



**PSDian Triumphs Qatar Open Taekwondo Championship**  
by Alphonse Vale

Mikael Stefan P. Padios captured gold in the Qatar Open Taekwondo Championship, a two-day tournament held last January 16 to 17, 2026 at the Al Jazeera Academy where different Taekwondo clubs came to compete.

Padios garnered gold and was hailed champion after winning 3 matches in the Male Cadets under 53 kilograms category where he competed alongside 8 Qatari nationals from various clubs. Padios' win was achieved when he read his opponents movements, adapted to their style of fighting and actively listened to his coach, Mr. Hamza Choukrani. Padios stated that he was fueled to win those matches because of the mindset of his favorite player, CJ Nickolas:

**“A winner’s mindset is having confidence in oneself while remaining prepared and not becoming overconfident.”**

Padios' battle to gold was not easy where he went toe to toe with opponents from the Korean Taekwondo Center and the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Sports Academy. Padios revealed that his opponents put up a good match and that they were formidable opponents. In Padios' final match, he lost to a taller competitor in the first round but ultimately won the match despite the loss. He stated that:

**“I was able to win that match because I maintained my distance and stamina considering that my opponent is taller than me.”**

Additionally, Padios expressed his confidence when he breezed through the competitors he faced before the final match and that he was able to defeat them without losing a round. Padios stated:

**“I was confident in my ability to defeat them and it was obvious that their skills were not on my level.”**

Padios showcased his honed skills in the Qatar Open Taekwondo Championship. He demonstrated strong technique, confidence, and strategic thinking in each match. His performance reflected both his rigorous training and his ability to stay focused under pressure.