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# Ex-Strode-inary

Pattonville star establishes himself as one of the best ever to play in SNC

**BLAKE STRODE**

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Pattonville High Coach Jeff Grass can still hardly believe how impeccable his timing was.

He became the tennis coach of the Pirates back in 2002, which was the same year a young man who has since become one of the top netters ever to compete in the Suburban North Conference - Blake Strode - came out for the team. "That was lucky," said Grass. "There probably won't be another kid like him in 30 years."

Perhaps not even that soon. Strode, who has lost just four matches in his first two years of competition and finished in the top five at state those two years, is one of those special athletes who does not come around often. Grass is enjoying Strode's stay at Pattonville while it lasts.



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