

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
CIF-SS

61st historical “tubit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION’S FIRST ATHLETIC HERO
GEORGE WASHINGTON “TUFFY” CONN
PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL – 1915

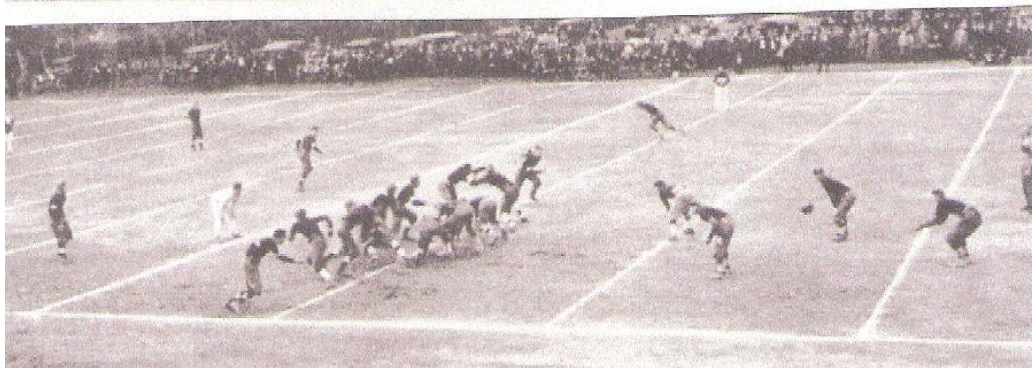
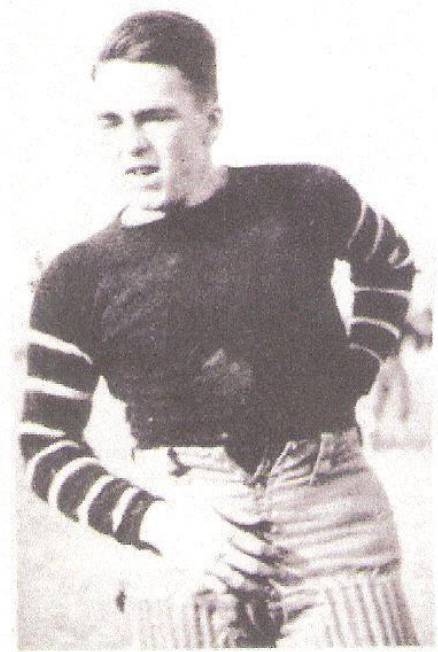


The first great sport’s hero in the early years of the CIFSS was George Washington “Tuffy” Conn a multi-sport legend from Pasadena High School. Tuffy was born in 1892 and participated in basketball, soccer, swimming, track and has been named the California State High School Football Player of the Year for 1915 (Cal-Hi Sports). He weighed 155 pounds, was 5’6” and was the school record holder for the 50 yard dash. He ran alongside the famous Olympian Charles Paddock on the Pasadena track team. On a crisp December day, at the Occidental College football field, Conn led the Bulldogs to the CIFSS Football Champion by defeating Whittier High School 55 – 0. When Selma High School, the Northern Champion, could not play due to injuries, Pasadena was declared the State Football Champions for 1915.

Upon graduation, Conn entered Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) and, in a game against Nebraska, set an all time NCAA record. Tuffy was playing in his fourth game of varsity competition as a freshman defensive back when Nebraska was about to score and fumbled the ball right into the hands of Conn. Tuffy then proceeded to run 103 yards for a touchdown and into OSU Beaver history. The following season Conn transferred to Pennsylvania and played for the Quakers. During World War I Conn was part of the U.S. Army Ambulance Corps and before deploying for Europe he played on the “Usaacs” football team. In 1920, he played professional football for the Cleveland Tigers and the Akron Pros of the American Professional Association (renamed the National Football League in 1922). He also coached the John Carroll University football team. He later

moved back to Pasadena, became a successful real estate agent and member of the prestigious Pasadena Athletic Club. He passed away in 1973.

GEORGE "TUFFY" CONN. By his scintillating work as an open field runner, and as a drop kicker, "Tuffy" Conn has burned his name deep into the walls of records. "Tuffy" gained more yards than any other man in the south, and he scored more than half the points made by Pasadena in the fight for the state championship. He was for two years All-Southern halfback.





Tuffy Conn,

Demon runner of Pasadena High School, who makes positively his last prep appearance tomorrow on his home track, competing against the Manual Arts track team.

Comes Tomorrow.

TUFFY CONN'S FAREWELL AS A "PREP" SPRINTER.

Controversy about Tuffy's age... CIFSS age rule at that time was of 21 years of age or less to be eligible:

SANTA ANA CLAIMS TUFFY CONN OVER TWENTY-ONE.
Los Angeles Times (1886-1922), Nov 13, 1915;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1988)
pg. 17

Seay Denies Charge.

SANTA ANA CLAIMS TUFFY CONN OVER TWENTY-ONE.

COACH DUFFY SEAY of Pasadena High School, who returned from San Diego last night, denied emphatically that Tuffy Conn was over 21 years of age.

"Conn will not be 21 years of age until February 22, 1916," said Coach Seay. "We have all of Conn's records at the High School and anybody who wishes to see them is perfectly welcome. They will find a complete record of his High School career, the age he gave when he first entered High School, the number of years he has competed, and affidavits of his age by his mother.

"Santa Ana says those reports were denied here by an instructor. Why didn't Santa Ana ask the principal of Pasadena for them? He has charge of them. Just because somebody is an instructor does not mean that he is the man who has charge of the school records."

ground that he has played more than four years of high school football.

Since last Saturday's game practically decided the interscholastic football championship of Southern California, the possibility of causing Pasadena to forfeit the victory is of unusual interest among the high schools of this end of the State.

It is declared here that the fact that Conn was over 21 years of age was suspected by Santa Anans before the game last Saturday, and that a demand was made upon a Pasadena High School instructor for the privilege of seeing the school records. It is stated that the request was not granted, the instructor saying that Santa Ana would have to take his word for it that Conn was under 21.

Whether or not this demand was made could not be learned definitely here today, as Coach Walter Hall is in San Diego attending the Southern California Teachers' Institute. It was stated in football circles today that upon Hall's return tomorrow immediate steps will be taken to secure accurate information concerning Conn's age and the number of years he has been in football. Since the Pasadena game a report that Conn is 23 years old is going the rounds among High School students here. Santa Ana's players have been slow to act upon the matter for fear that other schools might consider them hard losers. Yet it was observance of the very rule that they say was violated in Conn's case. If he is over 21, that weakened Santa Ana's team for last Saturday's game. On Monday of last week "Chuck" McClain, Santa Ana's fullback and strongest plunger, became 21 years of age. Out of an honest desire to follow the rules McClain made his age known, and was immediately dropped from the team.

In last Saturday's game Conn was easily the strongest player on the field. Santa Ana was defeated 19 to 0.

(BY DIRECT WIRE—EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH.)
SANTA ANA, Nov. 12.—The league football game won last Saturday at Pasadena by Pasadena High School from Santa Ana High School may be protested on the ground that "Tuffy" Conn, star halfback for Pasadena, is over 21 years of age, and on the

“Tuffy” as an Oregon Agricultural College (Oregon State) Aggie in 1916



The start of the “run” in Portland’s Multnomah Stadium before 6,500 fans against Nebraska...*103 yard fumble recovery return for a touchdown.*

Fumble

Ball

Conn

