

April 24, 2024

Lotto Brussels Premier P2, day 2

Lebron-Paquito, the new era begins with a smile

Juan Lebron and **Paquito Navarro** were the most awaited players on the day 2 of the **Lotto Brussels Premier P2**. And the number 2 pair on the draw of the second P2 of the season after Puerto Cabello immediately thrilled the crowd at the **Gare Maritime**. Lebron and Navarro, who had already played together, beat **Chipi Muñoz** and **Javi García** in a comeback (3-6 7-5 6-1) and will face **Javier Ruiz** and **Pablo Cardona** in the round of 16. **Fede Chingotto** and **Ale Galan**, who had reached the final in Puerto Cabello on their debut on the circuit, defeated 6-3 6-4 **Edu Alonso** and **Alex Arroyo** and will face **Gonzalo Rubio** and **Jairo Bautista** on Thursday. It was also a comeback for **Momo Gonzalez** and **Alex Ruiz**: the number 6 on the draw closed out their first match against **Miguel Semmler** and **Juan Tello** in two sets (7-6 6-3), with the latter having started the season with Ruiz. Another win by the top seeds was that of **Mike Yanguas** and **Javi Garrido** (5) over **Cepero/Benitez** (6-3 7-5) and the one of **Coki Nieto** and **Jon Sanz** (4) already in the quarterfinals thanks to 4-6 6-1 6-4 over **Windahl/Solano Marmolejo**.

WOMEN If Thursday will be the day of the first four seeds in the draw (**Josemaria/Sanchez, Brea/Gonzalez, Triay/Fernandez** and **Salazar/Icardo**), Wednesday was the day of the first victory of other seeds, such as the number 7 formed by **Virginia Riera** and **Sofia Araujo** – finalist in Acapulco – who beat 7-5 6-2 **Ksenia Sharifova** and **Lucia Martinez Gomez**. **Lucia Sainz** and **Patty Llaguno** (8) also did well, 6-4 6-1 over **Marta Barrera** and **Marta Caparros**, while **Ana Catarina Nogueira** and **Marta Talavan** won the marathon of the day, 5-7 6-2 7-6 in two hours and 50 minutes over **Barbara Las Heras** and **Victoria Iglesias**. In the evening, **Marta Ortega** and **Veronica Virseda** (5) needed three sets (3-6 6-4 6-2) to beat **Guinart/Martinez** and reach the quarterfinals.

SAIVE At the Gare Maritime, today, there was a special guest: **Jean Michel Saive**, president of the Belgian Olympic Committee. *"I come from table tennis, but I really like padel – said –. There is a great atmosphere here, with a lot of people in the stands enjoying the show, both in the women's and men's draw. Padel has had an incredible growth in recent years, with more and more people playing it and a lot of people preferring padel to tennis. I see a great future for this discipline". A five-rings future? "Every sport would like to become one and make this extraordinary journey, padel has already been proposed in the European Games in Krakow, so its journey has already begun. So many sports are 'fighting' to be part of the Olympic programme and stay there, we'll see".*

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