

Sandy Wald-Clooten Bismarck

Sandy Wald-Clooten started playing tennis at the age of 7 when her dad gave her an old wood racquets and told her to hit against the garage door. She never took a lesson, but would ride her bike to the local courts in town and ask players if she could warm them up until their opponents arrived.

Wald-Clooten is an avid local league and adult tournament player. She has been ranked number one in USTA Northern and has represented North Dakota in many national tournaments, including the National State Games of America, where she brought home nine gold medals. She also plays USTA League Tennis where her 3.5 women's team and mixed doubles team both advanced to Nationals.

She has served on the Board of Directors for the Bismarck-Mandan Tennis Association and has held various offices within that organization. She volunteers at Capital Racquet and Fitness Center, teaching beginning tennis lessons to adults. She also volunteered as tennis tournament director for the Prairie Rose State Games two years.

Also the tennis coach at St. Mary's High School in Bismarck the past 26 years, Wald-Clooten has taken her teams to the state finals once. Her teams have placed third or have been consolation champions several times. Her teams have advanced to the state tournament 20 of the 26 years that she has coached. In 2014 she had State Doubles Champions in Alicia Beck and Mary Roller. She was named North Dakota Girls' Tennis Coach of the Year. She retired from coaching in the spring of 2014.

In 1995 and 1996 Wald-Clooten was named the Prairie Rose State Games Athlete of the Year out of 6,000 entrants, and was inducted into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.