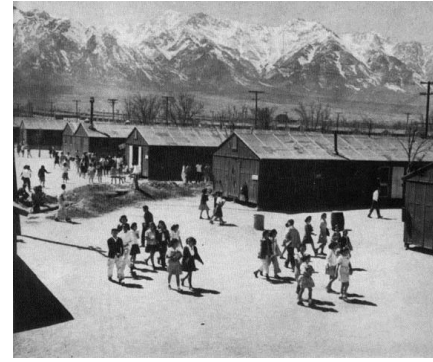




**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA**  
**INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION**  
**SOUTHERN SECTION**  
**CIFSS**



55<sup>th</sup> historical “tidbit.”

Dr. John S. Dahlem

(Attribution to Densho Archives, special thanks to Richard Potashin, Manzanar NPS Historian,  
and the Eastern California Museum in Independence, CA.)

**MANZANAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAYS BIG**  
**PINE HIGH SCHOOL IN FOOTBALL**

**Wednesday, October 25, 1944**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Manzanar High School Football Field**  
**1,000 Spectators in Attendance**



Much has been written on Camp Manzanar which is today a National Historical Site located just north of Lone Pine on Hiway 395. Manzanar (“apple orchard” in Spanish) was one of ten relocation camps for over 110,000 Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II by Executive Order 9066. The camp was open from 1942 to 1945, and contained over 10,000 internees...it was one of the largest cities between San Francisco and Los Angeles during war time California. The plight of the internees was well documented in Jeanne and James Houston’s, Farwell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment. The story was made into a movie which continues to have an impact on the youth of California and the book is on the required reading list for all students. Manzanar was a thriving city and education was an important component of daily life. It is estimated that over

50% of the camp's population took advantage of the educational opportunities.

Manzanar High School opened as soon as the internees arrived in 1942 with limited space, limited equipment, very few school supplies, and staffed by teachers who were often not credentialed. It was very difficult situation for everyone concerned and the teachers were directed to, "not allow the Japanese American child to become too absorbed in his misfortunes and feelings of being the only object of prejudice in America." To cheer up the students of Manzanar, the high school was essentially modeled after the typical California high school with lot of activities including clubs, cheerleading, plays and probably most importantly, a comprehensive sports program.

The favorite sport was softball and practically all the students belonged to a boys or girls team. Volleyball was also very popular, particularly among the girls. Indoor facilities were not available until the auditorium was completed in 1944. Basketball was played outdoors on dirt courts and a golf course was built with sand putting greens. Regulation baseball diamonds were built for "hardball" and money collections were taken at the games to buy limited equipment. There were boxing clubs, track teams, tennis, weightlifting, speedball and over 100 individuals involved in wrestling. Coach Thomas Higa helped develop the sports and physical education programs along with Coach Shig Shiba who came from Banning High School in San Pedro. Varsity, B and C league competition was established and the highlight of the year was the competition in football between the juniors and seniors. All the competition was between grades and intra-mural. The students were in an internment camp and **were never allowed to participate in outside competition.**

Manzanar Senior Football Team 1944



# MANZANAR Free Press

VOL. 6, NO. 30.

MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1944.

## MANZANAR FREE PRESS

### Manzanar HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

#### ASSEMBLY

The first assembly of the school year took place in the new auditorium Tuesday morning when Director of WRA, Mr. Dillon S. Myer, was introduced by Project Director Ralph P. Merritt and addressed the student body. The fifth and sixth grade students from the elementary school were also in attendance. Besides the address by Mr. Myer the student officers were inducted into office.

Other features of the program were vocal solos by Lillian and Bill Wakatsuki, the flag salute and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

High school assemblies are planned and supervised by the assembly committee of which George Sakamoto is chairman.

#### ATHLETICS

Invitation have been extended to the neighboring schools of the valley to come to Manzanar to participate with the Manzanar students in athletic events. The boys have been invited to play football this fall and the girls to engage in a play day similar to the one held last spring.

# MANZANAR Free Press

VOL. 6, NO. 50

MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 1944

### HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Students of the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades will sponsor a "Victory Dance" tonight in coordination with the football game of yesterday, which was held between the senior and the junior classes.

To date, efforts to bring more visiting athletic teams to Manzanar have not been successful. However, plans are now underway to arrange a playday for girls in which neighboring schools have agreed to participate.

Students of the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades held their pre-Christmas parties yesterday.

Christmas vacation will be for two weeks duration beginning at the close of school on December 22 and extending until the opening of school on Monday morning, January 8.

Finally, in 1944, a "two year old dream became a reality" (Manzanar High School Yearbook 1944-1945...the Valediction) as the football team "ably coached by Mr. Smith, marched on to the gridiron to meet the stalwarts from 'up the valley' (Big Pine High School)." Daily life in camp was well chronicled by the "Manzanar Free Press." The following is from the October 25, 1944, Sport Section of the "Manzanar Free Press:"

\* \* \*

First outside competition for local high school gridsters will take place this afternoon when Big Pine's six man footballers make their appearance in the center.

Although this is the first time since evacuation that the boys here will meet with fellow Americans in competition, it should be a great asset in creating a good deal of interest in school sports.

It is heartening to note that efforts have been successful in obtaining outside competition for the boys here. It will be more like going to school when customs these boys have been accustomed to are brought into play.

May the best team win and here's hoping that the boys can continue enjoying outside competition.

