

## **Girls Assistant Coaches of the Year - 2010**

**Jerry O'Connor (Benet Academy)**  
**Tom Draski (Oak Park Fenwick)**

This year's co-winners of the David Youngvorst Assistant Coach of the Year, Jerry O'Connor of Benet Academy and Tom Draski of Fenwick High School, have impeccable credentials and a long-time commitments to the game of tennis and high school athletics as well as knowing each other very well from coaching in the same conference.

Jerry O'Connor helped the Benet girls to a sixth place finish at the 2010 state tournament, the second highest in school history, and qualified all six players for the state tournament from a tough sectional in Naperville.

"Having coached high school tennis for 38 years, the last five at Benet, I feel I can fairly asses the merit of an assistant coach's contribution to the program," said head coach Bob Comerford. "Jerry O'Connor is the most productive and organized coach I have ever had as an assistant. He was responsible for coaching our second singles player at the state tournament and was recognized by our varsity players as a significant and positive mentor at our awards banquet."

Athletic Director Gary Goforth adds, "His professionalism and the way he expects the girls to behave on the courts are outstanding. We already had pretty high expectations but he has actually raised them. He has the girls believing in themselves and their teammates."

Assistant Coach Tom Draski of Fenwick had an equally positive effect on his team this season and in the 35 seasons he has been involved in coaching high school tennis.

"It may seem ironic that I am nominating my assistant coach Tom Draski for this award since this season was the first in twelve years that his frosh-soph team did not win the ESCC title," said Fenwick Coach Gerard Sullivan. "The amazing thing was that he made his team feel like champions this year, and they played their best tennis of the season in a comeback effort in the tournament that just fell short. This streak and its positive ending are entirely the result of the planning and motivation of Coach Draski. His qualities as a coach make him deserve the highest recognition available."

Sullivan also praised Draski's ability to improve younger players that eventually become varsity caliber athletes, as well as his inclusion of players not typically involved with tennis through Fenwick's no-cut program.

The Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association is proud to recognize Benet Academy's Jerry O'Connor and Fenwick's Tom Draski as the 2010 Co-Assistant Coaches of the Year.  
Assistant Boys Coach of the Year - 2010