Before gaining fame at the University of Missouri-Columbia, coaching legend Don Faurot could be found on the sidelines coaching the Bulldogs from 1926-1934. In December of 1925, Faurot, at age 23, was selected as coach of athletics at Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, now known as Truman State University.

Faurot, who was born in Mountain Grove, Mo., came to Truman with an impressive reputation as a great athlete having earned letters in football, basketball and baseball while attending the University of Missouri in the early 1920s. In less than a decade, his awe-inspiring coaching skills were making history at Truman. During the nine seasons he served as head coach of the football team, the Bulldogs compiled a dazzling record of 63 wins, 13 losses, and three ties, in addition to earning seven conference championships. During the last three seasons that Faurot coached at the University, the Bulldog football team went undefeated. Faurot's legacy to Truman also included coaching basketball, track and baseball, and he developed the University's intramural program.

While Faurot's track record proved his success as a coach, those who were acquainted with him knew he was much more than a coach. He was also a teacher who prepared his players for life. Former University President John R. Kirk once described Faurot as a modern Socrates when it came to athletics. "He doesn't do the thinking for the young men," noted Kirk. "He leads the young men to think for themselves. That is why so many of his men get to be coaches and athletic directors."

The end of the 1934 football season marked the end of Faurot's service to Truman, and he moved on to the University of Missouri-Columbia. The inspirational leader known for having such a great impact on intercollegiate athletics died of congestive heart failure at the age of 93 on Oct. 19, 1995.