

# “Our girl” - Back from Overseas Triumph

Early in September, Evonne Goolagong returned to Sydney after a 5 months tour to Germany, Austria, Holland and England. Under the guidance of her friend and coach, Mr Vic Edwards, Evonne, accompanied by Patricia Edwards (Vic's daughter) and a boy, Kim Warwick, won seven singles tournaments. Of these, four were “open”, that is, professionals could play.

Evonne also teamed with Patricia to win four doubles tournaments. Mr Edwards predicts that the two girls will soon form the best female doubles combination in Australia.

Evonne, who has known the Edwards family since she was nine and who has lived with them at their Sydney home since she was fourteen, is very much a member of the family. But she does not forget her parents in Barellan and visits them as often as she can. On a recent visit home, Evonne noticed how well her younger sister, Janelle, is developing her tennis and thinks that we may well see another Goolagong in the tennis world of the future.

In 1968, Harry Hopman invited Evonne to join the Australian Touring Team. However she decided to finish her high school education first. This she did, gaining her Higher School Certificate at the end of that year. Mr Edward's arranged the 1970 overseas tour purely to give Evonne experience and extra training. She did *so* well, that now he feels confident that Evonne will be the ‘Queen of Wimbledon’ by 1972 or 1973 at the latest.

The first thing you notice about Evonne Goolagong is how confident, pleasant and even is her temperament. I asked her: “How did you feel on the Wimbledon centre court—the focus of world attention?” She replied that it is always nerve wracking to play on *any* Wimbledon court, let alone the centre court. Yet she is well able to control her nerves, as many tennis writers have commented in the past. This fact, plus her d.termination, they suggest, are what will put Evonne Goolagong among the world's champions of tennis.

Evonne on the court

