

Regional Girls Coaches of the Year – Class 1A

Tom Castronovo (Wheaton St. Francis)

Tom's St. Francis team tied for 10th at the IHSA state tournament. The Spartans finished 17-7 in dual matches and won the IHSA Joliet Catholic sectional, qualifying four girls for state. At the state meet, Alyssa Gulli and Marnie Kopec finished 6th in doubles, leading St. Francis to its first ever top ten finish.

Steve Johnson (Ottawa)

Steve Johnson's Ottawa Pirate squad finished with a dual record of 11-1 and tied for 10th at the IHSA state tournament. Ottawa won two Saturday invites as well as the Northern Illinois Big 12 West Conference title and the IHSA sectional crown. Steve's team qualified four players for the state meet, with Katie McGraw and Ellie Gallagher finishing 4th in doubles.

Hayden Esker (Chatham-Glenwood)

Hayden Esker's Glenwood Titans compiled a 9-0 dual record in 2017 and finished 2nd at the IHSA state tournament. Glenwood won two Saturday events during the season before going on its magical post-season run. Hayden's team won its sectional title, qualifying five players for the state meet. Led by a 2nd place doubles finish by Anna Lytchakov and Medha Venigalla, the Titans won their first tennis trophy in school history.

Darlene Esker (Effingham St. Anthony)

Darlene Esker's St. Anthony girls finished its dual season with a perfect 13-0 record. The Bulldogs won the IHSA sectional title and finished 6th at the state meet. Singles star Emilee Mossman finished in the top 12, while the doubles duo of Allison Kowalke and Claire Wortman finished in the state's top 8.