

# BNP Paribas Open

Saturday, March 7, 2026

## Elena Rybakina

Press Conference



E. RYBAKINA/H. Baptiste

7-6, 2-6, 6-2

THE MODERATOR: Elena, congratulations. That was a tough match. Hailey played very well. Talk us through your thoughts and how you got through that match and came back.

ELENA RYBAKINA: Thank you. Yeah, difficult first match. Hailey played really well. She served good. Yeah, it was not easy.

Also a little bit tricky with the wind, but overall happy of course with the win.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. You're down three set points at the end of the first and managed to fight it back. Did that change your mindset or attitude going into the last two?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, I was a little bit rushing on the serve since it was windy. So I was just trying to play point at a time and not focus so much on the score, because in these conditions, anything can change quickly. Yeah, it's slow courts, quite heavy balls. It's not easy to move them.

Yeah, I was just trying to stay in the match. Dropped a little bit the energy in the second set, but overall, happy that I found my way in the end.

**Q. After the mixed doubles the other day, there's footage, looks like a tournament representative put his arm around you or something. Wondered how you experienced that and if you had any comment and if anyone has spoken to you?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, nothing really happened. It just probably looked like this, but nothing happened.

**Q. You say the conditions, the wind, the courts. What was it she was doing that caused you problems today?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: She was staying aggressive. As I

said, she was serving well, and her second serve is quite tough to step in. Sometimes it was bouncing really high and also, again, the wind, you had to adjust quickly.

So, yeah, she has a pretty good forehand, good slice, and I was trying to move a little bit the ball, but with the conditions, it was not easy. Also energy level was up and down a bit from my side.

Yeah, but I think she played really well.

**Q. Third set, your energy was back. You played closer to what you wanted?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, it was a bit better, but still, I would say that it's not my best. I should have find solution quicker, whenever I had the opportunity when I was up.

Yeah, some decisions also was a bit wrong. Yeah, something for me to definitely work on.

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