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MANZANAR  
Sports

# Football Program produced by the students at Manzanar High School

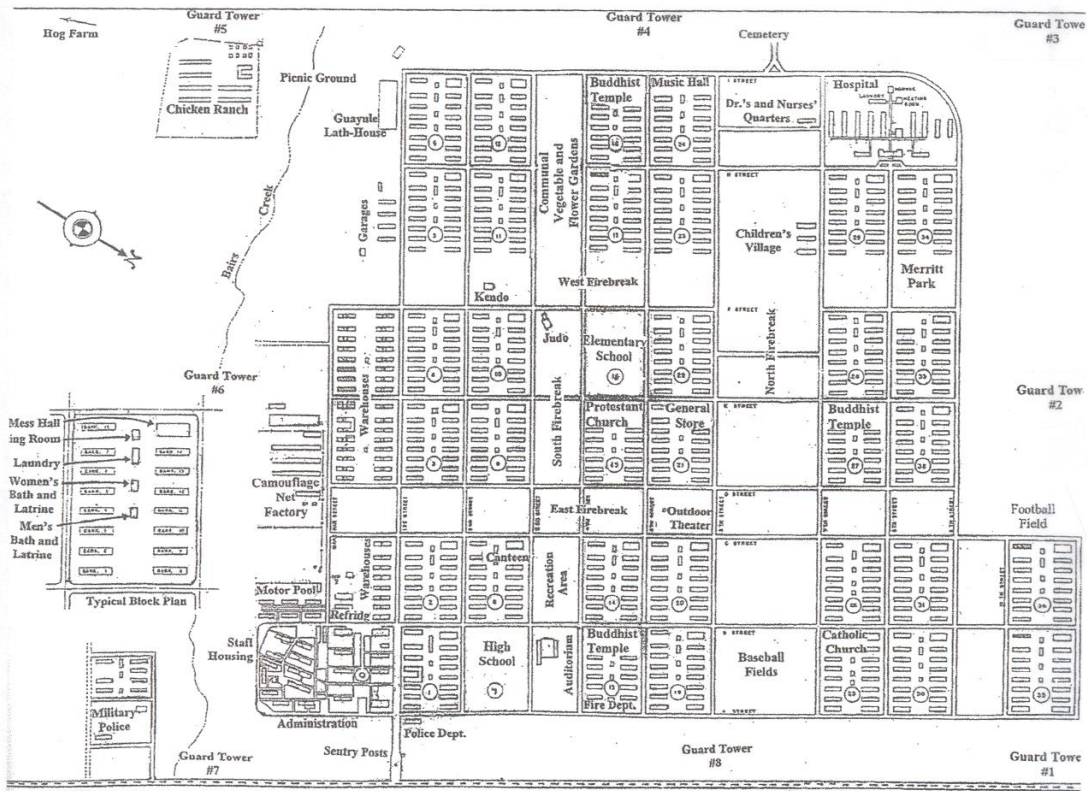
MANZANAR (cont'd)

PROGRAM

<p>Seiro Matsuno . . . . . Back          Jun Tanaka (20) . . . . . Back          Rokuro Kuchibara . . . . . End          Akira Hiraiwa . . . . . End          Fumio Takeyama . . . . . End</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Associate Coach - Tad Yamamoto          Athletic Coach - Carlisle Johnson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BIG FINE SCHOOL SONG</p> <p>Give a cheer, give a cheer,          For the boys we hold so dear,          Who are fighting for old Big Pine Hill,          They are brave, they are bold,          And their victories are old,          Give their cheers to cheer to cheer,          With a high-ee.</p> <p>For a touch down all is go,          Hurrah our boys will always be,          They will give the game,          And we will do the same,          And we'll march on to victory.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MANZANAR SCHOOL SONG</p> <p>Give a cheer, give a cheer,          Hebe it echo far and near,          Sing the praises of Cardinal and gold.</p> <p>Make it roll, make it ring,          Make it ring, make the thing,          Chant the praises of cardinal and gold.</p> <p>Keep the mountain peak,          Clear across the valley floor,          So we can win the dearest roar.</p> <p>So don't forget and always place your bet,          On the victories of Cardinal and gold.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">BIG FINE HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COLORS GREEN &amp; GOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7th &amp; 8th Grade</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Peter Young . . . . .</td> <td>Half Back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bob Smith . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter Back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jack Cole . . . . .</td> <td>Left Half</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ben Lee . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Bradley . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Al Stewart . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Substitutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donald Sears          Earl Karpent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">High School</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Clay Taylor (17) . . . . .</td> <td>Right Halfback</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bob Gardner (13) . . . . .</td> <td>Left Half</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Ward (17) . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walter Gulliver (20) . . . . .</td> <td>Left End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robert Kelly (15) . . . . .</td> <td>Right End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Don Beach (14) . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Substitute</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cha Beach (11)          Leon Lay (9)          Rowland Sandler (8)</p>	Peter Young . . . . .	Half Back	Bob Smith . . . . .	Quarter Back	Jack Cole . . . . .	Left Half	Ben Lee . . . . .	End	George Bradley . . . . .	Center	Al Stewart . . . . .	End	Clay Taylor (17) . . . . .	Right Halfback	Bob Gardner (13) . . . . .	Left Half	Tommy Ward (17) . . . . .	Quarter back	Walter Gulliver (20) . . . . .	Left End	Robert Kelly (15) . . . . .	Right End	Don Beach (14) . . . . .	Center	<p style="text-align: center;">MANZANAR HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COLORS CARDINAL &amp; GOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7th &amp; 8th Grade</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Thomas Kawahara (22) . . . . .</td> <td>Full Back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Takaya Wagoner (20) . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Shuster (20) . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shinichi Harasawa . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Takara Kurokawa (22) . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Takashi Yamamoto (20) . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Johnson (22) . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Masaki Tanaka (21) . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter Back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shunji Tanaka . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haru Takagi (22) . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Okamoto . . . . .</td> <td>Half back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Lee . . . . .</td> <td>Half back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Lee . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Kurokawa . . . . .</td> <td>Half back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shunji Yamamoto . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">High School</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Shunji Ito (22) . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Takahashi (22) . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Lee (22) . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Takahashi . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Lee (21) . . . . .</td> <td>Full back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Johnson (22) . . . . .</td> <td>Half back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Ito (24) . . . . .</td> <td>Half Back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shunji Yamamoto (25) . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Ito (25) . . . . .</td> <td>End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ray Takahashi (20) . . . . .</td> <td>Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haruhiko Kojima . . . . .</td> <td>Half back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hiroyuki Sakamoto . . . . .</td> <td>Quarter back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tommy Kurokawa (22) . . . . .</td> <td>Back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haruhiko Kojima . . . . .</td> <td>Back</td> </tr> </table>	Thomas Kawahara (22) . . . . .	Full Back	Takaya Wagoner (20) . . . . .	Center	George Shuster (20) . . . . .	End	Shinichi Harasawa . . . . .	Center	Takara Kurokawa (22) . . . . .	End	Takashi Yamamoto (20) . . . . .	Quarter	Art Johnson (22) . . . . .	Quarter back	Masaki Tanaka (21) . . . . .	Quarter Back	Shunji Tanaka . . . . .	Center	Haru Takagi (22) . . . . .	Center	Tommy Okamoto . . . . .	Half back	Tommy Lee . . . . .	Half back	Tommy Lee . . . . .	Quarter	Tommy Kurokawa . . . . .	Half back	Shunji Yamamoto . . . . .	End	Shunji Ito (22) . . . . .	End	Art Takahashi (22) . . . . .	Center	Tommy Lee (22) . . . . .	End	George Takahashi . . . . .	Quarter back	Tommy Lee (21) . . . . .	Full back	Art Johnson (22) . . . . .	Half back	Tommy Ito (24) . . . . .	Half Back	Shunji Yamamoto (25) . . . . .	End	Art Ito (25) . . . . .	End	Ray Takahashi (20) . . . . .	Center	Haruhiko Kojima . . . . .	Half back	Hiroyuki Sakamoto . . . . .	Quarter back	Tommy Kurokawa (22) . . . . .	Back	Haruhiko Kojima . . . . .	Back
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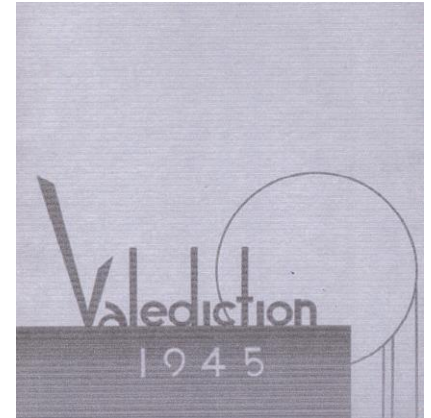
← Where the game was probably played

This War Relocation Authority site plan of Manzanar from 1946 shows the layout of the 36 blocks and the firebreaks, together with features added during the nearly four years of camp operation.



The “Valediction” gave the following results:

“After see-sawing back and forth on the field for an hour and a half, the ‘cardinal and gold’ (Manzanar High School colors) lads proved their superiority by coming out on top with a 33 to 0 score. In the preliminary, the Junior High School boys, coached by Tadaomi Marumoto, also were victorious, 26 to 0. Bishop High School was slated as the next victim, but due to unfortunate circumstances the game was cancelled.”



The October 28, 1944, “Manzanar Free Press” coverage included:



### MANZANAR JUNIOR, SENIOR HIGH GRIDDERS VICTORIOUS OVER BIG PINE

For the first time in sports for the Manzanar high school a six man football team from Big Pine trekked to the local gridiron for two games on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. Both games were victorious for the junior and senior high school gridgers, 26-0 and 33-0 respectively.

At the request of Big Pine, six-man football was played due to the small enrollment in that school making it impossible to muster a big squad, reported R. Fox, principal of the secondary school.

Approximately 1000 spectators lined the sidelines to witness the first football game of the season and the first game ever played against a Caucasian team.

Preceding the game, a rally was held Tuesday night in the high school auditorium at which time the football squad was introduced by Coach Smith. Yell leaders led students in practicing yells and songs including the Big Pine high school song.

“At the game, the yell leaders failed to give the crowd a sample of what Manzanar really do in rooting for the home team”, said Fox.

The most poignant coverage of the game was written by "Manzanar Free Press" writer Bill Kitayama in his, AS I WAS SAYING column dated October 28, 1944:

## AS I WAS Saying . . .

By Bill Kitayama

" . . . and if I should lose, let me stand and cheer for the victor as he goes marching by."—Knut Rochne.

That was exactly what the losing team did in a football contest that is believed to be the first of its kind to be staged here, played between a powerful evacuee team and a determined Caucasian squad.

And although the colorful game was played behind barbed wire, there apparently were no boundaries to good sportsmanship as found in the words of a Big Pine High school player.

"I guess we got there too late," he was heard telling a disappointed team mate.

The Big Pine player who made that statement, after seeing a Manzanar High school ball carrier escape by a hair length from the clutches of his now disappointed team mate at the expense of having a touchdown scored against them, could have easily made an excuse or created an alibi.

Refusing to resort to unsportsman like practice, the lad con- ceded his fellow teamster by the declaration "I guess we got there too late."

Furthermore, when a Manzanar player scored what he first believed was a touchdown, the referee called the ball back, and a Big Pine player, as all boys will, kidded the evacuee ball carrier.

Apparently the kidding was accepted in spirit intended by the Big Pine player, since the Manzanar lad smiled back and accepted the penalty good naturedly.

These are little things but we believe its precisely these things that mean so much to us whether it be on the football field or on the highways of life.

In that competition of speed, stamina, and skill, six huskies—all clean, hard playing youths—gave all they had in an effort to bring back to Big Pine High school the victory they sought when they proudly marched into Manzanar.

In that scrimmage between evacuees and non evacuees, football enthusiasts saw six huskies, some blonds, others redheads, competing with black haired, yellow complexioned brothers. Speaking in the sense of ability, perhaps both Manzanar and Big Pine teams were not all material for an All-American line-up. Speaking in terms of citizenship, they were certainly all Americans if ever there was one.

That eventful afternoon, when the gun brought that unforgettable game to a climax, Big Pine High School emerged victorious. Yes, the score read, Manzanar 32—Big Pine 0, but Big Pine High School was the real victor.

We see in the movies how a hard boiled coach of the winning side, with perspiration dripping from his forehead and a rarely smile on his face, delivers his congratulatory talk to his team.

The Big Pine High School coach's message, while perhaps not so dramatic and moving as it is seen and heard in the movies, perhaps went something like this:

"Fellows, I'm not going to make a pretty speech. That's not the job of a coach. But I do feel it my duty to tell you this.

"Today is Big Pine High School's field day. You boys must certainly be proud. You have all been instrumental in bringing home the winning banner.

"Your winning banner will proudly hurl over Big Pine High



School to be cherished and treasured by your sons and their son's son. It will be a symbol of the hundred touchdowns we literally scored against Manzanar by proving that color, race, or creed does not matter in America even during the midst of a waging war.

"Fellows, I repeat. Today is Big Pine's field day. You boys should be proud."

As those boys left the dressing room that evening, probably with heads bowed low and without a word passing between them we hear the echo of the Big Pine player: "I guess we got there too late."

And from the dusty city of Manzanar, located near the towering Sierra Nevada ranges, a voice calls out:

"Your return, Big Pine High School, will never be too early. We evacuees will hope and pray that we can all meet outside some day, not only on the field of sports, but also in the social and business world. God bless you all!"

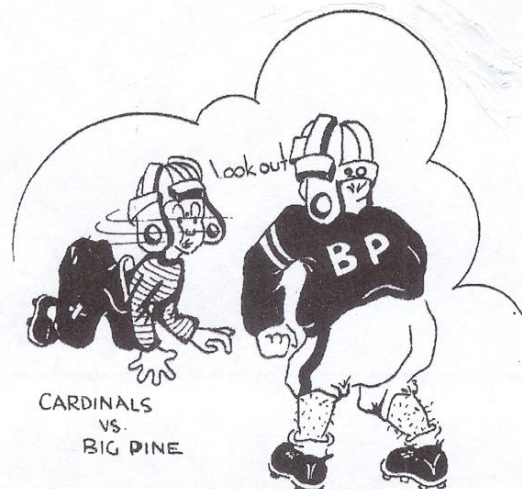


From an oral interview (2008, done by Richard Potashin, NPS Manzanar Historian) with Clyde Taylor who played right halfback for Big Pine High School the following can be gleaned:

Clyde stated that there was a large crowd on their side rooting them on and they played two games...7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders first then the senior high schoolers. He said they wanted to win and everyone was happy. They played on a dirt field, but Clyde was used to that and afterwards they had a big long table with lots of food. Manzanar had a football program printed up.

