

Mark North (Sparta High School)

Mark North built the Sparta high school cross country and track programs into one of Illinois' best over his tenure as head coach. Since 1987 sixteen of his boys cross country teams and 11 of his girls cross country teams have qualified for the State meet. Seven times they placed in the top eight at State. Eight of his teams won Sectional Championships. Individually he coached Becky Garrett to the Class A State Championship in 1990. His athletes earned a total of 18 State Cross Country medals. Coach North boys' track and field team won the IHSA Class A State Championship in 2004. They also earned second-place and third place trophies. His boys won 37 individual State medals, including one 1st place, and his relays won 22 State medals, including one 1st place. Mark was awarded ITCCCA Track & Field Coach of the Year in 2004. Mark is a regular at the ITCCCA-South Clinic and has served as a member of the IHSA Advisory Committee in Track & Field. "Anyone who has met Mark knows of his enthusiasm and commitment to coaching. He truly exemplifies the definition of coach. His leadership and high moral character have set him above the norm."