

Hall of Fame Inductee

Craig Hunter – Libertyville High School

Craig Hunter is synonymous with tennis at Libertyville High School. He has been involved with the boys program for 24 years and the girls for 21, amassing seven conference championships, six IHSA sectional titles, seven IHSA top ten finishes and two IHSA third-place trophies.

Craig considers himself “a little more animated” compared to other coaches. His passion for tennis has been a life-long affair, beginning during his playing days at Libertyville and Graceland College. He considers himself fortunate to have returned home to coach the Libertyville program, and he has bounced between the varsity and JV programs ever since. Craig is known for his meticulousness for detail and preparation. His wife recalls that Craig can remember every stroke from every match he has ever coached!

Craig has been inspired by a who’s who list of coaches, including Dale Yingst, Jim Trudeau, Larry Faulkner, Steve Rudman, Geoff Gluck, Barry Nixon and Pat Grant.

Craig believed in “playing hard, playing fair and enjoying your teammates both on and off the courts.” He particularly remembers 1978, the year Kreg Yingst won the state tournament with a record of 33-0. Craig remembers being left to coach the championship match, as Kreg’s coach (his father) could not stand to watch his son. Craig also cherishes his 1983 and 1984 girls teams who finished 3rd in the state both years and still “gets a kick’ out of seeing their state banners hanging in the main gym at Libertyville High.

As Craig so aptly stated, “I was fortunate to have a lot of great players . . . my job during my tenure was to make sure they got on the bus and most of them did. It has been and continues to be an incredible journey.”

Congratulations, Craig, on your outstanding coaching career at Libertyville High School. Welcome to the IHSTCA Hall of Fame!