



Noskova survives tearful meltdown to win first Wimbledon title

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Linda Noskova won her first Wimbledon title in astonishing style yesterday as the tearful Czech recovered from wasting five match points to beat Karolina Muchova in one of the most dramatic finals in All England Club history. Noskova, seeded ninth, appeared to be on the brink of a devastating loss when she broke down in tears after squandering those match points in the second set of a Centre Court classic. But the 21-year-old somehow regained her composure in a final with more twists than a Hollywood blockbuster.

Summoning incredible resilience, Noskova clinched her maiden Grand Slam crown with a remarkable 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 victory over her 10th seeded compatriot. Quite how she was able to avoid a complete meltdown in the aftermath of her mid-match collapse will go down in the annals of Wimbledon lore. In two hours and 28 minutes of unrelenting drama, Noskova showed the heart of a champion to establish herself as the youngest woman to win Wimbledon in 15 years. The third tour-level title of Noskova's career emulated the success of her compatriot Petra Kvitova, who was the same age when she won the first of her two Wimbledon crowns in 2011. It was a full circle moment for Noskova, who was inspired to take up tennis by the Wimbledon success of her childhood idol Kvitova. Fittingly, Kvitova was watching from the royal box as Noskova celebrated her breakthrough victory.

For the third time in the last four years, a Czech woman won Wimbledon following Barbora Krejčíková in 2024 and Marketa Vondroušová in 2023. Noskova, who banked the winner's prize of £3.6 million (\$4.8 million), has emerged as one of the rising stars of the women's game during her remarkable run at the All England Club. Like Kvitova, Noskova has been a quick learner on grass, having only played her first match on the surface in Birmingham in 2023. She has won more matches on grass than any other player on the WTA Tour in the past two years. Even so, she had never been past the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam prior to arriving at Wimbledon two weeks ago. Lifting the Venus Rosewater Dish was hard to imagine for Noskova when she faced match point against Sorana Cîrstea in the third round.

In the first Open era Grand Slam final between two Czech women, the pair are long-time friends, it was Noskova who took the first set with ease. But that didn't begin to tell the story to come. Noskova wobbled spectacularly, wasting four match points and allowing Muchova to break back when she served for the match in the second set. Putting her fingers in her ears to block out the crowd's stunned reaction, Noskova squandered another match point as Muchova held to level at 5-5. Noskova covered her head in a towel and appeared to wipe away tears before Muchova closed out the set. She stormed off court before the deciding set, taking a break that proved decisive. From the depths of despair, she broke early in the set and finally sealed her victory before collapsing to the turf in disbelief.



Noskova is only the third woman to win Wimbledon after saving a match point earlier in the tournament, joining Venus Williams (2005) and Serena Williams (2009)

Noskova is also the first woman since Maria Sharapova in 2004 to clinch a tour event on grass, in Berlin in June, and then win Wimbledon in the same year.



Noskova has a painful Wimbledon memory -- in 2024, she entered the tournament shortly after her mother had died of cancer.



Sinner defends Wimbledon crown against revitalised Zverev

TDI | agencies

Defending champion Jannik Sinner will bid to retain his Wimbledon title when he faces French Open champion Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final at the All England Club.



Sinner enters the match on a 13-match Wimbledon winning streak and has won his last nine meetings with Zverev, including four this year. However, this will be

their first encounter since the German captured his maiden Grand Slam title at Roland Garros. The Italian is chasing a fifth Grand Slam crown and his 100th career Grand Slam match victory. He reached the final after a dominant semi-final win over Novak Djokovic, having also recovered from two sets to one down against Miomir Kecmanovic in the opening round. "It means a lot to play another final here. It's the most special

tournament we have," said Sinner. Zverev, playing in his first Wimbledon final and fifth Grand Slam final overall, arrives full of confidence after ending years of major heartbreak with his French Open triumph. The 29-year-old is aiming to become the first German man to win Wimbledon since Michael Stich in 1991 and only the seventh player in the Open era to complete the Roland Garros-Wimbledon double.

Five-wicket Gaud puts India in command at Lord's

AFP | London

Kranti Gaud became the first woman to earn a place on the Lord's honours boards after taking 5-37 as India seized control of the inaugural women's Test against England yesterday. The 22-year-old pacer bowled England out for 170, giving India a 115-run first-innings

lead after scoring 285. By tea on day two, India had advanced to 30-0, extending their overall lead to 145 runs. Smriti Mandhana (10*) and Shafali Verma (14*) were unbeaten. Gaud's superb spell overshadowed England's only notable resistance, a fifth-wicket stand of 84 between Nat Sciver-Brunt (44) and Amy Jones (52).



Celebrate the World Cup 2026 final at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Football Fanzone Finale



TDI | Manama

As the world comes together for the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain invites football enthusiasts and food lovers alike to an unforgettable evening at the Football Fanzone Finale! Join us on Sunday, 19 July 2026, from 8:00 PM onwards at the Football Fanzone at La Med.



This immersive celebration brings together exceptional cuisine, live entertainment, and the electric energy of football's biggest match. Guests will enjoy a specially curated buffet menu inspired by the culinary traditions of the three host nations



- Canada, Mexico, and the USA - alongside high-energy beats from a live DJ and a vibrant, traditional Mariachi performance. The night reaches its peak with a live screening of the final match on the 3-me-



ter screen, bringing everyone together to experience every moment of the match as it happens. Two distinct packages are available for the event. The Soft Beverages Package is priced at

Event Details

- Date: Sunday, 19 July 2026
 - Time: 8:00 PM onwards
 - Venue: Football Fanzone at La Med, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain
- Everything you need for an unforgettable World Cup Final celebration is already right here. All that's left to

do is bring your friends and family, settle in, and share a memorable evening together as the world's next champion is crowned. For reservations or more information, please call +973 1758 6499, WhatsApp +973 3977 0525, or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.

BD 35, while the Package with Select Beverages is available for BD 45. Royal Beach Club members are welcome to apply their membership discount to these prices.