



## **Miami Design Surrenders to the “Padel Boom”**



### **Claudio Gilardoni**

The genius in the shadows

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**The 5 biggest clubs  
in the world**

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### **Cesar Rodriguez**

“Padel saved my life”

### **6 Love Sports:**

The largest  
women's  
community in  
US padel

### **Luis del Río's Opinion:**

**“**Juan Lebrón will  
do it again **”**



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# Miami Design Industry Joins *The Padel Boom*



In a city where innovation and style set the pace, Miami's design industry has found its perfect new match: padel. This sport, which has become a cultural and social phenomenon in the Magic City, is now capturing the attention of the city's most creative sector.

The epicenter of this vibrant fusion is Collab Girls, a platform founded by visionary Cindy Avilés.

With a mission to foster connection and well-being among design and décor professionals, Avilés has shown that the best ideas are born not only at the drawing table, but also on the court.

## Third Edition: An Overwhelming Success

Recently, Collab Girls hosted the third edition of its acclaimed event, bringing together a select group of designers around today's most popular racket sport. More than just a sports gathering, the padel clinic has established itself as a dynamic networking space—breaking away from the formality of trade show floors and cultivating genuine camaraderie.

“The design industry is intense. We need spaces to disconnect, move, and connect on a more personal level.”

Cindy Aviles

“The design industry is intense. We need spaces to disconnect, move, and connect on a more personal level. Padel offers that perfect balance between physical challenge, mental strategy, and team fun,” said Cindy Aviles, founder of Collab Girls.”

## The Driving Force of Our Sponsors

The resounding success of this event would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our sponsors. Once again, industry-leading companies went above and beyond, demonstrating their commitment not only to quality and innovation in design but also to the well-being of the professional community.

From luxury finishing brands and high-end textiles to architectural solutions, our sponsors spared no expense to ensure the day was truly memorable. Their support made it possible to offer professional-led clinics, exclusive lounge areas, and, most importantly, to create an atmosphere where design and sport coexisted in perfect harmony.



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The Padel Boom in Miami is more than a sports trend; it is a catalyst for collaboration and the balance between professional and personal life. This is thanks to initiatives like that of Cindy Avilés and the generous support of the industry.





# CLAUDIO GILARDONI

**The genius in the shadows**

Padel, driven by meteoric growth, has become an ecosystem where opportunity often surpasses competition.

The market is flooded with “intruders” and “opportunists” who capitalize on the wave of popularity, selling an inflated image of expertise and success.

In this media circus, the figure of Claudio Gilardoni, coach of the—until very recently—world No. 1, Paula Josemaría, is magnified precisely by his modesty and his quiet effectiveness.

He is not a marketing product; he is a product of pure knowledge.

“ **El Profesor de La Casa de Papel** ”

Gilardoni would be “The Professor” from Money Heist (La Casa de Papel), the mastermind behind a perfect plan, obsessed with details and anticipation. He is the brains behind the strategy of the number one duo, meticulously dissecting rivals and match situations, and working in the trenches, refining technique and tactics without seeking media fame.

His success, however, is measured in titles and consistent performance, not in social media followers.

While many coaches make a living by selling their personal branding, Gilardoni thrives on the application of science and tactics to the sport.

# 01

## Would you like to be more widely known?

Honestly, I hope nobody gets upset, but if it were entirely up to me, I wouldn't even be on social media [chuckles]. But commercially and professionally, it's important to be visible. YES, I WOULD!

# 02

## Do you think there are many imposters in the padel world who claim to know more than they actually do?

I'd like to think not, but perhaps there's one or two out there. [smiles]

# 03

## What would be your dream for your coaching future?

To learn how to teach better every day and have the time to study the best coaches in the world.

