

Oklahoma Aggies Mat Coach Has Had Exceptional Career



E. C. Gallagher, director of athletic and physical education at Oklahoma A. and M. and wrestling coach, is known as "the Rockne of wrestling."

His record probably surpasses any other coach in the United States today. His showing on the Olympic teams in the past years is impressive.

Of the 14 men on the Olympic squad last year, four, and two of them Olympic champions, were either on the Oklahoma Cowboy team last year or former Oklahoma Cowboy wrestlers. Three others and one of them a champion were coached by men who were trained by Gallagher.

On the 1928 United States Olympic wrestling squad were three A. and M. men and a fourth represented Canada. In 1924, two A. and M.'ers were on the team.

During the 16 years that Gallagher has coached wrestling at A. and M., his teams have won 84 of the 89 dual meets in which they have taken part, and tied one. From February, 1921, to February, 1932, his teams won 71 consecutive dual meets, and then lost a 14 to 13 meet to a University of Oklahoma team, coached by one of his own men. As individuals and as teams, his men have won many national championships.

Gallagher trained men and wrestling coaches at several of the leading schools of the country. They include: University of Oklahoma, Northwestern State Teachers' college, Northwestern university, University of Kansas, Kansas State college, Harvard, Boston

Tech., University of Colorado, Duke university, Michigan State college, and University of Michigan in addition to scores of high schools and smaller colleges.

After graduating from A. and M. in 1909, Mr. Gallagher was appointed as an assistant coach in the department of athletics at Oklahoma A. and M. college and put in charge of the track team. Four years later he went to Baker university as director of athletics. In 1915, he was chosen as director of physical education at his alma mater and in 1920 he was appointed to his present post as director of athletics and physical education. He assumed charge of the wrestling squad in 1916 when A. and M. took up intercollegiate wrestling.

Gallagher became interested in wrestling for two reasons. First, in his engineering course he had studied leverage and how to make a certain applied force do the utmost amount of work when properly applied. He imparted these principles to members of his squad with the result that he taught them many holds and counters that won matches and championships for A. and M.

In the second place, he learned from his studies of anatomy and human body that pressure applied to certain muscles caused them to become fatigued and by combining the results of the two observed he developed a scientific system of coaching which has never been excelled in college wrestling. Ed was never a famous wrestler and was never a contestant in an intercollegiate bout.