

Coaches Wing:

RICH HERRIN. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

A native of Benton, Ill., Rich Herrin took a highly successful prep coaching resume to Carbondale, Ill., and transformed the Salukis into a high-energy program that produced seven-straight trips to the postseason.

Herrin resurrected a Southern Illinois program that won a total of 30 league games over a six-year span before his first campaign in Carbondale in 1985-86.

After an 8-20 mark in year one, his teams posted back-to-back 12-win seasons, before a breakout campaign in 1988-89 that featured the first of six 20-victory seasons and a trip to the NIT. In 1989-90, the Salukis posted 26 victories, captured the MVC regular-season title and advanced to the NIT.

The 1990-91 season featured 18 wins and postseason victories over Boise State and Missouri State before a loss to eventual NIT champion Stanford. Herrin's Salukis won their second MVC regular-season crown in 1991-92 and advanced to the NIT.

Years of NCAA Selection Sunday frustration ended in 1992-93, as Southern Illinois posted a 14-4 league record, good for second place, and defeated Illinois State in the finals of the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship for SIU's first NCAA Division I Tournament trip since the 1976-77 campaign.

The Salukis would also finish second in the MVC standings in 1994 and 1995, but competing as the second seed in Arch Madness, SIU took State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship titles, making Herrin the only coach in league tournament history to win three-consecutive postseason championship crowns.

In all, Herrin coached 13 seasons with the Salukis, registering a 225-174 record and 111 league victories. His 13-year tenure ranks tied for fourth on the all-time MVC coaching list, while his overall win total lists fourth and his conference only triumph sum ranks fifth.

His players included Larry Bird MVC Player of the Year selections Ashraf Amaya (1992) and Chris Carr (1995) and MVC Freshman of the Year choices Tony Harvey (1989), Amaya (1990) and Marcus Timmons (1992).

He's sent a total of four players onto the National Basketball Association, including Harvey, Amaya, Carr and Troy Hudson.

Prior to his arrival at SIU, he coached 29 seasons in the high school ranks, compiling 616 victories.