

Vinnie Richards, Dunlop vp, Former Tennis Great, Dies in September

Vincent Richards, 56, died at Doctors hospital, New York City, Sept. 28. He had been hospitalized for a week by the latest complications of an illness that had him hospitalized several times during the past seven years. A heart ailment was cause of death. Vinnie had a lot of fighting heart and it kept him going the past few years.

Vinnie Richards went with Dunlop Tire



Vincent Richards

& Rubber Co. sports dept. 20 years ago and became its vice president. The former "Boy Wonder" of tennis grew into championship status as a businessman in sports. Dunlop's volume in golf and tennis was substantially extended by Richards. He was sec.-treas. of the Golf Ball Manufacturers' Assn. at the time of his death and had been voted into that position annually for many years.

Only Olympic Singles Champion

Vinnie was born in New York City. He began playing tennis when he was eight. At 12 he was playing tournament tennis

and when he was 15 won the first of his 27 singles, doubles and mixed doubles national titles on various courts. He never won the U. S. National Singles championship but among his victories was one in 1924 in the only Olympic singles tennis championship ever played. He won the Olympic doubles that year with Francis T. Hunter. He turned professional in 1926 after defeating Bill Tilden three times.

He and Tilden won the U. S. National doubles title in 1918, 1921 and 1922. As late as 1945 he won the professional doubles title with Tilden.

Launched Pro Tennis

When Richards turned pro he gave professional tennis the foundation on which it has grown to be big business. Vinnie's game, his personality and his business judgment supplied what pro tennis needed. In 1947 he was commissioner of the World Professional Tennis League.

A triple fracture of the right arm, incurred in an automobile accident in 1935, limited Vinnie's tennis career. He continues in tennis history as one of the greatest volleyers. He also became a good golfer in the last 15 years of his life.

Vinnie Richards attended Fordham university and Columbia University School of Journalism. He was married in 1924 to Claremont Gushee who died in 1950. The two were probably the most delightful and active host-and-hostess team in sports.

1958 International Matches Available on Film

Latest of the golf films is the 16 mm. full color sound film of the 6th International Golf Assn. professional championship matches played at Club de Golf, Mexico City, Nov. 1958. This is an exciting, informative and beautiful film, shot by the master of all golf cameramen, Joe Walsh. Foreign pros' victories over Hogan, Snead, Demaret and other American pros in the International events have given American golf fans a hunch that we haven't a monopoly on pro golf skill. The film of shotmaking by the winning Canada Cup Irish team of Bradshaw and O'Connor and by the Spanish winner of the International trophy, Angel Miguel, presents technique of the highest order.

The Club de Golf de Mexico has one of the world's finest golf courses and that part of the picture is very interesting. The film runs 20 minutes. Details may be secured from National Educational Films, 165 W. 46th st., New York 36.