

Boks upset Evonne over 'white badge'

AUSTRALIA'S tennis queen Evonne Goolagong may pull out of a top tournament being played in South Africa next week.

The 20-year-old Wimbledon star revealed this last night after a ruling in Johannesburg that all players in the Women's Federation Cup must wear "honorary white" badges.

Evonne has been told that unless she wears the badge she would be treated "like other coloreds" in the country.

Her manager and mentor Vic Edwards said angrily last night:

"I'm not saying we won't go to South Africa, but I am saying we will not go under the terms they are stipulating."

AND: "Evonne will not wear any white badges."

Edwards and Evonne were speaking in Dallas, Texas, on the eve of the

\$30,000 Maureen Connolly Bringer International tournament.

Sun correspondent LANA WELLS says the news came as a blow to Evonne who had earlier received at a cocktail party the Babe Didrikson Zaharias award for the woman athlete of the year.

'Not surprised'

She and her coach sat alone in the swank T-Bar-M Racquet Club as the other stars, including America's Billie Jean King, enjoyed themselves.

Evonne said sadly: "I was really looking forward to going to South Africa. But I'm not surprised at what has happened. I more or less expected it."

Other players will include black

American Bonny Logan and teams from Japan and Taiwan.

Edwards said that Evonne already had "white status" in South Africa.

But he said that before any definite plans were made they would await the decision of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia on the "white" ruling.

In MELBOURNE the association's president, Mr Wayne Reid, said last night that he had sent a cable to tennis officials in South Africa asking them to confirm the report.

In CANBERRA, an official at the South African Embassy said the ruling was "not a question of color."

"It is just that they are official guests and should be identified as such," he said.

"We'd like them to go everywhere without trouble."