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FIP World Padel Championships: Fernando Alarcon, in Doha the talent scout of the Usa's future stars

A great passion to pass on to the new generations. The mission of **Fernando Alarcon**, a pillar of the USA at the **FIP World Padel Championships** in Qatar, goes far beyond the sport played on the court. Born in Argentina — the country he left as a young boy to study in Houston, Texas — Alarcon is now a talent scout as well as a player, with the mission of finding and nurturing the future champions of American padel: *"In Houston, I was the general manager of the first padel club in the area. It was around 2013. And what I'm even prouder of is that I trained the first junior teams from the USA, who then competed at high levels in international competitions"*. His passion has taken him far, both in sports and in his professional life: the pioneer of padel on American soil was the number one in the USA for eight years and simultaneously established himself as a successful entrepreneur in his sport. *"In the last ten years, padel has spread rapidly beyond Houston, especially in the Miami area"*, he explains. *"Right there, padel is experiencing a 'boom' today, with many people playing and many clubs opening"*, continues Alarcon, founder of one of the largest clubs in Florida. *"The same is happening in many other states: within two or three years, it will reach everywhere in the United States"*.

Meanwhile, returning to the padel played on the court, there is a World Championship to think about and a team aiming for new achievements: *"A few months ago, I played in the Senior World Championships, and now here I am in Doha. After facing Argentina, I can't wait to take the court against Italy. It's a very strong team; it will be tough, but I would love to play against Marco Cassetta"*. Regarding goals at the World Championships, Fernando says: *"Realistically, we can aim for the top 10; we want to qualify for the next World Championship and continue to improve with the new generation of players we are developing in the Usa"*. Another ambitious goal that Fernando pursues alongside his wife Claudia, who accompanied him to Qatar and with whom he shares a life dedicated to padel on multiple fronts. *"I love being here, living the atmosphere, but I'm 46 years old and one of the older players. I'm now a veteran, and this could be my last tournament. It's time to make room for young talents: I will continue to train them and help them become great; we need to help the kids become champions"*.



Press contacts:
International Padel Federation
Email: press@padelfip.com

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