



Longtime Saint Viator Basketball Coach to be Inducted into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame

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Former boys' basketball head coach Joe Majkowski (center) talks strategy during a timeout last season.

Former Saint Viator Coach Joe Majkowski hung up his whistle last spring after 24 years as head basketball coach. But admiration from his coaching colleagues continues to pour in.

The Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president of Saint Viator High School, recently announced that Majkowski had been selected by members of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association for induction into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame.

“He has been a coach, mentor, teacher and counselor to so many of our students,” Egan said. “We are grateful for his dedication and commitment to this program and to the school.”

His formal induction will come during the 40th annual Hall of Fame induction dinner, taking place April 28 at Illinois State University in Bloomington.

“I can honestly say that I did exactly what I wanted to do,” Majkowski said in April when he announced his retirement. “I worked to ensure that we maintained our strong reputation and that our players represented Saint Viator and the basketball program to their highest potential.”

Overall, Majkowski spent 34 years in the Lions' basketball program, compiling a record of 367 wins and 280 losses as head coach. His latest honor comes after he was inducted into the East Suburban Catholic Conference last spring, and named in 2010 as co-coach of the year in 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.

The Saint Viator basketball program continues to bear his imprint. His assistant for the last eight years, Mike Howland, runs the program, with Majkowski's son, Michael, serving as an assistant. Both are Saint Viator graduates — Howland graduated in 1998 and Mike Majkowski in 2005 — and played under Majkowski.