

Wilmer Lawson Allison Jr W5VV *1904-1977* Wilmer born in San Antonio was an American amateur tennis champion of the 1930's. With all of this, how could our subject find time for ham radio activities?



Allison's career was somewhat overshadowed by the arrival of Don Budge, but he was both a fine singles player and along with his frequent partner, John Van Ryn, a great doubles player.

Right-handed, Allison's greatest triumph was winning the 1935 U.S. Championship singles, defeating Fred Perry in the semi-finals and Sidney Wood in the finals.

He had previously lost to Perry in the fifth set in the 1934 finals. He

was ranked U.S. No.1 both years and World No.4 in 1932 and 1935.

At Wimbledon, Allison lost the 1930 title to Bill Tilden. As a doubles player with partner John van Ryn, Allison won the 1929 and 1930 Wimbledon and 1935 U.S. doubles championships. Allison's last major tournament was a 1936 quarter-final loss to Bunny Austin.

At the University of Texas at Austin, Allison was the Intercollegiate tennis champion in 1927.

In his 1979 autobiography Jack Kramer, who had a fine volley himself, devotes a page to the best tennis strokes he had ever seen. He writes: "Forehand Volley – Wilmer Allison of Texas, who won the 1935 Forest Hills, had the best I ever saw as a kid and I've never seen anyone since hit one better."

George Lott, who himself won 5 U.S. doubles titles as well as 2 at Wimbledon, wrote an article May 1973 issue of Tennis Magazine in which he ranked the great doubles teams and the great players. He called the team of Allison and Van Ryn the 9th best of all time.

Allison was a colonel in the United States Army Air Forces in World War II. He was inducted into the International tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island in 1963. Wilmer W5VV expired 20 April 1977 in Austin, Texas. Partially scripted wikipedia.org w8su 2007