Southeastern Illinois College has looked within its own ranks to fill its men’s basketball head coaching job, as former assistant coach Josh Ervin has been promoted to the top job.

Ervin came to SIC last fall as an assistant to Justin LaReau. LaReau resigned after one season in which he and Ervin helped lead an undersized team with a short bench to a 15-11 record overall, including an impressive 11-5, second-place overall finish in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC) season.

Ervin, a Houston native, played his college ball at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. As a starting guard, he helped lead them to their first-ever NCAA Tournament in 2007. After that accomplishment, the school’s head coach, Ronnie Arrow, took the head coaching job at the University of South Alabama – and Ervin followed him as a graduate assistant.

It was there that Ervin met LaReau and followed him to SIC in 2010. Ervin now succeeds him in the head coaching role.

“Justin recommended me as his successor, and I knew I would take the job if it was offered to me,” Ervin said. “I really feel fortunate to have this opportunity.”

After last year’s team came together at the end, Ervin said there wouldn’t likely be major changes in philosophy – just a few tweaks to take advantage of increased personnel.

“I think we’ll keep a lot of the same things in place, but getting a few more bodies in here, we’ll look to apply some more full-court pressure, and on offense, probably spread the court a little more and take advantage of our good guard play.”

For now, though, Ervin is back to hitting the recruiting trail hard, and is grateful for the chance to provide continuity and camaraderie to his returning and future players.

“The guys we have feel comfortable with the transition, and that’s a big factor,” Ervin said. “We wanted to keep that good feeling we had at the end of the year goin