



Thailand Tennis

Re-Ignition Moment



Thailand tennis is entering a re-ignite phase, and Wimbledon 2026 is the clearest proof point.

After a long stretch without this level of Grand Slam visibility, Mananchaya Sawangkaew and Lanlana Tararudee did not just win matches; they reactivated belief, relevance, and momentum for Thai tennis on the world stage.



WHY WIMBLEDON 2026 MATTERS

Thailand returned to the Wimbledon women's main draw with two players for the first time since Tamarine Tanasugarn and Noppawan Lertcheewakarn in 2010—a 16-year absence.

The opening round then produced an Open Era first: two Thai players won Grand Slam main-draw matches at the same tournament. Both Sawangkaew and Tatarudee reached the second round, something no previous Thai pair had achieved at one major.

Sawangkaew went one step further, reaching the third round, the deepest Wimbledon singles run by a Thai woman since Tamarine Tanasugarn's quarterfinal in 2008. She beat American Alycia Parks 7–5, 6–0 in the second round.

This was also the first Wimbledon main-draw match win by any Thai player since Luksika Kumkhum reached the second round in 2018, ending an eight-year drought.

SUMMARY:

- **16 years:** since two Thai women appeared in the Wimbledon main draw.
- **8 years:** since Thailand's previous Wimbledon match win.
- **18 years:** since Tanasugarn's quarterfinal benchmark.
- **1st time:** two Thai players won main-draw matches at the same Grand Slam in the Open Era.
- **1st time:** two Thai players reached a second round at the same major.

