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## **Claudia Fernandez, queen of Santiago, and the others: here are the rising stars of padel**

She is just over eighteen, but she has already achieved a record to be proud of. With the victory at the **Banco de Chile Santiago P1**, **Claudia Fernandez Sanchez** – paired with **Gemma Triay** – became the **youngest winner** of a **Premier Padel** tournament, the world's leading professional circuit.

Born in Madrid on February 28, 2006, and ranked number 9 in the world, the "Niña Maravilla" of padel lifted her first trophy on June 3 at **18 years, 3 months, and 4 days**, breaking the previous record set by **Claudia Jensen** just two and a half months earlier: at **18 years, 8 months, and 3 days**, the Argentine won the **GNP Acapulco P1 in Mexico** on March 24, paired with **Jessica Castelló**.

Looking back, this result also surpasses the record achieved in international competitions by **Beatriz Gonzalez**: "**Bea**," born in Málaga on November 23, 2001, won in Madrid in 2020 paired with **Marta Ortega** when she was **18 years, 7 months, and 27 days old**.

A statistical curiosity: the youngest female pair to win a tournament, summing the ages of both players, was formed by **Ariana Sanchez**, current world number 1, and **Marta Ortega**, who won in Spain, but in Santander, at a combined age of **39 years** (19 for Ari, 20 for Martita). Before the title in Chile, Claudia Fernandez reached the final this year at just **18 years and 2 days old** at the **Ooredoo Qatar Major Premier Padel**: however, this is not a record for finals, as the youngest to reach this milestone in the history of major world circuits were **Marta Ortega** and **Claudia Jensen** (at **17 years old**).

Speaking of the "Niña Maravilla," if we consider all professional circuits recognized by the FIP, the one in Santiago is not actually the first title for the Madridilenian: in June 2022, at just **16 years and 4 months**, she won the **FIP Gold Alkmaar** (Cupra FIP Tour circuit) in the Netherlands paired with the Argentine **Julieta Bidahorria**.

But who is the youngest winner of a professional FIP tournament? It is still a player born in the Spanish capital, but not Claudia Fernandez. The record was set by **Amanda Lopez Moral** (born in 2008 and ranked number 110 in the FIP rankings) who at **15 and a half years old** won the **FIP Promotion Elche** in Spain in July 2023 with her partner **Cristina Carrascosa**.

Other prodigious girls are certainly **Martina Calvo Santamaria** (ranked 157) and **Jana Montes Cabruja** (ranked 113), both born in 2008: at the aggregate age of just **32 years**, they won the **FIP Promotion Betsson 3** in Goteborg in April and the **FIP Rise Burriana** in May 2024. The Spanish female "cantera" never stops producing talent: just think of **Raquel Eugenio Barrera** (ranked 117), another player born in 2008 who has already won four tournaments in the **Cupra FIP Tour circuit** in 2024 (FIP Promotion La Cala, FIP Promotion Castellon, FIP Rise Isla de la Palma, FIP Rise Bapadel Barcelona).

Focusing on the best-ranked Under 18 champions, excluding Alejandra Alonso (ranked 18) who turned 18 on May 29, the top Under 18 is her Catalan partner **Andrea Ustero** (ranked 19), with whom she has already reached **three Premier Padel semifinals** (GNP P1, Mar del Plata P1, and Santiago P1); in 48th place is **Agueda Perez**, in 65th **Noemi Aguilar**, both from Madrid, and in 85th place is **Lucia Peralta**, born in Zaragoza.

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