

# See below

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Battle of the Sexes The match between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King was a much publicized tennis match played on 20th September in Houston, Texas. Bobby Riggs was a leading tennis player in the 30s and 40s and had challenged the women's tennis champion, Billie Jean. Having reached the number four ranking at only 18, Bobby Riggs won the Wimbledon and US single titles in subsequent years (Roberts 8). The tennis match was a culmination of an argument that the worst male player could easily beat the best female player. Women, at that time, were demanding equal pay in sport, especially tennis. The world expected match to end the debate for good. The match broadcasted live from the Astrodome, to as many as thirty-six countries. During the match, King dominated the net, making Riggs run around the baseline. Billie King defeated Bobby Riggs in a stunning 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 straight sets win, in a match lasting two hours and four minutes, to prove that she was the most talented and gifted player in contemporary tennis. On winning the match, Billie King flung her racquet in the air, and hugged her husband, who lifted her to the crowd's applause. During her winner's press conference, she touched on advice received from Margaret Court, who had earlier lost heavily to Riggs (Roberts 10). Billie Jean King thus became the first woman to win a \$100,000 prize in athletics. She paid tribute to her coach, Dennis van de Meer, by touching her tongue. In order to ease herself for her famous press conference, she walked barefoot after taking her blue sneakers off. The tennis match went down in history as the battle of the sexes, with credit for women's equal share of sport money going to Billie Jean King, and her famous victory.

#### Works Cited

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Roberts, S. A necessary spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the tennis match that leveled the game. New York: Crown Publishers, 2007. Print.