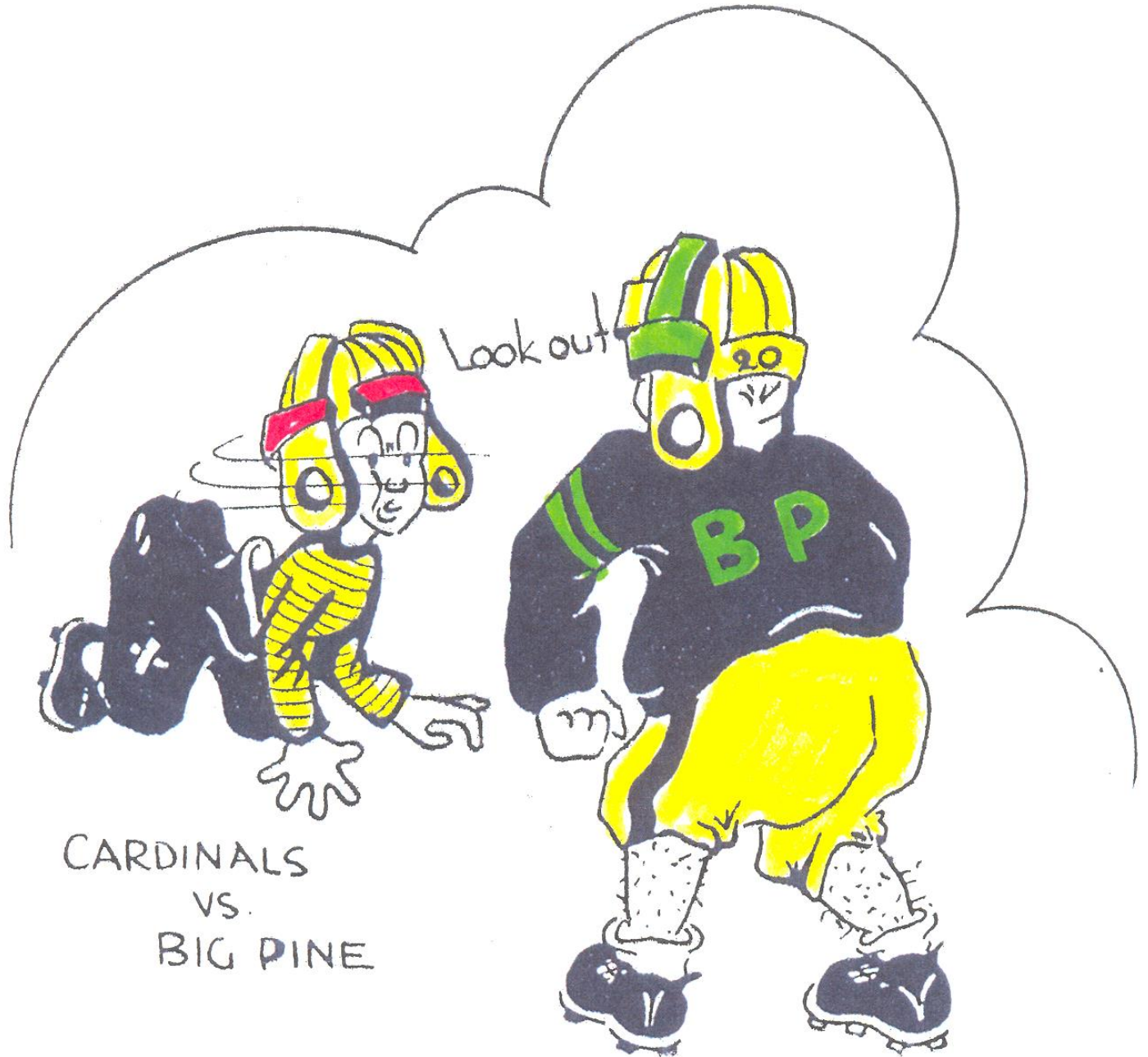
Clyde stated that he had quarterbacked the team to victories over most of the teams in the valley except for powerhouse Bishop High School. For the game against Manzanar he played right halfback (#12 as he is listed in the program). It was tackle football that was played in a firebreak with no grass and they were always getting skinned up. They played with helmets, shoulder pads, and hip pads. Their uniforms were gold and something else too (probably green from the Big Pine colors.) He said at the time they just wanted to play football and were treated very nicely. There was no animosity and it was just a good game. Jack Fansler played left half back and was called the "Steamroller" in Japanese by the Manzanar High School rooters.

Clyde said, "You have to remember there was a lot of animosity towards Japanese Americans in the valley. My friends and I used to talk about if we were soldiers and got captured who we wanted to be captured by...the Germans because of the way the Japanese tortured our soldiers. We knew absolutely nothing about the people in Manzanar, we didn't know if they were good or bad."



"Valediction" 1945 Manzanar High School Yearbook caricature. The big player with the BP on his jersey was probably 250 lb. Jack Fansler.

Tadashi Tatsui (“Tubby”), the quarterback, wanted to throw the ball but every time they ran the ball they made a lot of yards so he never threw a pass. The real fast Manzanar players were from the San Pedro area. Akira Hiramami (“Ack-Ack”) played at the beginning of the game. He said, “Everyone got to play because the score got so high.” The Manzanar team didn’t practice that much as a group because most of their sports were played in bocks (housing) vs. other blocks.



Interview with Mrs. Fansler and Roland on the telephone...July 29, 2009

Roland doesn't remember that much about the game, but his wife was helpful in pulling out some info that came back to his memory of the game.

Colors of Big Pine were green and gold

The football players just wanted to play the game and were not concerned with the politics of the day regarding the Japanese and the war. They were nervous because they knew that the Japanese kids were fast and there were a lot of them compared to the Big Pine football team.

Roland was big (bigger than his brother)...he is not sure his brother (Jack Fansler) played in the game and that he (Roland) was referred to as the Steam roller. Mrs. Fansler felt that Roland was around 6'3" tall and close to 230 lbs. He also was a good tennis player and played basketball in his work boots. In an interview done of Big Pine player Clyde Taylor, Clyde said it was Jack Fansler who was the steam roller.

They could not find football equipment big enough for him so they asked UCLA to send Big Pine High School some big football equipment, which they did. UCLA wanted to see who fit into the uniform when the season was done.

The coach congratulated Roland after the game for being the leading ground gainer...Roland laughed because he said, "he only gained 2 yards total."

Roland said the field was to the right of the entry to the camp and they played next to the road (Hiway 395). The field was all dirt. He said they used the gym as a dressing area. After the game, Roland said, "we got patched up and came home."

Rev. Glenn "Tex" Evans, minister of the Big Pine United Methodist Church, was very active in youth activities and may have been the coach. He was instrumental in them playing the game because he felt it was the ethical thing to do, even though it was not a popular thing to do among the Big Pine community due to the war feelings. Many felt it was unpatriotic. Rev. Evans later started the Appalachia Service Project:

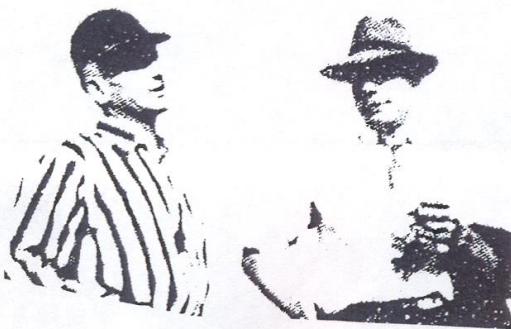
[http://www.asphome.org/docs/fp/FP\\_2009\\_Q1.pdf](http://www.asphome.org/docs/fp/FP_2009_Q1.pdf)





Ikebuchi, Sei  
San Pedro

Starting Center  
Senior - #52





Manzanar football game.

