



Sets Racquet Report



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BILLIE JEAN KING JOINS SETS IN 1975



Billie Jean King and Sets Owner Sol Berg

Sets To Open 1975 Season On May 6 With Doubleheader

The New York Sets will open the 1975 World Team Tennis Season at the Nassau Coliseum on May 6 with a unique doubleheader featuring four teams, it was announced today by Bob Kain, General Manager of the team.

Led by Billie Jean King, the Sets will meet the Cleveland Nets in the featured attraction on Tuesday, Opening Night (May 6) while the Los Angeles Strings and the Philadelphia Freedoms will play a preliminary match as part of several major schedule innovations announced today also by World Team Tennis officials.

In all, New York will play two doubleheaders during

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Move over Catfish Hunter, Joe Namath, Dr. J., Tom Seaver, and Derek Sanderson. Here comes Billie Jean King!

That's right, the incomparable Billie Jean King, the most dynamic woman tennis player and one of the greatest athletes of the century, has joined the New York Sets for the 1975 World Team Tennis season.

"I promised to build an exciting, championship tennis team for New York," said Sets Board Chairman Sol Berg after he completed successful trade negotiations with the Philadelphia Freedoms.

"We launched a rebuilding program mid-season last year and we were immediately able to bring Virginia Wade here. Now we are able to bring Billie Jean here to give the Sets one of the strongest women's team ever assembled for World Team Tennis.

"The New York Sets will be Billie Jean's primary base of tennis action as she plays less and less tournament tennis this year. I am confident that New Yorkers will come out to the Nassau Coliseum to see Virginia and Billie Jean on a regular basis."

It is too early to tell how these two great players will line up for the fast-moving WTT format. But plans right now call for both seeing maximum action. That will mean Billie Jean and Virginia seeing their share of singles action plus doubles and even mixed doubles competition.

"The Nassau Coliseum is one of the finest arenas for tennis anywhere and I know we will draw well this year. I hope all the fans come out to see me with the Sets. We're going to be tough," Billie Jean said.

In obtaining Billie Jean, the Sets gave up the rights to Stan Smith and Kerry Melville, one of the top ranking players in the world who was obtained from Boston in a re-distribution draft, plus an undisclosed amount of cash.

Billie Jean's contract with the Sets is a multi-year pact with terms and conditions to put her in the superstar class by herself.

FREE CLINIC FOR SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

HERE IS THE SCHEDULE AT THE NASSAU COLISEUM:

TUESDAY, MAY 6
DOUBLEHEADER
LOS ANGELES VS. PHILA.
CLEVELAND VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21
LOS ANGELES VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
HOUSTON VS. N. Y.

FRIDAY, MAY 30
SAN DIEGO VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
INDIANA VS. N. Y.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
HOUSTON VS. N. Y.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
PHOENIX VS. N. Y.

TUESDAY, JULY 8
SAN DIEGO VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9
PITTSBURGH VS. N. Y.

FRIDAY, JULY 11
PHILADELPHIA VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16
DOUBLEHEADER
SAN DIEGO VS. PHILA.
HAWAII VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
CLEVELAND VS. N. Y.

FRIDAY, JULY 25
CLEVELAND VS. N. Y.

SUNDAY, JULY 27
PHILADELPHIA VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
INDIANA VS. N. Y.

FRIDAY, AUG. 1
PITTSBURGH VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6
HAWAII VS. N. Y.

FRIDAY, AUG. 8
PITTSBURGH VS. N. Y.

MONDAY, AUG. 11
GOLDEN GATE VS. N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13
GOLDEN GATE VS. N. Y.

Sets Open 1975 Season

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the four-month season or 20 home matches at the Coliseum on 20 dates. Tennis fans will be treated to two extra matches with visiting teams as part of the doubleheaders.

In addition, the Sets have announced that changes have been made in the Nassau Coliseum seating layout to provide a more conducive atmosphere for World Team Tennis.

Instead of using the Coliseum to its full capacity of about 14,300 seats, the tennis court will be moved to one end with a curtain drawn across the unused portion. Seating capacity will be 8,600. "We feel that this will give us a more intimate atmosphere. We have as many excellent seats as we did before. In fact, we have gained good seats by moving closer to the end arena where many tennis buffs prefer to watch from," Kain said.

Monday to Saturday Matches are scheduled to begin at 8 P.M. with the Sunday Match set now for 7 P.M.; the Doubleheaders will begin at 6 P.M.

How would you like a tennis lesson from Billie Jean King? You bet you would! Who wouldn't?

Well, it's not as difficult as you may think. All you have to do to be eligible for an exclusive Billie Jean King tennis clinic is purchase a season ticket to the New York Sets.

That's right, Billie Jean King, the newest member of the Sets and one of the greatest tennis players of all time, along with the other Sets, will give special tennis clinics to all season ticket holders. A series of clinics will be scheduled to comfortably handle all ticket holders.

Billie Jean will head the clinic which will be an intensive session covering every stroke. Each Sets teammate will assist by demonstrating his or her own best shot.

