

Billie Jean King Quotes

*Sports, Tennis, Thinking, People, Player, Success, Important, Team, Winning,
Men, Girl, Children, Mean, Athlete, Pressure, Running, Numbers, World, Years,
Responsibility*

I have often been asked whether I am a women or an athlete. The question is absurd. Men are not asked that. I am an athlete. I am a women.

~Billie Jean King

Pressure is a privilege - it only comes to those who earn it.

~Billie Jean King

I think self-awareness is probably the most important thing towards being a champion.

~Billie Jean King

Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose-it teaches you about life.

~Billie Jean King

Champions keep playing until they get it right.

~Billie Jean King

Men can have a huge turnover of sponsorship and still survive a lot better than the women. But the women's ratings are better, at least at home in the United States than in the men's tennis.

~Billie Jean King

Natural talent only determines the limits of your athletic potential. It's dedication and a willingness to discipline your life that makes you great.

~Billie Jean King

The main thing is to care. Care very hard, even if it is only a game you are playing.

~Billie Jean King

Reputation is what others think about you. What's far more important is character, because that is what you think about yourself.

~Billie Jean King

Ever since that day when I was 11 years old, and I wasn't allowed in a photo because I wasn't wearing a tennis skirt, I knew that I wanted to change the sport.

~Billie Jean King

My whole life has been about equal rights and opportunities. For me it really goes back to the health of mind, body and soul.

~Billie Jean King

Pressure is a privilege ... it's what you do with it that matters.

~Billie Jean King

In the seventies we had to make it acceptable for people to accept girls and women as athletes. We had to make it okay for them to be active. Those were much scarier times for females in sports.

~Billie Jean King

A champion is afraid of losing. Everyone else is afraid of winning.

~Billie Jean King

Don't let anyone define you. You define yourself.

~Billie Jean King

When you oppress people either by gender, by race, by sexual orientation, when you do that and the doors become ajar, they will fly open and they will come and they have.

~Billie Jean King

You have got to want to be the best before you can even begin to reach for that goal, and you have got to be prepared to sacrifice a lot to get

there.

~Billie Jean King

I was always in the tennis business-from 1968. I was in tournaments and also on World Team Tennis teams as well.

~Billie Jean King

It's just really important that we start celebrating our differences. Let's start tolerating first, but then we need to celebrate our differences.

~Billie Jean King

No one changes the world who isn't obsessed.

~Billie Jean King

Don't worry about what people say.

~Billie Jean King

Ladies, here's a hint. If you're up against a girl with big boobs, bring her to the net and make her hit backhand volleys. That's the hardest shot for the well-endowed.

~Billie Jean King

For me, losing a tennis match isn't failure, it's research.

~Billie Jean King

Champions adjust and pressure is a privilege.

~Billie Jean King

When they take surveys of women in business, of the Fortune 500, the successful women, 80% of them, say they were in sports as a young woman.

~Billie Jean King

Tennis is a perfect combination of violent action taking place in an

atmosphere of total tranquillity.

~Billie Jean King

I always listen, I ask children, I even ask adults in tennis, "What are your children playing?" And most of the time it's not tennis. It's pathetic.

~Billie Jean King

Be bold. If you're going to make an error, make a doozy, and don't be afraid to hit the ball.

~Billie Jean King

Everyone has people in their lives that are gay, lesbian or transgender or bisexual. They may not want to admit it, but I guarantee they know somebody.

~Billie Jean King

I like entrepreneurial people; I like people who take risks.

~Billie Jean King

Some people do have softer boundaries.

~Billie Jean King

Women's sports is still in its infancy. The beginning of women's sports in the United States started in 1972, with the passage of Title 9 for girls to finally get athletic scholarships.

~Billie Jean King

When people tell you not to believe in your dreams, and they say "Why?", say "Why not?"

~Billie Jean King

Women get the attention when we get into the men's arena, and that's sad.

~Billie Jean King

Create your legacy, and pass the baton.

~Billie Jean King

It is very hard to be a female leader. While it is assumed that any man, no matter how tough, has a soft side... and female leader is assumed to be one-dimensional.

~Billie Jean King

I think younger players probably just think they are who they are-they don't think about coming out. Unless you're number one in the world, nobody cares, usually.

~Billie Jean King

Winning comes down to who can execute under pressure.

~Billie Jean King

In business, everything starts with integrity. Otherwise it falls apart, though it does take time to find out who has integrity.

~Billie Jean King

I wanted to use sports for social change.

~Billie Jean King

I will tell you King's First Law of Recognition: You never get it when you want it, and then when it comes, you get too much.

~Billie Jean King

I would just never out anybody. I think everyone has to find it in their own way and their own time.

~Billie Jean King

Sports are a microcosm of society.

~Billie Jean King

Winning is very tangible, it's very exciting, it's very pleasing, but it's momentary. If you can do things that last, that each generation can build upon, then that's when you're cooking.

~Billie Jean King

In 1973, a woman could not get a credit card without her husband or father or a male signing off on it.

~Billie Jean King

I knew after my first lesson what I wanted to do with my life.

