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# SUNDAY PICTORIAL, July 3, 1960

Centre court incident

## Darlene off 6 mins

### \* Davies and Wilson fail

# FANTASTIC END TO MARIA'S DAY

# By JACK PEART

An amazing centre court incident foiled twenty-year-old Maria Bueno in her bid to win a Wimbledon triple crown yesterday.

It happened this way -

SHE WON the women's singles title, beating South Africa's Sandra Reynolds 8-6, 6-0.

SHE WON the women's doubles with America's Darlene Hard in a 6-4 6-0 victory over South Africans Miss Reynolds and Rene Schuurman.

THEN came the mixed doubles final, in which Maria and Bob Howe (Australia) met Miss Hard and Rod Laver (Australia).

Maria and Bob dropped a tough first set 11-13 but got back into the fight by winning the next 6-3.

The triple crown was practically on Maria's head when she and Bob were leading 5-2 in the final set with Maria to serve.

### WAITED

Then Darlene suddenly left the court and did not return for 6 minutes.

The other three players sat around waiting for her to return and Maria put on her cardigan.

The slim Brazilian, white-faced and weary after her afternoon's exertions, was noticeably rattled, and rather obviously decided to re-tie her shoelaces before serving.

Then amid gasps and groans from the spectators, she proceeded to drop her service.

From this point on Rod and Darlene hit an unstoppable winning streak and shot into a 6-5 lead.

Maria and Bob managed to level at 6-6 but Rod and Darlene broke their next service and ran out 8-6 for set and match.

## PLAYED ON

Technically, I suppose, Maria and her partner could have claimed the match for, under the rules, play must be continuous.

But they played on and Maria lost the chance of joining great names like the famous Americans Louise Brough and Doris Hart both of whom won all three Wimbledon titles since the war.

It was bitter luck for the mercurial Maria who played eighty-three nerve-wracking games during the afternoon.

The question of the correctness or otherwise of Miss Hard's action in leaving the court during the match was left very much up in the air.

There was no explanation form any of the players or from the umpire – Mr. P. A. L. Hodges.

The championship referee, Col. John Legg, quoted rule 30, which allows a player, with the umpire's permission, to leave the court for adjustment of clothing.

He added: "I concede Miss Hard did not asked permission. And although she may have committed a slight breach of the rules I am certain she did so with out any such intention."

Pablo da Costa, the Brazilian team manager, said as he left the club: "I am not going to make any official protest, but it was a shame.

"Miss Bueno was leading 5-2 and playing well when it happened."

Maria kept her singles title with greater difficulty than the score suggests.

She admitted to me: "Last year was tough when I beat Darlene Hard, but this year was tougher.

"Sandra played a steady, well controlled game and she had several chances to break my service in the first

# LONG SPELL

set."

Maria said she would be back next year to defend her title and added: "Tomorrow I am off to a secret destination for a holiday."

All I can say is that few people at Wimbledon have earned a holiday so much.

Maria spent more than three hours on the court with only one real break.

This was while Mike Davies and Bobby Wilson - first British pair to reach the men's doubles final since

1939 – lost 5-7, 3-6, 8-10 to Raphael Osuna (Mexico) and Dennis Ralston (America).