Photo from the Maeda family, courtesy of Manzanar National Historic Site

# BIG PINE HIGH SCHOOL

Big Pine, California

Home of the Green & Gold Warriors

Hi-Lo League



## BIG PINE 1921

### SCHOOL HISTORY

In 1921, Native Americans were not allowed to attend school.

In 1924, the California State legislature passed an education bill that Governor William Stephens signed into law. This law stated that all Native American students must go to the Federal Indian school in the area.

Alice Piper, who was a 15 yr old Native American girl, was rejected and was not allowed to go to the Big Pine School. Her parents felt that since she wasn't a part of a tribe she should be able to go to Big Pine School. As a result, they decided to sue the school district and they won.

Now, everyone is equal with the same opportunities.

## BIG PINE HIGH SCHOOL

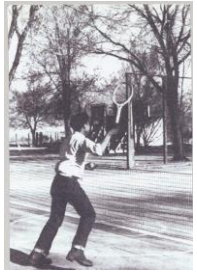
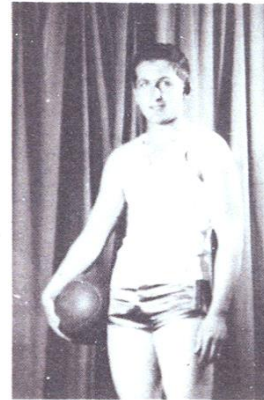
*(Photos taken from the 1948-1949 Big Pine High School Yearbook)*

George Bradley and Bob Fawley both played in the 1944 game against Manzanar High School...they played in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade game.

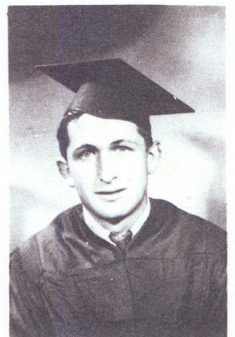
Forward  
Bob Fawley



L. Guard  
Geo. Bradley

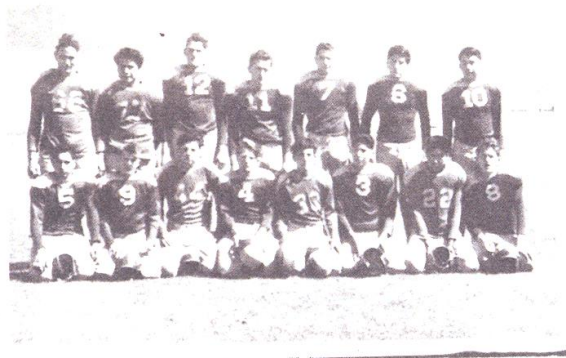


BOB FAWLEY



*George Bradley*

FOOTBALL



LB.66 Willcuts	RE.10 Bacoch	QB.3 Cyrus
LT.11 Richards	RT.12 Bye	RA.4 FAWLEY
WLG.27 Bowers	RG.11 G.Bradley	Sub.9 HUNNEWELL
Sub.833 SIMMONS	L.E.8 B.Bradley	C.3 Herrera
Sub.44 CLAIR	LH.6 WATSON	F.B.7 Killian

Two schools during very difficult times remembered what true sportsmanship and *“Pursing Victory with Honor”* is all about. Big Pine High School continues as a viable member of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section (CIFSS) and an important competitor in the Hi-Lo League. Manzanar High School is long gone...only a memory to those young internees who spent their formative years there and tried to live a normal life. The couple hours of normalcy before 1,000 fans on October 25, 1944, will live forever in the hearts of the courageous boys from “Up the Valley,” and those incredible Manzanar High School students who deserved much better from all of us.

**ON APRIL 22, 2009, ALMOST 55 YEARS SINCE THAT  
WONDERFUL FOOTBALL GAME, THE CIFSS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY  
TO GRANT AN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO THE  
CARDINAL AND GOLD OF MANZANAR HIGH  
SCHOOL – FOREVER A MEMBER OF CIFSS.**

“Thanks to the men of the 1944 Big Pine ‘Warrior’ football team and the black and gold clad men of Manzanar High School coached by Mr. Smith.”





## *Meeting of the Executive Committee*

April 22, 2009

### *Minutes*

#### 7. REPORT SESSION

- A. President's Report – There was no further business to report.
- B. Treasurer's Report – Bill Dabbs read the report.
- C. Commissioner's Report – Jim Staunton discussed the idea of Manzanar High School receiving an honorary membership in CIF Southern Section. This school has a notable history during World War II. It was moved that Manzanar High School be recognized as an honorary member from 1942 – 1945. It was seconded and approved. Dr. Staunton also recognized the assistant commissioners for all of their hard work this past year.



#### **Manzanar High School Given Honorary Membership**

Our ever-present historian, John Dahlem, has researched the fascinating history of a school that existed from 1942-1945 in the high desert during World War II.

The camp contained over 10,000 internees, making it effectively the largest city between San Francisco and Los Angeles during war-time California. Education was very important in the camp. When it opened, Manzanar had little to offer: limited equipment, crowded living conditions, sanitation was crude and there were very few school supplies.

