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Monday, June 1, 1964

Harry Huff, 83, Former Pioneer Coach, Succumbs

Harry J. Huff, 83, Grinnell College athletic director and track coach from 1912 through 1926, died of a heart attack in Kansas City, Mo., Friday night.

Huff was to have received a Grinnell College Alumni Association award Saturday as part of the college's 1964 commencement week program. The award will be given posthumously.

Huff, who was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, was a member of the United States' 1908 Olympic team.

A sprinter, he won the 100-yard dash and 220-yard dash at the Olympic tryouts, setting a world's record of 13 seconds in the 100-yard dash.

Though hampered by a sprained ankle and but could be placed first in his preliminary heats in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes at the Olympics. But he was eliminated in the semifinals.

During his 14 years as Pioneer track mentor, Huff coached some of the finest athletes in the college's history. Included were:

Clayton Hoyt, a national collegiate sprint champion.

Carl F. Haas, winner of the first 100-yard dash event at the Drake Relays and a member of the U. S. team at the Pershing Olympics in Paris shortly after World War I.

Leonard Paulu, a national sprint champion who still holds the Grinnell College record in the 100-yard dash.

Morgan Taylor, the only trackman to place in three Olympics in the same event. Taylor won the 400-meter hurdles in the 1924 Olympics, setting a world's record. He placed second in the same event in the 1928 Olympics and third in the 1932 Olympics, and still holds the Grinnell College record in the 120-yard high hurdles and 220-yard low hurdles.

After leaving Grinnell at the close of the 1926 season, Huff served as head track coach at Kansas University for three years and at the Missouri University six years.