

Boys Coach of the Year

Erin Thoman - O'Fallon High School

O'Fallon, led by IHSTCA Coach of the Year Erin Thoman, continued its resurgence as a dominant program in the southwestern region of Illinois. Here are a few highlights of the accomplishments of the 2015 O'Fallon tennis team.

- Season record of 16-5
- 1st place at the O'Fallon sectional for the third straight year
- Qualified all six players for the state meet
- Champions of two other tournaments
- 20th at the state meet

Coach Thoman had the following thoughts about her 2015 team:

“The boys on the O'Fallon tennis team are very dedicated tennis players who put a lot of time and effort into improving their games. They are also great students who strive to do their best every day. They push each other to improve on a daily basis. I was so proud of the boys and their 2015 season - it was a very memorable and awesome season for them. I am impressed with the passion they have and their love of the game.”

Rich Bickel, O'Fallon's principal, had the following comments about Erin:

“Erin is an outstanding coach of techniques and tactics, but, more importantly to me, she is a wonderful role model of honor, integrity, and sportsmanship for our athletes. Erin has instilled self-discipline, a strong work ethic, and commitment to academic excellence in her athletes. She is admired as a representative of the very best qualities that we hope to see in our professional colleagues. She inspires me and all others around her to want to be better at the end of the day than they were at the start.”

Erin has coached the boys team at O'Fallon for three years, and the Panthers have won a sectional title in each of the three years. Their last sectional championship prior to her arrival was in 1996, so Erin's first three teams have set the bar very high in her program.

Congratulations, Erin, on your 2015 award as the IHSTCA Boys Coach of the Year!