



"GOLDIE"
GRIFFITH

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
(C.I.F.)

STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
1919 to 1927...9 GAMES - "A Drillers Dynasty"



10th historical "tidbit."

The following are short "tidbits" on the history of the State Football Championship in California. Starting in 1902, there were some informal state football games without any official sanctioning. From 1906 through 1913, high schools played a form of football or rugby. In 1914, the California Interscholastic Federation (C.I.F.) was founded and plans began to play a Championship Football game. For the first several years the top schools in the North and South just could not seem to play each other. In 1918, a flu epidemic sweep the state and it was not until 1919 that the first actual contest was held.



"FRENCHY"
UHALT

- Long Beach Poly beat Berkeley in the first game 21 – 14,
- Bakersfield High School dominated the playing of these 9 games by winning 5 times with one tie...a **Drillers Dynasty**.
- Berkeley High School played in five of the games and won one championship.
- Bakersfield, in those early days, represented the North region of the state and only one Southern region team has ever won...Long Beach Poly in the initial game.
- Other contestants in the initial games were James Lick-Wilmerding, Covina, San Mateo, and Fullerton High Schools.



THE LAST STATE GAME PLAYED

- The last California State Football Championship game was played on Tuesday December 27, 1927, at 2:00 p.m.
- The game was played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.
- The field was wet from the rains and a bit chewed up by a previous college all-star game. That did not hinder the Drillers whose only inconvenience, "was that their pretty new white jerseys gathered up plenty of mud."
- 6,000 fans were in attendance.
- Bakersfield won by a score of 38 to 0.



- Earlier in the season Bakersfield had defeated Fullerton 28 to 0.
- Bakersfield qualified by easily beating Stockton and San Mateo.
- Fullerton upset Covina and beat Santa Ana at Wrigley Field to advance to the final game (gate receipts were \$637.63).
- Coach “Goldie” Griffith led Bakersfield.
- Coach “Shorty” Smith led Fullerton.
- The newspapers stated that Bakersfield had most of the “beef” up front as the line averaged 180 lbs. and they also had a bruising fullback who weighed 175 pounds.
- “Frenchy” Uhalt and Bob Stockton led the “Wonder Team from Kern County” who had scored 349 points to their opponents 19 prior to the final.
- The Fullerton Indians were led by quarterback Oak Adams and “Chili” Hezmelhalch.
- “Frenchy” had 3 touchdowns in the final and scored all the conversions. Stockton had 2 touchdowns and Adams was injured in the game.
- The December 28, 1927 “Los Angeles Times” headline on top of the first page of the sports section read:

**“UHALT AND STOCKTON LEAD
DRILLERS TO STATE TITLE
Griffith’s Juggernaut Gets Under
Way in the Second Quarter and
Indians are Massacred”**

It is interesting to note that the CIF Federated Council at their December 5, 1927, meeting decided that, “there will be no more Intersectional and State championship football games.” This decision was made three weeks before the Drillers and Indians met. The major reasons for the cancellation of the game for almost 80 years was the strain on the students and schools, the late time of the year, and the difficulty in arranging schedules.

The next year 1928, with no state game, the local preps played an All-Star team from Texas. California was led by Laurie Vejar, referred to as the “Hollywood Holocaust,” and the future all-time Trojan, Orv Mohler, the “Alhambra Annihilator. California won by a score of 45 to 0.

Orv Mohler kicking at USC



In the same December 28, 1927 "Los Angeles Times" edition, there was an article on Babe Ruth who was proud of his off season conditioning, was down to 222 pounds and happy with his new three year contract worth \$70,000.

Bernard Bartholemew "Frenchy" Hault who later played professional baseball

Scores of California State Football Championship games

- 1919 - Long Beach Poly 21, Berkeley 14
- 1920 - Bakersfield 14, Berkeley 3
- 1921 - Bakersfield 0, Berkeley 0 (tie)
- 1922 - Bakersfield 18, Berkeley 12
- 1923 - Bakersfield 27, S.F. Lick-Wilmerding 13
- 1924 - Berkeley 9, Bakersfield 0
- 1925 - Bakersfield 14, Covina 13
- 1926 - San Mateo 20, Covina 0
- 1927 - Bakersfield 38, Fullerton 0



From Chapter 1: Birth of a Dynasty:



"In 1908, the first of many legends appeared on campus. Dwight M. Griffith was hired as a teacher and coach. Griffith was the head coach for every sport on campus; however, it was football that came to be Griffith's first love. For the next 38 years, Griffith blazed a trail to which no other coach in the history of California football could lay claim. During Griffith's tenure as head coach he led Kern County High (later renamed Bakersfield High School) to 19 Valley championships and seven State championships. His first of seven state titles came in 1916 and the last in 1927. Many people say the reason California did away with State championships was because of Kern County High's dominance..."

