

Her eyes are on Wimbledon

# GREAT FUTURE PREDICTED FOR 12-YEAR OLD STAR

“Evonne Goolagong has all the ability to become as great a tennis player as Margaret Smith. It is my ambition to make her the greatest tennis player I have ever trained and the No. 1 lady player in the world.”

This statement was made to *Dawn* by Mr. Vic. Edwards, of Roseville, Sydney, one of Australia's leading tennis coaches.

Numbered amongst Mr. Edward's stars are players such as Fred Stolle, Bob Hewitt, Martin Mulligan, Jan Lehane and Jill Blackman.

Evonne, an attractive and beautifully mannered 12-year old, swept into prominence in the tennis world this year when she won the N.S.W. country under-15 lawn tennis title at White City, giving away almost three years to her opponents.



Earlier she had won the N.S.W. under-13 hardcourt singles title, and the under-13 doubles title with Vic Edwards daughter, Patricia.

If Evonne realises Vic Edward's ambition she will be the first Aboriginal girl to represent Australia in tennis, and the counterpart to America's great coloured star, Althea Gibson.

Evonne comes from the little township of Barellan, N.S.W., which is about 30 miles from Narrandera and Leeton and has a population of about 700 people.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Goolagong, and has four brothers and three sisters, whose ages range from 5 months to 16 years.

The Goolagong family are highly respected in the Barellan district, and are keen supporters of the township's most modern and up-to-date Tennis Club, which has five perfectly equipped tennis courts with a modern brick Club House and all appointments.

The Tennis Club is conducted by the Barellan War Memorial Club. The President of the Tennis Club, Mr. W. Kurtzman, is a keen tennis administrator apart from being president of other organisations in the small township.

Evonne commenced playing tennis at a very early age by hitting balls against the Tennis Club practice wall. She started to show promise at the age of seven years.

In 1961, Vic Edwards was requested by the Barellan War Memorial Tennis Club to conduct a one-week Tennis Clinic at Barellan for over 60 youngsters. During the course of the Clinic, Evonne Goolagong was selected as the best prospect as a player in Barellan; at this stage she was nine years of age.

At the conclusion of the Clinic, Mr. Edwards was approached by Mr. Kurtzman and members of the Barellan District War Memorial Club and requested to train Evonne and sponsor her tennis career in the future. The Committee assured Mr. Edwards that whatever finance was necessary, the Barellan War Memorial Club would meet it.

Since that date, Evonne has won practically every age event under-13 years in the Metropolitan and Country Championships that she has entered, and many events far above her own age group.

In April, 1963, Edwards arranged for Evonne to visit Sydney for one month for Special Training and to compete in the N.S.W. Age and School Championships.

She was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and family and was under the maternal care of Mrs. Vic. Edwards.

Evonne made rapid progress and worked very hard.

In her first major titles, the N.S.W. under-13 years singles and doubles, she was narrowly beaten in the semi-final of the singles and in the finals of the doubles,

**Evonne Goolagong . . . the girl with the ability to be the greatest ever**

Picture by courtesy of the *Daily Mirror*, Sydney