



## Warren Pugh - *Sports and Athletics*

One of the most respected and popular sports officials in the Tri-State area for five decades, Warren W. Pugh also was a longtime coach, teacher and public servant in his hometown of Wheeling. He officiated high school and college football, basketball and track. In football, he worked Ohio Valley high school games in addition to state conference, West Virginia U., Penn State and Pitt games. In basketball, he officiated every game of the 1933 and 1934 state tournaments in Buckhannon and also all 11 games of the first West Virginia Conference college tournament in 1935. He was a track official for 50 years including the prestigious Bellaire Relays for 25 years and numerous Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and other major area track and field meets.

Besides officiating contests, he was an active promoter of officiating and served as president of both the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Football and Basketball Officials' organizations. He also conducted officiating clinics and wrote a series of newspaper articles on officiating. He was honored for his service at the Bellaire Relays, Shadyside Relays and at the 1979 state track meet by the W. Va. Secondary Schools Activities Commission.

A teacher at the Linsly School, he coached Cadet swim teams to 25 straight OVAC titles, and 26 overall, before retiring in 1972. He coached numerous swimmers who went on to collegiate and AAU competition. A Red Cross instructor in water safety and life saving for 50 years, he was honored with a 40-year service pin and "Mr. Water Safety of the Ohio Valley" by the local Red Cross chapter in 1967. Active in community service, he served as City Recreation Director for 15 years. He also was twice elected Ohio County Sheriff and served from 1948-52 and 1956-60 and elected an Ohio County Commissioner

where he served from 1963-68. He was Commission president in 1967-68.

He was a Wheeling Island resident most of his life and attended Madison School and Linsly, where he was an athletic standout. He attended Alderson-Broadus for two years before transferring to Davis & Elkins to play for Hall of Fame coach Cam Henderson from 1925-28. The 1928 team won its first state college title and defeated West Virginia U., 7-0 and Navy, 2-0 on big time schedule. He was president of the D&E student body and graduated in 1931.

The Wheeling honor is his fourth Hall of Fame recognition. He earlier was inducted into the W. Va. Sports Hall, the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall and the OVAC Hall of Fame.

Pugh, who died at age 81 in 1983, and his late wife Mary had three sons--the late Robert Pugh, Thomas Pugh of New Creek, W.Va., and David Pugh of Delray Beach, Fla.