

The Sergio Gambucci Family, Dr. Jack Pfister To Be Inducted Into North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame August 4

The **Gambucci Family (Sergio, Eleanor, Bill, Jim, Mary Ann, Nancy, Carol, John and Ann)** of Grand Forks, N.D., and the late **Dr. Jack Pfister**, of Wahpeton, N.D., comprise the 2018 induction class of the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame. Festivities will take place Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Tom O’Leary Tennis Courts (800 N. Griffin St., Bismarck) at 4 p.m., during the Bismarck Open. Admission to the celebration is free. For more information, please contact **Rod Morasch** at RMorasch@bisparks.org or **Carolyn Kramer** at kramer@northern.usta.com.

The Gambucci Family, led by patriarch and multi-sport coach Serge and his supporting and devoted wife Eleanor, successfully promoted the sport of tennis not only in Grand Forks, but throughout the entire state of North Dakota for decades. The late Serge, who died at the age of 91 in 2014, coached boys tennis at Grand Forks Central High School, winning three state team championships and 11 state individual champions, including all seven of his children. Serge also coached hockey, leading Central to the first 10 North Dakota state hockey titles and finished his career with 258-38 record in 15 seasons. He is a member of five Halls of Fame including the Grand Forks Central Athletic Hall of Fame, the North Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame, the Grand Forks Public Schools Hall of Fame, St. Cloud State University Hall of Fame and the United States Hockey Hall of Fame and has a hockey arena in Grand Forks named after him.

Oldest son Bill was the first to win a state championship, taking home the singles crown in both 1967 and 1968. Jim won the 1968 doubles and 1969 singles title, followed by Mary Ann (1969-71 singles), Nancy (1972 doubles), Carol (1973-74 doubles), John (doubles 1974-76, 1977 singles) and finally Ann (1978 doubles). All were all-conference and all-state recipients and team most valuable players. Bill, Jim, Carol and John joined their father as members of the Grand Forks Central High School Hall of Fame, and today, the Gambucci grandchildren are continuing the family tennis tradition.

“The Gambucci Family has contributed so much to promote tennis in North Dakota,” nominator **Shelly Gunderson** said. “The Gambucci home was right across the street from five tennis courts in Grand Forks and was known as ‘Tennis Central.’ They mentored so many kids, resulting in an unprecedented growth of the sport. They are truly the First Family of North Dakota Tennis.”

The late Pfister, who died in 2011 at the age of 90, was a player and

promotor of North Dakota tennis. A three-time North Dakota high school singles champion from 1936-38, Pfister played at the University of Minnesota, competing at the #3 singles position. After college, he served in World War II from 1944-46 before returning to Wahpeton to start a dental practice. Pfister won the North Dakota Closed men's singles title from 1953-55 and teamed with his father, **Herbert**, to win the Northwest Tennis Association Father/Son event in 1949.

A tremendous community member, Pfister financially supported many tennis events across the state. He also donated tennis equipment to local schools in Wahpeton, as well as the spectator benches for the new tennis courts in the city. He was the President of the North Dakota Dental Association, was a 10th District Trustee for the National American Dental Association and implemented the dental hygiene program at North Dakota State School of Science. He also served as the Director of the Wahpeton National Bank, and was a member of the City Council, Special Assessment Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Community Development Corporation and Greater North Dakota Association.

"Jack Pfister was an unbelievable tennis enthusiast," nominator and 2016 North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame inductee **Lee Nagel** said. "He was an outstanding player at the high school, college and adult levels, but it was his love and passion for the sport of tennis that, combined with his role as a community leader in Wahpeton, makes him so deserving to be in the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame."