

Ken Jakalski was inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association in January of 2005. Jakalski, a keynote speaker at several clinics across the country, was honored this past June as one of the eight finalists for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year Award.

In order to become a National Finalist, Jakalski's career credentials had to go through two separate rounds of screening. "I'm really humbled to be considered one of the top eight candidates for this national award," noted Jakalski. "Many of my colleagues from around the country have won multiple state titles and have coached numerous state champions, state record holders, and even future Olympians. My teams haven't won any state championships, and my career record isn't all that impressive. What I've brought to the sport is service, technical innovation, and training expertise. I guess the committee felt these things are just as important."