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Queen of Peace Athletic Director is one of the state's best

Queen of Peace High School Athletic Director Darlene Graf was selected as the Illinois Athletic Directors Association Athletic Director of the Year for Class 3A/4A, Division 3. She was selected as top among 110 high schools.

Graf, who serves as the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference president, has been athletic director at Peace for six years. She is a resident of Palos Hills.

This is the second time Graf's has been named as an IADA Athletic Director of the Year. In 2000-01 she was recognized as the Maria High School athletic director.

"Ms. Graf's accomplishment is wonderful. The Peace High School community is proud of her and knows what an asset she is to the athletic program. Now the rest of the state is aware of Ms. Graf's outstanding leadership and the exceptional dedication she brings to school every day," said President/Principal Dr. Kathleen Hanlon.

A former volleyball and softball coach, Graf has spent 40 years in the Catholic educational system. She has been an athletic director for 30 years.

"The students come first in all I do professionally. That's the bottom line," Graf said of her philosophy. "Whatever decision I make, I take into account what is in their best interest and how it affects them and their families."

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