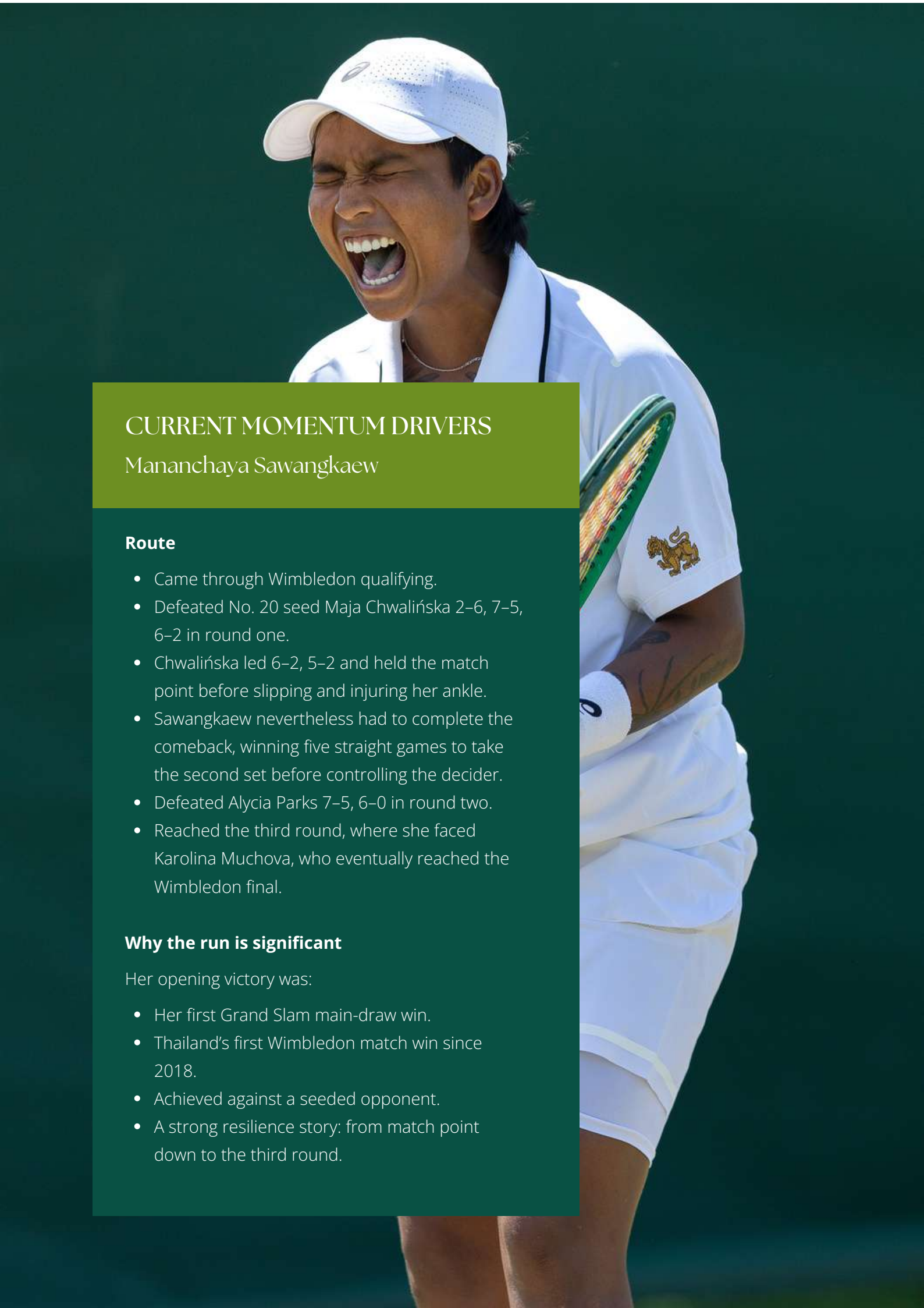


MARKET OVERVIEW & DEMOGRAPHICS

The Thai sports market is currently witnessing a significant resurgence in tennis interest, with recent professional breakthroughs serving as a catalyst for renewed commercial potential and participation.

- **Fan Engagement:** Approximately 84% of Thailand's population (71.85 million) is tuned into sports.
- **Participation Rank:** Tennis is the 12th most participated sport in Thailand, with approximately 2% of the surveyed population reporting active participation.
- **Fan Demographics:** The general sports fan base in Thailand is majority male (55.5%), with the largest age segment being youth aged 11–24 (64.8%).





CURRENT MOMENTUM DRIVERS

Mananchaya Sawangkaew

Route

- Came through Wimbledon qualifying.
- Defeated No. 20 seed Maja Chwalińska 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 in round one.
- Chwalińska led 6-2, 5-2 and held the match point before slipping and injuring her ankle.
- Sawangkaew nevertheless had to complete the comeback, winning five straight games to take the second set before controlling the decider.
- Defeated Alycia Parks 7-5, 6-0 in round two.
- Reached the third round, where she faced Karolina Muchova, who eventually reached the Wimbledon final.

Why the run is significant

Her opening victory was:

- Her first Grand Slam main-draw win.
- Thailand's first Wimbledon match win since 2018.
- Achieved against a seeded opponent.
- A strong resilience story: from match point down to the third round.

CURRENT MOMENTUM DRIVERS

Lanlana Tararudee

Route and significance

- Entered her first Wimbledon main draw.
- Beat Austrian teenager Lilli Tagger in round one.
- Lost a close second-round match to No. 18 seed Ekaterina Alexandrova, 5-7, 5-7.
- Her opening win completed Thailand's historic two-player advancement into round two.

