

# Boys Coach of the Year - 2010

## *Kelly Willard – Metamora High School*

Recap of 2010 Metamora Boys Season:

- 21-1 in dual matches
- Sectional champions for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year and 6<sup>th</sup> time in the last 8 years
- Conference champions for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year
- Won every league match 9-0 and all flights of the conference tournament
- 10<sup>th</sup> place at the state tournament
- Top singles player (Stephan Rauh) finished top 16 – only non-Chicago area player in the top 16
- Top doubles team (Nate Wilson and David Stewart) also finished top 16
- Every player won at least one match at the state tournament
- Tom Pitchford Award winner – Stephan Rauh

Kelly has been the Boys Varsity Head Coach for 13 years at Metamora. He has a cumulative record of 167-41. He has also coached girls' tennis at Metamora for five years. Over this time, he has a total of eight conference and six sectional titles. In the past thirteen years he has had a total of 50 state qualifiers. In the program's previous history, only seven players had qualified for the state meet.

Kelly runs free summer camps for high school players, junior high students who have shown an interest in tennis, and grade school aged kids that are eager to learn. Kelly also runs one of the best high school tennis web sites in Illinois. Check out the Metamora Tennis web site, home of more information, statistics, and stories than anyone can imagine.

Statewide, Kelly has been on the board for the IHSTCA and has served as secretary, president, and Hall of Fame chair. He has also served on the advisory committee for the IHSA and the boys state seeding committee. He also successfully ran the first three IHSTCA Team State Tournaments for Class A.

Here are some of Kelly's thoughts of the 2010 season:

“Seeing our school's name near the top of the state tournament leader board was a dream come true this past spring. Competing with some of the teams we have always admired was a bit surreal. Working with kids in Metamora from a young age and seeing them grow into successful tennis players, students, and people has been a tremendously rewarding way to spend the past thirteen seasons. We have had many successes, but the lasting memories come not from the wins or losses but rather from the journey with the players. The bus rides, overnight tournaments, team meals, and things that seem pretty ordinary turn into life-long memories for the players as well as coaches. I love what I do.”

Congratulations, Kelly, on your award as 2010 IHSTCA Coach of the Year.