LET’S TEE IT UP BOYS……

Most Nebraskans identify the name Pound with the former dormitory that recently was torn down by UNL. But the namesake Louise Pound was more than some fleeting figure in UNL history, she was a bona fide scholar/athlete. Let’s just say if she challenged you to a game of tennis or golf and hinted maybe we should wager a little, don’t take that offer!

Louise Pound was born in Lincoln and was the middle sibling of three. Her older brother would be the noted legal professor Roscoe Pound and her younger sister Olivia would be an early companion at UNL. Pound was schooled at a young age in many disciplines and began collegiate work at UNL in 1888. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in 1892 and a Masters in 1895. She proceeded to earn a Doctorate, magna cum laude from the University of Heidelberg, Germany in 1900. Her dissertation, “*The Comparison of Adjectives in English in the XV and XVI Century* .” You understand the scholar part of her being the scholar/athlete.

Meanwhile she was not always studying. In 1890 Pound was the Lincoln City Champion, at age 18. In 1891 and “92 she competed against men and won the University of Nebraska campus tennis title. In 1897 she was victorious in winning the Women’s Western Tennis championship. While in Germany she won the Championship of Heidelberg. She then took on the Olympic men’s single tennis titleholder and more than held her own.

Not to be one dimensional she won the state golf championship in 1916, a 100-mile cycling race medal in 1906 and was a figure skater on ice. She also organized the UNL women’s basketball team and played center in their first game in 1898 and then continued assumed the role as manager. Pound was not only the first UNL female to earn a men’s varsity letter, she was also rated the top player in the country (while working on her Doctorate). Pound continues her tennis career by teaming up with Carrie Neely at the age of 43 and winning the Central Western and Western doubles championship. In 1926 she once again won the Lincoln city championship and then became the first wome’s state champion. All of this while she was a professor of English at UNL.

Pound also maintained a distinct rivalry with Mabel Lee, a faculty member of the University of Nebraska physical education department.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise_Pound#cite_note-:0-1) Pound and Lee were initially cordial, yet differing perspectives on the role of athletics—Pound supported athletics as a field of competition, competition about which Lee maintained reservations—embittered their relationship.