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Charlie Spoonhour Dies

Charlie Spoonhour _ the former coach at Missouri State, St. Louis and UNLV _ has died. He was 72.

Chuck Harker, the funeral director at Walker's Funeral Home in Chapel Hill, says Spoonhour died Wednesday.

Spoonhour was a popular coach known for his homespun humor and oncourt success. He was diagnosed in 2010 with a lung disease called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which required a transplant at Duke University Medical Center.

Spoonhour spent nine seasons at Missouri State, then known as Southwest Missouri State, and went 197-81 with five NCAA tournament appearances.

He left for St. Louis in 1992, compiling a 122-90 record in seven seasons with three NCAA appearances.

He retired briefly then returned to coaching at UNLV, going 54-31 in three seasons. He retired following the 2003-04 season.

Spoonhour, a Mulberry, Kansas native served three seasons as an assistant coach at Nebraska in the early 80's under Moe Iba.