Mlle. Lenglen Dazzles Tennis Critics With Brilliancy of Her Play in Practice Here

Mrs. Mallory Easily Defeats Mrs. Jessup in First Round

National Champion Eliminates Closest American Rival in Straight Sets; Miss Goss Will Oppose French Marvel at 4:15 o'Clock This Afternoon

By Fred Hawthorne

Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, of France, the dashing woman lawn tennis champion of the world, is all that the foreign critics have said she is. This black-haired slender French girl, who begins play this afternoon against Miss Eleanor Goss, of this city, in the first round of the women's national singles championship tournament on the turf courts of the West Side Tennis Club, of Forest Hills, is as brilliant in her stroking and court technique as Tilden and Williams combined.

I watched Mlle. Suzanne for two hours as she and Hardy went through two practice sessions. No accurate score was kept, Hardy devoting his attention mostly to serving up balls for the world's champion to tune up her strokes on, but what I saw has convinced me that Mlle. Lenglen is distinctly in a class by herself among the women tennis players of the world.

She not only has every shot in the game, but each one of these is a pure gem of stroke production, and her footwork is flawless. Overhead, off the ground, half-volley or deep court smash, the vivacious Suzanne is in truth the wonder of the courts. True, she was making her strokes off shots that were set up for her largely, and it may be that in actual competition to-day she will not execute returns with the same matchless form and grace that marked her play yesterday.

An Amazing Player

The fact stands out, however, that Suzanne Lenglen is quite the most amazing woman player ever seen in this country. You think of Norris Williams when you see her pick up a half-volley on the run; Tilden comes into your mind when you see her play a soft stop-volley or drive a slashing forehand from the corner of deep court. She moves into the volleying position with the perfection of footwork of William M. Johnston, and finished her points with the same characteristic overhand volley that marks the Californian's racquet work.

Although Mlle. Lenglen did not actually compete in the tournament that got under way yesterday with a field of sixty-four competitors, the event moved along with machine-like precision under the expert guidance of Joseph M. Jennings, of Philadelphia, the referee; Julian S. Myrick, president of the national association; George B. Warder, of Philadelphia; Al Gibney, of the West Side Tennis Club; J. C. Conlin, of the National Tennis Umpires' Association; Spencer Fullerton Weaver, president of the West Side Tennis Club, and a host of minor officials.

The feature match of the day, between Mlle. Lenglen and Miss Goss, having been postponed until this afternoon at 4:15 o'clock, the meeting between Mrs. Molla Bjurstedt Mallory, the national champion, and Mrs. Marion Zinderstein Jessup, runner-up last year, was the main attraction of a great day on the courts yesterday.

As she has in almost every instance, Mrs. Mallory proved once more that she is at present the greatest of our woman players. She defeated Mrs. Jessup by a score of 7—5, 6—0, running through the last set with ease as she piled up her points by splendid placements into every opening in Mrs. Jessup's court.

Opening Set Is Close

The opening set found little to choose between the two stars, Mrs. Jessup pulling up on even terms after Mrs. Mallory held the lead at 4—2. There were many spirited driving duels from deep court as the rivals waited for a forcing shot that would open up the opposite court for a finishing shot at the net.

Mrs. Jessup seemed a little overcautious about moving to close quarters, with the result that she was frequently forced to volley from a point about ten or twelve feet from the net, and landed many balls in the barrier. It was just these little flurries of erratic tennis that doomed her to defeat in the opener. Mrs. Mallory increased the power of her game as the match wore on, and her placing was a marvel of accuracy.

The loss of the first set seemed to shake Mrs. Jessup's confidence, and small wonder, for Mrs. Mallory was cutting the lines with amazing accuracy, drawing her opponent out of position and mixing in short, drop shots with sizzling deep court drives and occasional crossing volleys to the side lines. Straight through the second set the national champion swept, and although Mrs. Jessup put up a game struggle, forcing four of the six games to deuce, she was unequal to the task and went down again before Mrs. Mallory for the third time in as many weeks.

The point score of this match follows:

FIRST SET

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