We are saddened to announce the passing of long-time coach and athletic director, Virgil Motsinger. Virgil, born on 21 February 1933, passed away on Wednesday, 2 March 2011 at the age of 78.

Virgil began his career at Southeastern Illinois College in 1962 as the head coach of the men’s basketball team and the athletic director. During his 35-year career at Southeastern, Virgil coached men’s baseball from 1964 to 1970, coached men’s basketball from 1962 to 1997, oversaw the development of women’s athletics during his tenure as athletic director, and taught health and physical education.

While at Southeastern, Virgil compiled 605 wins, with only 383 losses over his vast career as a basketball coach. He was inducted into the Illinois Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the NJCAA Hall of Fame, the McKendree Hall of Fame, and the SIC Athletics Hall of Fame. Virgil also received the Loren P. Dallas Outstanding Faculty Award at Southeastern. In 2006, C Building at Southeastern Illinois College was named the Virgil Motsinger Athletic Complex. In 2011, he received the Crab Orchard High School Distinguished Alumni Award.

In 1997, Virgil retired from Southeastern Illinois College. However, he remained a loyal fan and supporter of the college and its athletic program in his retirement. Virgil last attended a basketball game on 13 February 2011, where he saw his son, Mark, inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. In tribute, Virgil watched the second half of the men’s game from a seat on the team’s bench. Little did anyone know, this would be Virgil’s last game at Deaton Gymnasium.

Virgil is survived by his wife, Mata, with whom he was married for 56 years; three children; Mark (wife Suzanne) Motsinger, Mike (wife Melonie) Motsinger, and Amy (husband Garrick) Simpson. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren; Adam (wife Mariah) Dennison, Caleb Motsinger, Gabriel Motsinger, Masen Motsinger, Marcella Motsinger, Macartney Motsinger, and Abigail Simpson; and 2 great-grandchildren, Chloe Dennison and Ella Dennison.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Virgil Motsinger Scholarship Fund.