

Assistant Girls Coach of the Year John Leighton – Stevenson High School

Josh Leighton is the Director of Tennis at Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park. He spends summers teaching lessons to individuals and groups, hiring staff, coordinating staff schedules, determining programming, staffing the programming, busy running the pro shop and billing. Josh also works with high school students in teaching them how to run tennis lessons/camps. Coach Leighton sits on the board of directors for the IHSTCA and is USPTA certified.

Here are some of the highlights from the 2013 season:

This season the team had tremendous success. After finishing 10th last year and qualifying three entries, this season saw the team win conference (with state champions Lake Forest in our conference), qualify the entire team for state, and finish 4th overall as a team (only three points behind state champs Hinsdale and Lake Forest). On an individual level, each of our six state entries gained AT LEAST all-state honorable mention. We had one doubles team that was 1st team all-state, one doubles entry and singles entry that were 2nd team all-state, and a singles player whom was honorable mention. To cap off the season, our doubles team was the first girls' doubles team in Stevenson history to win the state championship.

Stevenson HS head coach, Tom Stanhope secretly nominated Josh for this award. Here are some of his remarks regarding Coach Leighton:

“The bottom line is that, as coaches, we owe a lot of our successes to our student-athletes and their parents. This season, we had very strong players. But due to Josh Leighton's strengths in coaching, we were able to turn a group of strong players into a strong team. This team is close with one another, believed in one another, formed friendships with one another, and found many different successes with one another. These types of seasons are the kind that we strive to achieve every season, and I don't feel it could have occurred without Josh Leighton.”