

# Miami Open presented by Itaú

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Miami, FL USA

## Martin Landaluce

Press Conference



M.LANDALUCE | S.Korda

2-6, 7-6<sup>6</sup>, 6-4

**Moderator:** How are you feeling about your win today?

**Martin Landaluce:** I'm feeling great. It's really nice to be in the quarterfinals. This tournament is amazing. The crowd is really nice. They've been supporting me a lot these past matches, and today was heavy, what they did. They survived me, and I was fighting thanks to them. So, yeah, I'm really happy to be in the quarterfinals. Really, really nice level, and let's keep continuing.

**Question:** Martin, congratulations. Do you even think you were getting into this tournament? You're ranked 151. Tell me about that and take me through match point down and you went for that backhand return and that kick serve?

**Martin Landaluce:** Yeah, I am 151. In Indian Wells I also got in last minute, and this tournament maybe something similar. I try not to look at it but still being 151, I was thinking I could do a pretty good tournament. I play good here. I'm playing at a high level, and I know it. So, I just needed to connect the things I'm improving, play aggressively, and go for the matches. And this tournament is feeling amazing because I'm being able to do everything. So yeah, in the 6-5 down, I was thinking the same. To go for the match, to be aggressive. I did a winner. So it's really nice to save a match point like that, and then the rest of the match, I keep it up,

doing the same things, serving well, returning well, going for the winners. And I'm very happy to win it this way.

**Question:** Congratulations on the win. We spoke after your victory over Karen Khachnavov, and you said you were going to reach out to Carlos Alcaraz for some strategy. Did you have that conversation? And if so, can you tell us what he told you?

**Martin Landaluce:** No, we didn't have any conversation. I think they played a really nice match. Yeah, Korda is playing really nice. I saw the match. I knew I was playing against one of them. So, I hoped it was Carlitos, because I'm friends with him, and he's a really nice guy. But today was a battle, and they also play good, so I didn't ask him for any strategy. The strategy today was to play, trying to play better than him, go for the match. So that's what I did, and I'm very happy.

**Question:** Well done, Martin. You must have noticed that he got that treatment after the second set and was having a little trouble moving in the first set with his back. Was that in your mind at all? Was that influencing how you were playing in the third set and what your strategy was?

**Martin Landaluce:** I think maybe one year ago, or in the past, I would have think more on that. But today, I knew he was going to be able to play some good tennis, and he was going to fight. So, in that moment, you know, he's doing something to be better, to be better prepared for the match. But you

try to think in yourself on serving fast, serving well, returning well. But you try not to think too much on the opponent, because it distracts you.

**Question:** For the people who don't know your story so well, can you talk about the journey to get here, obviously, coming through the Rafa Nadal Academy. How close a mentor has he been to you? Do you text you after the match? For example?

**Martin Landaluce:** Yeah, these past years, I've been working, I've been practicing on Rafa Nadal's Academy. I go there so many weeks in the year, and it's a place that I feel like home. I feel really nice there. They're amazing players. I've been practicing with Rafa's since I turned 14, so I think that's been really nice for my level, to watch someone, to play with someone who's Rafa, and to speak with him to get some of his tips watching practice the day-by-day. I think that got into my head the last times we practiced, because he was giving everything. He was respecting me so much, like I was 15, 16, and he would play with me, like top one. He was giving everything. So, yeah, I took that and practicing at this academy since 14. So, I feel thankful with the academy, with him personally, to give me the chance to do it there. And it's been great these past years. And yeah, my game has been improving and developing in a good way. And I think I have part of his mentality, part of the Spanish spirit, the fighting spirit, and I try to keep that.