

Lobber battles Libber

The Lobber and the Libber will force tennis into the national sports spotlight Thursday night, but the blow they strike may not be as telling as many expect.

A national television audience will join fans in Houston's Astrodome to watch Bobby Riggs, 55, carry the banner of male chauvinism against the standard-bearer of women's tennis, Billie Jean King, 29, in a \$100,000, winner take-all super-hustle.

Riggs hopes to deal the crushing blow in his quest to prove that women tennis players, no matter how much they may have improved in recent years, cannot compete with men.

King hopes to save her counterparts from that embarrassment. They were slapped across the face earlier this year when Riggs destroyed Australia's Margaret Court, the world's second-best women's player behind King. Some think that a loss by King would answer the question once and for all.

Some reporters have felt that Riggs doesn't even totally understand the Women's Liberation Movement. But he maintains that he hates Gloria Steinem, and he says of King, "She's one of those damn libbers, the lead libber in fact. I really want her bad."

He presses on with his 207 vitamin pills daily and his psychological warfare on opponents.

The reason I hope that King wins is that she is playing the match for the sake of tennis. While both players are certainly accomplished professionals (Riggs won Wimbledon once, the U.S. Open twice and the world pro title four times; King has won Wimbledon five times), Riggs is using his garbage style and playing for the sake of publicity and male chauvinism, not for the sport.

dave mcbride time out

Court said after their match that seven of ten women on the pro tour could beat Riggs. He says that his original claim was only that, "I was not so sure the best women players could beat an old man like me," and he has admitted on occasion that he is not very confident about beating King.

If Riggs wins, there will still be demands for another match. The most prominent challenger in that case would probably be teenager Chris Evert. Given Riggs' gambling nature, acceptance of another match is not a remote possibility.

If King wins, the male chauvinists will likely remain unconvinced. People will clamor for a rematch or claim that there are other Riggs around who can still beat the great women players.

The controversy won't end in the Astrodome. But the Lobber and the Libber should provide quite a show.



Freshman basketball player Phil Chambers.

New cager enticed by chance to start

By Bob Hill

An opportunity to play varsity as a freshman, and possibly to start, lead Phil Chambers to choose the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for his college basketball career.

Chambers, a 6 ft. 6 in. Denver native, said whether he starts this season depends entirely on himself. "If I can prove worthy of starting in practices, Coach (Joe) Cipriano will give me a shot at starting a game," he said.

Basketball practice doesn't begin until Oct. 15, but Chambers said squad members have been running about two miles a day on their own. "When practices begin, we hope this running will allow us to accomplish more," he said.

During the summer Chambers attempted to familiarize himself with the guard position. "I had never played anything but forward in high school, but Coach Cipriano told me he plans swinging me between forward and guard this year," he said.

In noting the difference between high school and college basketball, Chambers said: "Before you could play in a happy-go-lucky manner. Now

there's so much riding (on the outcome), you can't afford that type of attitude."

This year, the team's strengths should be its speed and outside shooting ability, he said. Many players lack college experience and this appears to be the team's major weakness, he added.



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