

Miami Open presented by Itaú

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Miami, FL USA

João Fonseca

Press Conference



JOÃO FONSECA / Fabian Marozsan

6-4, 3-6, 6-2

Moderator: Let's start with the questions.

Question: When we spoke to Carlos Alcaraz earlier today, he talked about feeling like he has a target on his back when he goes out there. Can you please tell us your mindset as you go to face Carlos Alcaraz?

João Fonseca: It was a good match. We played at a good level. And yeah, I mean, facing Alcaraz is just a great experience for me. And yeah, last tournament, playing against Jannik and now playing against Carlos is, like I said, a great experience and a great achievement for me. I mean, it's just for me as a teenager in the second year on tour, facing those guys is just important for my development, at any time. I wanted to face them, to see how I am my level, where I can go, what those guys do that the other players don't, so how they deal with pressure. So it's just important for me to learn those things, and I think it's going to be a great match. Of course, I need to face him the way Jannik faces him which, of course, I respect him. The player that he is, the person that he is, but on court I can't. On court, I need to face him as a, as a guy that I can beat. So, so yeah, I mean, I need to enter the court with a lot of intensity and try to play my best tennis. Of course, enjoying every time I'm on court. Learning from those guys. But, of course, wanting to win.

Question: My question was similar, I guess, just sort of, how do you balance confidence and thinking you can go out there and win with some sort of humility. You still are fairly new on tour, your first time playing. And how do you sort of find that right balance between the confidence self-belief, while still not being too hard on yourself or getting maybe ahead of yourself sometimes.

João Fonseca: I mean, when I played Jannik, I got out the court, like I slept like thinking I played good tennis. I faced the number two in the world. I had set points. I had opportunities, but what could I do better? Why? I played almost great. One of my best matches I played, facing him, and then facing like a top five guy and I started thinking, What could I do better? So, so, yeah, I think it's important to, of course, be confident with yourself, but at the same time staying with your feet on the ground, humble, of course, I'm a top 40 guy playing against the top one guy. Of course, he's the favorite by far. I'm just underdog, but I need to believe that I can win. If no, I'm just not gonna have any chance. So, yeah, I think that's the mentality, that's the way that I need to step on court tomorrow and trying to get the opportunities.

Question: Like you said earlier, you're still pretty young on tour. How do you deal with it? Do you find time to do other things, like some of the other

players do, like golf and whatever? Do you find time to just be João Fonseca, just yourself and enjoy your friends or whatever, and sort of remove yourself from the hoopla around you and like, what matches you're playing and what you're doing next?

João Fonseca: Yeah, I mean, on tour is more difficult, but I try to do other stuff with my team, and some tournaments my parents or my brothers come, and we can have a good time. It's good for my mental health as well, doing other things besides tennis. I don't know, bowling or whatever, golfing. It's just good for your mentality. It's good to stay out, not thinking every time about tennis, and sometimes my friends can come as well. This is a tournament that my parents, my brothers, and friends come. I try to be focused with my team. We play some Catan. I don't know if you are familiar with the game, but we play a lot, and it is to calm down, but we kind of discuss very much, but yeah, it's a good to relation with the team and it's a game where we don't think about tennis. We just think about the game. So it's good for me as well.

Question: What do you think the atmosphere will be like when you play Alcaraz? This kind of always sounds like a home tournament for you in the past. Here. What do you think it'll be like when Brazil versus number one? And also, did you see that he was wearing, he wore a Brazil shirt to his press today?

João Fonseca: Yeah, I know. Just before my match, he entered the locker room with the Brazilian shirt. And I said, "wait, good shirt." It's fun. He's a nice

guy, and I hope the crowd is going to be as loud as in this match, and he can have the crowd at the opening cheering for me, not for him. So, so yeah, I hope the crowd tomorrow is going to have a great atmosphere. But yeah, I mean, hopefully it's going to be a great match and the crowd is going to like as well.