

Robert “Bob” Cordova

Bob Cordova has been a tennis leader in the Bismarck-Mandan community for many years, serving as a player, coach, teacher, volunteer, and community tennis organizer.

Cordova coached at Bismarck High School in the mid '70's. Both the boys' and girls' teams won regional and state championships. His players individually dominated regional tournaments. Carol Finck (singles) and Jane Heintzman and Denise Glaser (doubles twice) won state titles. He moved on to Bismarck Junior College in the mid '80's where his teams won conference titles and qualified for national tournaments. He did this while working as a teaching pro at Apple Creek Country Club. Finally, he was the head men's and women's coach at University of Mary in Bismarck from 2006-10.

In 1972 Cordova founded what is now the Bismarck-Mandan Tennis Association. This organization has been active for over 44 years, and in 2012 was named the USTA National Member Organization of the Year and was a candidate for the USTA National Member Organization of the Year award.

Cordova has promoted, organized, and managed tournaments sanctioned by this group since the early '80,s. He has also run regional and state high school tournaments for many years and has volunteered as the tournament director of Bismarck-Mandan's largest tournament, the Jackie Dockter Memorial Tennis Tournament, which is now in its 16th year.

Although he did not start playing tennis until his late 20's, Cordova has won numerous tournaments over the years. In 1976, he won the Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles titles of the local Bismarck tournament, which started a run of six consecutive years of doubles championships in the event. He also won men's doubles titles while in his 60's, and later, his team participated the USTA Northern League Section Championships where he and his partner were undefeated.

Cordova's love of tennis has spread to his family as well. His sons played high school and college tennis and continue to play in tournaments. His son, Paul, teaches private lessons and his son, Bob, organizes and directs tournaments. His grandchildren have played high school tennis as participated in tournaments.