rodriguez/Santigosa**. The Argentinian derby between generations was won by **Franco Stupaczuk** and **Martin Di Nenno** (4) against **Tino Libaak** and **Leo Augsburg** with a score of 6-3 6-4. Both **Paquito Navarro** and **Juan Lebron** (3) and **Mike Yanguas** and **Javi Garrido** (6) finally needed three sets to reach the round of 16, beating **Cepero/Benitez** 4-6 7-6 6-2 and **Hernandez Alvarez/Valenzuela** 5-7 6-2 6-4 respectively.

WOMEN The women's draw also lined up in the round of 16: **Delfi Brea** and **Bea Gonzalez's** winning streak was extended to 17, thanks to a 6-2 7-5 win in one hour and 47 minutes over **Raquel Eugenio** and **Martina Fassio**, but the other favourite pairs for the title also won. **Paula Josemaria** and **Ari Sanchez** overcame **Noa Canovas** and **Jimena Velasco** 6-0 6-1, the same result for **Gemma Triay** and **Claudia Fernandez** against qualifiers **Monica Gomes** and **Manuela Schuck**. Today the tournament gets into full swing with the round of 16: play on three courts, starting at 9 a.m. local time, 2 p.m. CET.

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