Wider career momentum

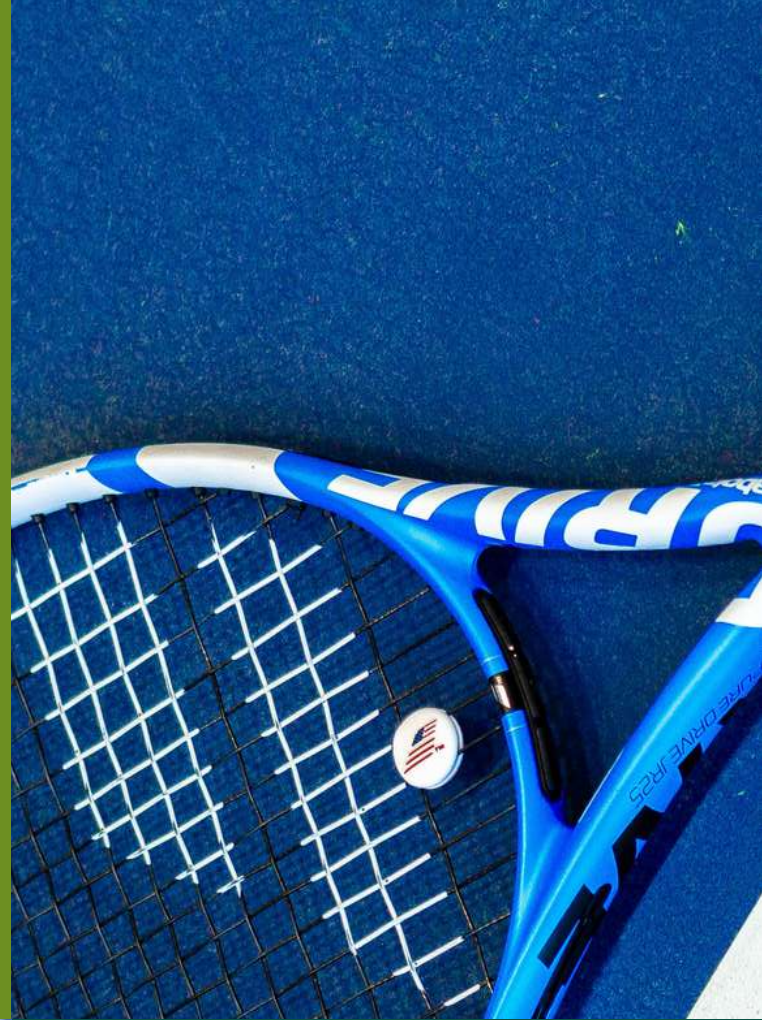
Tararudee won her first WTA 125 title in Austin in March 2026, defeating former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the final.

In May 2026 she became the fourth Thai woman in WTA rankings history to enter the Top 100, climbing from No. 113 to No. 99 after reaching an ITF W100 final in Tokyo and semifinal in Gifu.



THAILAND'S MAJOR TENNIS MILESTONES

Thailand's international tennis history has been shaped by several distinct generations: Tamarine Tanasugarn established the country's women's benchmark, Paradorn Srichaphan brought Thai men's tennis into the global Top 10, Danai Udomchoke extended Thailand's presence at Grand Slam level, while Luksika Kumkhum and the Ratiwatana twins helped bridge the gap to the emerging generation.



Paradorn Srichaphan

- Reached a career-high ranking of **world No. 9 in 2003**, the highest ranking achieved by a Thai player.
- Became the first Asian man of the modern ATP rankings era to enter the **Top 10**.
- Won **five ATP singles titles**.
- Reached the fourth round at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

Paradorn's success in the early 2000s brought Thai tennis unprecedented national visibility.



Tamarine Tanasugarn

- Career-high rankings: world No. 19 in singles and No. 15 in doubles.
- Won four WTA singles titles and eight doubles titles.
- Reached the 2008 Wimbledon quarterfinal, the best senior singles result by a Thai player at the tournament.
- Won consecutive grass-court titles at 's-Hertogenbosch in 2008 and 2009.
- Finished runner-up in the 1995 Wimbledon girls' singles event.

Tanasugarn remains Thailand's highest-ranked woman and its leading Wimbledon benchmark.



Danai Udomchoke

- Reached a career-high ranking of world No. 77 in 2007.
- Advanced to the third round of the 2007 Australian Open.
- Was Thailand's last male Grand Slam main-draw participant before Kasidit Samrej in 2025.

Danai provided Thailand with a second internationally competitive men's singles player during the Paradorn era.



Sanchai and Sonchat Ratiwatana

- Both reached the ATP doubles Top 50, with career highs around world No. 39.
- Won ATP doubles titles and numerous Challenger-level events.
- Defeated reigning Wimbledon champions Michaël Llodra and Arnaud Clément to win the 2007 Thailand Open.
- Competed in doubles at all four Grand Slam tournaments.
-
- The twins established Thailand's strongest and most enduring international doubles partnership.



Noppawan Lertcheewakarn

- Won the 2009 Wimbledon girls' singles championship.
- Reached junior world No. 1.
- Achieved career-high professional rankings of No. 149 in singles and No. 97 in doubles.

