# Sports Commentator Sue Barker Backs Ban on Trans Women in Sports



Wimbledon legend and former BBC presenter Sue Barker has expressed support for banning self-identified trans women from competing against biological females in sports. Barker, 73, known for winning the French Open in 1976 and presenting Wimbledon coverage for three decades, aligns herself with former tennis champion Martina Navratilova on this issue.

Navratilova, a nine-time Wimbledon singles champion, has been a vocal opponent of allowing transgender female athletes to compete in women's sports, calling them "failed male athletes." Barker told the Telegraph, "I just think you take away the young girls' dreams, so I am definitely with Navratilova."

This stance follows controversies involving transgender athletes such as US swimmer Lia Thomas, Welsh cyclist Emily Bridges, and Dutch darts player Noa-Lynn van Leuven. Critics of trans athletes in women's sports include British former Olympians Daley Thompson and Sharron Davies.

Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer has also called for a ban, emphasizing the need for a level playing field for female athletes. Navratilova has suggested creating an "open" category for transgender athletes while maintaining distinct categories for biological females.

Lia Thomas, who became the first trans-athlete to win the women's NCAA college swimming title in 2022, lost a legal battle concerning eligibility for the upcoming Paris Olympics. This ruling was welcomed by fellow swimmer Riley Gaines, who tied with Thomas in a 200m freestyle event.

Emily Bridges has vowed to contest British Cycling's ban on transgender women from female categories, aiming to support future transgender competitors.

British tennis player Andy Murray has not yet decided whether he will compete in Wimbledon following a recent procedure on a back issue. The 37-year-old, who had surgery over the weekend, remains uncertain about his fitness for what he hopes will be his farewell appearance at the tournament, which begins on July 1st.

Murray, a two-time Wimbledon champion and three-time Grand Slam winner, aims to retire later this year. His team stated, "Following his surgery on Saturday, Andy is continuing to work with his medical team to confirm when he will return to the court."

Murray is also slated to represent Great Britain in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, set to take place on clay courts at Roland Garros starting July 27th. Known for his significant achievements, Murray expressed earlier that retiring at Wimbledon or the Olympics would be "fitting."

The decision about Murray's participation in Wimbledon is expected later this week, depending on his recovery progress.