Nevertheless, the residents established a high school with 1,400 students. Sports was as important then as it is today. Using dirt fields and fabricated equipment, the students enjoyed football (coached by Thomas Higa and Shig Shiba), basketball, volleyball, softball and even golf played on a dirt course with sand "greens."

Varsity, B and C league competition was established and the highlight of the year was the competition between the juniors and seniors in football. All competition was between grades and intra-mural. The students were in an internment camp and were never allowed to participate in outside competition.

That situation changed in 1944 when the varsity squad from Big Pine entered the barb-wire gates at Manzanar to play a varsity game against the cardinal and gold of Manzanar. The game was played before 1,000 spectators and to read the local newspaper reports, it was one of the most anticipated events of the year in camp.

The teams played six-man football at Big Pine's request. The Manzanar Free-Press reports, "After seeing back and forth on the field for an hour and a half, the 'cardinal and gold' lads proved their superiority by coming out on top with a 33 to 0 score."

Two schools during very difficult times remembered what true sportsmanship and "Pursing Victory with Honor" is all about. Manzanar High School is only a memory now to those young internees who spent their formative years there and tried to live a normal life. The couple hours of normalcy on October 25, 1944, will live forever in the hearts of the courageous boys from "up the valley" and those incredible Manzanar High School students who deserved much better from all of us.

Almost 55 years since that football game, the CIF Southern Section Executive Committee unanimously granted an honorary membership to Manzanar High School cardinal and gold. The honor is intended to recognize the courage and fortitude of the detainees as well as the generosity and sportsmanship of the teams from Big Pine. We are proud of their association with Southern Section.

The Big Pine football game was the only interscholastic athletic event that Manzanar High School had the opportunity in which to participate. In a sad story, the basketball team was scheduled to play Bishop High School in November, 1944, but was denied by the Bishop Board of Education. The following from The Final Report, on education at Manzanar, shows the courage of the Study Body at Bishop High School:

The basketball game scheduled by the Bishop high-school students through their principal, in November, 1944. A few hours before the Manzanar boys were to leave for Bishop, and after the proper clearance with the Western Defense Command had been effected; the Bishop high-school board canceled the game, explaining that they were concerned lest there be some community protest over it. The president of the Bishop student body sent a letter to the Manzanar high school explaining the position of its students. Because of its interest in showing the attitude of the young people as opposed to that of their more intolerant parents, a copy of the letter is included in this report:

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

January 23, 1945

Student Body  
Manzanar Secondary School  
Manzanar, California

Dear Students:

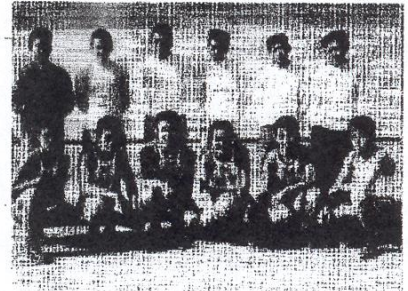
We were glad to receive the understanding letter sent us by your principal, Mr. Rollin Fox.

When we were informed that the game with your basketball team had been canceled we did our utmost to change the School Board's decision through a petition signed by the entire student body. It has been taught us in school that a democracy and constitution such as ours guarantees every American equal treatment. Certain members of the Board, however, refused to acknowledge our efforts.

We sincerely hope arrangements can be made for another game with your team.

