



Saint Viator Soccer Coach Inducted in the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches' Hall of Fame

November 19, 2010



Mike Taylor, boys' and girls' head soccer coach.

Saint Viator boys' soccer teams have won 442 games under Head Coach Mike Taylor, including winning 16 IHSA regional titles, 10 sectional titles and 12 East Suburban Catholic Conference titles, as well as two state championships.

But on Thursday, the veteran coach added another feather to his cap: He was inducted into the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches' Hall of Fame.

Taylor received a standing ovation after Saint Viator Assistant Athletic Director Mike Manno introduced him to the crowd at the boys' state soccer banquet. Each year, the banquet honors hundreds of all-state, all-sectional and all-academic players, and this year drew more than 750 people to the Diplomat West Banquet Hall in Elmhurst.

However, of all of those honored, Taylor was the only recipient given time to speak.

"Over the years, I have had the pleasure to work with many talented teams, all of whom have made my job enjoyable," Taylor said. "I am most fortunate to have been able to do what I love for 31 years, including the past 23 years at Saint Viator.

"It has afforded me the opportunity to combine my two passions, coaching and traveling," he said, "and to take players to international tournaments and experience many different cultures."

Manno helped coach the varsity team for nine seasons, and served as a chaperone when Taylor led the school's soccer teams on three trips to Europe. Just last summer they led a contingent of former players back to Taylor's homeland of Zimbabwe in South Africa to the World Cup.

"Mike is not just a coach," Manno said. "He's a friend, colleague, mentor and a father figure."

Tim Carlson, Saint Viator athletic director, said the honor takes on even added significance since the selection came from Taylor's peers.

"Mike is a great ambassador for Saint Viator and a strong advocate for his players," Carlson said, "and he continues to represent Saint Viator in a manner befitting a Hall of Fame Coach."

Jim Lindbloom, who coached soccer at Elgin High School for more than 20 years and also served as president of the IHSSCA for nine years, said the Hall of Fame award is one of the highlights of the dinner.

"It reflects not only the length of service and his success as a coach, but his service to the sport of soccer and to the IHSSCA," Lindbloom said. "The entire membership of more than 250 members across the state votes him in."