# 04

## Which project would excite you the most?

To be able to teach and learn how to develop players from juniors up to the professional level, and for the academy to take shape over time. Seeing academies like M3 grow over the years alongside brands inspires my admiration. I hope someday I can experience something like that. Today, we have Paula, Agustín, Nacho Piotto, Ornella Beltramino, Josete Rico, etc. It's exciting to think that, little by little, we will continue to grow.

# 05

## What has been your greatest failure?

Not valuing that the truly important thing was the most important thing—my family. Second, I had three or four people around me over time whom I shouldn't have distanced myself from; they taught me a lot, and I didn't look after those relationships as I should have.

# 06

## What is your opinion on coach courses and diplomas being handed out in three days, and those people calling themselves padel coaches?

I believe that those of us who are trying to learn how to teach should continually strive to do it better and better every day. I hope that the process can become more standardized and improved over time. However, it's also true that thanks to these courses and people, the sport has grown.



# 07

## Do you offer courses to train coaches?

Yes, I do. I run a four-year program focused on learning how to coach. —I took 24 years just trying to learn, and I still haven't mastered it [chuckles].

Currently, you are coaching the present and future of the women's game: Paula Josemaría, the current World No. 2, and Ornella Beltramino, the FIP Under-14 World No. 1.

# 08

## **Do you coach them differently in anticipation of the possible evolution of padel in the coming years?**

Paula is a special person, just like Ornella. Paula is the best, or one of the best, players in the world—trained by Gustavo Pratto—and thanks to her giving me the opportunity to assist her, we have been able to help her achieve the World Number 1 ranking. Today, we are studying every second to try and achieve it again.

Ornella is just starting, and it is the first time I have seen a young player of that biological age who behaves and works in that manner. I can confidently and fearlessly attest that I have never seen a girl with that level. We are working to ensure everything goes well. As long as she and her family give me their trust, I will be there. But I don't know if I'm doing it right. I have never coached anyone like her, and the whole thing is a learning experience.

**We already know that men's padel has undergone a great evolution on a technical, tactical, and physical level. Do you believe women's padel has not evolved in the same way? Why?**

# 09

It's nice to see that there are some girls who are already stepping out and competing. My humble opinion is that there is not yet a large

number of girls who are training differently or risking copying major changes. I repeat, my opinion is that women's padel still has a long way to go. It needs changes in training and paradigms—especially in how corrections are viewed—but this is just a personal opinion.

You recently founded Universal Padel Academy along with Paula Josemaría and Agustín Gutiérrez.

# 10

## **Who would you recommend attend the Universal Padel Academy?**

Everyone, from beginners and juniors all the way up to professional players. We dedicate ourselves completely to each and every one of them, and here, everyone is treated equally. We have the best team I have had in 24 years in Spain.

# 11

## **Do you plan to expand to the USA? Or any other country?**

I'd love to go everywhere [chuckles]. We are just starting out, and simultaneously, we are working on making connections. The United States is a country where I would absolutely love to go and establish a headquarters. We just have to wait and see if the opportunity is right for us.



# CÉSAR RODRÍGUEZ: “PADEL SAVED MY LIFE”

Paradoxically, the most authentic and moving moments in padel do not always happen within the 20x10 court. They happen after the match: sharing a cold beer, at Friday night dinners, or, in this case, at the crowded weekly barbecue at the I95 club in Miami.

These are gatherings where the common denominator is padel, yet padel and life itself inevitably mix. Different ages, nationalities, and even social classes unite under a single banner; padel only understands passion and your level on the court.

It was on one of those nights when César managed to capture the entire table's attention.

With moving honesty, he declared the phrase: “Padel saved my life.”

His story may serve to inspire many others. For those seeking to find purpose or needing a lifeline to keep them afloat during a rough patch, where they feel they are sinking, padel has become an emotional anchor.

This anecdote reminds us that sport is much more than competition; it is community, therapy, and redemption. It is the perfect excuse to get out, socialize, and replace emptiness or routine with the adrenaline of the game and camaraderie.



