



# Jerry S. Smalling

NOV 12, 1936 - APR 22, 2011



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Jerry S. Smalling**

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**D**ecatur-Jerry S. Smalling, 74, of Decatur, passed away at 10:10 a.m. Friday, April 22, 2011 at St. Mary's Hospital.

Jerry was born November 12, 1936 in Tompkinsville, Kentucky the son of Meredith E. and Bevie Ann (Sadler) Smalling. Jerry graduated from Tompkinsville High School in Tompkinsville, KY with the class of 1955. He received his Bachelors of Science degree and he received his Masters of Arts from Western Kentucky University. Jerry started his coaching career creating the football program at Gamaliel High School in Gamaliel, KY before accepting the head coaching position at Illiopolis High School in 1964 and retired from there in 1991. Smalling's Illiopolis teams went a combined record of 138- 105-6 over 28 seasons, making playoff appearances in 1974 and 1982. He later assisted on a volunteer basis with the South Piatt co-op football program involving Bement and Atwood-Hammond. Coach Smalling was inducted into the Illinois High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989. He married Patricia Masters in Gamaliel, KY on August 12, 1958. Jerry was married to Kathy (Cheatham) Hays in Decatur on October 24, 1981.

Jerry is survived by his first wife Patricia (Masters) Smalling, of Springfield, IL and their daughters Jennifer Smalling and partner Russell Gideon of Blue Mound, IL and Mickie (husband David) Rasch of Chicago, IL; his loving wife Kathy Smalling of Decatur, IL; and her sons James (wife Debby) Hays their son and Jerry's beloved grandson Zach of Mt. Zion, IL, and Mike Hays of Decatur, IL; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters Edith Dunn Bray, Mattie Comer, Mary Napier, and Mildred Bateman, and his brothers Henry Dunn, James Smalling and Winston 'Gene' Smalling.

Memorial services to celebrate Coach Jerry's life will be at 4:00 pm Sunday, May 1, 2011 at the Sangamon Valley Middle School formerly the Illiopolis Community High



## Obituary

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School with Chuck Ferris officiating. Inurnment will be held at a later date in Kentucky. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

The family of Coach Jerry Smalling is being served by Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur, IL. View online obituary and send condolences to the Smalling family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).

For further information on coach Smalling's career, please follow attached links below.

Decatur Herald and Review-April 23, 2011

[http://www.herald-review.com/sports/football/high-school-and-prep/article\\_d0f5bcea-6d65-11e0-8b99-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.herald-review.com/sports/football/high-school-and-prep/article_d0f5bcea-6d65-11e0-8b99-001cc4c002e0.html)

Decatur TV News

<http://www.wandtv.com/story/14503046/former->

Springfield Journal Register-April 23, 2011

<http://www.sj-r.com/sports/x1274367564/Former-Illiopolis-coach-Smallings-dies>

Facebook Group named Remembering Coach

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_192025484176248](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_192025484176248)



## Tribute Wall

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CF

**Carl And Rita Fieldbinder** posted:

Coach's family: Though we did not get to meet you at the memorial service for Coach Smalling today, we want you to know that we are so sorry for your loss. My husband, Carl Fieldbinder, (1967) was his quarterback on his first team at Illiopolis. For three years he led the team from losses in his freshman year to the first conference championship his senior year, thanks to Coach's leadership and encouragement. I (Rita Kapper Fieldbinder — 1966) remember Coach as a very kind, always smiling and talking person who enjoyed people. We even saw him several times later in our lives and he always remembered us and talked to us like we lived next door. He was quite a guy!

May 1 at 7:57 PM

JH

**Janet Hall** posted:

Jerry was such a wonderful friend, was so loved and will be SO missed. His great Kentucky stories were so much fun to hear and along with my husband Jimmy who was from Arkansas, they were a real pair. Lots of jokes and stories exchanged between them regarding both KY and ARK. West Eldo McDonald's will never be the same without Jerry who was popping in several times a day. He will never be forgotten that is for sure. Always helping others. I'm so happy to have had the pleasure of knowing Jerry. He was very special. Janet Hall

April 27 at 9:14 AM

BS

**Butch & Betty Smith** posted:

Jennifer, We were sorry to see where your dad has passed away. The last time I seen Jerry, he came into Linda's with your boyfriend and I went over and asked him who he knew from Blue Mound. I remember him from Illiopolis since he was coach there when I went to high school. Betty & Butch (Linda's fish cooker)

April 25 at 6:57 PM



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CH

**Connie Hadfield** posted:

I taught with Jerry in the Illiopolis School District for several years. Jerry was actually a legend in his own time. He was not only a great coach but a great person. Jerry was always the life of the party at school functions, etc. I remember vividly the many lunch hours we all spent together in the elementary school and Jerry would come over from the High School building and join us. He always had a way of picking up the humor and fun in the teacher's lounge. I always looked forward to seeing him and visiting with him at the teacher's reunions every year. Jerry is in a beautiful place now and I know he is enjoying the peace and the love of the Saviour. We will be praying for the family. Connie and Richard Hadfield

April 25 at 4:07 PM

CI

**Cindy** posted:

I am so glad he was able to make it to our class reunion last fall. He didn't think he was going to be able to but surprised us at the last minute. It was so good to see him and he hadn't changed a bit. I will never forget him. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and daughters and all those who's life he touched. Cindy

April 25 at 3:17 PM

JR

**Jon And Jani Rhodes** posted:

C-O-A-C-H – The one and only. He was looking forward to fishing in our pond this year. We saw him at the Decatur Auction at least once a month looking for that special deal. He still had his humor and full of stories. He had already confirmed his reservation to attend my class reunion. Jerry was also there for my Dad when he was going through his battle with cancer. We will miss him deeply. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Jon and Jani

April 25 at 12:33 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Jerry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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