

6 September, 2024

## FIP Juniors European Padel Championships, France and Italy to challenge Spain in Saturday's finals

The penultimate act of the **FIP Juniors European Padel Championships** in **Budapest**, Hungary, has concluded, with **Spain** once again starring in a flawless day. The boys and girls of "La Roja" will have the opportunity to defend the double title they won in 2022 in Valencia, facing two teams that, after a remarkable week, are aiming for an upset. In the men's tie, the Spaniards dominated **Belgium** 3-0 with a show of strength: **Iago Fuertes/Alex Leira** (Under 14), **Juan Zamora/Antonio Garcia** (Under 16), and **Santiago Jose Pineda/Alejandro Calvo** (Under 18) all won their matches in straight sets against their Belgian counterparts, who left the court to applause from the crowd.

Spain will face **France** in the final, scheduled for tomorrow at 2 PM, after the French team emerged victorious from a tough battle against **Sweden**. The duel began with Under 14s **Sacha Huard de la Marre** and **Nathan Perrot** securing a crucial 2-1 win over **Vilgot Persson** and **Filip Dahlqvist** after 134 minutes (final score 7-6, 5-7, 6-4). The decisive point came with **Olivier Guy de Chamisso** and **Jérémy Robert's** 2-0 victory, followed by a Swedish win from **Victor Forsberg** and **Willy Tiger Släryd**, which was irrelevant for the final outcome. The Scandinavians will return to the court on Saturday at 2 PM, this time to compete for third place against Belgium.

**GIRLS** The Spanish celebration continued in the girls' category, where the team won all three matches in the semifinal against **France**: after the Under 14 duo **Mar Munera** and **Martina Vera's** victory (6-1, 7-5 over **Augustine Charpentier** and **Zia Debroy**), it was the turn of the Under 16s, with **Sara Folguer** and **Martina Calvo** defeating **Alice Aznar** and **Neïla Bekhedda** 6-1, 6-0. The Under 18 match was much more on the edge in the first set, as **Carla Fernandez** and **Diana Toledo** prevailed over **Kimy Barla** and **Louise Bahurel** (7-6, 6-0)

An exciting duel also kicked off the tie between **Italy** and **Portugal**: the Under 14s **Emma Speziali** and **Sophie Caruso** overcame **Carolina Santos** and **Andrea Achando** after losing

the first set and making a comeback in the second, concluding a long tie-break. The match, which lasted over two hours, ended 1-6, 7-6, 6-3 for the Italians, followed by a win from **Vittoria Giraldi/Matilde Minelli** (2-0 over **Francisca Santos/Valentina Pestana**) and a 2-1 victory from **Aurora Buscaino/Camilla Livioni** over **Constança Gorito/Maria Clara Santos**. Italy thus improves on their third-place finish in Valencia and now aims for a great final (scheduled for 9 AM) against the defending champions. The battle for third place also promises to be spectacular, with France and Portugal vying for the last spot on the podium.

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