

Girls Co-Coach of the Year – Class 2A

Dempsey Willard – Whitney Young

In only his third year in charge of the Whitney Young Dolphin girls tennis team, Dempsey Willard led his squad to a state championship in 2017. Dempsey, also the 2016 girls coach of the year, repeated his honor this year by leading Whitney Young to heights never before experienced by the Dolphins. Here are a few highlights from this memorable season:

- Season record of 12-4
- Sectional champions – fourth in a row and fifth in five seasons
- Qualified five players for the state meet
- Tied Stevenson for the team state title
- Camryn Salter and Darinka Stepan finished 2nd in doubles
- Mackenzie Beckham and Madison Beckham finished top 8 in doubles

Here are Coach Willard's thoughts about the historic 2017 season his team had:

“The season was a “dream.” Everything that we could wish for cam to pass – undefeated Chicago Public League season, city champs, sectional champs, and state champs. I also had four seniors that have been with me from the start – what a way to graduate!”

Congratulations, Dempsey, on your IHSTCA Coach of the Year award!