Notes from the December 3, 1927 State CIF meeting:

On December 17 Bakersfield defeated San Mateo, 14-0, and Fullerton defeated Santa Maria, 20-13. The winners played in Los Angeles on December 27, Bakersfield defeating Fullerton by a score of 38-0, thus winning the State Championship.

✓ The necessity of playing football so late in the semester in order to determine a state championship was discussed at length. It developed, in the course of the discussion, that the Boards of Managers of the various sections were agreed that the strain upon the schools and the students concerned, was too great to justify the continuance of the State games. Most of the delegates had been instructed by their respective Boards of Managers to vote against the continuance of football games beyond the Section series. It was, therefore, moved, seconded, and carried that hereafter there be no more Intersectional and-State championship football games.

UHALT AND STOCKTON LEAD DRILLERS TO STATE TITLE

Griffith's Juggernaut Gets Under Way in Second Quarter and Indians Are Massacred

BY BOB RAY

Led by a dashing, smashing, twisting human dynamo—"Frenchy" Uhalt—Bakersfield's Drillers crushed the Fullerton Indians, 38 to 0, yesterday at the Coliseum to win the California Interscholastic Federation football championship for the fifth time in the last seven years.

Coach "Goldie" Griffith's "wonder team" from Kern county was held away from the Fullerton goal line in the first period, but as soon as Uhalt, Bob Stockton and the rest of those Bakersfield backs began functioning behind a bulky, powerful and smart forward wall it was all over for the Indians. The Drillers got started in the second quarter, in which three touchdowns were chalked up, and from then on it was a massacre of the Indians.



"GOLDIE" GRIFFITH

DRILLER LINE SHINES

Fullerton never really had a chance to show a thing, for the Drillers wouldn't let the southerners get started. The whole thing of it was that Bakersfield had too good a line. The Indians never did gain consistently on line plays, most of their six first downs coming as a result of passes.

Uhalt was the bright star of the game, but Stockton showed up as a powerful line plunger. It was Uhalt, though, who started the Indians' downfall in the second quarter, when he slipped off right tackle, side-stepped his way past two Fullerton backs and dashed 27 yards to Bakersfield's first touchdown. "Frenchy" also converted and those 7 points

were all that the Bakersfield steam-roller needed to get under way. However, Uhalt and Stockton kept providing more momentum and the Driller juggernaut rumbled merrily up and down the field thereafter to a top-sided triumph.

The game was played on a field that was left slippery and in some places watery as a result of the recent rain, but the sloppy going didn't deter the Drillers one iota. In fact, the only inconvenience that the Drillers suffered as a result of the wet going was that their pretty new white jerseys gathered up plenty of mud. However, the Drillers will have plenty of time in which to launder their soiled suits, for yesterday's game wound up the long-winded prep grid season.

UHALT SCORES THREE

Uhalt scored three of his team's six touchdowns, while Stockton plunged across for two others. A substitute by the name of Guzzard accounted for the final Bakersfield score in the last quarter, when he took a 20-yard pass from Uhalt and rambled 3 more yards over the goal line. Guzzard's touchdown was the most sensational of them all, for he snared the ball over his shoulder while on a dead run, reaching up to snatch the pigskin right out of the grasping hands of the Fullerton safety man, who was coming up fast in an attempt to intercept the pass.

Fullerton's chances were sadly handicapped by the absence, for most of the game, of its star quarterback, Oak Adams, who is suffering from an injured shoulder that he hurt in the Santa Maria clash. While Oak was in there, though, he gave the good cash customer on hand one thrill when he almost broke loose running back a kick-off. Adams ran the ball back 40 yards to midfield, where some Driller grabbed hold of him just long enough to allow his mates to pounce on Oak.

Hill's passing for Fullerton in that last-quarter scourge of the Indians was good but for the most part the southern players were so far classed, particularly on the line, that they didn't have a chance to shine.

Before the game was over Coach Griffith showed in a whole raft of substitutes, several of whom managed to do a bit of starring on their own account. Of these, Harvey Farris, who went in for Zaul when the regular end was injured, was really brilliant. Farris snagged passes, covered punts, recovered fumbles and in general distinguished himself. Jim Tyack and "Mutt" Mutz, the starting halfbacks, also played fine ball for the Drillers, while Nolan and Schutze, their subs, also showed up well.

LINE PLAY REMARKABLE

The play of the whole Bakersfield forward wall, though, was remarkable. Griffith certainly has his line-men well trained and they showed it by completely routing the hitherto strong Fullerton forwards. "Moose" Muller and Rex Ware were bulwarks on defense and made themselves outstanding all afternoon by their stellar work.

Neither side could make much headway during the opening moments of the game, but after several exchanges of punts the Drillers got in scoring territory when Uhalt ran back a kick to the Indian 29-yard stripe. One first down followed, but the Driller attempt to score ended on the first play in the second quarter when Uhalt's toss over the goal line fell incomplete.