## **What would be your dream or aspiration in padel?**

My dream in padel would be to someday have my own padel club along with my own brand and product line, through which I could sponsor professional players, and, without a doubt, to have the health to play this sport every day of my life until an advanced age.

## **The Turning Point: When you say padel saved your life, what specific moment or situation in your life are you referring to?**

I say padel saved my life because I discovered it when I was at a very low point in terms of self-worth, self-esteem, and spiritual well-being due to personal problems I was going through at the time.

## **What emptiness or difficulty were you experiencing?**

I had just lost a very dear loved one and felt lost, adrift, and without meaning in my life. I felt like everything was over and I had no more reasons to continue.

“ I had just lost a very dear loved one ”

## **What was your first approach to padel like? Was it a recommendation, a chance encounter, or a conscious search for an escape?**

My first approach to padel was a mix of chance and an attempt to not give up on my life. I had heard many times about a sport called padel but had no idea what it was. I decided to contact a couple of friends and go to a court to hit a few balls around and see what it was all about.





**My advice for anyone who has never picked up a racket and is currently going through a difficult time would be to please go to a court**

**What immediately hooked you about padel that you didn't find in other activities or sports?**

To my surprise, I was immediately hooked the moment I stepped onto the court. For some reason, after months of depression and not wanting to live, the instant I entered the court for that hour and a half, all my problems vanished. The only things my mind focused on were the racket, the ball, and running. I felt alive again; I felt young and full of energy. I instantly realized I had found the medicine for my broken spirit.

**Do you think padel helped restructure your routine or find a new sense of purpose in your daily life?**

Without a doubt, padel restructured my daily life and gave me purpose again. My life became centered on playing padel every day, sometimes even three or four times daily. I became obsessed with the sport, watching every single professional match and learning about the technique, positioning, training, and every aspect of the game. Furthermore, my social life changed completely. I started meeting new people, socializing daily again, and today, I can truly say I have many new, true friends thanks to padel.

I love you, padel. You arrived to steal my heart, fill my soul, and save my life.

Sincerely. César Rodríguez

Los 5 clubes de **pádel**

# MÁS GRANDES DEL MUNDO



**P**adel continues its global growth, with larger and more modern complexes being built every year. What was once a niche sport now moves thousands of players, large investments, and international competitions, driving the creation of true high-level sports centers.

These clubs not only stand out for their infrastructure but also for the experience they offer: academies, tournaments, advanced technology, and spaces designed for those who truly live the passion of padel.

If you want to know which are the most impressive padel clubs on the planet, here we present the Top 5, with details on their courts, location, and key features.

