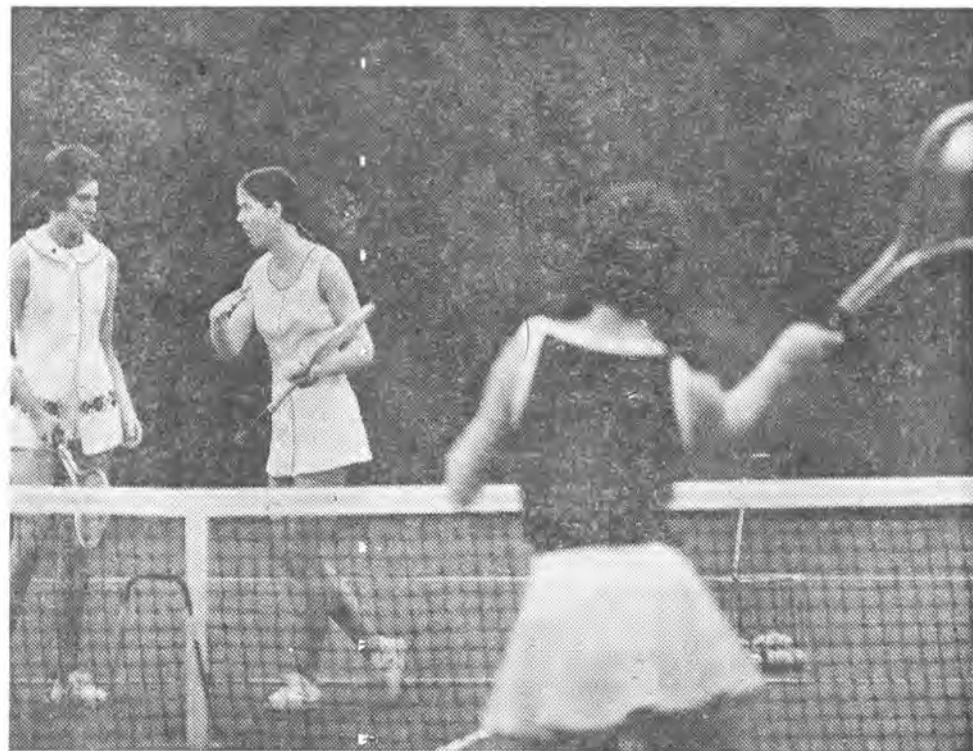
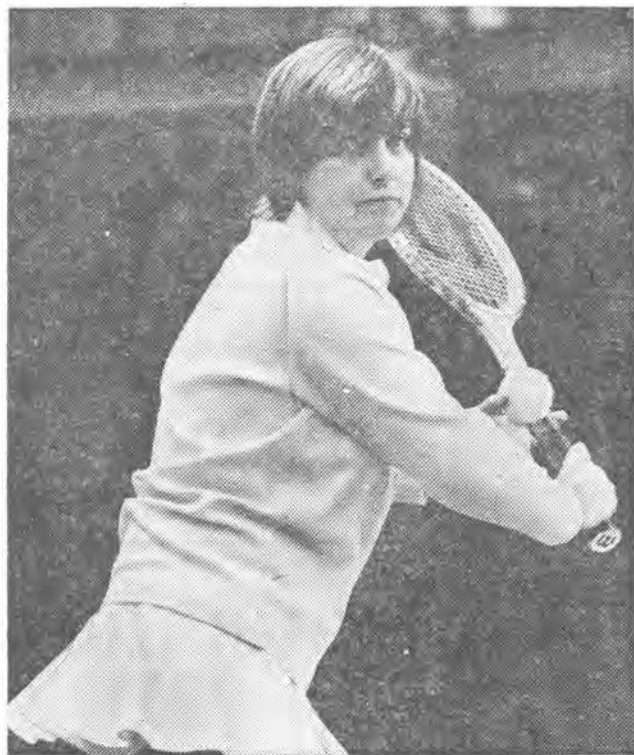


Family today

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WOMEN PROS like Roylee Bailey don't see themselves as coaches for women only but as all-around professionals.



JUDY ARNDT sees an intellectual challenge in teaching. "It's like a puzzle to have someone come out with their game in disrepair, and you find the little pieces that need putting together."



SUE EASTMAN feels there's a more serious attitude on the court when a woman is being taught by a woman. "You're just out there to learn."

WHEN LAUREL Holgerson teaches, she keeps up a steady volley of instruction for her students. "One of my strengths as a teacher is maybe I'm a little picky."

Advantage: female tennis pros

By Carolyn Colwell
Photos by Jim Mescall
and Ed Wagner Jr.

UNLIKE THE LITTLE boys who dreamed of growing up to be big league baseball players, football coaches, or touring tennis pros, Judy Arndt never imagined she could earn a living with a tennis racquet.

But now it's a new ball game. Twenty-seven-year-old Judy Arndt, and other young women like Roylee Bailey, Sue Eastman, and Laurel Holgerson, have parlayed natural athletic ability, dazzling strokes, and tough tournament experience into full-time positions as teaching pros.

