



Joel Grose, Former Kinesiology Professor, Sports Coach, Passes Away

Joel Grose, longtime professor of kinesiology, as well as a track and football coach at California State University East Bay, passed away of a massive stroke Aug. 3.

Grose enjoyed success as an assistant football and track and field and football coach for the university between 1968-89. He coached four national field event champions and 26 All-Americans Championship Pioneer Men's Track and Field team.

As a defensive line coach for the Pioneer football team, Grose produced numerous all-conference performers and a group of NCAA Division II All-American linemen. He coached Pioneer Hall of Famers Greg Blankenship, Mark Sawyer and Mitch Bigger.

In recognition of his success as a coach, Grose was inducted into the 2000 Cal State East Bay Athletic Hall of Fame.

Grose began teaching at CSUEB in 1968, in what was then the Department of Health and Physical Education.

"His area of expertise was in motor learning and control – how humans acquire motor skills," said Don Sawyer, the President's chief of staff, who served on the coaching staffs and the Kinesiology Department faculty with Grose. "A student of Franklin Henry's at UC Berkeley, his research interest was in the general area of timing and specifically coincidence timing."

Grose was acting chair of the department during the 1971-72 academic year. He retired in June 1991 and was part of the Faculty Early Retirement Program from 1991 to 1993.

Before coming to Cal State East Bay, Grose served as director of athletics and head wrestling and track coach at Sonoma State from 1964-67.

Grose earned his BA degree in 1956, his MA in 1957, and his Ed.D. in 1963, all from the University of California, Berkeley while lettering in football and wrestling as a student-athlete there.

A resident of Byron, Grose is survived by his wife Judy.

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