

# Boys Coach of the Year - 2005

## *Mike Terry -- Quincy High School*

Mike has been coaching high school tennis for 20 years. He played high school tennis at Quincy from 1967-1970. He then went on to play for Northeast Missouri State for four years, going to nationals three times.

Currently, Mike is the chairman of the language, humanities, and literature department at John Wood Community College in Quincy. He teaches speech, rhetoric, and composition. Mike has taught and worked at the college for 28 years.

Mike was president of the MITA from 1999-2002 and is an active member of the USPTA. He teaches tennis part time at the Quincy Racquet Club, runs a country club program for 114 players, and teaches six weeks of free tennis lessons for the Quincy Park District.

Mike's coaching philosophy can be summarized as follows: let the players decide positions on the team, try to make everyone important, and stay out of the way and let them play. Don't over coach is one of his mottos. Try to grasp teachable moments, and understand that the players determine everything.

The 2005 season ended with a 14-4 dual match record. His team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Western Big Six Conference. Quincy finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the sectional tournament and 26<sup>th</sup> at the state tournament.

Mike's coaching career so far has netted eight conference championships, twelve sectional titles, two top ten and six top 25 state finishes.

Mike has no tennis budget and is responsible for raising all the money needed to run the program. The high school has no tennis courts, so he maintains and conducts practices on nearby park courts. His teams' closest conference rivals are 2 ½ hours away. Last season, his boys team traveled 4,376 miles in two vans during the season in order to have good competition.

Mike's most memorable tennis experience was sitting on the court and coaching his doubles team of Sayeed Ali and Pi Boualavong during a state tournament match. His team eventually won 6<sup>th</sup> place. His proudest accomplishment was seeing his players go on to play in college. Thirty-five of them have played college ball and six became division I or II coaches.

Mike's advice to coaches is to try to learn from other coaches. He has learned so much from coaches like Tom Derouin, Mike Thompson, Les Sammon, and Bill Sargeant.