

# **Boys Coach of the Year - 2011**

## *Tad Eckert - New Trier High School*

Highlights of 2011 New Trier season:

15-0 in dual meets

Undefeated in 12 invitationals

CSL South Conference and IHSA Sectional champions

IHSA State Champions (2<sup>nd</sup> in a row)

2011 Deco Turf National Team Champions

Tad has been the varsity head coach at New Trier for the last four years. Prior to his time at New Trier, he was an assistant coach at Loyola for six years.

Since Tad's arrival as head coach, the quality of play and players has not changed, but the way the kids respect the game and their opponents has changed for the better. This is entirely due to the influence of Tad and his staff.

As a former state singles champion (1989), Tad knows what it takes to win; he used his expertise to help Robert Stineman capture back-to-back singles titles, becoming the first player to win consecutive crowns in Illinois in twenty-five years. Tad has also developed the "high school tennis nights" at Northwestern the last couple of years to help promote college tennis to his high school players.

Here of some of Tad's thoughts on the 2011 season:

"Our team's accomplishments included an undefeated season in both duals and in invites, while often playing split squads. During the year, we've competed against teams from NY, KY, TN, WI, and IL. Our 2011 team championship was the second most in points and margin of victory in state history. Although I feel like 2010 required better coaching to win as underdogs, it certainly was a different challenge being favorites in 2011. I am proud of our team for being undefeated against the gauntlet and defending our team state championship. Like any other team in the state, some of our proudest moments were off the courts as we worked together to overcome difficulties in our scholastic, social, and family lives."

Congratulations, Tad, on your award as 2011 IHSTCA Coach of the Year.