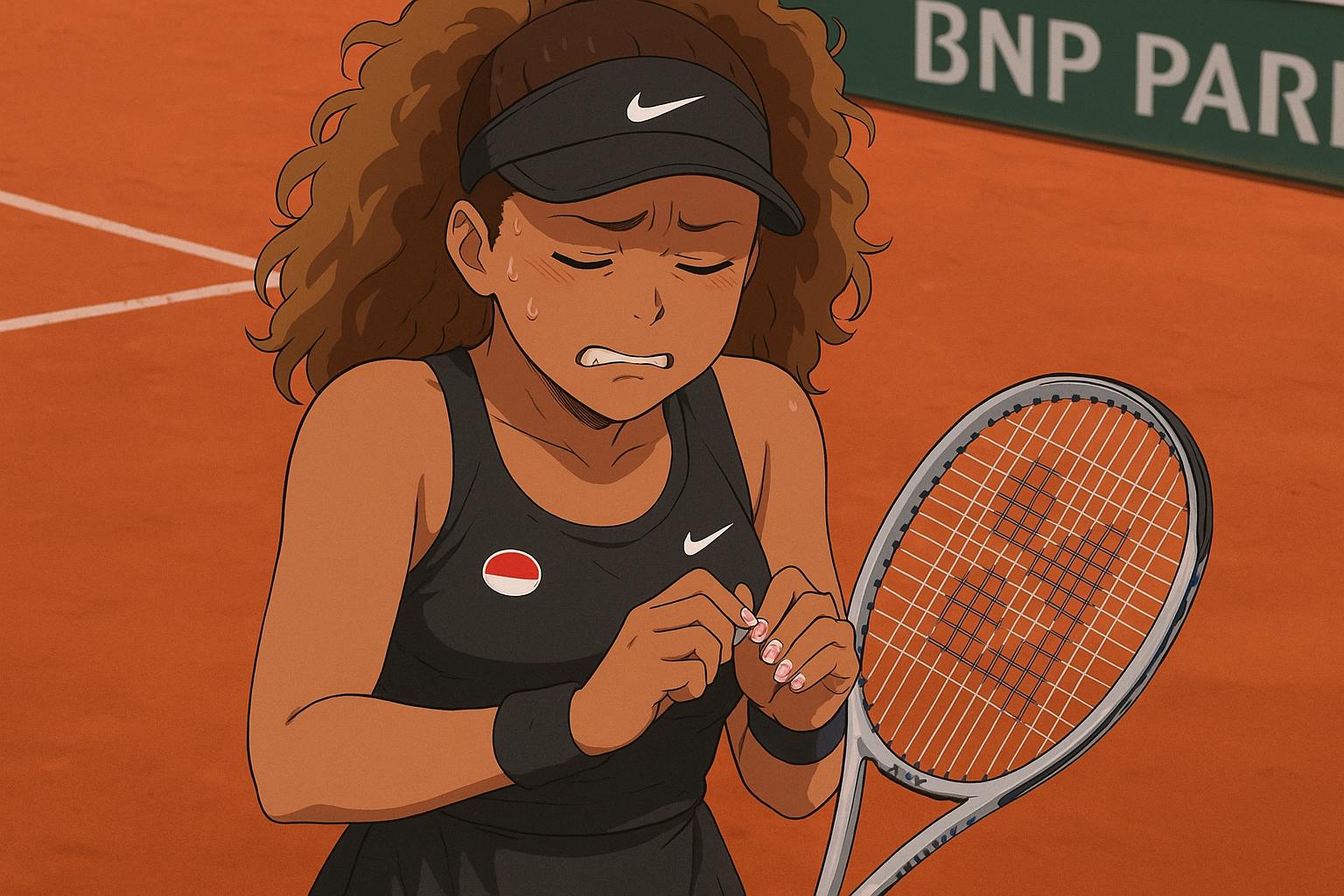
# Naomi Osaka's French Open exit overshadowed by mid-match manicure and 54 unforced errors



Naomi Osaka's latest appearance at the French Open was marred by controversy and disappointment as she faced a first-round loss against Paula Badosa, ranked No. 10 in the world. This encounter showcased not only Osaka's struggles on the court but also a bizarre incident that distracted from the match's competitive spirit. During a tense battle, Osaka opted for a mid-game manicure, prompting a flurry of criticism online. While cutting her ornate Sakura-themed nails, Osaka appeared to suggest that they were hindering her performance, which many fans interpreted as an embarrassing moment rather than a strategic move.

