High Hurdles

Don Helberg
Wheaton North
High School
Wheaton, Illinois
In this session we will examine:

- Characteristics of a High Hurdler
- All Phases of the Hurdle technique
- Development of the Hurdler
- Drills for the High Hurdles
- How to analyze your hurdler
- Corrections of common faults
High Hurdles

Desired Characteristics

- Strong
- Aggressive
- Confident
- Flexible
- High Inseam
- Mentally Tough
- Good 100m runner
High Hurdles

Phases

- There are 6 Phases of Hurdling
  - Start
  - Approach
  - Take Off
  - Clearance
  - Landing
  - Stepping out to next hurdle
Start

- Hurdlers will take 8 steps to the first hurdle which means that their lead leg should be **back** in the blocks. They should come out like a 100m dash but should lift their eyes at about step 5.
High Hurdles

Approach

- The hurdler should gain a “tall” position where their hips are tall and not squatting as they run. This allows for a faster turnover and achieving maximum speed to the hurdle.
High Hurdles

Take-Off

- The hurdler should “attack” the hurdle while keeping hips tall. The last step should be a little shorter and quicker (penultimate step). The hurdler must drive into the hurdle with the knee and not the foot! If the hurdler leads with the foot, this will cause them to float over the hurdle and gain too much height. **Arms should never cross the mid section.**
High Hurdles
High Hurdles

Clearance

- The lead leg should always have a slight bend to it. Ideally their head should stay level with their normal running. They will need to bend at the hips to keep the forward momentum. Arms should have specific placements which will allow for balance and maximum power off the hurdle.
High Hurdles
High Hurdles

Landing

- The hurdler should land on their toes with the foot below their center of gravity. If the foot is in front of the center of gravity, it will act as a braking mechanism and the hurdler will lose their forward momentum.
High Hurdles
High Hurdles

Stepping Out to the Next Hurdle

- The hurdler should keep their trail leg knee high as they come off the hurdle so they can have a fluid step off the hurdle.
- The shoulders should be slightly forward with hips tall. If they squat (sit) over the hurdle, then it will cause them to decelerate off the hurdle.
- Arms need to be under control and resume the normal sprinting positions.
High Hurdles
High Hurdles
Development of the Hurdler

- Freshmen year goals
Development of the Hurdler

- Freshmen year goals
- Good trail leg action
- 8 steps to first hurdle
- 3 step the whole race
- Aggressiveness towards the hurdle
Development of the Hurdler

- Sophomore year goals
Development of the Hurdler

- Sophomore year goals
  - Good arm actions
  - Working more speed in between hurdles
  - Working good lean over hurdles
Sophomore

(average 15-17 sec)
Development of the Hurdler

- Junior/Senior Year
Development of the Hurdler

- Junior/Senior Year

  - Start to first hurdle with maximum speed
  - Fluidity coming off the hurdle
  - Good speed into/off hurdle
Hurdle Drills

- Hip Circles
- Lead Leg Walls
- Walking Hurdles (both legs)
- Hurdle '5 step'
- Bust outs 1, 2, 3 hurdles
- Last 3 hurdles of the 300’s slow-attack-slow
Hurdle Drills

- **Bust Outs**

  This is a term I use when I want them to come out of the blocks over the 1st hurdle, first 2 hurdles, or first 3 hurdles. I say ‘Bust 1’, ‘Bust 2’, or ‘Bust 3’
Hurdle Drills

- Bust Outs

  - I keep the distance to #1 at the proper distance.

  - I shorten the distance between each hurdle by 1, 2, even 3 shoe lengths
Hurdle Drills

- Slow-Attack-Slow
  
  - Set up hurdles 1, 3, and 5
  - As they approach the hurdle, then they attack the hurdle, then ease off, then repeat
How to Analyze your Hurdler

- You should video tape as often as possible (practices and meets). You the coach should watch the tape first, then with the athlete(s).

- Write down points that you want to emphasize so that you don’t forget them.
How to Analyze your Hurdler

- Stay positive in your critique of the athlete. You must instill confidence!

- Find something that they do correctly and zero in on that first.

- Then you can start to work on faults that they need to improve.
How to Analyze your Hurdler

- Get feedback from the athlete on how they felt about the race.

- Look at the before mentioned points and see if they are following them.
How to Analyze your Hurdler

- Watch to see if there is drastic deceleration in the approach or coming off the hurdle. See if they lose their momentum.

- Are they *efficient* with their body movements? Are they balanced?
How to Analyze your Hurdler

- See if they are keeping their form throughout the race.

- This can be analyzed by touchdown times.
# Touchdown Times

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Correction of Common Faults

- Floating- Leading with foot rather than knee
Correction of Common Faults

- Floating- Leading with foot rather than knee

- Work lead leg walls. Emphasize ‘heel on the butt’
Correction of Common Faults

- Chicken-Stepping to the Hurdle
Correction of Common Faults

- Chicken-Stepping to the Hurdle

- Work on long strides to the first hurdle
- Work on long strides in between the hurdles
- Work on trail leg ‘reaching out’ to the next hurdle
- Move hurdles in closer to get the rhythm of 3 stepping
Correction of Common Faults

- Rocking Back off the Hurdle
Correction of Common Faults

- Rocking Back off the Hurdle
- Taking off to far away from the hurdle
- Landing with lead foot in front of center of gravity
- Not keeping shoulders forward
- Wild lead arm as it comes back
Correction of Common Faults

- Not getting 8 steps to the first hurdle
Correction of Common Faults

- Not getting 8 steps to the first hurdle

- Adjust the amount of time they are in the ‘drive’ phase out of the blocks.

- Adjust the height of the butt on ‘set’

- Just Bust 1 for this problem

- Work on long strides
Correction of Common Faults

- Lead arm crossing over

- This will cause too much rotation as you come off the hurdle
Correction of Common Faults

- Lead arm crossing over

- Work on leaning more and reaching out in front

- Reach for the paint
Correction of Common Faults

- Lead foot landing over midpoint
Correction of Common Faults

- Lead foot landing over midpoint

- Work lead leg walls. Emphasize kicking lead leg straight up (kick to the paint).
General Comments

- Each meet/practice there should be a goal or something specific to work on and for you to analyze.

- Don’t worry about other aspects when you pin-point 1 item. Those other points will lack with the young hurdler.
If you’ve reached a point where you see no improvement for about 2-3 weeks, then pull them off for 1 week.

Have them continue to do drills but don’t run them in the race.
In practice, when their form breaks down or their speed drastically drops, then they are done for the day.

No good will come from them not being at their best. I usually only go over 1-3 hurdles at a time.
General Comments

- They should train with your short sprinters.

- Outdoor, have them run a 4 x 100 before their race to get them opened up.
General Comments

- Where should you watch these athletes

- When they bust 1- Stand behind them in the blocks

- When they bust 2-3- Stand in front of them between hurdle #4 & #5 placement.
Thank You for Attending

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions/comments.

Good Luck with your season.

Don Helberg (Wheaton North)

donald.helberg@cusd200.org