

Born near Oswestry in 1912, John "Jack" Hughes was recruited from Chester in the summer of 1936 to strengthen the attack as the club prepared for a return to Second Division football. 82 games for Chester had produced 21 goals and the reputation of being one of the fastest outside-rights in the Northern Section.

Having turned pro with Wrexham in 1930 he was given an earlier chance at football in a higher grade, when transferred to Bolton in May 1933. He played only nine times in one and a half seasons at Burnden Park before leaving for the Sealand Road outfit to repair his reputation and confidence. Scoring from the wing at a rate of a goal every four games, he joined Chesterfield after gained promotion in 1936 by beating Chester into second place. His impressive performance in the pre-season practice matches earned a start in the opening game of the 1936-7 season in place of the veteran Joe Spence, and his only absences from the first team over the next three seasons can be put down to injuries.

Chesterfield's Second Division rivals Bradford (Park Avenue) were persuaded to part with £1075 for his transfer in May 1939 and he was in their side for the opening match of the 1939-40 season at Saltergate. War broke out days later and Hughes' pro career was effectively ended. After service with the Royal Navy during the war, he returned to Oswestry to play and settled in the area.