She remains Thailand's only Wimbledon singles champion at junior or senior level.





Luksika Kumkhum

- Both reached the ATP doubles Top 50, with career highs around world No. 39.
- Won ATP doubles titles and numerous Challenger-level events.
- Defeated reigning Wimbledon champions Michaël Llodra and Arnaud Clément to win the 2007 Thailand Open.
- Competed in doubles at all four Grand Slam tournaments.
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- The twins established Thailand's strongest and most enduring international doubles partnership.



Kasidit Samrej

- Qualified for the 2025 Australian Open, ending a 13-year absence for Thai men in Grand Slam singles main draws.
- Led former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev by two sets to one before losing in five sets.
- Reached a career-high ranking of approximately world No. 346 in 2025.

His performance reopened a pathway for Thai men at Grand Slam level.



Mananchaya Sawangkaew

- Became the third Thai woman to enter the WTA Top 100, reaching world No. 100.
- Won her first WTA 125 title in Mumbai in 2026.
- Reached the third round of Wimbledon 2026, Thailand's deepest run there since Tanasugarn's 2008 quarterfinal.
- Recorded her first Grand Slam main-draw victory after recovering from match point down in the opening round.

Her comeback from injury and Wimbledon run make her resilience story reflect with Thai tennis fans.



Lanlana Tararudee

- Became the fourth Thai woman to enter the WTA Top 100.
- Reached a career-high ranking inside the world Top 100.
- Won her first WTA 125 title in Austin in 2026, defeating former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu in the final.
- Reached the second round of Wimbledon 2026 on her main-draw debut.





Together, Tararudee and Sawangkaew gave Thailand two active Top 100-calibre women from the same generation and created the country's first simultaneous multi-player Grand Slam breakthrough.

Only four Thai women have entered the WTA singles Top 100:

- **Tamarine Tanasugarn — No. 19**
- **Luksika Kumkhum — No. 66**
- **Lanlana Tararudee — No. 93**
- **Mananchaya Sawangkaew — No. 100**

The arrival of Tararudee and Sawangkaew is particularly significant because they reached this level within approximately one year of each other. Thailand therefore had two active Top 100-calibre women from the same emerging generation, rather than relying on a single leading player.

Tararudee's career-high ranking of No. 93 followed her first WTA 125 title, her Top 100 debut and her Wimbledon main-draw breakthrough. Sawangkaew reached No. 100 before an injury interruption, then returned to win her first WTA 125 title and advance to the Wimbledon third round.



Player	Discipline	Career-high world ranking	Major distinction
Paradorn Srichaphan	Men's singles	No. 9	Highest-ranked Thai player; first Asian man of the modern ATP rankings era to enter the Top 10
Tamarine Tanasugarn	Women's doubles	No. 15	Highest-ranked Thai doubles player; winner of eight WTA doubles titles
Tamarine Tanasugarn	Women's singles	No. 19	Highest-ranked Thai woman; Wimbledon quarterfinalist in 2008
Sonchat Ratiwatana	Men's doubles	No. 9	ATP doubles champion and long-term Grand Slam participant
Sanchai Ratiwatana	Men's doubles	No. 39	ATP doubles champion and long-term Grand Slam participant
Luksika Kumkhum	Women's singles	No. 66	Australian Open third round; defeated former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová
Danai Udomchoke	Men's singles	No. 77	Australian Open third round in 2007
Luksika Kumkhum	Women's doubles	No. 86	Reached the Top 100 in both singles and doubles
Lanlana Tararudee	Women's singles	No. 93	Fourth Thai woman to enter the WTA Top 100; WTA 125 champion and Wimbledon second-round participant
Noppawan Lertcheewakarn	Women's doubles	No. 97	Wimbledon junior singles champion and former junior world No. 1
Mananchaya Sawangkaew	Women's singles	No. 100	Third Thai woman to enter the WTA Top 100; WTA 125 champion and Wimbledon third-round participant
Noppawan Lertcheewakarn	Women's singles	No. 149	Former junior world No. 1 and 2009 Wimbledon girls' singles champion