

Boys Coach of the Year - 2007

Greg Cohen -- Gurnee Warren

“Survey says Greg Cohen”

Greg Cohen has been the Warren High School tennis coach for 19 years. Seven of those years were spent with the boys frosh/soph team and twelve with the varsity boys. In addition, Greg was the head girls varsity coach for six years. In his nineteen years of coaching tennis, his teams have an overall record of 268-117. Warren has placed in the state's top 25 eight times during his tenure.

Greg played for Rock Island under Hall of Fame coach Les Sammon. While attending the University of Illinois, Greg got his first taste of high school coaching, helping out at Urbana. During the summers, Greg helped at the U of I tennis camps. By 1986, he was certified by the USPTA and is a lifelong member of the USTA.

Not only does Greg teach social studies and coach tennis, he also finds the time to coach freshman basketball, where he has also had success, recording a mark of 125-28 and five conference titles in the past seven years.

For Greg, coaching is not a March to May job. He runs a junior excellence program for 6th through 8th graders in the fall and spring and runs a non-USTA junior tournament for the Warren area to develop grass roots interest in tennis. Each summer he runs a large tennis camp that includes loading up players in a mini-van and taking them to USTA tournaments. This past season, seven of his top eight players came from these programs.

In 1998, Greg was elected to the IHSTCA board of directors. Greg made it clear from the start that he was representing his part of the state and not just his team. He asked for opinions of coaches throughout his area and brought them to the board meetings, even if the opinions were unpopular. After a while, he knew that coaches throughout the state had opinions that wanted voiced and he started sending out surveys. Even if Greg disagreed with the results of the survey he would report the data to all the members in the newsletters and then present it to the IHSA. Greg has been the secretary, president-elect, and president of the IHSTCA. As president his goal was to increase the membership of the IHSTCA; in his two years, membership has grown from 200 to over 315. In the summer of 2006 Greg started the summer workshops for coaches around the state. One of Greg's major accomplishments was passing the by-law allowing 20 dates for the tennis season. Greg has a true passion for tennis and the growth of tennis throughout the State of Illinois.

Congratulations, Greg. You have truly earned the 2007 Boys Coach of the Year.