

# Roland Garros

Friday, 26 May 2023

Paris, France

## Elena Rybakina

### Press Conference

THE MODERATOR: Welcome back to Roland Garros. How has your preparations been since winning the Rome final just a couple weeks ago?

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, it was good. I had a few days off, and I enjoyed a bit Paris, one day in Rome also. Yeah, been practicing for few days. Everything is going well.

THE MODERATOR: Questions in English.

**Q. I was just wondering, you're finally a top-5 player. Does that bring more confidence or more pressure or both?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, I don't think about the rankings so much. Of course it's nice to see the progress also with the ranking, but I have been playing well I think last year also, and now I'm just getting a bit more consistent, doing good job with the team.

I just want to keep on going like this, and we see how far I can go this year.

**Q. Clearly you have a game that works on all surfaces, but I'm curious what adjustments in particular you make that bring out your best on clay.**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, on clay I think I won my first WTA, so since then I knew that I can play good on clay also. Just I need to prepare differently. Maybe I need more time for the preparation. And also experience for the past few years.

Yeah, overall I think that I'm improving a lot physically, and also I played a lot of matches this year. No matter the surface, I feel like it's anyway giving me confidence.

Yeah, overall we're trying to improve all the aspects of the game and slowly, I think it's a lot still to work, but everything is going on the right direction.

**Q. You beat Serena here a couple years ago at this tournament. Curious what you remember about that match and if you feel that changed anything for you going forward.**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, I just remember, it's really nice



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memories when I played against Serena. And as I said, back then it was also my best result on a Grand Slam. I made it to the second week. Also giving me confidence that I can play good on clay.

Yeah, just happy to be back and hopefully I'm gonna go far here too.

**Q. I'm just curious what you make of the current state of women's tennis. It really feels like you, Iga, and Aryna have put yourself a step above the rest of the field, if you feel that way, if you feel that way in the locker room, how that changes things for you.**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, I don't feel it as much. I realize it when someone is talking and asking about this. But of course we did good in the beginning until now, but I feel like there is a lot of players who have been consistent. Still this Grand Slam and we have two more, the year is long. Yeah, we just see how it's gonna go, but hopefully I can continue like this, for sure.

**Q. To sort of follow up on that, do you feel like you are developing strong rivalries with those two players, Iga and Aryna?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: For now, yes, I would say just because of the results. But yeah, and I think we kind of pushing each other. So yeah, I will say yes, of course.

**Q. What do you make of Paris as a city and if there is anything special you like to do when you're here?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, usually I don't go so much during the tournament, but since I had the day off, I spent a bit time with my sister, like we went to the nice restaurant, we walked around, and it's also good weather here. In Rome it was a bit different (smiling).

Yeah, nothing special. Nothing too tiring, I will say. Just simple stuff. But maybe after the tournament if I have more time.

**Q. When you don't play tennis, what are your hobbies?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: What are the hobbies? Well, just relax a bit, watch some movies. Yeah, as much time I can spend with the family, friends, that's the most important for me since we are always on the road and I don't see that often my friends and also family.



THE MODERATOR: Questions in French.

**Q. You might play against Jabeur in quarterfinals. What do you think of Ons Jabeur? What do you remember from your match against her last year?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: (Answer in English.) Well, I didn't see the draw, to be honest. I just know I might play against qualifier. Honestly, I didn't look so far. If I play against Ons, it's great, but it's still far away, so I cannot say much.

THE MODERATOR: Couple more English questions.

**Q. I was just wondering, does it really matter about the surface? Do you feel that if you play well you can beat anyone on any day?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Well, for sure if I play my best, which it's impossible to play every time good and feel great, but I feel for sure no matter the surface, if I play my best, I can beat anyone.

**Q. Speaking of your sister, I was wondering if I could ask a little bit about her. She seems like very creative and a very different personality and what you make of what she brings to your team. What does she make of sort of all this tennis tour and everything like that?**

ELENA RYBAKINA: Yeah, I think she's actually helping a lot, because it's still a job. You practice all days, kind of the same routine. With her, if I go back to the room or we go to dinner, we can talk about something else, not only tennis.

She's very positive. Also a lot of energy from her. So it's just nice that we are able to spend time together. And, yeah, I think she's also helping, especially if you have a bad day or something, she's the one always positive. So it's good.

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