



Long-Time Saint Viator Basketball Coach Retires from the Game

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After 24 years as head coach, Joe Majkowski will retire from coaching.

After 34 years as a boys' basketball coach --- 24 as head coach --- Joe Majkowski has called it quits on his coaching career.

"The program is in very good shape," said Majkowski, "so I feel this is the right time for me to step down and let a new coach continue the legacy that has been built."

Majkowski finished his career with 367 wins and 280 losses.

"I can honestly say that I did exactly what I wanted to do. I ensured that we maintained our strong reputation and that our players represented Saint Viator and the basketball program to their highest potential."

Majkowski's decision to leave his post was based on a desire to make certain the players and the program are getting the most out of the experience and their head coach.

"Being the coach does not start and stop with the season. It is a year-round responsibility. I want to give my players 100 percent of my effort every moment I'm on the floor. Since I feel that I can't quite do that anymore, it is time for me to retire."

Mike Manno, a 1994 graduate who played under Majkowski, later served as an assistant coach, and now is the assistant athletic director, was shocked to hear the announcement. "Joe has been a staple in the boys' program," Manno said. "When you think of Saint Viator basketball, you automatically think of Joe Majkowski. His teams are remembered for their hard work and commitment to the game --- that is what he instilled in his players."

"Joe brought stability," Athletic Director Tim Carlson commented. "He has meant a great deal to the program and continues to mean a great deal to the school. Joe is a role model that people respect and look up to."

Carlson continued, "The sideline won't be the same next season without Joe."

Off the court, Majkowski heads up the school's counseling department, and he moderates the student peer mediation program, a structured program to resolve conflict among students.

"Joe is well respected not only by the faculty and staff at Saint Viator, but with the other coaches in the conference and the district," said the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., Saint Viator High School president. "He has been a coach, mentor, teacher and counselor to so many of our students that we are grateful for his dedication and commitment to this program and to the school."

Over his long career, he has been honored by his peers.

Majkowski was elected to the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame earlier this year.

In the spring of 2010, Majkowski was named Co-Coach of the Year for Class 3A/4A programs in District 4 by members of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

During the 2009-2010 season, Majkowski's team set a single season school record, finishing 24-7. Down the stretch, he guided his team to the school's first sectional championship and first-ever berth to the state's Elite Eight and Class 3A Super Sectionals.

His 1997 team earned the co-conference title, leading Majkowski to earn ESCC Coach of the Year that season. His 2001 team also finished as Class AA regional champs.

Majkowski lives in Arlington Heights with his wife, Nancy, and has two children, Mike and Katie, both Saint Viator graduates. His son, Mike, sits on the bench beside him as an assistant coach for the varsity team.

"Every year and every team is different," Majkowski added. "I have learned something from every player that set foot on the court and every coach that sat with me on the bench. While I will miss this program greatly, I look forward to the next chapter in my life."

A search for a new coach will begin this month. More information can be found on the school Web site, saintviator.com.