

## Marcelo Rios Wins Exhibition Match Against Nicolás Lapentti

According to Chilean media, the former World No. 1 will not make his return to professional tennis at the Columbus Challenger in January.

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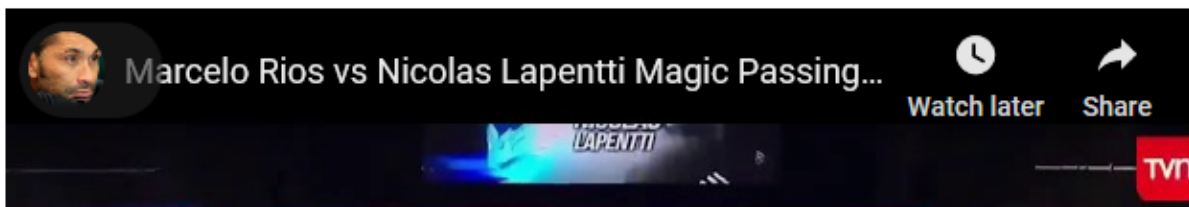
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Marcelo Rios

**Marcelo Rios** has returned to the courts. The 42-year-old former World No. 1 from Chile beat **Nicolás Lapentti** from Ecuador 6-4, 5-7, 11-9 in an exhibition match on Friday held at Gran Arena Monticello. Rios reached the top of the ATP-Rankings 20 years ago and showed that he is still in good shape.



Despite winning those five ATP-Masters titles, the Santiago native is the only male player in the open era to have been World No. 1 while never managing to win a Grand Slam singles tournament in his career. He did reach the 1998 Australian Open final, losing to Petr Korda in straight sets. Rios retired from the ATP-Tour in July 2004.

Ahead of the exhibition, Rios announced that he intends to return to professional tennis asking for a wild card into the Columbus Challenger, which is taking place in Ohio during the second week of January.

*"I've been training with pretty high-level guys." Rios said in an interview with La Tercera. "I have lost 12 stone and has almost reached the weight I was when I was a player (on the tour).*

*"Imagine: winning a challenger at 43 is nice, whatever it may be.*

*"I feel qualified to play it and win it. If I did not feel good playing, I would not."*

According to [La Tercera](#), the refusal of the organization to immediately confirm the invitation to the former World No. 1, caused Rios' decision not to insist on playing the tournament.

Marcelo Rios