Hall of Fame Inductee

Corky Leighton - Lake Forest High School



Corky Leighton has been involved in tennis on the North Shore for more than 45 years. He has spent 23 years with the boys program at Lake Forest (14 as head coach) and 19 with the girls. Here are a few accomplishments of his teams during that time period:

- Seven team state championships
- Nineteen team trophies at the state meet
- Twenty-eight sectional titles
- Twenty-eight conference titles

Lake Forest has had a great deal of talent over the years - no one will question that fact. However, a successful coach must find a way to maximize this talent. It is obvious that Corky determines the best way of working with his athletes both on the practice court and during matches. Over the years, his players have found ways to win important three-set matches during the regular season, have qualified for the state tournament when being unseeded in the sectional, and have continually thrived at the state tournament.

As a third generation coach (his father coached the University of Toledo and his grandfather (Cap) coached the last CPS state championship team, Chicago Senn, in 1943), he learned how to give back to other players and coaches. Never hesitant to work with another team's players during the off-season, Corky has always given more than he has received.

Today, we are honored to give Corky a very special award from the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association. Welcome to the IHSTCA Hall of Fame!