

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)

This is the third short list of “historical tidbits” which will help the membership better understand the colorful history of the CIF Southern Section.

Enjoy,

John S. Dahlem, Ph.D.



DO YOU LIKE ACRONYMS?
From IHSAASC to AAU to SCIAC to CIFSS

The Official Founding Date of the
Southern Section of the C.I.F.

The beginning of the CIFSS has its roots in the early attempts by high schools in the Los Angeles area to organize for the purpose of running local track meets. The IHSAASC (Interscholastic High School Athletic Association of Southern California) held track meets in 1904 through 1906 and folded when the largest school, Los Angeles High School, had to pay \$100 to cover the debt of the 1906 meet...they cancelled their membership and HSAASC was done. The AAU (Academic Athletic Union) was next and worked with local colleges in staging the track meets. When their leader left for another job, the organization died by default. In 1913, the SCIAC (Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council) was created when Seth Van Patten challenged the local high schools to stop complaining about how the colleges and YMCA ran the track meets and take control over their own meets. The SCIAC was created at the first interscholastic track meet solely run by the high schools on **March 29, 1913**, during a meeting held between the prelims and the finals....this is considered to be the founding date of the CIFSS. The SCIAC created their governance structure on May 15, 1913, in a meeting at Los Angeles High School. Representatives from the five leagues of Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Suburban, Orange County and Citrus Belt were present. On March 28, 1914, at the YMCA Field House in Los Angeles, the California Interscholastic



Federation (CIF) was created for the purpose of organizing athletics on a state-wide basis. At the September 26, 1914, meeting of the SCIAC, the following annotation is found in the minutes:

“Since Southern California forms one of the sections of the ‘California Interscholastic Federation’ and since the ‘Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council’ is the representative body of Southern California affiliated in this California Interscholastic Federation, it was moved, seconded, and carried, that the name be changed to ‘The California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section’ or for the purpose of brevity, ‘The Southern Section of the C.I.F.’”

- When the State CIF was created in 1914, the state was divided into four Sections corresponding to the four geographical Sections of the California Teachers Association...the Southern, Central, Bay (which became the North Coast) and Northern.
- The first difficult decision that had to be made by the State CIF in order for it to gain credence and members was how to define an amateur (professionalism). After some debate, the State CIF adopted the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) standard definition stating you could not be an amateur if you got paid for playing, you played with professionals or you coached for pay.
- It was interesting to note that the State CIF referred to illegal transfers as **“TRAMPS.”**
- The first five leagues of the SCIAC (CIFSS) in 1913 were the Citrus Belt, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, Suburban and Orange County. On September 26, 1914, the CIFSS, in their first relegating process, dissolved the Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City and Suburban Leagues and created a new City League, Central League, Valley League and the Bay League.

Special tidbit: during the late 1800’s up until 1907, one of main high schools which participated in interscholastic sports was Throop High School founded by wealthy abolitionist and Chicago politician Amos Throop. Throop felt the school needed a fresh sense of purpose and abandoned Throop High School in favor a college program along engineering lines...the name of that college was California Institute of Technology (CALTECH).

Amos Throop



Articles from the "Los Angeles Times"

March 6, 1905
IHSAASC

February 29, 1908
AAU

May 23, 1913
SCIAC

April 22, 1914
AMATEURS
TRAMPS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE TIMES.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Mar. 6, 1905.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1990)
pg. 14

ROAR IN HIGH SCHOOL RANKS.

LOS ANGELES ATHLETES NOW HAVE A GRIEVANCE.

Connubiation in Favor of Santa Paula Team Alleged to be Going on. Women School Trustees in Ocean View District Make Provision for New Building—Ventura Jots.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE TIMES.)

VENTURA, March 5.—Another roar has gone up from among the ranks of high-school athletes who form the Interscholastic High School Athletic Association of Southern California. A short time ago it was the Ventura contingent, which made the "kick." This time the Los Angeles High School is up in arms against the management of the association. The trouble with the Los Angeles boys is that they have been ousted from the association, and will not be allowed to participate in the April field day to be held here. They were ruled out several weeks ago, and only found it out yesterday, when Hiram Sholes of the Los Angeles team came to this city. The rules of the association is that the school failing to send a representative to the meetings twice in succession is dropped, and this the Los Angeles High School did. It is the duty of the secretary of the association, however, to notify each school of the time and place of meetings, but Sholes says his school was not notified, and he was especially bitter against Taylor of the Santa Paula team, who is the secretary, broadly accusing Taylor, or the Santa Paula team, of purposely ignoring the Los Angeles school, and with the object in view of not having to compete with the Angel City boys in the sprinting events, fearing that Los Angeles will beat them.

A few weeks ago the Venturans raised a row in the association because the age limit was extended from 21 to 22 years for entries. They said this step was taken also to benefit Santa Paula, and particularly Taylor, who has won fifteen medals for Santa Paula as a sprinter, but who had grown so old in the meantime that he was beyond the age limit allowed by the constitution of the association. It is not known what will come of it all, but Sholes of Los Angeles is making dire threats of something to fall on somebody's head because his team was frozen out.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP.

Interscholastic Game Between Leaders of Several Leagues to Begin Today.

The first games in the semi-finals in basketball of the Academic Athletic Union of Southern California will be played today between the boys' and girls' teams of the Citrus Union League and the Orange County League. The Orange league will be represented by the boys' team from Orange Union High School and the girls' team from Santa Ana High School, while the Citrus league will be represented by Pomona boys and Ontario girls. The winners of these matches will meet the winners of the Los Angeles County League in finals at Occidental College courts, on March 7.

The championship in the Orange County League in the girls' game was decided last Monday evening, when the girls from Orange Union High School lost to the Santa Ana team by a score of 13 to 18 in a game replete with sensational plays. Santa Ana has a great team this year and is counted upon as a probable winner in the Southern California high school class. She should dispose of Ontario easily, but probably will have a hard battle in the finals with the winners of the Los Angeles County League. Ontario will be somewhat handicapped by the fact that they have used only five players on the team, while the other teams have all been using six.

The girls' game will be played at Ontario this afternoon and the boys at Pomona. The place of holding the semi-finals was decided by drawing lots, but the finals were given by the league to Occidental College.

While basketball is a comparatively new sport here on the Coast, it has gained a large following, especially among the secondary schools and independent athletic organizations in this part of the country. Preston Osborne of Whittier, George W. Braden of Pasadena Y.M.C.A., and A. Claude Braden of Pomona College will act as officials.

These games will decide the championship of everything in high school class south of Tehachapi. It is hardly probable that a team will be sent north this year.

L. M. Barker, physical director of the Orange Union High School, is, the Academic Athletic League manager in basketball and will have complete charge of the championship games in the South.

With the Preps.

HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETS.

DATES SET FOR BASEBALL AND OTHER CHAMPIONSHIPS.

May 31 Citrus Belt Title Holders to Play San Diego and Orange County Champs are to Meet Winners in Suburban League—June 7 County and City League Winners to Clash.

The Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council, composed of the presidents of the five Southern California interscholastic leagues and a representative from San Diego, met Thursday afternoon and decided upon a schedule for the baseball championship series.

May 31, the championship nine of the Citrus Belt League is to meet the San Diego team. The Orange county champions are to hook up with the title holders of the Suburban League the same day. Both contests are to be played on neutral grounds. If this point is not decided three days before the games are scheduled to take place, the managers of the teams are to report to President Oliver of the council, and he is to arrange the place of meeting.

June 7 is the day set for the game between the Los Angeles city champions and the County League winners. On this same day, the winners of two games of the week before are to meet. One week later, June 14, the winner of the Los Angeles county and the Los Angeles city contest, is to meet the winning nine from the outside, in the finals.

FOUR YEAR LIMIT.

The interscholastic council also decided on eligibility rules to govern all interleague contests. In the future, the first eight semesters of a boy's high school course, will constitute his interscholastic career, whether he competes in athletics four full years or not.

This rule does not govern contests between two teams of the same league. The interscholastic council exercises jurisdiction over organizations competing for interleague honors only, and all points between teams in the same league are to be left entirely to the officers of that organization as has been the case in the past.

Gosh!

LET "AMATEURS" PLAY FOR COIN.

High Schools May Let Boys Become "Pros."

E. W. Oliver Suggests Some Radical Moves.

Eligibility Rules Are Very Strict Now.

Sweeping changes in the rules governing high school athletics are anticipated and urged by E. W. Oliver, head of the Southern California High School Athletic Council. Yesterday he gave his reasons for wanting to see these changes and just how they are likely to come about.

"When the State-wide high school athletic union is formed, I expect to see the old strict amateur rules dropped and a new broad-minded policy adopted," said Oliver. "At present a high school athlete is declared a professional if he accepts money for playing a game of ball. If he runs in a race for a little prize or plays on any team with a professional on it he is immediately barred from amateur athletics. This is all wrong and a change is bound to come."

WHY NOT?

"If a boy can go out and play a game of ball on Sunday, why not let him? If a student is a good clerk he can work for a salary after school and on holidays, and nothing is said about it. Baseball is a good clean game, and if a young fellow is a good ball player and can make a few honest dollars by playing ball, he is certainly entitled to do so as much as the fellow that acts as a clerk and without being declared a professional. The old plea of amateur organizations has been that schools would hire professional players; that boys would go to school just to play ball, making their money on the side, and so on.

"With the present strict rules of eligibility for high school athletics, the boy who is not a good student has no chance to compete on the athletic field. Any boy competing in athletics must be passing in fifteen hours' work every week, he must be under 21 years of age, and can only play four years. If he is in school over four years he will not be allowed to enter athletics, because the fact that he is there an extra year shows that he needs to put more time on his studies.

NO TRAMPS

"Another new rule, which does away with the tramp athlete, is the clause which requires a student to be a school the semester preceding. In other words, no student can play football next fall that is not in school the last half of this year unless he enters from the grammar schools or was kept out for some good reason, and it has got to be a very good one. With these rules strictly enforced, it is impossible for any but a regular student