Season tickets for the 20 home matches are now on sale at the Nassau Coliseum, at the Sets headquarters located at 39 West 55th Street, New York, by filling out the ticket application on page four of this Racquet Report, or by calling (212) 581-6622 or (516) 794-9500.

Choice seats are still available for the 20 exciting home matches at the Coliseum beginning on May 6 against the Cleveland Nets.

Season prices are \$120 per ticket for all home matches. A paid reservation will reserve a choice \$6 seat for all the home games, and at the same time assure you of a place in the Billie Jean clinic. A limited number of courtside seats are available at \$200.

Booster Club Memberships Available

Join the New York Sets Booster Club and earn unique, special privileges during the 1975 World Team Tennis season at the Nassau Coliseum.

For a \$3 member fee, Booster Club members receive:

- a membership card
- a subscription to the New York Sets newsletter
- meetings where you can talk tennis with the Sets players
- discounts on tickets and souvenirs
- Autographed pictures
- Discounts on Sets-Booster Club road trips
- Plus special surprises during the season

To become a New York Sets Booster Club member, simply send your name, address and telephone number along with a check for \$3 to the New York Sets Booster Club, 39 West 55th Street, New York 10019.

SETS SHINE ON WINTER CIRCUITS



Sandy Mayer—On the Move

Sales Staff Set For Season

The New York Sets have built a solid sales staff to handle ticket sales in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York, Westchester and New Jersey.

Based in New York at the Sets office are Don Weiss, Leslie Masson and Leigh Schultz. They can help Sets fans with season ticket information, corporate ticket plans and group sales. They can be reached at (212) 581-6622.

On Long Island, the sales staff includes Jane Salamon, Rene Neiman and Bill McGinley, a former football and baseball coach at St. Agnes high school in Rockville Centre.

Mrs. Salamon and Mrs. Neiman handle group sales and call upon the many tennis clubs in Nassau and Suffolk counties. They also handle season ticket requests.

McGinley is responsible for contacting Long Island corporations about arranging special season and group tickets and promotional packages. They can be reached at (516) 794-9500.

Sets Draft Top Talent

World Team Tennis held a major draft in December and a re-distribution draft in February, and the New York Sets made some key selections.

Mona Schallau, Wendy Turnbull, Colin Dibley, Ray Ruffels, Patti Hogan, John Lloyd, Pancho Gonzales, Gra-

ham Stillwell, Racquel Giscafere, Helga Masthoff, Sally Greer, Jas Singh, Brenda Kirk, Mary Carillo, Haroon Rahim, Marjorie Smith (she's the wife of Stan Smith who the Sets traded to Philadelphia as part of the Billie Jean King deal), Donna Ganz, Natalie Fuchs and Ruta Gerulaitis (brother of Vitas).

Members of the New York Sets are sharpening their skills for the 1975 World Team Tennis season by competing in tournaments throughout the world.

Virginia Wade, who dazzled Coliseum fans last year, has been playing some of the most consistent tennis of her brilliant career.

She has played in four Virginia Slims tournaments and was a semi-finalist in each—losing only to Chris Evert, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova.

Virginia also was a finalist in the first two doubles events, losing to her new teammate King, who was paired with Evert. The popular Briton is playing excellent tennis to cement her ranking as one of the top five women players in the world in singles and doubles.

Of course, Billie Jean has already been a tournament winner this year. First she lost to Chris in San Francisco and then came right back to beat her in Sarasota. In the San Francisco event, she teamed with Evert to beat Wade and Rosie Casals in doubles and then beat Wade and Betty Stove in Sarasota.

Nikki Pilic returned to the court after taking the fall off, and in his first European WCT event he lost to Bjorn Borg in the quarter-finals.

Sandy Mayer is playing full-time this Winter on the WCT Blue Group as well as on the USLTA indoor circuit. In the the WCT-U.S. Professional Indoor Championship in Philadelphia, he beat Dick Stockton, of the Houston EZ Riders, before losing in the quarter-finals. In St. Petersburg, he reached the quarter-finals, losing to Roscoe Tanner. Recently, in the USLTA National Indoor Championships in Salisbury, Md., he continued his hot playing to beat Jan Kodes. He reached the semi-finals, losing to Jimmy Connors. He reached the finals before losing to Roger Taylor in the finals at Ridgefield, Conn.

Charlie Owens, the Sets most colorful player, continues to show vast improvement after a strong fall campaign. He is now playing on the USLTA Indoor Circuit where he is sharpening his game for the WTT season this spring. In Boca Raton's recent USLTA tournament, he beat Juan Gisbert on his way to the semi-finals.

SPECIAL BILLIE JEAN CLINIC

SEASON TICKET OFFER

SIGN UP NOW

- Choice Seat Locations
- Special Sets Clinic

- Cocktail Party with Sets
- Exclusive MVP Club Membership

Send to: New York Sets
39 W. 55th St.
New York, N. Y. 10019

Enclosed is a check or money order in the amount of _____ for _____ (number) season tickets at \$120 each (\$6 seat for 20 home matches). Confirmation and seating chart of Nassau Coliseum will be sent for your personal seat selection.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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