

## TWO YEARS TILL WIMBLEDON?

In May, 1964, one of Australia's leading tennis coaches, Mr Vic. Edwards, told *Dawn*: "Evonne Goolagong has all the ability to become as great a tennis player as Margaret Smith (now Court). It is my ambition to make her the greatest tennis player I have ever trained and the No. 1 lady player in the world."

Since that time, Evonne, now 16 years old, has confirmed the judgment of her trainer, and Mr Edwards feels that in 1970 she might be ready to compete for world tennis honours on the centre court at Wimbledon.

In the past five years Evonne has won 25 N.S.W. age group championships, and last year won the Queensland and Victorian girls' titles, and the Australian girls' (under 19) championships in Sydney.

With so much success you might expect, and perhaps could excuse, a display of star-temperament. But Evonne is still the same shy, courteous girl she was when she left her home town of Barellan four years ago to live as a member of her coach's family in Roseville, Sydney.

Evonne visits her parents at Barellan, about 30 miles from Narrandera, several times a year. Her parents, and four brothers and three sisters, are highly respected in the district, and all the family are keen supporters of the township's well equipped Barellan War Memorial Tennis Club.

Evonne has engendered an extraordinary appeal among Australian tennis crowds, who see her not only as a rising champion, but also as an Aborigine who has made good.

She is proud to be Aboriginal, but feels that much of the publicity given to her is because she is an Aborigine. Because of this she tries to avoid publicity; she wants to make her name as a good tennis player—not as a good Aboriginal tennis player.

Evonne is remarkably devoted to tennis. She began to show promise when she was seven years old, and tennis is the only thing she wants. She wants to get to the top of the tennis world to justify the faith of her friends at Willoughby High School, her foster-parents Mr and Mrs Edwards, and her family at Barellan. And she believes in her own ability.

Such single-mindedness of purpose is unusual in 16-year-old girls, but that, and her undoubted

ability, will surely take her to the big-time tennis at Wimbledon—a long way from the practice wall at Barellan Tennis Club.



*Mr Willis (second from right) has followed Evonne's tennis career for several years, and was pleased when she accepted his invitation to a get-together morning tea in his Sydney office last December. Evonne and her coach, Mr Vic Edwards (far left), discussed tennis with Mr Willis and Mr A. G. Kingsmill (far right), chairman of the N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board.*

*Evonne holds her life-size koala gift for Press and TV photographers, who publicised the meeting because of the extraordinary appeal she has engendered among Australian tennis crowds.*

