

A-E-O MEYER-HARTE AWARD - 2009 RECIPIENT

An A-E-O Tribute to IBCA President and Hall of Famer

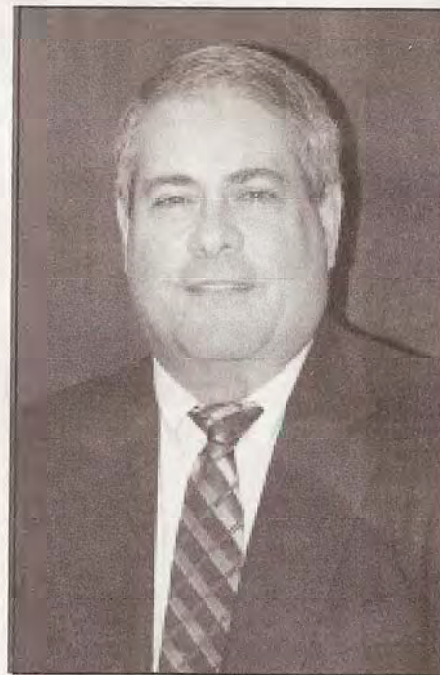
JIM TRACY

The current president of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) has excelled in the classroom, on the athletic fields and in much more in life. Coach Jim Tracy graduated from St. Laurence H.S. in 1972 as a 4 year honor student. He lettered in football (Recipient of "Karl Krueger" coaches award), basketball ("Best Defensive Player") & track. He was selected as one of "Top Ten Seniors" of his graduating class and now in its Hall of Fame. He is a 1977 graduate of Illinois Benedictine College (cum laude grad); a 3-sport athlete earning All-Conference, All-District, and All-State Academic honors as well as All-District football honors. He received his MA degree from Illinois State University (MA) while a graduate assistant coach.

He started his highly successful coaching career in 1978 at DeLaSalle Institute, where his lower level teams were 70-22 over 5 years and as varsity coach for 7 years his teams were 135-52, with one Catholic League title, 5 regional championships, and 10 holiday tournament championships. In 1990, Tracy moved to Central High School in Springfield, Missouri and took over a program that had won two games the previous season. He improved that team to 8 wins in his first year and 15 wins in his second. In 1992, Tracy returned to the Chicago area, becoming the head coach at Reavis High School where in his first two seasons, he set records for the most wins (19 and then 21-6) in school history. Over the course of 15 years, his teams have won 20 games six times. During the 2003-04 season, Reavis basketball finished a record-breaking season (23-3), winning the SICA North championship with an undefeated 10-0 mark. In Tracy's 15 years at Reavis, the Rams were 269-130, making him the winningest coach in school history, with 3 SICA North conference championships, 7 SICA North/SSC conference runners-up and 13 holiday tournament championships.

Coach Tracy has received numerous coaching honors, including Chicago Catholic League, IBCA District 2 and District 7, SICA North, and Southtown Economist "Coach of the Year" Awards. Tracy completed his 24th year as a varsity head coach in 2007, after which he was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. His career varsity record is 427-210. Tracy continues to serve as an assistant varsity basketball coach and Athletic Coordinator at Reavis High School.

He and his wife of 28 years, Caryl, live in Oak Lawn. They have three children, Jennifer, Jim, and Julie.



"It is our privilege to provide this special IBCA and A-E-O tribute and award to Coach Jim Tracy as a giving and caring person of integrity and character who has demonstrated courage in overcoming adversity while excelling and succeeding in life."

- KEN DENZEL, an IBCA Hall of Famer and the Founder (1963) / Chair of the not-for-profit A-E-O International Center for Athletic and Educational Opportunities.

"Jim is tireless in his efforts to help our program. He selflessly works year-round for the student-athletes at Reavis High School."

- JEFF SMITH, Head Boys Basketball Coach - Reavis High School

"Jim Tracy is a man of the highest character and utmost sincerity. He is a true friend to the game of basketball and has dedicated his life to adding value to those around him."

- RICH CZESLAWSKI, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach - Crystal Lake Central High School

"Jim is the kindest, most caring coach I have ever met. When scouting Reavis / Romeoville, I had to stop writing up plays. My diagram was of

Jim meeting the refs at the far free throw line. At that time, plays did not matter, Jim was putting on a clinic with the ref. I laughed all night."

- TODD SUTTON, Varsity Boy's Basketball Coach - Neuqua Valley High School

"We have had many great presidents of the IBCA and Jim Tracy, our present president, ranks at the top of the list. He has done so much in the past years to promote the goals of the IBCA. Jim has had great vision and has worked daily to achieve our goals, especially in securing sponsors and the creation of a tremendous website. He is a unique person who has implemented many of his ideas to improve all of the goals of the IBCA. He is a great human being and very unselfish with a tremendous heart and willingness to help everyone. Coach Jim Tracy has helped make the IBCA one of the best basketball organizations in the nation."

- CHUCK ROLINSKI, Executive Director of the IBCA and past recipient of the A-E-O Meyer-Harte Award.

"I have been very fortunate to have worked with and learned from numerous great high school and

college coaches throughout the State of Illinois - one of the most important having been Coach Jim Tracy since 2000. He truly is one of the best people in our profession. He deeply cares about improving himself as a coach, improving his players, helping to improve other teams' players, improving coaching and improving high school basketball throughout the state of Illinois. His efforts for the dying Coach Pappas are an example of that and that his support has been enduring and his collegial spirit unwavering. As the President of the IBCA, Coach Tracy has worked diligently to continue the tremendous work that many other great coaches have done. He is a man respected by many coaches throughout the state. Coach Tracy proved that he is a great leader of young men playing the game of basketball, but he is also a great leader of coaches and of the IBCA."

- PHIL RALSTON, English Teacher and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Geneva High School

