

Girls Coach of the Year - 2010

Denise Murphy – Lake Forest

Lake Forest's Denise Murphy caps off an amazing year today by being recognized as the 2010 IHSTCA girls Coach of the Year. Her team's achievements were unprecedented in school history; the Scouts swept through the regular season 21-0, were undefeated in conference play, won the sectional title, and finished the season in style, winning the state team title.

Murphy's team achieved other successes off the court by making an impact in her community. This year, her team helped rehab an old rectory in North Lake County that will be the future site of a domestic violence shelter, took part in JDRF Walk for a Cure, and organized the 4th annual Halloween party for 30 children at a domestic violence shelter in North Lake County. "I am proud of my team for stepping away from the tennis / Lake Forest world and realizing how lucky they are," said Murphy, "and really making a difference. Together, this team has made a huge impact ... both on and off the court."

In the summer, Murphy runs her "For the Love of the Game" tennis camp, a program she started five years ago, that is designed to develop each child's tennis skills and an awareness of helping others. Each year, the camp donates thousands of dollars to local charities. Each child earns points to determine the amount of money donated; through each child's hard work, he or she is able to make a difference.

Lake Forest's athletic director, Tim Burkhalter, sums up Murphy's impact on the Scouts' tennis program:

"Lake Forest High School has a long and proud tradition of winning tennis, with many successful individuals and teams over the years. The area that Denise has contributed the most is summed up in the following thought she shared with me one day a few years back when she said she wanted people to respect and admire the level of our tennis, but to also respect and admire our kids and our program because we play the game the right way."

It sure sounds like a lot of Lake Forest girls are experiencing a terrific education both on and off the court.

Congratulations, Denise, on being named 2010 IHSTCA Coach of the Year.