~Billie Jean King

Victory is fleeting. Losing is forever.

~Billie Jean King

I didn't really care if I had a coach that much, me personally, because I was brought up to think for myself.

~Billie Jean King

Men still get a lot more opportunity. It is still a big part of the old boy network... They have more companies they can get money from.

~Billie Jean King

The most important words that have helped me in life, when things have gone right or when things have gone wrong are 'accept responsibility.'

~Billie Jean King

The old boy network is still very strong and very true. Just look at the stock exchange and how many men and women are there. It is still very much run by men.

~Billie Jean King

I love to promote our sport. I love grass-roots tennis. I love coaching. I love all parts of the sport. I love the business side.

~Billie Jean King

Ask Nureyev to stop dancing, ask Sinatra to stop singing, then you can ask me to stop playing.

~Billie Jean King

Marriage isn't a 50-50 proposition very often. It's more like 100-0 one moment and 0-100 the next.

~Billie Jean King

I would love to be a player today. I had the right personality for it.

~Billie Jean King

A girl didn't get an athletic scholarship until the fall of 1972 for the very first time.

~Billie Jean King

In 1973, women got 59 cents on the dollar; now we are getting 74 cents on the dollar. In the area of finance and business, we are at 68 cents on the dollar.

~Billie Jean King

You've got to win in sports - that's talent - but you've also got to learn how to remind everybody how you did win, and how often. That comes with experience.

~Billie Jean King

Don't go into debt and don't spend a lot. It's not how much money you make, it's how much you spend.

~Billie Jean King

Champions take responsibility. When the ball is coming over the net,

you can be sure I want the ball.

~Billie Jean King

That is where the power, opportunity, and choice come from-when you have money. Money equals opportunity. There is no question.

~Billie Jean King

There is no life for girls in team sports past Little League. I got into tennis when I realized this, and because I thought golf would be too slow for me, and I was too scared to swim.

~Billie Jean King

Don't be afraid to hit the ball.

~Billie Jean King

I try to perfect my strong points and make my weaknesses adequate.

~Billie Jean King

I grew up in team sports. I think I understand the psyche of America. I think when children sign up to play, it's got to be team.

~Billie Jean King

I used to be told if I talked about my sexuality in any way that we wouldn't have a tennis tour.

~Billie Jean King

It's important to try to get people to think about women's wellness.

~Billie Jean King

Champions take responsibility.

~Billie Jean King

People say, "Do you know how much a million dollars is?" I don't have a clue. How many Big Macs will it buy me?

~Billie Jean King

Being Number One isn't everything to me, but for those few hours on the court it's way ahead of whatever's in second place.

~Billie Jean King

Bobby Riggs was one of my heroes. I admired him. That's one of the reasons I beat him - because I respected him.

~Billie Jean King

I always liked co-ed events best so we have two men and two women on each team.

~Billie Jean King

At 62 you want to keep moving; that's important.

~Billie Jean King

Any therapist will tell you that when you're ready, you will come out. To be outed means you weren't ready.

~Billie Jean King

It's your birthday today, so what would you say, if we turned that frown upside down

~Billie Jean King

Love, light & blessings be On this day I wish to say 'Health & Happiness to come your way' Happy Birthday

~Billie Jean King

If your partner wants to be private, you have to respect that.

~Billie Jean King

Each point I play is in the now moment. The last point means nothing, the next point means nothing.

~Billie Jean King

Female athletes are stereotyped by the general population--and usually as homosexuals.

~Billie Jean King

Our love one's are never gone, they have just popped into another room.

~Billie Jean King

I got to see the best players in the world every year the week after the U.S. Nationals, which is now known as the US Open, in Los Angeles. That made a huge difference in my life.

~Billie Jean King

It's very important to take tennis to the people. For young people, they get to see the best in the world.

~Billie Jean King

I think it's really important to have portion control. I don't believe in losing weight quickly.

~Billie Jean King

I have a lot to say, and if I'm not No. 1, I can't say it.

~Billie Jean King

Martina and I went through a very bad five years. Everything's very good between us now, but it was a long haul.

~Billie Jean King

When we reach the point where the women athletes are getting their pick of dates just as easily as the men athletes, then we've really and truly arrived. Parity at last!

~Billie Jean King

As far as U.S. tennis, we need new stars coming up in the pipeline, but I don't know if we have it.

~Billie Jean King

I like to see what future generations are thinking about.

~Billie Jean King

Trust and respect is something you earn, not something that is given.

~Billie Jean King

I like putting money back into what made my life, and tennis has been great to me.

~Billie Jean King

I always wanted to help make tennis a team sport.

~Billie Jean King

When I was outed, it was like, That's done.

~Billie Jean King

The main thing is not a matter of wanting to win; the main thing is being scared to lose.

~Billie Jean King

You want people to feel like they belong to something. And not be elitist. You don't want us to be elitist.

~Billie Jean King

Every generation I think gets better usually [in tennis].

~Billie Jean King

Sports are a microcosm of society. It just shows how much more competition there is in the world.

~Billie Jean King

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