

# Internazionali BNL d'Italia

Sunday, 21 May 2023

Roma, Italia

## Elena Rybakina

Press Conference

E. RYBAKINA/A. Kalinina

6-4, 1-0 (ret.)

THE MODERATOR: Elena, congratulations. Not the way you want to win, but another title. Must be happy, for sure.

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, of course happy with the title. As you said, not the way I want to finish this match. But, yeah, was good two weeks for me.

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. How did you manage a day like this, very long, warmup... I think it's not easy at all.**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, it wasn't easy. Was really long day. In the beginning I was fine, like, waiting, waiting. Then after maybe four hours, it was really tough.

But I was with my team, so we tried like to talk, to kind of entertain each other for a bit. Yeah, was not easy. But I played other days also late matches. I knew that it's not going to be easy, but that's unfortunately the weather.

**Q. Do you feel you can be just as effective on clay as hard courts and grass?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, well, I think with my game, overall I can play good on all the surfaces. It's just maybe for clay I need to be ready more physically and maybe have a lot of, like, preparation also, which not always have time to do after like hard court season.

Overall, yeah, I think I can play well on all the surfaces.

**Q. Given all the retirements, all the rain these past few weeks, would you say this is one of the strangest weeks of your career?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, for sure, it's really strange two weeks for me. Like, I don't remember when I got retirement on the other tournament. Here it was like three. It's really strange. Also with the rain delays, I think my schedule is completely different than usually. I was going



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to sleep really late, waking up almost like in the afternoon. Yeah, it's strange.

But I'm happy that this tough two weeks also finished in a good way for me.

**Q. Anhelina spoke highly of you. What could you say about her game? It was a breakthrough tournament for her.**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, it's been great I think results for Anhelina. She played some tough battles. Yeah, really happy for her improvement. Hopefully she can continue like this.

Pity she couldn't finish the match. I hope that it's nothing serious. Yeah, so hopefully she can recover quick and she can continue like this.

**Q. Anhelina also said you could contend for the title in Paris. Do you feel like you're one of the contenders going to Paris?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, the tournament is pretty long. I mean, hopefully I can go far at French Open. I have good memories playing there. Now I got more matches on clay, so it's a bit easier and a bit more confidence definitely.

Yeah, for me, as I always say, important to be healthy, be ready physically, then hopefully I can go far there.

**Q. Did you feel the weather also helped you a bit? Last year you had some allergy to pollen. Maybe this weather helped you.**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Actually it's really good for me, this rain, because usually I suffer a lot here in Rome. Usually it's quite hot here. In this case I also was lucky. When I was coming, I didn't have any expectation because usually it's really tough for me to even like practice, not even playing matches.

For sure this was like weather good for me. I don't know how it's going to be the next years. As I said, I think these two weeks a lot of things went my way.

**Q. What are you most proud of this year so far?**

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ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, I proud that I can maintain this level. It's not easy, like, with all the scheduling, traveling. I think we're doing good job with the team. I can see improvements on the court, physically also. I think we're on a right way.

I think there is still a lot of room to improve. But, yeah, for now it's going well, and hopefully I can continue like this till the end of the season.

**Q. You've collected some beautiful trophies. What do you do with the trophies?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, since I never home, always on the road, I have some trophies with my parents. I mean, I don't even know exactly where it is. Hopefully one day when I decide where I'm going to live, where is going to be my home, I can bring everything together.

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