This year's tournament proved challenging for Osaka, who committed a staggering 54 unforced errors, a figure that starkly contrasted with her opponent's performance and highlighted her ongoing difficulties on the red clay of Roland Garros. The defeat, with set scores of 7-6(1), 1-6, 4-6 after a hard-fought contest, continued a worrying trend for the four-time Grand Slam champion. Since returning to professional tennis after a maternity break in 2023, Osaka has failed to regain her former momentum, evident in her early exit from a tournament she has never progressed beyond the third round.

The emotional aftermath of the match further illuminated Osaka's struggles. She became visibly upset during the post-match press conference, even momentarily walking out due to tears. "I hate disappointing people," she shared during the session, adding that the pressure of high expectations weighed heavily on her, especially in contrast to her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, who previously guided Serena Williams through much of her illustrious career. This juxtaposition, as Osaka pointed out, leaves both her and Mouratoglou wrestling with the contrasting reality of her current performance relative to the past.

Osaka’s unexpected challenges on the court have been compounded by her physical state, including painful blisters that led to a medical timeout during her match. The combination of these blisters and the chaotic moment of cutting her nails during play have raised questions about her readiness and focus amidst intense competition. Many commentators reflected on this peculiar incident, with one fan remarking that such distractions could indeed threaten her career if they persist.

In contrast, Badosa's resilience was commendable. After experiencing setbacks herself, including injuries that sidelined her, she stated that her motivation stemmed from the legacy of Rafael Nadal, whose footprint now graces the central court as a reminder of excellence at Roland Garros. Badosa's ability to maintain calm under pressure was crucial, particularly as she came back from losing the first set and faced a daunting 0-2 deficit in the third set before powering through to victory.

