

Boys Coach of the Year - 2005

Mike Friedman -- Deerfield

Mike has been coaching high school tennis for nine years, all of them at Deerfield High School. He has coached both the boys' and girls' teams. Mike played high school tennis at Highland Park and college tennis at Wisconsin-Stout for four years. At Stout he was conference doubles champion for four years, Division III All-American in 1986, and played in five national tournaments. After college, Mike went on to a teaching career in tennis and is a member of both the USPTA and USPTR. Currently, he is teaching tennis in a suburban Chicago club.

Mike continues to play tennis and has a number of achievements in the tournament world. In 1997, he was the Chicago District Tennis Association's adult player of the year. In 2000, he was the USPTA Midwest player of the year, and in 2003, he was the USPTA open player of the year. Since 1997, he has been the number one ranked doubles player in his age group in the CDTA.

Mike enjoys keeping up on his tennis and teaching skills by playing tournaments and attending conferences. He has two children, three and five years old, and has been teaching tennis since 1982, his sophomore year in high school.

Mike's coaching philosophy is simple: have fun, work hard, make a friend when you compete, and play as often as you can and as many years as you can.

Mike's teams have had at least ten dual wins each season. His boys' teams have had five second place conference finishes and two sectional championships. This year, his varsity team had a 12-5 record, placed second in the CSL North, and won the sectional championship. His number one singles player, Scott Lieberman, placed 5th in the state tournament. His number one doubles team of Alex Loukas and Scott Sandager won the state doubles title. In previous years, his teams have also placed 6th and 10th in the state tournament, but this past 2005 season his boys' team tied New Trier for the state championship. This has been Mike's proudest accomplishment to date.

Players that have made his coaching career so memorable are Scott Lieberman, Alex Loukas, Scott Sandager, Josh Gross, Adam Pollack, Brad Stein, Ben Weltman, and Tony Gill.

The last nine years of coaching have been the happiest of his life, says Mike. He wishes that every coach has the opportunity to enjoy and experience what he has. Coaching and winning the state championship at Deerfield has been a dream fulfilled for him. With assistant coach Chuck Morrison by his side, they made an excellent team and finished a dream season. Keep up your good work, Mike. You, your coaching staff, and players should be very proud.