

Mixed single Renee quits

Daily Express 16/6/77

Paul Dacre
in New York

SEX CHANGE
tennis player Renee Richards has decided to hang up her racket.

After being barred from Europe's top tournaments, including Wimbledon, Renee is disillusioned . . . and broke.

Her agent David Buffan said yesterday: "You can have only so many doors shut in your face before you realise there is no point in going on."

"Renee has reached that point."

Now Renee — or Richard Raskin as she was known before a sex operation two years ago—will resume her practice as an eye surgeon at Newport Beach, California.

The controversial 6ft 2in transexual split the world of tennis right from the start.

Earlier this year she passed an American sex test.

But not even the combined weight of that result and her 38B bustline was proof enough of her womanhood for the Italian officials.

They ordered her to take another sex test and then decided that, on chromosomes, she did not qualify to play in their women's championships.

She took another test before the French championship last month—and then withdrew from the tournament.

Wimbledon officials barred her without even asking her to undergo a test.

"She was very depressed

and very dejected," said Buffan.

"Everytime she would get an invitation to play she would travel wherever it was, get excited and then be told at the last minute: 'Sorry there's been a hitch. We can't allow you to play.'"

Buffan said Renee, 42, had given herself one year in which to prove herself a woman player.

But another important factor in her decision to quit was lack of money.

The tennis player had spent over £150,000 funding herself as she travelled the circuits. Her resources have now run dry.

Only so many doors can be shut in your face



Renee... "depressed"

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Ginny drawn to play Renee

WIMBLEDON champion Virginia Wade begins her bid for the United States Open title next week with a match against sex-change player Renee Richards.

It is a clash that left U.S. Tennis Association officials breathless.

We could hardly believe such a crowd-pulling attraction," said spokesman Ed Fabricius.

"It is bound to make next Thursday a sell-out day at Forest Hills."

Virginia's reaction was less excited. "I've never met Renee before," she said. "It should be a lot of fun. I always find it exciting and interesting to

Daily Express 26/8/77 ... and it's a sell-out

By Ian Barnes

play somebody new and I am looking forward to it."

Sue Barker, seeded fourth, one place behind Virginia, has a first-round match against the German No. 2, Katja Ebbinghaus.

Top seed Chris Evert plays fellow American Sharon Walsh.

The two players have never met. Dr Richards, a 43-year-old Californian eye surgeon who stands 6ft 2in and weighs 10½st, last played at Forest Hills in the men's doubles.

That was before an operation four years ago turned her into a woman.

The U.S. Open will be the first major event she has been allowed to enter.

She won a court declaration that she is a woman earlier this month.

although she failed an Olympic style femininity test when she tried to play in the Italian championships last May.

Her business manager, Los Angeles lawyer David Buffan, said when I told him the draw:

"You've got to be joking. How can a rookie like Renee have a chance against such a talented player as Virginia? She's the world champion."

Virginia will not lack advice on how to tackle the player described as a "mixed single."

Her New York Apples team-mate Billie Jean King played doubles with Dr Richards earlier this year.

And Dr Richards's last opponent was another Apples player, Britista No. 1 Lindsey Beaven.



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By ANN MORROW in Washington