

The Struggle in Tennis

TENNIS holds a place somewhere in between golf and boxing. Winning form isn't as elusive as it is in golf, but more so than one finds in the ring. Years ago when the defending champion was not forced to play through, W. A. Larned was good enough to win a string of tennis crowns in unbroken order. But times have changed, and about two years seems to be the period allotted by the fates. Bill Tilden won top honors in 1920 and 1921. The Philadelphian still stands supreme as the champion tennis player of the world. He will be favoured again in the next national championship, but his position is uncertain, compared to Dempsey's, who should be safe for at least another year.

Tilden is the strongest individual player in the game, but it may happen that by next summer Bill Johnston or Vincent Richards may give him a strenuous time of it.

Tilden seems to be good enough to beat any player in the game three matches out of four. But he may be due for an off day at the wrong moment. The odds, however, will walk by his side throughout the year and he will be ruling favourite when the big test comes.

In the same way Mrs. Molla Mallory, women's tennis champion, will be extremely hard to displace. She has been the ruling figure in women's tennis for the better part of the last six years, and at present there is no American rival strong enough to take her place in a championship test, where stamina counts almost as much as skill.

Tilden and Mrs. Mallory are an exceptionally strong pair of champions in their respective fields and, when the roll call is sounded at the end of the season, it will be something of an upset if either is displaced, despite the skill and power of many first class challengers.

The Second Test of the Champion

In Every Sport, the Title Holders Will Face Most Serious Opposition During the Coming Year

By Grantland Rice