

## **Will Kupisch (Downers Grove North High School)**

Will Kupisch spent his entire coaching career at Downers Grove North High School. He coached boys cross country for 28 years with 22 years as head coach and he was boys track and field assistant coach for 33 years. With Will as head CC coach The Trojans qualified for the State Meet 8 times. The 2000 season proved to be the most successful of his career as the Trojans won the tough West Suburban Silver, Regional, and earned the 3rd place trophy at State. Sixteen times his athletes earned all state medals in cross country. His CC team broke York's 15-year home unbeaten streak. Will began his TF coaching as the throws assistant and he coached Joe Marconi to the state shot put title in 1981. After switching to distance he helped his athletes earn a total of 40 State medals. Eight times the 3200 m. Relay placed with an IHSA State title coming in 2001. Will has been race director for the Jim Bonfield 5K Run in Downers Grove. With over 6000 entrants the race honors the memory of the Downers Grove South father, teacher, dean and coach and has generated over \$250,000 in scholarships. "While his accomplishments as a coach have been very impressive, his work in developing the character of his athletes is what defined him. Year after year, he fielded teams of 80-100 runners, but each boy was made to feel that he had a special role on the team."