

Lee Nagel Wahpeton

Lee Nagel is originally from New Salem, N.D. and now makes his home in Wahpeton. He was a teacher and coach for 38 years. Lee competed in wrestling, football, and track while in high school and college. He started playing tennis at the age of 24 while teaching in Langdon, N.D., when it was suggested as a physical education activity. In 2010, Lee was inducted into the North Dakota Hall of Fame.

He played in his first tournament in 1976 in Grand Forks and has 44 singles titles to his credit, including five Prairie Rose State Games singles championships, three South Dakota State Senior Games Titles, two Fargo Red River singles crowns, and in 2015 won the National Public Parks Singles Championship. He also has six doubles titles to his credit.

Nagel has been ranked in the top ten for his age group in USTA Northern Section over the years and is currently ranked #1 in Men's 65 singles and 87th nationally. Nagel also plays tournaments in Florida, where he lives during the winter months.

He coached the boys' and girls' tennis teams at Wahpeton Public Schools for 41 seasons. He was an eight-time East Region Coach of the Year and five-time North Dakota Coach of the year. He coached many individual state tournament participants, including his sons, who were both all-state singles players, received the North Dakota Outstanding Senior Tennis Player Award and the North Dakota Mr. Tennis Award. He also was a no-cut coach while at Wahpeton High School, having as many as 90 players on his roster.

Nagel started the Huskie Tennis Academy in Wahpeton and has served as tournament director for many local tournaments there. He was a member of the North Dakota High School Association Advisory Board for seven years and is a member of the North Dakota Tennis Association.

“Lee loves tennis and will continue to play and compete as long as he is able.” Carolyn Kramer of the Fargo-Moorhead Tennis Patrons said. “His competitive spirit is well-balanced with his good sportsmanship and conduct around the sport, and his deep interest in developing other players and enthusiasts is evident.”

Nagel is married to Barb and has three children, Wade, Amy, and Will.