

July 12, 2023

Sanchez, Josemaria, Lebron, Galan Four number ones won on the Centre Court

First two number ones, then two more number ones. In the **Premier Padel** circuit, something like this had never been seen before. It will be seen again tomorrow, not on the **Centre Court** but on the iconic **Pietrangeli** where their matches have been scheduled, obviously one after the other. It was the day of the debut of the first seeded players of the **BNL Italy Major Premier Padel**: first **Ari Sanchez** and **Paula Josemaria**, then **Juan Lebron** (coming back on court after an elbow injury) and **Ale Galan**, the kings of 2022 Major, when it was played on the Grand Stand Arena and not on the Centre Court. Sanchez and Josemaria gave up only three games (6-3 6-0) to the very young **Alejandra Alonso** and **Andrea Ustero** (33 years old in two but already champions of Spain): a good run-in for the tournament's big favourites. *"Thank you all for being here, it's really incredible to play in Rome"*, said Ari and Paula, who were asked on the court to improvise a "Daje Roma", a typical phrase of these parts, just to increase the feeling.

A few minutes later, there were **Lebron** and **Galan**, already covered by the affection of the fans in their first Roman training session. The world number one beat their compatriots **'Pincho' Fernandez** and **Pablo Cardona** in straight sets (6-2 6-3) in one hour and six minutes. *"Ciao a tutti, ciao Roma – Lebron's words in Italian - I feel welcome here, I am happy to be back in this tournament"*. His words were followed by those of **Galan**: *"We are excited to be back here in Rome to play together. We have obviously come back here to confirm last year's title, it's nice to have 'Lobo' here with me again"*. Tomorrow, for the round of 16, they will move a few metres, from the Centre Court to the Pietrangeli. But the charm, and the love of the Romans, will be the same.

About the International Padel Federation (FIP)

About the International Padel Federation (FIP) The International Padel Federation (FIP) is the world governing body of padel, whose goal is to promote all forms of padel worldwide with: 90 Countries, 64 National Federations, + 25 million active players and 500,000 Federated Players. The sport was created in Acapulco, Mexico, by Enrique Corcuera in 1969. It was 32 years later that the FIP was established in Madrid by the legal representatives of the Argentine Padel Association, the Spanish Padel Association and the Uruguayan Padel Association, by means of Public deeds signed before the Notary Mr. Javier Gaspar Alfaro, with the protocol number 2486. We want to bring the worldwide Padel family together into one community, and make Padel a sport that is recognised and played in all the countries of the World. www.padelfip.com

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