

Jerry Lyon Minot

Jerry Lyon served as head coach of the boys' and girls' tennis teams at Minot High School for 33 years. During that time he amassed a record of 778-221 in dual competition, won eight state teams championships, 123 individual runner-up finishes, and 29 West Region titles. He has been in the Final Four of the North Dakota state tournament 35 times and the West Region on 57 occasions.

He has coached over 200 All-Conference athletes, 60 All-State honorees, three All-Americans, and 23 North Dakota state champions in his career, including Raman Jayapathy, Josh Oolhoudt, Matthew Olson (twice), and Anne Kincheloe (twice). He has been named the North Dakota Coach of the Year seven times, and Region 6 Coach of the Year three times.

He earned National Coach of the Year honors in 1998 and entered the National Coaches Hall of Fame in 2012. In 1999 he was named the United States Professional Tennis Registry's (USPTR) Coach of the Year and is part of the North Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame (2002) and the Minot High School Hall of Fame (2013).

"Mista Lyon" as he was affectionately called by those he taught, both on and off the court, served as an eighth grade math teacher at Memorial Middle School at Minot Air Force Base until he retired in 2013. He also was a tennis teaching professional at the Minot Indoor Tennis Club during that time and was the first-ever gold medalist at the inaugural North Dakota Prairie Rose Games Open Division in 1987—the highlight of his personal playing career. He also won the silver in doubles that year with Bob Cordova.

Despite all of the wins and accolades during this amazing career, Lyon says his most important victory was the safe delivery of all of his athletes during an estimated 130,000 miles as the "bus driver."