

David Geatz

Grand Forks, N.D.

David Geatz, who is currently the head coach at the University of Pennsylvania, was born and raised in Grand Forks. He played tennis at Red River High School from 1972-75, where he was a member of the state championship team in 1973. He also won the state doubles title with partner **Rich Dahlen** that year and was the North Dakota state singles champion in 1974 and 1975. He finished his high school career with a 104-3 record, with the three losses coming his freshman season. The next three years, he won 90 straight matches and was named to *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in The Crowd in 1975. He was later inducted into the Grand Forks Red River High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

He went on to play college tennis at the University of New Mexico where he earned all-conference honors in 1979, and won the conference doubles title with partner **Jess Bec-Mueller** that same year. After college, he played professionally in Europe where he won eight tournaments.

After earning his degree in University Studies from New Mexico in 1981, Geatz returned to his alma mater as the head men's tennis coach from 1983-88, leading his team to a Top 20 ranking and earning Western Athletic Conference and NCAA Regional Coach of the Year honors.

Geatz then served as head coach of the University of Minnesota men's program from 1988-2006. During his tenure, the Gophers won five Big Ten championships and compiled a 45-match winning streak in conference play. He was a three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year and earned NCAA Regional Coach of the Year accolades once. His teams appeared in 12 straight NCAA Championships, and were ranked as high as #10 nationally. He also coached All-American **Harsh Mankad**, who was ranked #1 in the nation in singles.

After leaving the Gophers, Geatz served as the Director of Tennis at the Hong Kong Country Club in Hong Kong, before returning to the collegiate ranks as the Associate Head Coach at Ohio State in 2007-08. He was then hired as the men's head coach at Cornell in 2008, and in 2009, coached both the men's and women's teams at Cornell until being hired as the **Albert G. Molloy** Head Coach of Men's Tennis at Penn in 2011.

A USTA League and tournament player throughout his career, Geatz was a member of the USTA Northern 5.5 National Championship team in 2004.

"Dave Geatz is arguably the best tennis player and tennis coach the state of North Dakota has ever produced," current University of North Dakota head tennis coach and North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame member **Tom Wynne** said. "As a player, he has had success at the state, section and national level as a player and is one of the top collegiate tennis coaches in the nation. Though he spent a great deal of time in Minnesota and other parts of the country, he still identifies himself with North Dakota."

"I am very honored to be inducted into the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame," Geatz said. "I have always been proud to consider North Dakota my home. I grew up with a lot of special people including the Wynnes, **Terry Paukert** and **Jerry Caulfield**, who are all members of the Hall of Fame. It is a special moment for me to join them."