

Girls Coach of the Year - 2009

Jessica Fetzner - Crystal Lake Prairie Ridge

Crystal Lake Prairie Ridge's Jessica Fetzner finished the decade with an incredibly consistent run, winning five of the last six sectional team titles. Her teams also finished in the top ten at the last three state tournaments: 3rd in 2007, 4th in 2008, and 8th in 2009. Jessica capped off the decade by coaching the team of Allison Murphy and Carolyn Huerth to the state doubles title in 2009, the first tennis state championship in school history.

Murphy and Huerth's accomplishments, along with top eight finishes in 2007 and 2008 by Jackie and Julie Schwartz, highlight the overall success Jessica Fetzner's doubles teams have enjoyed over the past few years. Prairie Ridge has dominated the Fox Valley Conference as well, winning the team title the last six years in a row.

"Part of my coaching philosophy is that tennis at the high school level is a team sport," Fetzner said. "That means everyone practices together every night because it makes the whole team better. We have had the great fortune of having quite a few very strong players in the last few years; seeing them work hard every night in practice has inspired the other members of the team to reach their full potential."

Coaching success runs in Fetzner's bloodlines; she is the daughter of Judy Elder, who this year is being inducted into the IHSTCA Hall of Fame. Elder, who passed suddenly of acute leukemia during the 2008 girls season, continues to inspire Fetzner.

"The determination she had to break down barriers and the compassion she had for her players have been incredible inspirations to me as a coach. She was my mentor and best friend."

Fetzner brings the same determination to the job at Prairie Ridge. Whether organizing and running fund raisers, holding summer tennis camps, hosting summer tournaments, or juggling her family life with two small children, Jessica has "a full life."

Congratulations, Jessica, on being named 2009 IHSTCA Coach of the Year.