**01****El Estudiante**

Alcobendas, Spain – 40 courts

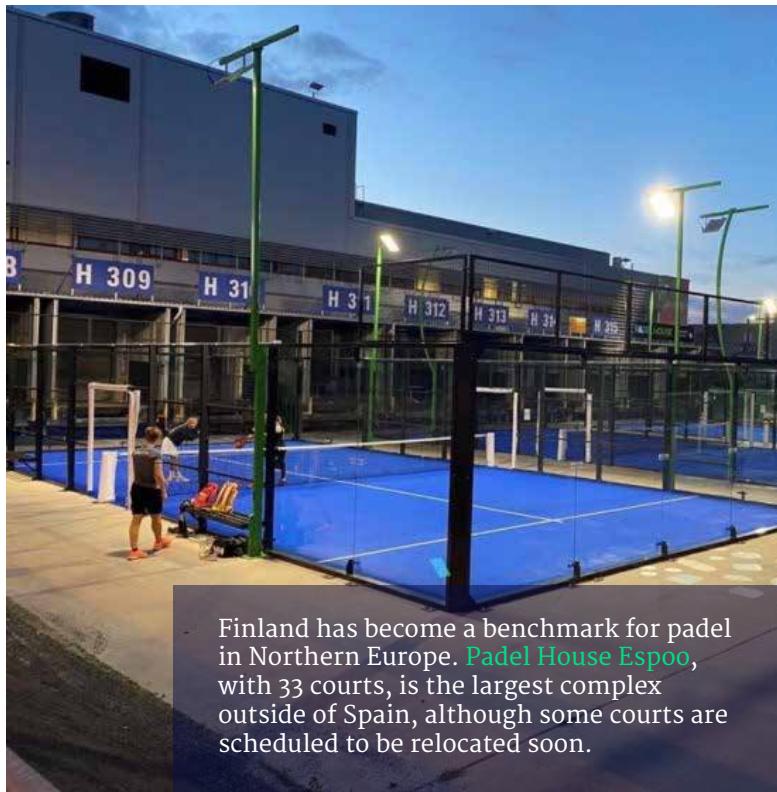


Just minutes from Madrid, **El Estudiante** is positioned as the largest padel club in the world, boasting 40 padel courts and additional facilities for tennis and golf. It serves as a key meeting point for enthusiasts and is a renowned venue for hosting important tournaments.



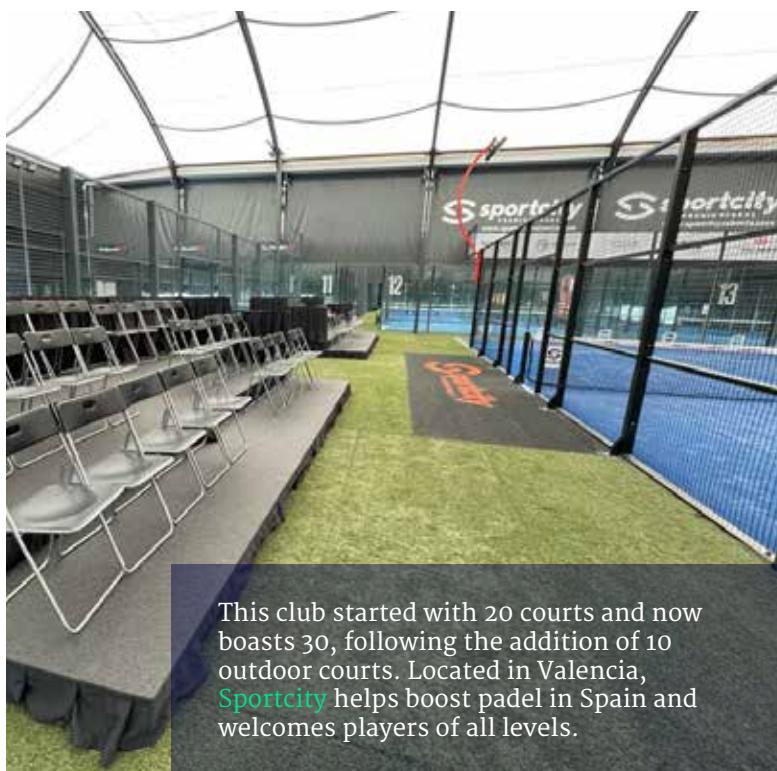
## 02 Padel House

Espoo, Finlandia – 33 pistas



## 03 Sportcity

Massanassa, Valencia, Spain – 30 courts



**04****PDL Center Frihamnen**  
Stockholm, Sweden – 28 courts

**PDL Center Frihamnen** leads padel in Sweden, featuring 28 courts and hosting top-tier tournaments, despite a slight drop in the sport's popularity in the country.

**05****Ultra Padel Club**  
Miami, United States – 28 courts

Padel is growing rapidly in North America, and **Ultra Padel Club** is its leading exponent, featuring 24 courts soon to be expanded to 28. It offers modern facilities and hosts notable events.





## Andi has a mission in US padel



### Six Love Sports

Founded by Andi Neugarten, this is the premier women's padel movement in the United States. Its activities go beyond simple matches, focusing on community and empowerment.

