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**DAVE POWER, LONG-TIME FENWICK GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH,  
TO RETIRE AT CONCLUSION OF 2021-22 SEASON**

*After 29 years at the Friars' helm -- and soon to have 1,000 victories --  
the Catholic high school legend plans to step aside from his coaching duties.*

OAK PARK, IL, November 1, 2021 – Members of the Fenwick girls' basketball team commence their 2021-22 campaign on November 17, which also marks the beginning of the “Dave Power Farewell Tour.” After 29 years as the Friars' head coach, Power has announced that he will retire from coaching following this season. Two days later, on November 19, he is projected to chalk up his 1,000th varsity victory. In the long, storied history of Illinois high school basketball, only the late Gene Pingatore of St. Joseph High School (Westchester, IL), which closed this past June, and Dorothy Gaters, who retired from coaching last week at Marshall High School in Chicago, have recorded more wins.



Once the basketball season concludes next February or March, Mr. Power will remain as a faculty member in Fenwick's Physical Education/Health Department, notes Principal Peter Groom.

Power is the Friars' first and only girls' basketball coach. He began leading Fenwick's young women on the hardwood during the 1992-93 season, when the previously all-boys school went co-ed. In February of 2020, [the Catholic school in Oak Park, IL, named its locker room for him.](#) While proud of Fenwick's 16 consecutive titles in the East Suburban Catholic Conference (additional statistics are listed below) as well as his players who

have competed collegiately and even professionally, the coach contends that his primary source of pride comes from what these young women have achieved off the court.

“I really don’t want this retirement news to distract our team,” Power insists. “We need to remain focused on our goals for the up and coming season. During [state] tournament time, I always tell my seniors to play every game as if it’s their last -- because it very well may be. Well, that’s my approach for this ‘farewell’ season. As the years have flown by, I’m now a ‘senior’ as well! I promise that I’m going to coach *every* game, including in the playoffs, like it could be my very last one.”

### **Admitting girls since 1992**

Mr. Groom adds: “When Fenwick High School made the decision to go co-educational, the school felt it was very important to hire the best girls’ coach possible to make the transition as smooth as possible. This is when we hired Dave Power to coach our girls’ basketball and softball teams. Needless to say, that decision was among the best our school ever has made.

“The first program that Dave led downstate was our softball program, when we finished third in state [AA] in 1998. Shortly thereafter, we regularly participated in the state tournament in girls’ basketball. In fact, Fenwick scheduled professional-development days on the Friday of the 3A and 4A state tournaments because our success became expected!

“While Dave had tremendous success on the court and the diamond, he was most passionate about the success of our girls’ academically while in a safe environment. Dave saw his success completely intertwined with all of our female students at Fenwick. While many in our community played an enormous role in our successful transition to co-education, no one was as impactful as Dave.”

### **Career Coaching Highlights**

- *Power is in his 45th year of girls’ coaching high school basketball: 29 at Fenwick (1992-present); 10 at Immaculate Heart of Mary (Westchester, 1982-92) and 5 at Proviso West (Hillside, 1977-82, including one season at the sophomore level).*
- *He has won three Illinois state championships – two at Fenwick (2001 & ’07) and one at IHM (1987). (Power could be the only coach in the IHSA’s large-school division -- maybe in both -- to win a state championship at more than one school.)*
- *The 2001 and 2007 state-champion teams both finished the season ranked No. 2 in the nation (USA Today). Also, Fenwick is the last school to win the state title before the IHSA went to four classes.*
- *His 2003 team was state runner-up, and the Friars finished in 3rd place in both 2000 and ’10.*

- *Coach's 997 career varsity HS victories to date (997-340: a winning percentage of .75) include 9 trips to the Elite Eight, 12 IHSA Sectional & 31 Regional titles.*
- *He was National Coach of the Year (EA Sports) and 3x Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year; inducted into three Halls of Fame (IBCA, ESCC & GCAC); has coached in 8 All-Star games, including the McDonald's All American Game.*

### **More Praise for Power**

“Coach Power is one for the ages,” exclaims Fenwick Athletic Director Scott Thies, a 1999 alumnus. “I first got to know Coach Power as my PE/Health teacher at Fenwick. I remember playing him in HORSE one day during gym class thinking I had him beat -- that was until he started shooting three-pointers from his knees. It was over from there!

“When I was a young teacher and coach, Coach Power was a great mentor and someone I could talk X's and O's with at lunch,” Thies continues. “We used to pull out the salt and pepper shakers and go through different sets together. Keep in mind I was 24 years old at the time and he had won several state championships, yet he always picked my brain!”

Thies goes on: “Watching Coach Power work with his teams over the years, it was very clear to me that much of his success as a coach had a lot to do with what he did off the court. Coach Power was invested in all of his kids in wanting them to be successful beyond basketball. He built strong relationships with his athletes and, in doing so, they responded to his coaching. He is a great example to all coaches, and am honored to call Coach Power a friend!

### **Fenwick: Celebrating 93 Years**

[Fenwick High School](#), founded in 1929, is a Dominican college preparatory secondary institution with a co-educational enrollment of approximately 1,100 students. Guided by Dominican Catholic values, its mission is to inspire excellence and educate each student to lead, achieve and serve. Today, Fenwick has a Golden Apple teacher on its faculty and an alumni list that includes a Skylab astronaut, Rhodes Scholars, Pulitzer Prize winners, a Heisman Trophy recipient and other leaders making a positive impact locally and internationally. Fenwick is celebrating its 93<sup>rd</sup> academic year in 2021-22.

*Additional photos are available upon request.*

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