

Brent Frueh Minot/Bismarck

Brent Frueh was born and raised in Minot, N. D., where he started playing tennis as a sophomore in high school. He played college tennis at Minot State University before transferring to the University of North Dakota in 1987, where he walked on the team. He finished his collegiate career at #3 singles and #1 doubles, winning conference championships at both positions, as well as leading his team to the conference title in 1989.

After graduation, Frueh moved to Bismarck, where he worked at Capital Racquet and Fitness Center and was the Tennis Program Manager for Bismarck Parks and Recreation. While at Capital Racquet and Fitness, tennis participation exploded with over 400 kids playing in the summer tennis program. While there, Frueh introduced a United States Tennis Association (USTA) pilot program called Rallyball, and designed the first “mini tennis court” in the United States at Sertoma Tennis Courts in Bismarck, putting the city on the tennis map nationally well before the 10 and Under Tennis phenomenon hit the country. He also ran a tennis carnival with over 200 participants annually and organized the tennis community to marching in the Annual Band Day Parade. For the parade Frueh created a moving tennis court that went down the streets of Bismarck while volunteers handed out free tennis racquets along the parade route with directions on where to find tennis programming to kids. He also coached the girls’ tennis teams at Bismarck Century High School from 1990-2001.

A USPTA and PTR certified coach and a USTA High Performance Coach, Frueh moved to the Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minnesota in 2001, and was promoted to the facility’s General Manager in 2012. In his career he has coached over 20 junior players to state championships in both Minnesota and North Dakota.

He also has been a long-time volunteer with USTA Northern and served on its Board of Directors from 1995-2012. In 2009-2010 he was the section’s president, and currently is still involved with the USTA on a national level, where he completed four terms on the Junior Competition Committee and has served on three USTA Presidential Task Forces.

For his efforts, Frueh was a four-time North Dakota High School Coach of the Year and a national finalist for High School Tennis Coach of the Year in 2001. He also earned the USTA National Eve Kraft Community Service Award and the USTA Northern Community Service Award in 1999. In 2002 Frueh and Rochester Athletic Club staff received the USTA Northern Ward Burton Junior Development Award. He was named the PTR Newcomer of the Year Award (2000), the USPTA Northern Division Community Service Award winner (2004) and USPTA Pro of the Year (2009).

“His passion for the sport is obvious,” nominator Scott McPherson said. “He was so instrumental in shaping the community of Bismarck and is arguable the main reason why the sport is so popular among the youth and adults in the communities. His

accomplishments have led him to even bigger things with USTA Northern and the USTA on a national level. He is an absolute gem!”

Frueh is married to Shari and they have two children, Emily and Eric. Eric played tennis at the University of Minnesota and was a member of the 2015 Big Ten Championship team.