

21 July, 2024

FIP European Padel Championships, not just Spain Bjorkman captain of Sweden. And in Denmark there's Laudrup jr

Spain has won ten of the 12 **FIP European Padel Championships** and also in **Cagliari** - which from tomorrow until Saturday 27th will host the thirteenth - aims for the gold medal: looking at the list of players who will compete in Italy, it is clear why. There are the two players with the highest **FIP ranking**: **Momo Gonzalez**, fresh from winning the **FIP Platinum Sardegna** in pairs with **Edu Alonso**, is number 12 in the world, followed by 'Captain America' **Alex Ruiz**, number 14. But they are not the only stars: **Alex Arroyo**, **Javi Rico**, **José Antonio Diestro**, **Teo Zapata** are all among the top 40 of the FIP ranking, along with two young talents like **Javi Leal** (who will turn 21 on Sunday the 28th and wants to give himself a present) and especially **Pablo Cardona**, born in 2004, who reached the quarter-finals in the last two **Premier Padel** tournaments, in Genoa and Malaga, and is in great shape. There are the Spanish big names, but other national teams also promise to battle: host **Italy** will field **Marco Cassetta**, who became the first player in Italy to enter the top 100, but also a player like **Giulio Graziotti** who achieved great results in the **CUPRA FIP Tour** in 2024. If Cassetta is number 100, **France** has **Thomas Leygue**, not yet 23 years old and number 101, while the leader of **Sweden** - fourth and last seed - is **Daniel Windahl**, number 59. But another top player will be on the bench, as the captain is **Jonas Bjorkman**, who in tennis was even number 4, reaching the semi-finals at Wimbledon and the US Open.

THE OTHER PROTAGONISTS Speaking of national teams coming from Northern Europe, in **Denmark** there is **Mads Laudrup**, son of Michael, a legend of Danish football who in Italy wore the jerseys of Lazio and Juventus, as well as those of Real Madrid and Barcelona. Close to the top 100 is **Belgian Clement Geens**, semi-finalist in the FIP Gold of Saltillo (Mexico) and ready to lead his teammates in Italy; the star of **Great Britain** is **Christian Medina Murphy**, who in the last three tournaments played in the CUPRA FIP Tour has always reached at least the quarter-finals. Poland will also be in Cagliari, which last year hosted the last major event for national teams, the European Games in Krakow: among the call-ups, also **Wojciech Szczesny**, only namesake of the Juventus goalkeeper. Family matters in Portugal, with brothers **Miguel** and **Nuno Deus** (two years apart between the first and the second) and with **Pedro Araujo**, brother of **Sofia**, who plays in the women's national team and winner of the P2 in Genoa. But in every competition of any sport discipline, there is always room for surprises: who will be the new names in Cagliari?

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