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Belasteguin's last dance in Mar del Plata "Great emotions. I will never finish saying thank you"

The day of **Fernando Belasteguin's** last professional match in Argentina has arrived. Paired with **Juan Tello**, Bela was defeated 6-3 6-1 by the top two ranked players, **Arturo Coello** and **Agustin Tapia**. But the fans at the **Polideportivo Islas Malvinas** were all for him: many in tears, all standing for the tribute to one of the best players of all time. The emotion of experiencing such an evening was described directly by Belasteguin: *"I lost, but inside I have a feeling of calm – his words –. I started playing in Mar del Plata in 1995, I'm playing my last tournament here after 30 years. My best memory? Every time I have been here with my family. There is not much time during the year to do that, and when you have the feeling of being a father you start to understand many things"*.

Already in the previous two matches of the **Mar del Plata Premier Padel P1**, Belasteguin had been the most acclaimed, and on the court Bela had repaid with two marathons that lasted three sets each: *"I will never finish thanking the people and the fans for the respect I received. I will thank them one by one. I said that during your career you can make mistakes: I too have made mistakes, but the people have never stopped showing me love"*.

If Bela's career in Argentina is over today, there are still many goals before saying goodbye to padel: tournaments on the **Premier Padel** circuit, but also the **FIP World Padel Championships** in Doha. *"There are four months left, in which I will give everything to be there, as always: I will continue to train as I have always done, and if I don't get called up, I hope to at least give the coaches a chance to doubt"*.

Belasteguin will remain an icon, an example for the young players: *"The only thing I know about progress in life is working: there is no ball that pays for the feeling of having worked every day of your life, and that's what I told my children. Of my career I would not change anything: neither the good things nor the mistakes, because all the decisions I have made in my life have been thought out. I started in professional padel, today it is a totally different padel, but I am very happy to see where the sport has come"*. And if padel has reached this point, the credit is also due to Fernando Belasteguin.

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