

IHSTCA Newsletter

-- Cross Court --

May/June

2021

Dear Members:

WOW! Can you believe we finally made it to the end? It was a year that none of us will certainly forget. I wanted to send a quick note to thank you for everything you have done for your student-athletes this year, I know that each and every one of you have gone beyond for your teams. Finally, I want to wish the boys coaches good luck to those that qualified for the state meet.

Enjoy your summer. You deserve it!
Cup

Sean Masoncup, President
St. Charles-North
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IHSTCA Board of Directors

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Jon Betts

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Newsletter

Carrie Watson (Chair)

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Pitchford Sportsmanship Award (Girls + Boys)

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Sean Masoncup (Chair)
Patti Shaw (Luncheon)
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Carrie Watson (Registration)

State Format

Josh Leighton (Chair)
Jack Carmody
Mike Hand
Kelly Willard

IMPORTANT DATES

Boys Tennis

Practices Start	April 5
<i>*Must have seven dates prior to first contest</i>	
List of Participants Deadline	June 1
Sectional Seeding Meeting	June 2
Sectionals	June 4-5
Pitchford Award Nominations	June 6
State Finals	June 10-12
Season Ends	June 19

**See Covid-19 Resource page for dates and information:
<https://www.ihsa.org/Resources/COVID-19>*

PITCHFORD AWARD

Class A: Daniella Nenadovich – Benet Academy

On behalf of the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association, I would like to present to you this year's Tom Pitchford Sportsmanship award recipient.

Tom Pitchford was a catalyst in making our state's tennis tournament as great as it is. He embodied fair play, team play, and exceptional sportsmanship. This award is also in honor of former coaches: Sarah Pate of Glenbrook North and Mike McConville of Hersey High School.

The Tom Pitchford award nominees generally nominated by the player's coach. Judges for these outstanding nominees are coaches from throughout the state.

This year's Class A Pitchford award recipient is Daniella Nenadovich! Daniella's coach had this to say about her:

“Over three decades of coaching tennis, I have not had anyone who represented the ideals of sportsmanship any better than Daniella. She loves the game and the competition. She does not carry these to the extreme levels we see in sports. She is all business on the court and plays with a zeal that is unmatched. Yes, she loves to win, but that does not mean “at all costs”. She is fair and respectful on the court to her opponents and the game of tennis. I have never seen her outwardly vocal during a match. She is complementary of her opponents, knowing they are trying just as hard. She understands players may not be as talented, and she respects the effort they are putting in.”

After reading Daniella's letters of recommendations, the committee is very impressed with her many talents and we are proud to recognize her as this year's class A Pitchford Sportsmanship award winner. Congratulations, Daniella!

Class AA: Leia Papanicholas – St. Charles North

On behalf of the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association, I would like to present to you this year's Tom Pitchford Sportsmanship award recipient.

Tom Pitchford was a catalyst in making our state's tennis tournament as great as it is. He embodied fair play, team play, and exceptional sportsmanship. The award is also in honor of former coaches: Sarah

Pate of Glenbrook North and Mike McConville of Hersey High School.

The Tom Pitchford award nominees generally nominated by the player's coach. Judges for these outstanding nominees are coaches from throughout the state.

This year's Class AA Pitchford award recipient is Leia Papanicholas, of St. Charles North High School. It does not happen every year that an opposing coach nominate the Pitchford but this year it happened. Coach Bullman, from St. Charles East, had this to say about Leia:

"I have watched my own team call a horrible line call in a super-breaker to decide a match, only to have [these two,] specifically, Leia still call honest close balls in for us. She does what is right when no one is watching, and she handles herself with poise and confidence.

The match that most comes to mind is their conference title match this year. The two of them were playing a cross time rival (not us this time) and the fans from the opposing school were being awful to these two. Twice I watched the opposing families have to be reminded of sportsmanlike cheering and sportsmanlike attitudes toward the competitors, yet they never yielded. Most kids in this type of situation do one of two things: shrink away to nothingness or start to engage with the crowd. Leia and her partner did neither; they focused on themselves, on the team, on the partnership. They battled with this team for nearly 3 hours and ended up coming out on top in third set. This is the moment where you would expect the girls to cheer as if they won Wimbledon or look the opposing families right in the eyes as they smiled. They did not. They simply shook hands, waited for the opposing players to leave the court *and* then celebrated with their coach and team. They win, but they do so the right way."

After reading Leia's letters of recommendations, the committee is very impressed with her many talents and we are proud to recognize her as

this year's class AA Pitchford Sportsmanship award winner. Congratulations, Leia!

PITCHFORD NOMINATIONS

To nominate a male player, please send your nomination to Matt Goss by June 7, 2021

FORM:

<http://www.ihstca.org/assets/uploads/documents/IHSTCA%20Sportsmanship%20nomination%20form.pdf>

IN REMEMBRANCE



Tom Henderson

October 27, 1930-January 24, 2021

Coach Henderson was one of the founding fathers of the IHSTCA. He was inducted into the IHSTCA Hall of Fame in 1987 and was later gifted the Lifetime Achievement Award. Tom Henderson coached at Ottawa High School from 1954-2000. His 1970 team finished third at state, he won 42 sectional/district titles. He was named "Coach of the Year" in 1971 and in 2000.

Coach Henderson was truly a pioneer in our sport and set our association on the path that it is on now.

To view the obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/mywebtimes/name/tom-henderson-obituary?pid=197808290>



Bill Wham

Coach Wham a long-time coach for Lyons Township High School. In 2019, he is an inductee of the IHSTCA Hall of Fame. Wham had an amazing coaching career with 17 sectional titles, 21 top 10 state finishes, and 2 state trophies with both the boys and girls teams. In 2007, he coached state doubles champion team of Dave Robare and John Smits. In 2006, Coach

Wham was named the IHSTCA Boys Coach of the Year. Wham later coached Lahari Yelamanchili to a 2016 state single championship. Bill had over 600 dual wins during his tennis-coaching career.

A celebration of life is planned for Friday, June 11 from 2-5 pm at the Drake Oak Brook, 2301 York Road, Oak Brook.

TAX NOTIFICATION

The Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association's 990-PF annual tax return for the year 2000 has been filed and can be inspected (along with our exemption application) by contacting Patricia Shaw at pshaw-5@hotmail.com.



IHSTCA CONTACT INFORMATION

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State Format, Chair
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To submit articles/items, send to:
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