

# Coach has two daughters on team

# Tennis at Groves—a family affair

**By TOM SCHRAM**  
Life with mother can be a trying experience for a teenage girl. But for Audrey Cox of Southfield the relationship between herself and her two daughters Betsy and Patsy, it's strictly a "love match."

Among other things in a hectic life, Mrs. Cox coaches the Birmingham Groves High School girls' tennis team. The number one singles player for the team is daughter Betsy. One half of the number one doubles team is daughter Patsy. Although both sides admit to a bit of occasional strain over making the high school tennis team a fam-

ily affair, things have worked out just fine so far.

Part of the reason is that the team is now in its second year without a loss. It's always easier to live with a winner.

Sophomore Patsy admits to seeing a bit of the old coach in her mother at times at home.

"She picks on us sometimes but I guess all mothers do that," she said.

Senior daughter Betsy sees things differently.

"She's a mother and a coach on the courts," Betsy said. Still, the dinner conversation is

heavier on them than it is on me," she said.

For Betsy, one of the better girls players in the area and elected captain of the team, the main problems come from within her peer group.

"There are some players who resent the fact that I play first singles and my mother is the coach of the team. I'll admit that it bothers me, but there are people like that everywhere.

"Tennis, much more than a team sport, is a sport where you can prove yourself, though. Your record indicates where you should play," she said.

Betsy has nothing to be ashamed about when it comes to her past accomplishments. Last year she and her doubles partner advanced to the quarterfinal round in

the state girls tennis championship.

Both girls were juniors then and they are both back to make an assault on the championship this year.

"I'd like to see us win it but the competition is very tough. I'd like to think that we will win it but I really don't know if we can. I'm counting on us going a long ways. Maybe I'm counting on it too much," said Betsy who takes the state tournament very seriously.

According to Betsy, though, the real challenge for state honors will come in a couple of years when Patsy is a senior.

"She's really much better than I am for her age. She has played longer than I had at her age," Betsy said.

In a day of expanded girls sports on the high school level, Betsy is a

## Holt's TD sinks Columbus

# 'Jackets win thriller

If you're a Country Day football fan, you gotta believe.

When your team is one point behind with ninety seconds left in the game, it's fourth down and the ball is still four long yards away from the goal line, there's not much else you can do but believe.

That is unless you're the football coach. Then you can send your quarterback on an end sweep for the touchdown and the victory which is exactly what Gene Reilly did last Saturday as the Yellow Jackets beat Columbus Academy to start their season with a cliffhanger victory.

"It was a gamble but we took the gamble and won. If he hadn't made it, I'd be a bum," said Reilly, who knows what coaching is all about.

Willard Holt accomplished the last minute heroics for the Jackets who travel to Lutheran West on Friday.

"I really had confidence in him. I thought about kicking the field goal because we've got a pretty good kicker. But we had fumbled a snap on a previous conversion attempt and I decided to risk the run. Besides, the angle from the

hashmark was not conducive to kicking a field goal," Reilly said.

Things did not look very bright for Country Day all game as Columbus had taken the ball 55 yards for a touchdown the first series they had handled it.

"At that point," Reilly said, "things looked pretty grim."

But Country Day's David Merritt went 19 yards early in the second quarter to pull Country Day within a point, 7-6.

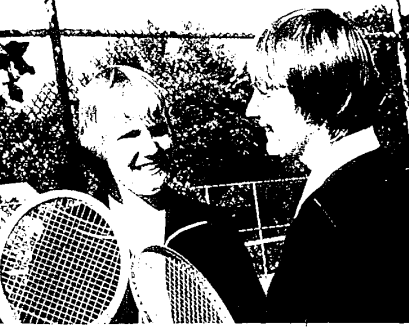
At that point, the conversion that was to prove critical was botched in transit.

Merritt, of whom great things are expected this year, gained only 53 yards for the game in 19 carries.

"But they were really looking for him all day. He drew a crowd everywhere. He's a super athlete," said Reilly.

Later in the second quarter, Columbus Academy drove to the Country Day 30 yard line where they attempted a pass in the flats.

The pass was caught — but not by the person for whom it was intended. Country Day outside linebacker Gil Yard stepped in front of the intended receiver and saw nothing but green ahead of him



Coach Audrey Cox (right) with daughters Betsy (left) and Patsy

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