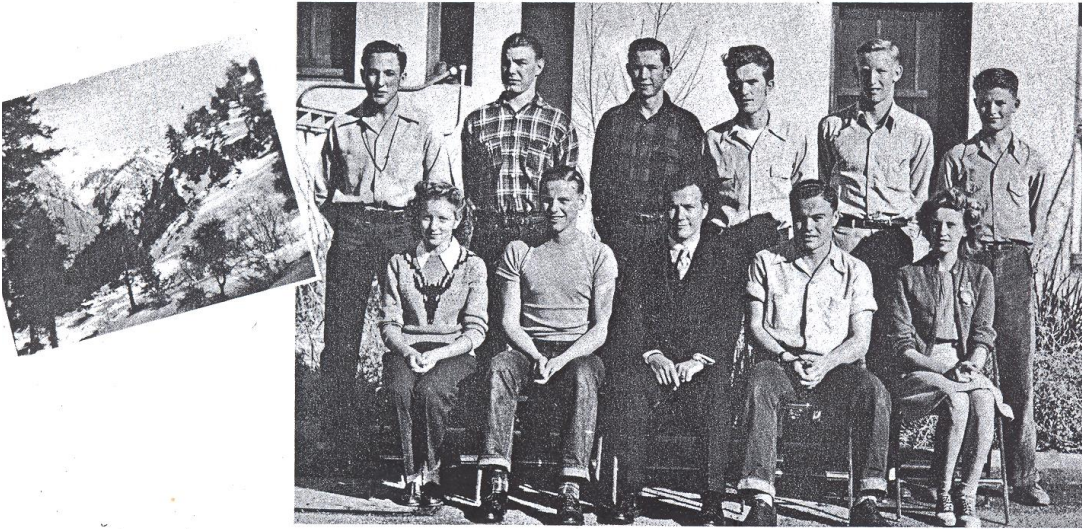
Sincerely yours,

Mickey Duffy (Signed)  
Student Body President



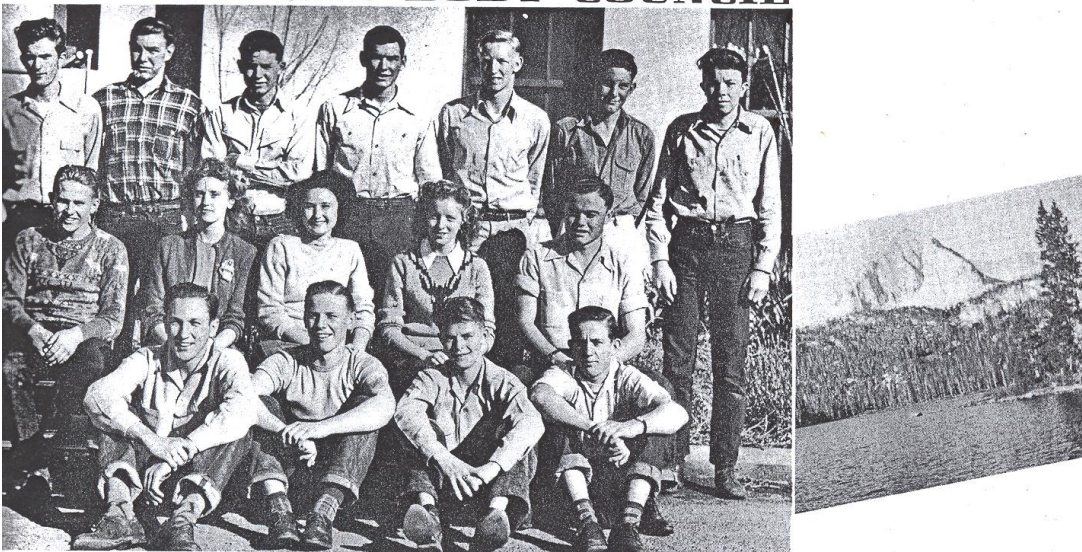
Bishop High School's student government including Student Body President Mickey Duffy (1945 Bishop High School Yearbook).

## STUDENT BODY OFFICERS



Top Row—Lee Crosby, Richard Hugo, Philip Partridge, Don Beauregard, Gerald Covington, Don Banta.  
 Bottom Row—Bonnie Holland, Mickey Duffy, Mr. Tompson, Gene Crosby, Eldora Cruickshank.

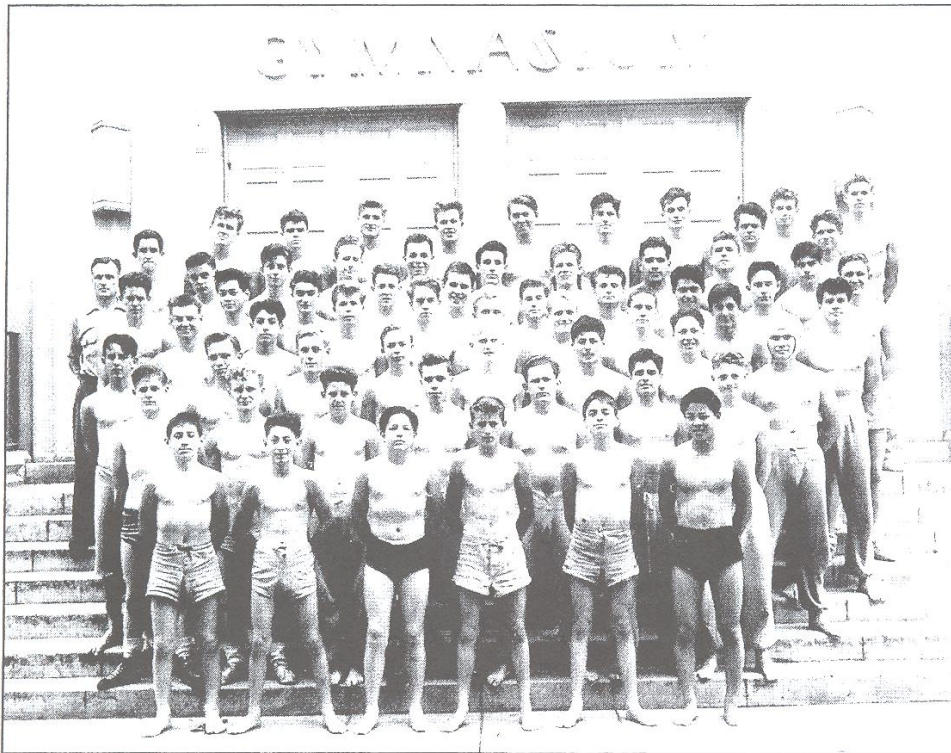
## STUDENT BODY COUNCIL



Top Row—Don Beauregard, Richard Hugo, Dan Young, John Tomlinson, Gerald Covington, Ted Burke, Marvin Nelligan.  
 Middle Row—George Killian, Eldora Cruickshank, Elizabeth Rossi, Bonnie Holland, Gene Crosby.  
 Bottom Row—Lee Crosby, Mickey Duffy, Don Banta, Pat Currie.

It is interesting to note the effect of losing excellent Japanese American high school athletes had upon the high schools which lost potential players to the relocation camps. The following is from An Athletic History of San Diego High School, during the WWII days:

The SDHS wrestling squad lost a certain fourth consecutive SCIF championship when their many Japanese-American members were unable to compete in the evening match because of the alien curfew law. Even then, with several of its best performers sidelined, SDHS lost by only four points to Whittier. Rodriguez and Adams were the only two SDHS champs.



The 1943 wrestling team, like other WWII mat squads, really didn't have much of a chance at SCIF honors because its many Japanese-ancestry performers were removed from school and placed in re-location centers in Arizona. That's veteran coach Frank Crosby at the far left in the sixth row.

# Sports at Camp Manzanar

