

NEWS OF THE WORLD, July 5, 1959

MARIA MAKES IT A SCORCHER
MUY BUENO
(Very) (Good)

By Frank Butler

This was a South America Take It Away Wimbledon with a South American heat wave thrown in to turn the Centre Court into a barbecue.

With the temperature at one time topping 100 degrees spectators collapsed in the heat, and by the end of the day 150 of them, some of whom had queued all night for admission, had been treated by nurses.

But some like it hot – and they weren't only those women spectators who sat in suntop dresses, and men who sat in open necked shirts. Nobody relished the sun more than Maria Bueno, the 19-year-old Brazilian tennis bombshell, who completed the South American double.

Following the singles victory of Peru's Alex Olmedo, she broke the 22-year-old monopoly of the United States in the women's singles by trouncing Darlene Hard, the honey-haired Californian, 6-4, 6-3.

The last time a non-American girl won at Wimbledon was way back in 1937 when our own Dorothy Round triumphed.

Maria had subdued her Latin temperament in the 44 minutes she took to outserve, outvolley and outgeneral Miss Hard, but as soon as it was over she let tears of joy flow and quickly covered them up, burying her head in a towel.

Fifteen minutes later she was all smiles but still with red eyes when she explained:

"On the court I felt wonderful. When it was all over I felt terrible. Suddenly my legs went poop and I collapsed into a seat."

HOT ROD

The heat may have suited Maria Bueno, but it didn't suit so well Rod Laver, the left-handed Australian. Road and Bob Mark were beaten in the men's doubles by Neale Fraser and Roy Emerson, 6-8, 3-6, 16-14, 7-9.

This match took two hours 52 minutes. Laver had played three hours 45 minutes in the singles semi-final on Wednesday, and in winning the mixed doubles with Darlene Hard when they beat Neale Fraser and Maria Bueno 6-4, 6-3, the young Australian had taken part in 299 games totalling 11 hours 33 minutes tennis on Centre Court since Wednesday. In all he played 553 games in the fortnight.

And perhaps the heat didn't suit Christine Truman either. Our star, who had failed in the singles, also lost in the women's doubles. With Mrs. Beverley Fleitz, Christine was beaten 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 by the American pair Darlene Hard and Jeanne Arth.

Christine, never rated as a doubles player, was not at her best, though after winning the first set 6-2 it seemed she would at least share half of her first ever Wimbledon title.

The Americans then cashed in on mistakes by both Christine and the hard-hitting Mrs. Fleitz to win the title.

It was certainly Bueno, Bueno, Bueno, all the way for Maria. At the end she was just like any giggling schoolgirl when she hoped the first dance at Grosvenor House would be a cha cha cha when, as Wimbledon Queen, she took the first dance with Alex Olmedo, the men's champion.

Maria was full of power, polish and poise, and was just too good for her 23-year-old opponent, who finished second best to Althea Gibson in the 1957 final.

British fans are hoping that the United States, having borrowed Olmedo on lease-lend to help recapture the Davis Cup from Australia, will not now invite Maria to help them win back the Wightman Cup from us in August. But Maria assured me she was leaving for Brazil next week for a rest before going to Forest Hills, to compete in the U.S. Championships in September.

The Brazilian looks like developing into one of the great women players, especially since she appears to have conquered her Latin temperament.

She had control through the match and not even a tumble in the first game when she dropped her service upset her. She serves with the power of Alice Marble or Althea Gibson.

WARNING FOR THE FUTURE

Tomas Lejus, 16½-year-old Russian, won the junior championship, beating Brazilian Davis Cup player Ronald Barnes 6-2, 6-4. Earlier in the Wimbledon Plate, Tomas had knocked out Tony Pickard and Australia's promising junior Martin Mulligan, before losing the semi-final to M. Fox.

WIMBLEDON RESULTS

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Holder: Miss A. Gibson (U.S.A.)

M. E. Bueno (Brazil) beat D. R. Hard (U.S.A.) 6-4, 6-3.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Holder: A. Gibson (U.S.A.) and M. Bueno (Brazil).

J. Arth and D. Hard (U.S.A.) bt Mrs J. G. Fleitz (U.S.A.) and C. Truman (G.B.) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Holders: S. Davidson and U. Schmid (Sweden)

R. Emerson and N. Fraser (Australia) bt R. Laver and R. Mark (Australia) 8-6, 6-3, 14-16, 9-7.

MIXED DOUBLES

Holders: R. N. Howe and Miss L. Coghlan (Australia)

R. Laver (Australia) and Miss D. Hard (U.S.A.) bt N. Fraser (Australia) and Miss M. Bueno (Brazil) 6-4, 6-3.

LADIES PLATE

Mrs C. Brasher (G.B.) bt Mrs M. Sladek (Canada) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

MEN'S PLATE

J. Javorsky (Czechoslovakia) bt M. Fox (U.S.A.) 6-3, 6-2.

GIRLS' SINGLES

J. Crook (South Africa) bt D. Schuster (Austria) 6-1, 6-1.

BOYS' SINGLES

T. Lejus (U.S.S.R.) bt R. Barnes (Brazil) 6-2, 6-4.