"What has made a big difference is that there are so many more places [indoor clubs]," Ms. Arndt said between teaching sessions in Chicago's Mid-Town Tennis Club, 2020 W. Fullerton Av. "It's just like in a law firm which feels the need to have one woman lawyer. They [the clubs] recognize the need to have a woman pro."

CLUBS HAVE DISCOVERED that banishing male chauvinism from the tennis court is good business. More women are playing tennis than ever before, and a female pro provides inspiration as well as a good model.

And some women with fledgling forehands feel more at

ease taking a lesson from a female teacher, according to Sue Eastman, a 26-year-old tournament veteran playing for the Chicago Aces this summer.

"Basically, there's a more serious attitude when a woman's being taught by a woman," she said. "There's just nothing else going on. You're just out there to learn."

Janie Ampel, one of Ms. Eastman's students in the Northbrook Racquet Club, 2995 Dundee Rd., said she thinks there are other advantages to a woman mentor. "Men teach that backhand grip [on the serve]," she explained. "They don't understand that a woman can't do that easily. Sue understands and compensates a bit."

BUT MS. EASTMAN and other Chicago-area women pros don't coddle their female students. They're tigers for technique, pointing out flaws and issuing barrages of instructions.

"Watch the ball . . . Step into it . . . It's a lot quicker exchange, if you keep the racquet out in front and get your shoulders moving for you," pro Laurel Holgerson shouted across the net to one of her private pupils in Oak Lawn Racquet Club, 10444 S. Central Av. A few minutes later she broke down each motion of the serve—from the football pass motion of the throwing arm to bring the wrist over the

ball in the follow thru—to show student Ann Mantas how to get more power.

"One of my strengths as a teacher is maybe I'm a little picky," she said later off the court. She has been playing tennis since she was 9 years old. Last year she won the Midwestern Professional Tennis Associations Women's Championship.

YET WOMEN PROS, like Mid-Town's 24-year-old Roylee Bailey, who spent last year playing the Virginia Slims circuit, don't see themselves as coaches for women players only. They regard themselves as all-round professionals.

"They must be able to meet the same requirements as male pros," said Bob Huang, Mid-Town's head professional. Women pros working six days a week year-round can earn \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year, he said. But they must be able "to teach at all levels. And men might like to take from them."

Why would a Bobby Riggs fan want to take tennis lessons from a woman?

"Men sometimes take a playing lesson to see if they can beat you," explained Ms. Arndt, a slim, 27-year-old blonde who organized a women's tennis team at Trinity University in Texas. "And Roylee is such a strong player she usually

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can give them a good game. There's the novelty of saying: 'My pro's a woman, and she really gives me a hard time.'

Ms. Eastman is less patient with the Bobby Riggs hustle. She said a male student who takes a lesson to prove he can beat her is "wasting our time." She is much more pleased by an equal opportunity sportsman like the man she taught who "hit me dead smack in the stomach with one shot," she said.

"He didn't react at all, like maybe I'd hurt myself. The lesson just kept going. I remember thinking he probably thought: 'well, I paid for my lesson, and if she can't get out of the way that's too bad.'"

LONG HOURS OF standing on your feet, the difficulty of landing a head pro job, and losing interest in playing tennis for fun, are some of the disadvantages of a tennis teaching career, according to these young women.

But the tennis racket also has its rewards. Ms. Arndt, a former Congressional staffer, and Ms. Eastman, an ex-public relations woman, said they even find an intellectual challenge in teaching.

"It's like a puzzle to have someone come out there with their game in disrepair, and you find the little pieces that need putting together," Ms. Arndt said.



In checking racquet for proper grip size, use forehand grip. There should be enough space between thumb and third finger to insert finger of other hand.

Here's the score

FOR THE WOMAN player who finds the tennis court strange new territory, Judy Arndt, Roylee Bailey, Sue Eastman, and Laurel Holgerson offer the following tennis tips:

HOW TO PICK A RACQUET: Judy Arndt warns beginners to stay away from the glamorous metal racquets. "They're hard to control [for a beginner]," she said. She recommends a standard wood racquet instead, and one in the \$15 price range. "Always buy a light [weight] racquet," she added.

To check for the proper grip size, use the forehand grip; there should be enough space between your thumb and third finger to insert the first finger of the other hand. [See photo].

LESSONS: A combination of private lessons to work on basic strokes and group lessons to practice playing is the best method of learning quickly, according to Sue Eastman.

HOW TO PICK A PRO: All four women recommended teachers who are certified by the United States Professional Tennis Association. They also said one of the most important learning factors is the feeling of rapport between teacher and student. They suggested picking someone you like.

HOW TO PRACTICE: Squeezing tennis balls is one exercise women can practice off court to strengthen their wrists, which are usually their weakest tennis asset. Roylee Bailey recommends swinging the racquet at home and practicing strokes in front of a mirror.