



## MARIA ESTHER BUENO

- Born 11 October, 1939 in São Paulo, Brazil
- Declared World Champion of Women's Tennis in 1959, 60, 64 and 66
- Won the singles at Wimbledon 3 times, the first in 1959 in just her second attempt at 19 years 266 days, one of the youngest champions of all time, and then again in 1960 and 64; She was a finalist twice in 1965 and 66
- Also US Champion at Forest Hills in 1959, 63, 64 and 66
- Amassed 19 Grand Slam titles in singles, doubles and mixed in a short career spanning 10 years, listing 14<sup>th</sup> among all-time women's Grand Slam leaders. In total, she won an amazing 598 titles, including the Italian Championships 3 times in 1958, 61 and 65.
- Won the Grand Slam in Doubles with different partners in 1960 (Australia with Christine Truman and the French, Wimbledon and US Nationals with Darlene Hard).
- Won the doubles at Wimbledon 5 times (1958, 60, 63, 65 and 66), Forest Hills 4 times (1960, 62, 66 and 68) and at Roland Garros together with the mixed in 1960.
- Honoured in Brazil with two statues, a mural, sculpture and an airmail postage stamp.
- Injured her right elbow and forearm at Wimbledon in 1967 which ended her dominance of the women's game and her rivalries with Margaret Smith Court and Billie Jean King. She was forced to retire in early 1968 on the Caribbean circuit.
- After a courageous rehabilitation, she made occasional appearances through the 70s, winning the Japan Open in 1974 and returning to Wimbledon for some nostalgic Centre Court matches in 1976 and 77.
- Her last appearance at Wimbledon in the open events was the 1980 doubles, after which she continued to compete in the senior events until 1994 despite undergoing hip replacement surgery.
- Represented Brazil in the Federation Cup in 1965, 76 and 77.
- Ranked in the world Top Ten from 1958-1968
- Voted Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press in 1959
- Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1978
- Elected to the Museum and Sports Hall of Fame in New York in 1993
- Voted Best Tennis Player from Latin America of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (male and female, 1999/2000)
- Honoured with Jean Borotra Sportsmanship Award presented by the International Club at Wimbledon 2003
- Does colour commentary for TV Globo and the BBC Radio's Brazilian World Service and continues to play and coach the game around the world.
- Has acted as a consultant to the ITF and COSAT and assisted with the development of professional women's tennis events throughout Latin America.
- Speaks 5 languages fluently (Portuguese, Spanish, English, French and Italian) and enjoys travelling, art museums and the theatre.
- She lives in São Paulo, Brazil but visits the USA and the UK regularly.
- Visit [www.mariabueno.org](http://www.mariabueno.org) for more information.

October 21, 2006 / Bueno Bio 06.doc