

# Justina Bricka

Justina Bricka made her debut at the U.S. Open (then known as the US Championships) at just 16 when she was still a high school student. In a stunning display of skill and determination, she defeated tennis icon Billie Jean King in the first round. In 1961, Bricka was ranked #5 in women's tennis in the United States and remained ranked in the top ten for three consecutive years. Her performance led to her selection to the United States Wightman Cup team, in which she played a crucial role in helping the U.S. team regain the prestigious trophy. She traveled around the world to compete. In 1965, Bricka reached the quarterfinals in singles at Wimbledon.



**Justina  
Bricka**  
*Class of 1961*

Her exceptional competitive skills also extended to doubles. In 1962, she partnered with Australian champion Margaret Smith, the winner of 66 Grand Slam titles. The pair went on to win seven tournament titles and secure a runner-up finish at the French Championships as well as numerous quarter- and semi-final finishes.

After retiring from the women's tour, she became the head referee for the Women's Pro Tour, then known as the Avon Tour. Returning to her roots in St. Louis, Bricka became the first female head tennis professional at St. Louis at Triple A in Forest Park. In 1981, she assumed the role of head pro and manager at the prestigious new indoor tennis facility, Frontenac Racquet Club, where she later became a co-owner.

Bricka, along with fellow top-ranking U.S. women players Carol Hanks Aucamp and Mary Ann Eisel Beattie, was part of the golden age of tennis in St. Louis during the early 1960s when numerous players went on to compete nationally and internationally.