

Dean of the Coaches

His First Team Lost Every
Game, But the Record For
Later Years Is Different

AS football time rolls around again this Fall, Coach Harry Hughes of Colorado State College, who left the University of Oklahoma in 1907, is coaching his thirtieth Aggie squad.

This thirty-year stand as coach at one institution marks him as dean of American football coaches in point of continuous service.

His first team at Colorado State didn't win a game and didn't score a point. But things improved fast and his record through the years has been an outstanding one.

The word is out that the usually "tough" Colorado Aggie team will be tougher than usual this Fall—supremely coached in fundamentals and with all the "razzle dazzle" it can handle.

"We're not thinking of championships, but expect to give some trouble to the teams who are," said Coach Hughes in a typical statement.

Colorado State didn't win any championships in 1939, but it gave considerable grief to the Big Seven Conference leaders. The Aggies held the eventual championships, Colorado University, 13 to 0, and lost only 13 to 6 to second-place Denver University. Final standing showed Colorado State tied for fifth place.

Harry Hughes was a star halfback on the University of Oklahoma teams of 1904, '05, '06 and '07. In 1908 and '09 he was coach and athletic director at the state normal school at Edmond, Oklahoma, and in 1910 he returned to the University of Oklahoma as assistant coach and instructor of physical education.

In 1911 Coach Hughes got his first glimpse of Colorado State College, and vice versa. The story is told that he debated whether to become a coach or a six-day bicycle racer. He says now: "Yes, that's right. At one time I thought of that."

His first Aggie team, that of 1911, lost all of its games and never crossed a goal line. In the following three years his elevens won only nine out of seventeen games. But in 1915 the Aggies won all seven of their games and their first championship.

Since 1911 Colorado State has participated in eight conference championships, two of them ties, for the best record of any school in the league with the exception of Utah University. And this despite the fact that Hughes has had one of the smallest student bodies to draw from.



Coach Harry Hughes

Having also served the Aggies as head track coach for thirty years, Hughes has produced some nationally famous speed and weight artists. In 1931 Ivan Dykman was national collegiate champion in the hammer throw, in 1934 Glenn Morris won first place in the junior A. A. U. 400-meter low hurdles, and Chet Cruikshank gained national recognition in the discus and hammer throw to bring fame to the Colorado State mentor.

Morris went ahead to win the decathlon in the 1936 Olympic games, set a new world's record in this event, and became officially the greatest all-round athlete of history.

In his thirty years of coaching Hughes has consistently fought all tendencies in his conference toward subsidizing athletes. He has had his best results from boys who were in college first of all for an education. He has no patience with the shopping or tramp athlete. On his desk is a framed cartoon showing a stubble-bearded hobo sadly regarding a college diploma. The caption is, "It takes more than this."

Hughes takes care to keep up to the minute in his football, and annually attends coaching schools to learn the latest from the best experts in the field. He also conducts an annual football school during the summer session of Colorado State College.

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