

# Girls Coach of the Year - 2005

## *Geoff Gluck - Deerfield*

The winner of the 2005 Girls' Coach of the Year, Geoff Gluck, is no stranger to recognition from the IHSTCA. Already a member of the association's Hall of Fame, Coach Gluck added to his tennis resume with his first state team title to go with six conference and eleven sectional crowns as well as seven state top ten finishes.

A head coach at Deerfield for the past 29 years, Coach Gluck's long-time assistant Jeff Daube summarized his 2005 season this way: "I have never worked with anyone so concerned with the welfare of his players from first to last, his coaching staff from top to bottom and overall philosophy of his program both on and off the court. Geoff's willingness to be in the background rather than the limelight was illustrated at this year's state tournament. Geoff has never had a state championship team – until this year. Yet, instead of taking a seat to coach our doubles team on court in a critical finals match, he stayed with his assistant to maintain the chemistry of the weekend. I'm not sure every coach would have done the same thing with our first team championship on the line."

Another assistant coach and former player, Creary Powers, writes, "Geoff focuses not only on the girls' performance on the court but also on who they are as young ladies. The goals of the tennis team are to have a positive experience on and off the court as well as to represent themselves in a way that would make them proud."

Deerfield's assistant athletic director, Gayle Luehr, writes, "Athletes that go through the tennis program learn about team, which is quite an accomplishment in such an individual sport. They learn the importance of working hard while playing with class. They learn that the good of the team is sometimes more important than the good of the individual. Geoff teaches these non-tennis skills to his players through his honest, thoughtful communication and his true concern for the growth and well-being of each of his athletes. Geoff is the first one to give credit for this state championship to his players in the entire program and his coaching staff."

Tom Gillhouse, Deerfield athletic director, adds his support of Coach Gluck. "I have been an athletic director for 24 years and have never met a more caring person. He is genuinely sincere and the type of person you would want to have coach your daughter. He always has the best interest of the individual and yet team in mind as he makes his decisions. Kids and parents alike love him. He is a fatherly type and yet has made some tough decisions in regards to students and sportsmanship. His teams have been successful and, obviously, this year has been a dream season for him."

Dawn Fendt, girls' coach at Glenbrook South, writes, "Geoff has been extremely helpful to me in learning how to become a head girls' tennis coach. He is a leader among the CSL coaches. It is rare these days to find coaches who are child centered; Geoff is truly a leader in this area."

Although retired from the special education classroom, Geoff continues to coach, educate and shape the lives of young people. Congratulations, Geoff, on this well-deserved honor