

# Billie Jean King: American Tennis Champion



## Billie Jean King: American Tennis Champion by Nick Kalyn

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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Billie Jean King is an American tennis champion who won 39 Grand Slam titles and was instrumental in the fight for gender equality in sports.

King was born in Long Beach, California, in 1943. She began playing tennis at the age of 11 and quickly rose through the ranks of the junior circuit. In 1961, she won the Wimbledon junior singles title. She turned professional in 1964 and quickly became one of the top players in the world.

King won her first Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in 1966. She went on to win 12 Wimbledon singles titles, 13 US Open singles titles, four French Open singles titles, and one Australian Open singles title. She also won 11 Grand Slam women's doubles titles and four Grand Slam mixed doubles titles.

In addition to her Grand Slam titles, King also won the US Open mixed doubles title in 1971 and the Wimbledon mixed doubles title in 1973. She also won the Fed Cup (now known as the Billie Jean King Cup) a record 12 times as a player and captain.

King was not only a great tennis player, but she was also a pioneer for women's sports. In 1973, she founded the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), which is the governing body for women's professional tennis. She also founded the Women's Sports Foundation in 1974, which is a non-profit organization that promotes women's sports.

King's fight for gender equality in sports extended beyond tennis. In 1973, she challenged Bobby Riggs to a "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match. King won the match in straight sets, which helped to raise awareness of the issue of gender equality in sports.

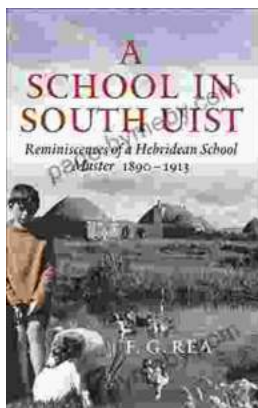
King's contributions to tennis and women's sports are immeasurable. She is a true legend of the sport and an inspiration to all who have come after her.



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