

Hall of Fame Inductee

Jim Christopher - Wheeling High School



For the last 40 years, Jim Christopher has been a pillar of the Wheeling High School tennis programs as well as Illinois high school tennis. Whether grinding out the daily routines of coaching the boys and girls of Wheeling, running countless USTA satellite and qualifying tournaments, being a site director for 40 years for the state tournament, or running conference tournaments for both the boys and girls, Jim has rightfully earned today's induction into the IHSTCA Hall of Fame.

Jim has also been active in the IHSTCA from the beginning. He has been a board member for over 25 years, was the first (and only) to chair the membership committee, and has been responsible for tracking membership, century club, and longevity information for over 1,000 different coaches during that time period!

As a coach, Jim has over 400 wins in arguably one of the toughest conferences in Illinois. He has coached 71 tennis seasons, 31 with the boys and 40 with the girls. He said that some of his most memorable seasons were those when Wheeling beat Arlington and Barrington, because those squads were always some of the toughest in the state.

Since his retirement from teaching, Jim says his family is getting back much of the time he had given away while coaching! Some days, he can be found taking his 4-year old granddaughter to Mid-Town Tennis Club, teaching her the game he loves. Of course, he also still runs the conference tournaments for boys and girls, traveling back and forth from his new home on the Florida beach!

We want to thank Jim for his devotion to Illinois high school tennis as well as the IHSTCA. Earlier this month, Jim was inducted into the Wheeling High School Hall of Fame. Now, it is time for our coaches association to present Jim with its highest honor. Welcome to the IHSTCA Hall of Fame!