

# Terry Paukert

## Grand Forks

Terry Paukert played both high school and college tennis in North Dakota - at Grand Forks Central and the University of North Dakota, respectively, where he was the doubles partner of fellow North Dakota Tennis Hall of Famer **Tim Wynne**.

After college, he began his long and storied career as a high school tennis coach which spans over 40 years including time at East Grand Forks (1978-97, 2004, 2006 and 2012-13), Grand Forks Central (1999-2008) and Grand Forks Red River (2011, 2015-current). He has been part of two North Dakota team championships, coached two doubles champions and four singles titlists, including two wins by his son, **Charlie**, at Grand Forks Central in 2003 and 2004.

Paukert has coached both boys and girls in his illustrious career. He served as a board member of the Community Tennis Association which built the Register Tennis Complex in Grand Forks. Throughout his career, he has organized free tennis programs in the city for all high school students to grow their tennis knowledge and skills, while offering free individual lessons and racquet stringing to those who would not otherwise be able to play tennis.

He was named the Minnesota State High School Coach of the Year in 1992, and was honored in 2006 with the Ward C. Burton Junior Development Award presented to an individual or organization who has promoted the growth of tennis for juniors and served the junior tennis community in USTA Northern. In 2013, he was inducted into the Grand Forks Central High School Athletics Hall of Fame, and in 2016, received the Thomas J. Clifford Award given to an University of North Dakota alum who serve as an athletics coach at the high school or collegiate level and has been notably successful in their respective sport.

"Throughout his career, Terry has kindled and grown the love for tennis in the Grand Forks community," nominator **Ryan McGuigan** said. "While speaking to Terry, he said, 'Tennis is a money sport, but it doesn't have to be.' This is what led him to give free instruction, drills and supplies to many kids over the years, giving those the opportunity to play tennis who may not have otherwise had that chance."

"Receiving this honor is humbling because I am not looking for recognition and I really enjoy what I do," Paukert said. "It is a way to keep me connected and in the game. All I am looking for is a smile and a thank you. I know most of the people in the Hall of Fame and am very honored to have my name mentioned with theirs."