

December 1st 2024

## Premier Padel GNP Mexico Major, day 6 What a night in Acapulco! Feats of Stupa-Yanguas and Ortega-Araujo

One of the most exciting days of the season, a very high level of padel, four matches one more uncertain than the other. In the end the **Premier Padel GNP Mexico Major** elected its finalists, who from 5 p.m. Mexican time (midnight CET) will play for the last Major in 2024. **Arturo Coello** and **Agustin Tapia** against **Franco Stupaczuk** and **Mike Yanguas** among the men, **Gemma Triay** and **Claudia Fernandez** against **Marta Ortega** and **Sofia Araujo** among the women. But the semifinals could have ended in a thousand other ways.

**MEN** **Juan Lebron** and **Martin Di Nenno**, in the second men's semifinal that ended when it was past 3 a.m. in Acapulco, seriously challenged **Coello** and **Tapia's** record of 38 victories. In the end, after two hours and 8 minutes of show, the tournament's number 1 seed managed to win, closing 6-3 3-6 7-6 at the end of a tiebreak that started with a masterpiece by **Di Nenno** and ended with a crazy point by **Tapia**. Credit, however, to **Di Nenno** and **Lebron** for forcing the dominators of 2024 (and chasing their 13th title of the season) to play at their highest level to win. In the other semi-final, however, came the second consecutive feat of **Franco Stupaczuk** and **Mike Yanguas** who, as happened in **Kuwait City**, stopped in the semi-final the run of **Fede Chingotto** and **Ale Galan** (2), who after 14 finals in the first 14 tournaments played together stopped for the second time in a row on Saturday. It ended 7-6 7-5 in two hours and 19', with the first set lasting as long as an hour and 20', and with a point at the start of the second set from 94 strokes. Second final in a row, then, for Stupa and Yanguas, with the Spanish surpassing Lebron in the **FIP Race**, moving up from eighth to seventh place and playing his second Major final of the season after Doha when he was paired with **Javi Garrido**. There are two precedents between the finalist pairs, both won by Coello and Tapia: before the Kuwait City final, in fact, victory had come in the semifinal of the Major in Paris.

**WOMEN** If the semifinals of the men's draw were exciting, the women's ones were no less so. **Paula Josemaria** and **Ari Sanchez** will not be able to win their fourth Major in a row: after their triumphs in Doha, Rome and Paris, the number 1 in the FIP ranking lost against **Marta Ortega** and **Sofia Araujo**, the number 4 seed, who were able to come back from a set down and impose themselves after two hours and 59 minutes of struggle (3-6 6-3 7-6) and after a breathtaking tiebreak that ended 11-9 for the Spanish and Portuguese players. In the first semi-final, however, **Gemma Triay** and **Claudia Fernandez** (2) defeated **Delfi Brea** and **Bea Gonzalez** (3) 7-5 6-2.

Five breaks in a first set characterised by the twists and turns, while in the second the all-Spanish pair raised the level by closing in one hour and 38 minutes. Only one precedent between the two finalist pairs, in the semi-final of the P1 in Rotterdam, with the victory (6-4 6-3) of **Gemma** and **Claudia**, who will go hunting for their fifth title of the season. It would be the first Major as a pair, as for Ortega and Araujo, winners in the P2 in **Genova** and **NewGiza**. Triay and Ortega, by the way, had triumphed together last year in Rome in the first Major played in 'combined' mode.

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