

ALBANY, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1938

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# FAMED TENNIS STAR IN ALBANY

## Net Queen Neglects Game for Platform

By DE WITT SCHUYLER

Helen Wills Moody, the nimble nymph of the tennis courts, is just as adept at volleying with questions served by a reporter, if anyone should drive up with a forehand smash and ask you.

Without the ceremony of tossing a coin for sides, the game began in the Ten Eyck hotel lobby, continued up and down State street in a taxi and ended at Chancellor's Hall where this reporter was last seen looking for a net to jump over, to congratulate the winner.

### TURNED DOWN PRO OFFER

"Do you have any intention of turning pro?" was the first question, which Mrs. Moody cannonballed into a corner with a nicely-placed negative.

"I did have a professional offer not long ago," she explained, "but I turned it down. I would rather not play professionally."

Love—15.

"As long as you are known in the tennis world as 'Little Poker Face,' I would like to know if you ever play poker," fell into the net as the Wimbledon champion looked askance and said no, she didn't even know how.

Love—30.

### TOO BUSY TO PRACTICE

"Do you practice every day?" came back with a high lob out of reach.

"No, I hardly have a chance to since I have taken up lecturing," she said. "Still, I always keep in trim."

Love—40.

"When are you going to play again?" rebounded to the far corner, just inside the base line.

"I think it will be not until next season," was the answer. "It also depends on how I happen to feel at the time. I like to play when I am feeling my best, you know. That's why I often decide to enter many matches at the last minute."

Game.

### TOURING NATION

After that whirlwind finish, this reporter conceded the match and retired to the sidelines while Mrs. Moody inspected the Chancellors Hall platform, where she spoke last night on "Make Life a Game," under the auspices of the Albany Association of the Alumni of Girl's Academy.

Albany is the first stop on a lecture tour that will end in California. Newsreel pictures of her tennis matches are shown to illustrate the lecture.

California-born, Mrs. Moody was educated at Berkeley Girls' school and the University of California. She began swinging a tennis racket at the age of 10, and now holds the championship of Ireland and Wimbledon, the latter won from Helen Jacobs in a much-discussed comeback match.

In her lecture, she sketched her early life in match play and smilingly explained her famous nom-de-guerre of "Poker Face" as a concentrated facial determination to win. Her thumb-nail sketches of the people she has met in Europe and America were delightfully drawn, particularly her vignette of the 70-year-old King of Sweden, whose tennis playing is devoted to a net game, most of the footwork being done by a member of his tennis cabinet.

A series of newsreel shorts, depicting her career on the courts of the world was introduced and proved her contention that, though the styles in tennis and clothes undergo a decided change from time to time, the early acquired form remains throughout the entire sports life.

## "Won't Be Pro," Declares Helen

Former Tennis Queen, Opening Lecture Tour at Down Town Club, Tells of Her Plans for Future

### NEW YORK

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#### Helen Moody Asserts Sports Simplify Life

Mrs. Helen Wills Moody stressed the simplicity and relaxation which sport brought in a complex world.

"Maintaining a balance in our lives," she said. "It means that we defer, possibly forever, that point where complexity cannot become more complex, and a static point is reached where new ideas are rare, and enthusiasm dead. There is no denying that there exists a trend towards complexity in the individual, as well as in almost every field that belongs to man. One sees it in government, in business, even in art."

"Complexity in people's lives must be balanced, and sport is one of the things which can help to do it. No better proof can be given than the great growth of interest in all games which has swept the country. They are, in a way, a return to what so many of us refer to as 'the simple life'—the life close to nature."

"I say 'I am going out to have a game of tennis.' But what I really mean is 'I am going to have a wonderful time under the sky, in the sun. I am going to rush around, feeling the motion of the air and the movement of my body through space. I am going to forget everything except the game. For a while, for me, the world will not exist. I won't know how old I am—whether I am a child or whether I am grown up. I shall lose myself in the fun of the game, in competition which seems real but is not important. I am going to play."

"The individual can balance the busy routine of his day with diversion and the simpler the diversion the better. The great rush of interest today in sports is proof that the whole country knows that modern life must have as an integral part the play element. The simple pleasure of the latter must serve as a balance against the problems and complexity of the present day."

"No, I'm not going to turn professional," emphasized Helen Wills Moody when questioned at the Down Town Club last night.

"I am going to stick to the amateur game, play it when I feel like it and enjoy it as befits my 'advanced age," continued the seven-times national champion. "I'll stay in the circuit and go to various tournaments as it pleases me. Whether it's the National at Forest Hills or Wimbledon or other gatherings, I can't say just now. But making the game a profession is not my intention."

Mrs. Moody, looking her prettiest, had a few other remarks, too. She was sorry she couldn't enter the singles championship this year, but explained her side injury was much too painful. It's much better now, she said, except that the intercostal nerve (between the ribs) still bothered her to some extent.

#### Marble Is Best

She thinks Alice Marble is by far the best woman player (modestly excepted herself) in the game today. "It's too bad she didn't get further at Wimbledon this year. She wasn't up to her game at that time," was Mrs. Moody's observation, "but she certainly was when she took the title at Forest Hills last month."

And what are Helen's plans now? "Well, I'm just starting on this lecture business" was her reply, "I've got to make a tour of the East, speak at several forums this Fall and then I'm heading back to San Francisco as soon as I can." I am going to keep up my game out there and although I've closed my studio I'll dabble a bit in art. As for my designing, that's another thing. It really requires too much time, especially away from California, and I would much rather be on the Coast."

#### Effective

Mrs. Moody made a good beginning with her new speaking project. Her looks, her personality and unspoiled mannerism won the rapt attention of her first gallery, the Wednesday Club.

In fact her charm even went so far as to belie the rumors that there was anything amiss between her and Helen Jacobs, whom she defeated in England this past season.

She shook her head when asked if she had read Miss Jacobs's magazine story in a current magazine which also denied the rift as a result of the Wimbledon triumph.

"If she denies it, too, then, that ought to satisfy those who are constantly seeking to build up some sort of a feud between us," smiled Helen.

She was introduced to an audience of over 100 by Judge Richard Hartshorne.

Following Mrs. Moody's talk, motion pictures were shown with the former court queen in the principal role.

"We enjoyed exceedingly last night having Helen Wills Moody with us. Her personality is charming, her pictures were very helpful to her talk, and her lecture most excellent, especially the concluding part wherein she developed her theory that what would produce success in a game would produce success in life." -----

M. J. PRICE, Sec'y., THE WEDNESDAY CLUB, Newark, N. J.

**"MAKE LIFE A GAME"**  
 A lecture by  
**HELEN WILLS**  
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