

Hall of Fame

Sena Drawer – St. Charles East High School

Feeling like "... she (is) was the luckiest person in the world..." describes the deep passion and vibrant enthusiasm Sena Drawer from St. Charles East brings to her teams each and every day coaching. Having spent 10 seasons in the boys program and more than 25 seasons in the girls, Sena has experienced abundant program success emphasizing total player development, having fun and promoting tennis as a lifetime sport. Sena coaches by the mantra that life is 10% what happens and 90% how we react to it, although she is the first to say this thought is not hers, but borrowed from another coach.

Sena contributes much of her accomplishments to her mentors and is quick to point out how much she has relied on her peers for support and direction. Sena attributes her coaching success to two coaches, Tim Daily the former St. Charles State winning soccer coach and Mary Carlson the St. Charles tennis coach prior to Sena. She has learned communication, the true meaning of team, dedication, fairness and caring from these life mentors. Sena hopes she can live up to the standards set by her guides.

And this help has resulted in more than 250 wins, 11 conference titles, 10 sectional titles and three top 10 IHSA State finishes. Implementing a no-cut policy, Sena oversees some 90 girls in her program across three levels from year-to-year. They do community service projects, celebrate player accomplishments with St. Charles East specific awards and recognitions, have a teacher recognition night, a senior night, a detailed parent-player handbook and value sportsmanship above all else.

Sena served on the Pitchford Sportsmanship Award Committee for several years and was fortunate enough to have her program honored with that award as one of her girls, Stephanie Youngberg, won the prestigious honor. She has coached a host of great players and remembers 1989 clearly as her doubles team placed an outstanding 4th at the State Tournament. Sena also remembers the seven surreal sectionals where her players faced one another in the finals and loved the, "...no lose situation to cheer for St. Charles..." battles.

Sena articulates that, "... an important part of our program is to live and apply this philosophy (life is 10% what happens and 90% how we react to it) as the girls learn how to deal with success, disappointment, sportsmanship and working as a team." In the end, Sena has made a difference in the face of Illinois tennis and she has made a difference to hundreds of student-athletes that have been lucky enough to play for her. Sena, our warmest congratulations and welcome to the IHSTCA Hall of Fame! Bravo!