

Teen-ager makes comeback from tragedy

By Tim Egan

Each time Erin Jobe of Darien takes the tennis court for Hinsdale South there is a lesson to be learned.

It's not about tennis, it's about life.

On Aug. 14, 1989, Erin was involved in a near fatal automobile accident. She was left in a coma for six days and wasn't expected to live.

"The doctors told my mother that if I came out (of the coma), I would be a vegetable at best," Erin said.

But Erin's personality was too strong to let her quit.

"She's a heck of a competitor," Hinsdale South tennis coach Bob Comerford said. "She doesn't like to lose."

Erin did come out of the coma but the prognosis was not good.

"I wasn't supposed to walk, play tennis or go to school regularly and I'm doing all those things. What inspired me most was that people said I couldn't do it. And when I did it, it gave me the best feeling and made me want to do more."

Doing more for Erin includes planning for college and being

nominated for Homecoming Queen.

"I wasn't supposed to be able to attend college," she said. "People said, 'How cute she wants to go to college'. I was planning to go to college my whole life. I really want to

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Erin Jobe

Hinsdale South student

make it work and I will."

Erin wants to attend Miami of Ohio. After she earns her bachelor degree in business she wants to attend law school and become a lawyer.

As for the Homecoming nomination, she never dreamed of it.

"I was happy to be nominated, but surprised," she said.

"I guess everyone involved has

a chance."

Not everyone involved would have been able to comeback like Erin.

"The first five months it seemed like I was sleeping all the time," she said. "I didn't have enough gumption or drive to get up and do anything."

"Tennis made the biggest difference. Every time I went to school and every time I played tennis I was handling things and everything was getting better."

Erin said that her recovery was made possible because of her family and friends.

"I couldn't have done anything if there was one less person who wasn't there," she said. "I can't believe that it happened to me and I have such wonderful people around me."

"Now that I look back I guess I put them through a lot. I have really special friends."

One of those special friends was classmate Stephanie Katsaros.

"I would get real depressed and start crying, then she would come and sit with me," Erin said. "I'm real thankful for her."



LIFE photo by Dennis Slaron

Erin Jobe of Darien credits tennis and the support of family and friends with aiding her recovery from an near fatal automobile accident.