

Black Power loses to stubborn Evonne

Take off badge, she says

By DAVID ARMSTRONG

ABORIGINAL tennis champion Evonne Goolagong had to choose between two worlds this week when an Aboriginal friend walked into Kooyong tennis courts in Melbourne wearing a Black Power badge.

For a day she ignored the badge worn by young Black Power advocate Michael Anderson. But when he wore it a second time she asked him to take it off.

"I was quite surprised when I saw him wearing it," Miss Goolagong said yesterday. "I felt awkward about it, with all those tennis officials looking at us. The badge said Black Power is Black On. He seemed to think it was a bit of a joke."

Since then Mr Anderson has urged Miss Goolagong to become a spokeswoman for Black Power in Australia.

"To become involved with black people is to become involved with Black Power," he said yesterday. "She should get up and say to Australia that it must better the lot of the Aboriginal."

"We would like her to be our spokeswoman but because of all her engagements she is too tied up. She hasn't seen what prejudice there is. She has been brought up to think like a white."

Relaxing with some friends in the White City tennis club in Sydney after easily defeating 15-year-old Miss D. Fromholtz, in the NSW championships. Miss Goolagong said: "I don't know what Black Power is about, really. I'm a tennis player. I'm always travelling and I have to keep my mind on one thing only. To me tennis is more mental than physical."

JUST A FRIEND

"When I first came to Sydney I decided I wanted to get to know more people of my own race. In my home town, we were the only Aboriginal family."

"So I went along to Aboriginal centres and I met Michael at a dance. There was nothing between us, I just knew him as a friend."

"I hadn't seen him for a while, until I went to Melbourne for the Australian championships. I met him there and I invited him along to the tennis. I didn't know he was involved in Black Power when I asked him to come."

Miss Goolagong said she did not think of herself as being colored, but as an Australian.

"I don't worry about the fact that I'm colored. I think I have done a lot for my people by playing my sport and doing well at it," she said.

Miss Goolagong said that she does not get much pressure from militant Aboriginals to support radical causes but her coach, Mr Vic Edwards, vets



MICHAEL ANDERSON: "We would like her to be our spokeswoman . . ."



EVONNE Goolagong: "I'm a tennis player."

DECLINE MBE

"We have always let Evonne go to these Aboriginal centres, to mix with her people. We don't put a bar on that. When she met Michael she asked me if she could bring him back to our home. But Evonne was most embarrassed when she saw the Black Power badge in Melbourne."

"The girl will do anything to help her people. She appears at various charity functions and tournaments. I'd say that she has done more for her people than most of these others."

One of Mr Anderson's suggestions was that Miss Goolagong should decline the MBE she was awarded in the New Year's honors list.

"Why shouldn't she accept the MBE?" said Mr Edwards. "She's earned it, and not just by playing tennis."

any calls for support coming to her during tournaments.

"All this stuff comes to me first," he said. "And I select what goes to her during a tournament. I make sure she doesn't get a lot of it during a tournament. She gets it all afterwards. It doesn't affect her game at all."