

Michael Dau to be Inducted into the Illinois Handball Association Hall of Fame

At a ceremony on July 15, 2017(1pm-CST), at the IHA & La Grange Park District's 28th Annual 3-Wall Handball Tournament, @ Gordon Park in La Grange, Illinois, Lake Forest College Handball Coach Michael Dau will be inducted into the IHA Hall of Fame. The induction is a long time coming for the most successful handball coach in the nation, let alone the state of Illinois. Coach Dau has been the Handball Coach at Lake Forest College since 1968 and has amassed a record that is unmatched by any coach in handball history. He has led Lake Forest College to over 50 Collegiate National Championships. The title run began in 1971 and included a streak of seven straight National Championships from 1978 to 1984. His success continues to the present day. Lake Forest College has claimed 13 Men's, 11 Women's, and 14 combined Championships in the last 20 years and has placed no worse than fourth in any of the team standings since 1996. Lake Forest College has finished first in all three categories seven times in program history (2001, 2005, 2009-12, 2015). Under Dau's direction, 74 players have been named All-American a total of 189 times with a combined 50 Open Singles and Open Doubles Collegiate National Championships. "It was a no-brainer, to induct Coach Dau into the Illinois Handball Association Hall of Fame," said IHA President James Komsthoeft. "His track record speaks for itself. He has defined generations of Handball in Illinois".

Though the on-court successes of Coach Dau's teams and players are unparalleled, his contribution to the game extends much further than the court. Coach Dau has been a mentor to the hundreds of players that have come through his program. Coach Dau, an alumnus of Lake Forest College himself, graduating in 1958 after which time he entered the Officer Candidate Program of the Marine Corps. When he began the handball program at Lake Forest College in 1968, he brought a no-nonsense approach to coaching handball. However, Coach Dau was always interested in helping the students succeed off the court. While many of his players did go on to play professional handball, the vast majority of his players went on to have successful careers off the court in fields such as business, healthcare, and the law.