

Pittman Earns Tennis Honor

Anne Pittman, veteran women's tennis coach at Arizona State University, was named coach of the month by Tennis U.S.A., official magazine of the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association — the first time a woman has received the honor.

"I guess perhaps it is," Miss Pittman modestly commented when told of the award.

She also was honored last year when she was named to coach the U.S. women's tennis that competed in the World University Games at Moscow.

A COACH for 33 years — 21 at ASU — she has developed women's tennis at ASU into one of the most impressive programs in the country.

"There are about five schools that have fulltime coaches," she said, "and we go all year around here. We don't play just in the spring. Of course, playing 12 months ruins my golf game."

For the first time this year, ASU will compete in the Intermountain Women's Tennis Conference, which includes nine other schools — University of Arizona, New

Mexico, New Mexico State, Amarillo College, Odessa College, Brigham Young, Colorado, Northern Colorado and Western Colorado.

"It's one of the most exciting developments in women's tennis," she said. "It's also the first women's conference. Others have always been local or statewide."

ARIZONA STATE has 42 girls competing on two top teams and three other teams. Several players are ranked nationally, and such former players as Peggy Michel and Pam Richmond have done well on the women's professional tour.

Tennis at ASU is more than a team concept, Miss Pittman says. "Our program has added immeasurably to the strength of teaching coaches in the local high school programs," she explained.

Women's athletics have progressed to the point that they will have players on scholarships for the first time this year.

"It will mean that we will no longer have to sell soap or buy hamburgers or wear out our cars to go to tournaments," Miss Pittman says.
—JERRY GUIBOR.