

Michael Hand

For more than the last 25 years, Michael Hand has been immersed in Illinois High School tennis. Whether grinding out the daily routines of coaching the boys and girls at Benet Academy, working summer camps tirelessly, or serving unselfishly with the IHSTCA, Michael has earned our praises.

With more than 400 dual meet wins, 26 conference championships, three IHSA sectional titles, a host of All State players and finalists along with top team State finishes, Mike has instilled in his players the idea that, “Never short change yourself or kid yourself. Out work your opponent and leave it on the court.” That philosophy apparently has seemed to work. Michael does not appoint captains nor have a Most Valuable Player as he feels all players are valuable and important in their own right. He loves to have students help students and leans heavily on his seniors for leadership. Michael leads his players on a path of discovery, really more of a journey than a season per say.

Influenced by Rodger King, Mike Burke, Jay Kramer, Chuck Morrison and Joan Callaway, Michael’s passion for coaching comes from the “joy” he finds in the day to day slog. Michael has served on the IHSTCA Board of Directors, been the IHSTCA President on two different occasions, served on the Advisory Board and was the first to research the “team” State tournament along with the possibility of splitting into two classes. Michael’s journey is far from over and his lasting commitment to the IHSTCA and his players is substantial. The IHSTCA would warmly like to welcome Michael Hand to its’ Hall of Fame for 2011. Michael; well deserved!