# FIGHTING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

## Core Activities and Objectives:

### Premier Women's League:

They organize the Eight Sleep Miami Women's Padel League by Six Love Sports, the most important women's padel league in Miami. It attracts hundreds of participants across various divisions.

### Tournaments and Weekly Events:

In addition to the official league, they organize regular tournaments and events to offer women constant opportunities for competitive play and social interaction.

### Networking and Community:

The leagues and events are designed as a platform for women to connect, socialize, and build solid relationships both on and off the court.

“ It saddens me to see the pay gap between men and women in U.S. padel tournaments, and this has to change.



## Padel Development and Education

### Beginner Clinics:

They offer specific clinics designed to introduce women to the sport, covering fundamentals, rules, and basic principles of padel.

### Training and Coaching:

They aim to help members master skills through expert training and personalized coaching, with some sources mentioning an affiliated “Padel Academy.”

### Educational Resources:

They provide resources, such as a blog, which covers essential topics like proper equipment (rackets, shoes) and recommended attire for women interested in learning the sport.

What began as a community initiative in Miami now has a clear plan for expansion into more U.S. cities, taking its women's padel culture to new regions.

### Youth Outreach (Future Goal):

Andi Neugarten has expressed a desire to connect with physical education programs in elementary and high schools to improve access to the sport and bring it closer to younger audiences.

### Empowerment Mission:

The organization positions itself as more than just a league: it is a movement created to empower, elevate, and connect women through their shared passion for padel, fostering both athletic and personal growth.



By Luis Del Río

## “ JUAN LEBRÓN WILL DO IT AGAIN ”



Juan Lebrón, undoubtedly one of the most talented players of his generation, has been the protagonist of the biggest controversies in the circuit's recent history. It is a pattern that repeats itself and one that will continue to define his career unless the root of the problem is identified and an accurate diagnosis is applied.

The dynamic is clear: when the match is going well and the wind is blowing favorably, there are no cracks. But as soon as the tables turn and adversity arises, that "worst version" of the player from El Puerto de Santa María systematically emerges. This is followed by poor body language, histrionics, and, most worryingly, complaints and reproaches directed at his partner and even his coach.





“ Lebrón has a blatant inability to express his opinion. He even lacks the sufficient vocabulary required to convey his emotions effectively. ”

### What is the Root of the Problem?

Lebrón's emotional explosion when faced with adverse circumstances seems to rest on two fundamental pillars:

- Poor Emotional Management: An inability to modulate emotions during moments of maximum pressure.
- Inability to Express: A blatant difficulty in verbalizing his opinion or his feelings in a constructive way.

Both circumstances combine like a “hand grenade” that inevitably explodes in his hands, affecting his entire team. Despite the repetition of this pattern, the feeling is that Lebrón, at 30 years old, still has not identified the true magnitude of his problem.

### The Therapy of Environment and Communication

Perhaps the path forward for 'The Wolf' lies in external help. He should seriously consider hiring a communication coach and working intensively alongside a sports psychologist. This combination could provide him with the necessary tools to handle moments of maximum tension with emotional intelligence and appropriate language.

I do not know the dynamics of his closest circle, but there is a sense that perhaps they agree with him too much or are incapable of confronting him with an uncomfortable truth at a crucial moment. A team that offers sincere and sometimes harsh feedback constitutes a healthy environment, something that does not always surround professional players or young talents in any discipline.

### Chronicle of Behavior: The Miami 2024 Incident

Personally, I was a firsthand witness to one of these controversies. During the 2024 Reserve Cup in Miami, while broadcasting the tournament live, Lebrón addressed the referee without any provocation beyond the unfavorable score. His complaint was direct and disparaging:

**“You are so bad, I don't even know how they pay you.”**

If I were his representative, that would have been the ideal moment to explain to him that the most important ranking he should be competing for is that of being a good person. Disrespecting a referee, with or without cause, dangerously distances him from that summit. His technical ability is undeniable, but emotional maturity and respect on the court remain the pending subject for the Spanish number one.



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