



Wimbledon 2026 Day 6: Alexandra Eala Stuns Swiatek as Rybakina Also Falls

Description

Day 6 at Wimbledon 2026 delivered one of the biggest upsets of the tournament so far, as Alexandra Eala — the 29th seed and the Philippines' first Grand Slam success story — defeated defending champion Iga Swiatek 7-6(9), 6-2 to become the first Filipino to reach the second week of a Grand Slam.

Centre Court provided the stage, and the 21-year-old Eala delivered a performance of tactical intelligence, raw power, and extraordinary composure to end Swiatek's Wimbledon title defence. It was Eala's seventh career win over a Top 10 opponent, and her third on grass alone this season.

A Thrilling First Set

The opening set was a match in itself. Eala seized the initiative early, breaking for 5-3 to hold her first set point — only for Swiatek to respond with a trio of consecutive forehand winners to level at 5-5. The set went to a tiebreak, where Eala built a commanding 5-2 lead, only to see Swiatek reel off four straight points to reach set point.

Eala saved two set points with an unreturned serve and a forced Swiatek error, then clinched the breaker on her fourth set point as Swiatek mishit a forehand long. The final tiebreak score was 11-9 to Eala, and the relief on her face was matched only by the roar from the Wimbledon crowd.



Eala had already shown her grass-court credentials in the earlier rounds at Wimbledon 2026. Source: WTA official website (wtatennis.com)

Second Set Dominance

With the set in hand, Eala pressed harder. She broke three times in the second set and never allowed Swiatek to settle into any rhythm, winning 6-2 in what was a commanding display. The statistics told the story of a match Eala controlled on the big points: 24 winners and 21 unforced errors, compared to Swiatek's 32 winners and 44 errors. Eala converted five of seven break-point chances and saved eight of eleven on her own serve.

Swiatek's usual forays to the net backfired – she won just 9 of 20 net points. Eala's passing shots were precise and punishing, and her serve, long considered a vulnerability, was markedly improved: four aces and 55% of second-serve points won, against Swiatek's 32%.

The match lasted just 84 minutes. When Eala put away her 24th winner to seal victory, it felt both decisive and historic. –Philippines in Wimbledon – it means so much, – Eala had said after her third-round win earlier in the week. Saturday's performance made good on that statement.

Eala's Grass-Court Rise

Eala's breakthrough has been building through the season. Trained at the Rafa Nadal Academy, she won the Birmingham WTA 125 title four weeks ago – her second WTA 125 title of 2026 – and reached the Eastbourne final on grass just before Wimbledon. She is now 3-0 on grass this season, and this is her second win over Swiatek (having beaten her in Miami in 2025 to make a WTA semifinal), pushing her record against the Polish star to 2-1.

Her win also confirms that her career high of No. 29, and current ranking of No. 32, are underselling her actual level. She is 7-4 against Top 10 opponents in her career, and still just 21 years old.



Alexandra Eala, No. 29 seed at Wimbledon 2026, ranked 32nd in the world. Source: WTA official website (wtatennis.com)

What's Next: Paolini in the Fourth Round

Eala's next opponent will be No. 13 seed Jasmine Paolini, who needed just 66 minutes to defeat Maria Sakkari 6-1, 6-2 on Saturday. Paolini reached the second week of a major for the sixth time, winning 10 of 12 net points and conceding just 11 points on serve. The Italian, a 2024 finalist, is a

proven performer at Wimbledon.

Eala, however, leads their head-to-head 1-0 â?? having beaten Paolini 6-1, 7-6(5) in Dubai in February this year, saving two set points along the way. Grass is Ealaâ??s current surface of form. The fourth-round clash is already one of the most anticipated of Day 7.

Rybakina Also Out

Eala was not the only seed-killer on Saturday. No. 2 seed Elena Rybakina â?? the 2022 Wimbledon champion â?? was knocked out by Elise Mertens 7-6(4), 6-1 in another Day 6 upset. The result means two of the top three seeds are now out of the womenâ??s draw, with No. 1 seed Aryna Sabalenka the remaining favourite heading into the second week.

Elsewhere, Madison Keys defeated Amanda Anisimova 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 to reach the fourth round.

Day 7 Highlights to Watch

Sundayâ??s schedule features several marquee matches: Jannik Sinner takes on Mochizuki, Sabalenka faces Naomi Osaka, Novak Djokovic plays Safiullin, and Coco Gauff meets Belinda Bencic. With Swiatek and Rybakina both eliminated, the womenâ??s draw has opened up considerably â?? and Eala vs Paolini looms as a genuine fourth-round highlight.

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Author

jadeyeo