

## **Newell “Jeff” Cravath**

### ***Football***

#### ***Class of 1922***

***Jeff Cravath, a 1922 graduate of Santa Ana High School, earned 1<sup>st</sup> Team All CIF Southern California honors while playing center on the 1921 and 1922 football teams.***

***He entered the University of Southern California, starring as a center on the football team from 1924 to 1926. In his senior year, in which he was team captain, USC began its intersectional rivalry with Notre Dame. The team finished 8–2, with losses to Stanford and Notre Dame both coming by 13–12 scores. All-American teammate Jesse Hibbs later noted, "I played with Jeff the year we opened the series against Notre Dame. He should have been made All-America center. That year the Notre Dame center [Bud Boeringer] made the team and Jeff completely outplayed him. He was a champ on and off the field." Cravath went on to play in the January 1927 East–West Shrine Game. After graduating from USC, Cravath served as an assistant coach at USC under Howard Jones in 1927 and 1928. The 1928 team won a national championship. Cravath next became the head coach at the University of Denver from 1929 to 1931, with a record of 11–9–1, and then served one year as an assistant at Chaffey College. He returned to USC as an assistant coach from 1933 to 1940, including the 1939 national championship team on which he was the line coach, and was head coach at the University of San Francisco for one year in 1941, with a record of 6–4.***

***Cravath took over as head coach at USC in 1942 and remained in that position through the 1950 season. He is credited for having introduced the T formation to the USC program. In nine seasons Cravath led USC to the Rose Bowl four times, after the 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1947 campaigns. Known for their excellent defense, Cravath's 1943 team began the year with six consecutive shutouts, and his undefeated 1944 team ended the season ranked seventh in the nation. Cravath's players at USC included Ralph Heywood, Jim Hardy, John Ferraro, Paul Cleary, and Frank Gifford.***

***He compiled a career college football record of 74–43–9. In nine seasons under Cravath, the USC Trojans football team compiled a 54–28–8 record, and won four Pacific Coast Conference titles.***

***Sportswriter Braven Dyer noted, "For a man who was orphaned early in life, he grew out of rough surroundings to a point where he seemed always to know the right thing to say in public. I have known Cravath for something like 30 years. In many ways there was no better sport in the football coaching ranks than Cravath." Jim Hardy said, "I would go to Cravath for advice where I would not even have gone to my family. He was a friend of all his players and a good coach. He was subjected to unreasonable pressure in his last year at SC, but he never lost his interest in the game and his deep attachment to the men who played for him."***

***Cravath was a 2005 inductee to the USC Athletic Hall of Fame.***