As the tournament progresses, the spotlight remains on Osaka, not only for her previous accolades but for the path forward. Will she recover her competitive edge, or will the pressures of expectation and physical challenges continue to overshadow her talent? With the French Open marking another early exit in her turbulent journey, the next steps for Osaka will be closely scrutinised by fans and analysts alike, as she seeks to find coherence and confidence in her game once more.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/tennis/article-14753695/naomi-osaka-embarrassing-behavior-french-open-2025.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/tennis/osakas-french-open-woes-continue-with-another-early-exit-2025-05-26/> - Naomi Osaka's struggles at the French Open continued as she suffered a first-round defeat to 10th seed Paula Badosa, losing 7-6(1), 1-6, 4-6. Despite a strong effort that forced the match into three sets, Osaka's performance was undermined by 54 unforced errors—twice as many as her opponent—and painful blisters on her fingers, which led to a medical timeout. The former world number one and four-time Grand Slam champion has never advanced beyond the third round at Roland Garros. This latest early exit follows a history of challenges at the tournament, including her 2021 withdrawal due to mental health struggles. Recently returning to form with a title win after a maternity break, Osaka appeared emotionally shaken during the post-match press conference, at one point walking out in tears before returning. She expressed deep disappointment and uncertainty about how the defeat would contribute to her growth as a player.
3. <https://as.com/tenis/roland_garros/osaka-se-quiebra-muratoglou-ha-pasado-de-trabajar-con-la-mejor-de-siempre-a-que-coño-es-esto-n/> - Naomi Osaka experienced a painful first-round defeat at Roland Garros against Paula Badosa, despite winning the first set and being close to taking the lead in the third. During the post-match press conference, Osaka became emotional while reflecting on her performance and the pressure she feels to meet expectations, mentioning her coach Patrick Mouratoglou and implying that he has gone from coaching a legend like Serena Williams to a version of her he doesn't recognise. Osaka broke down in tears and briefly left the room before returning to continue the conversation, expressing that she continues to learn from each match, highlighting differences between her recent performances in Rome and Paris. A curious moment during the match against Badosa was when she had her nails clipped while being treated for blisters, making this day even more unusual and emotionally charged for the Japanese tennis player.
4. <https://elpais.com/deportes/tenis/2025-05-26/de-londres-a-paris-jessica-bouzas-vuelve-a-ensenar-el-colmillo-no-hay-nada-imposible.html> - On Monday at Roland Garros 2025, Carlos Alcaraz began his title defence strongly by defeating Italian Giulio Zeppieri 6-3, 6-4, and 6-2 in under two hours. He displayed solid play with 31 winners, especially excelling with his forehand. Alcaraz is now preparing to face Fabian Marozsan, who previously defeated him in Rome two years ago. Meanwhile, Spanish player Jessica Bouzas made a significant surprise by decisively defeating Emma Navarro, ranked 9th, 6-0 and 6-1. This is her first win in the main draw of Roland Garros, and she becomes the third in the tournament's history to concede only one game against a top-10 player, following in the footsteps of Serena Williams and Steffi Graf. Paula Badosa also advanced, coming back against Naomi Osaka with a 6-7(1), 6-1, and 6-4 victory, demonstrating physical and mental strength. The Spanish women's representation is strengthened with at least three players advancing past the first round, and the participation of Cristina Bucsa is awaited.
5. <https://as.com/tenis/roland_garros/badosa-se-anima-con-una-gran-remontada-ante-osaka-n/> - Paula Badosa achieved a remarkable comeback at Roland Garros by defeating Naomi Osaka in the first round 6-7 (1), 6-1, and 6-4 in a match lasting 2 hours and 21 minutes. Although Osaka, former world number one and currently ranked 49th, performed better than expected, Badosa, who was returning from an injury and had low expectations, prevailed due to her consistency and aggressive strategy on court. Despite being 0-2 down in the third set, the Spaniard remained calm and dominated the match, also benefiting from Osaka's 54 unforced errors. This victory boosts the morale of the Catalan tennis player, who will face Romanian Elena Gabriela Ruse in the second round. Badosa praised Osaka's talent and career, expressing her happiness at competing at a good level after her physical recovery. The encounter was intense, marked by technical details and moments of tension, but Badosa demonstrated mental strength to close the match firmly.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/tennis/four-time-champ-swiatek-launches-french-open-bid-with-record-sight-2025-05-26/> - On the opening rounds of the 2025 French Open, defending champions Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz advanced comfortably, with Swiatek defeating Rebecca Sramkova 6-3 6-3 to record her 22nd consecutive match win at Roland Garros as she eyes a historic fourth straight title. Alcaraz also cruised through in straight sets against Italian qualifier Giulio Zeppieri. World No. 1 Jannik Sinner extended his Grand Slam winning streak to 15 matches by defeating Arthur Rinderknech. However, the day saw upsets as fourth seed Taylor Fritz and former Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka were ousted in the first round. Osaka struggled with unforced errors and a finger injury, falling to Paula Badosa in three sets. Other notable winners included Casper Ruud, Stefanos Tsitsipas, and Madison Keys. Emma Raducanu fought past Xinyu Wang in a tough three-set match, setting up a clash with Swiatek. Meanwhile, veterans Stan Wawrinka and Caroline Garcia faced early exits, while Richard Gasquet continued his farewell tournament. Emma Navarro was eliminated in a lopsided loss, and Elena Rybakina narrowly avoided an upset in her opener.
7. <https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/26/badosa-desvela-su-fuente-de-motivacion-para-remontar-en-roland-garros-he-mirado-la-placa-de-rafa-y-me-he-dicho-de-seguir-sus-pasos-cadena-ser/> - Paula Badosa achieved a remarkable victory in her Roland Garros 2025 debut by coming back from a difficult match against Naomi Osaka, with scores of 6-7(1), 6-1, and 6-4. Badosa attributed part of her motivation to the newly inaugurated plaque with Rafa Nadal's footprint on the central court, a tribute to his legacy as a fourteen-time champion of the tournament. Inspired by Nadal, she adopted a fighting mentality, determined to make her opponent struggle for hours if she wanted to defeat her. The Spanish player, who recently returned to competition after overcoming a back injury that kept her away for three months, stated that she felt physically well despite still lacking match practice. After returning to competition in Strasbourg with a win and a loss, Badosa arrives in Paris showing a high level of intensity and determination. Her hard-fought victory secures her passage to the second round, where she will face the winner of the match between Ruse and Kessler. The world number 10 in the WTA rankings has demonstrated that she is ready to compete at the highest level again, in a tournament very special motivated by the example and legacy of Rafa Nadal.