

## ISABEL PASCUAL MONTALVO, CLASS OF '25



TCU Tennis brought Isabel Pascual Montalvo from Spain to the U.S. five years ago, and from the beginning she took the challenges of being an international student-athlete in stride. Always open to the people and opportunities in her life, Isabel is now contemplating the next phase ahead as she prepares for the professional tennis circuit after graduating in summer 2025. “I’m curious about the future and what my jump to the next level will look like, who the new people will be who come into my life. Everything is seasonal, and there are so many new versions of me to discover.”

Hailing from Barcelona, Isabel was encouraged by her high school coach (a TCU graduate and former international student-athlete from Brazil) to look at TCU’s tennis program because of the opportunity to pursue both athletics and academics, which is unique to U.S. colleges and universities.

She received her B.S. in Strategic Communications from TCU in 2024 and seized the chance to complete a graduate degree and play her final year of eligibility. “I specifically chose to stay at TCU and enroll in the MLA program because of the wide-ranging subjects within the course offerings. The close readings, and especially the classroom discussions and analysis of texts and literature, have given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and understanding of multiple perspectives on global issues that are relevant and timely. For me, it’s important for everyone to have awareness of the social challenges facing us today and not be ignorant about the world.”

Disciplined, honest and passionate, Isabel is a five-year Tennis Team veteran and current co-captain. As a leader, she holds herself accountable to setting an example of perseverance and dedication: “As an athlete, you have to show up every day for yourself and your teammates, regardless of how well the last game went or what’s happening in your day. I make sure that I am always trying to walk the walk, leading by example, and showing up for my teammates, friends and family – both on and off the court.”

A tough competitor, Isabel also knows the importance of not forgetting to have fun playing. Her combination of grit and grace on the court translates into top results. With an overall 44-24 record (21-11 Singles and 23-13 Doubles), she was an All-American in 2024 and is committed to helping lead this team as they pursue their goal to be in the top 20 ranked teams in the NCAA.

Beyond playing professional tennis, Isabel’s overarching goal is to always stay true to her heart, whatever career she chooses: “It’s not about accomplishments, it’s about feeling fulfilled. Being my authentic self on the journey is what matters to me.” The youngest of three girls, Isabel was raised in Barcelona by two hard-working parents who supported Isabel’s passion for all sports, from skiing, biking, and swimming, to soccer and especially tennis. Career-oriented but family-focused, Isabel’s parents modeled the importance of hard work while at the same time not sacrificing family connections. Her large extended family of

aunts, uncles and cousins spent weekends and summers in the mountains, enjoying the outdoor and creating lasting memories. When she's not on the tennis court, she unwinds by coloring mandalas, traveling, reading and listening to music.