

16 July 2024

## FIP Platinum Sardegna, day 1: Bela-Day thrills the 'Centrale', other top players advance

Just one match to conquer **Cagliari**, once again with an extra thrill. **Fernando Belasteguín** excited the crowd in his debut at the **FIP Platinum Sardegna**, teaming up with **Javi Garrido** for the first time: the world's number 9 and number 11 together. However, at the **TC Cagliari**, the top seeds had to struggle against the pair **Piotto/Del Castillo**, in a match that lasted exactly two hours: after winning the first set in a hard-fought tie break, Bela and Garrido faltered in the second (losing 2-6), but then powered through the match – with a scare at 4-0 when Garrido needed a medical timeout for a ball to the eye – and closed the third set 6-0. This highly anticipated debut for fans marks the "last tango" in Sardinia for the Argentine legend who has announced his retirement at the end of the season. Tomorrow, he will face **Fran Ramirez** and **Victor Mena** in the round of 16 (on the Centrale court, not before 7 PM). Before Bela and Garrido, **Momo Gonzalez** and **Edu Alonso** (2) completed their first-round match, winning 6-2 6-4 against qualifiers **Iacovino/Bruno**. They now face **Ortega/Marti**. Among the top seeds, **Maxi Sanchez** and **Luciano Capra** (3) also advanced with a 6-4 6-4 victory over **Medina/Garcia**. The two Argentinians will open tomorrow's day (9 AM, Centrale court) against **Aris Patiniotis** and **José David Sanchez**.

**TOLITO AND THE "PAPU"** The first day of the main draw also marked the debut of another new pair, **Miguel Lamperti** and **Tolito Aguirre**. The Argentinians, warmly applauded, defeated the Italian pair **Perino/Dominguez** in an hour (6-3 6-1). Watching them was a special fan, former Atalanta footballer "**Papu**" **Gomez**, a friend of "Miguelito" and his partner, and a big fan of Maxi Sanchez. Lamperti and Tolito will now face **Enrique Goenaga** and **Juanlu Esbri** (6), who won 7-5 6-3 against **Martinez/Ruiz**. As expected, **Zapata/Diestro** (7) left only five games to **Ruiz/Ranera** (6-3 6-2), and **Leal/Campagnolo** advanced after a 6-3 7-6 win over **Jofre/Hernandez**. Among the home athletes, wild cards **Abbate/Graziotti** reached the round of 16 and will face **Gonzalo Rubio** and **Alex Arroyo** (4) tomorrow.

**WOMEN** An easy debut for **Virginia Riera** and **Carmen Goenaga**, who won in less than an hour (6-1 6-4) against qualifiers **Peco/Foguer**; the top seeds will now face **Barrera/Caparrós** (6-4 6-4 over **Dominguez/Gallardo**). In the morning session, **Sharifova/Martinez** (4) also succeeded against **Blanco/Vivancos** (6-1 7-6 in just over an hour). **Carolina Orsi**, last year's finalist in Cagliari, also reached the round of 16: she and **Nuria Rodriguez** (5) won in three sets against **Martinez/Canovas** (6-4 3-6 6-4).

Day 2 at TC Cagliari will start at 9 AM and continue until late morning, resuming in the

afternoon not before 5:30 PM.

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