Adams punted out to the 38-yard line, from where Tyack and Stockton made a first down in three plays. Whereupon Uhalt slipped off left tackle and rambled twenty-seven yards to the opening touchdown. The Drillers got the extra point when a Fullerton player was offside.

The Drillers got the ball and started their next touchdown march from the middle of the field, where Muller was downed after he had intercepted Adams' pass. Uhalt and Stockton took turns packing the ball from this point and steadily marched to a first down on the 3-yard line. Stockton smashed guard for two of these yards and Uhalt then went over left tackle for the score. Uhalt also converted.

The third Bakersfield touchdown arrived soon after, the Drillers getting the ball again when Mersberger fumbled the kick-off after running the ball back to the 35-yard line. Nolan and Stockton took turns punching the left side of the line and finally came up with a first down seven yards from the goal. Stockton took another crack at left tackle, came busting out of a pile of players and dived over for a touchdown. Uhalt failed to convert and the score stood 20 to 0 when the half ended.

DRILLERS ROUT INDIAN ELEVEN

Bakersfield Captures State Title by 38-0 Win

Uhalt and Stockton Star in Coliseum Struggle

Farris Also Shines as Kern County Crew Cops

STOCKTON RUNS 45 YARDS

Early in the third quarter Adams placed a beautiful punt that went out of bounds on the Driller 5-yard line. However, Stockton soon had the Drillers out of danger for on the first play, he faked a reverse, whirled through an opening at left tackle and rambled 45 yards to midfield before he was brought down.

Uhalt was forced to punt soon after and the desperate Indians started passing again. Farris intercepted one of the tosses and ran it back to the Fullerton 14-yard line. Stockton smashed his way to the 5-yard line in three plays. After Nolan had gained three yards in two more smashes, Uhalt went over left tackle for another touchdown that he failed to convert.

Uhalt ran the Fullerton kick-off to the 49-yard line and then flicked a pass to Farris, who was downed on the Indian 35-yard stripe. Schotz and Stockton carted the oval the rest of the way, the Bakersfield fullback making the score from the 10-yard line on another whirl play.

Farris made a sensational recovery of a punt fumbled by Hill to give the Drillers the ball on the 40-yard line in the final quarter. It was from here that Uhalt passed to Guzzard for the final touchdown.

The line-ups:

Bakersfield (38.)	POS.	Fullerton (6.)
Zaul	Q.B.	McPherson
Mills	L.T.R.	Uphaw
Cross	R.G.B.	Sarkis
Ware	C.	Chesley
Clark	R.O.L.	E. Henschel
Muller	R.T.L.	F. Dal George
Boehm	R.L.L.	McComack
Walt	G.	

RABBIT PUNCHES

BY PAUL LOWRY



The gossip says "Frenchy" Uhalt of the Bakersfield team which annihilated Fullerton yesterday, is headed for Stanford. That's not bad news for Stanford, but if "Frenchy" wants to do his future alma mater a big favor he'd take young Mister Stockton along with him as well as the whole Bakersfield line.

If you didn't see Bakersfield and Fullerton playing for the State Interscholastic football title Stockton may mean just another breakfast food to you. But as a matter of fact he was the gent who pulverized the Fullerton line whenever pulverization seemed to be most essential to bring a score. Stockton is not as elusive in the open field as Uhalt, but he runs so hard and so powerfully that he makes up for a lot of the triple-threat advantages which the lighter Uhalt possesses. Incidentally, the latter is a neat little field general, mixed up his plays just well enough to keep the defense guessing and with a potent line functioning like a machine he had no trouble in directing Bakersfield to a well-earned victory over Fullerton.




[Photos by F. M. Litchfield, Times staff photographer]

Messrs. Stockton and Uhalt in Action

From the top photo, it would appear that making touchdowns is an easy thing to do for Bob Stockton, Bakersfield fullback. Stockton was snapped behind the Fullerton goal line after he had driven 7 yards to the Drillers' third touchdown. The lower shot shows Frenchy Uhalt, brilliant Bakersfield quarterback, under full sail and on his way to the initial Driller score. Uhalt rambled 27 yards for the touchdown. He is shown evading Oak Adams, Fullerton safety man.

**OFFICIAL
PROGRAM**



COVINA vs. BAKERSFIELD
PRICE 15c

DECEMBER
26, 1925

BAKERSFIELD

PLAYING in the finals for the State interscholastic football championship has become a habit for Coach Dwight "Goldy" Griffith's Bakersfield eleven. In the last six years the Drillers have reached the finals for the title, winning the honors on four occasions, tying once with Berkeley, and losing last year to the Yellowjackets by a 9 to 0 score. It's a truly remarkable record, and the credit for the Drillers' achievements on the gridiron should go to Coach Griffith, who has installed a wonderfully successful system at the Kern County high school.

Griffith has been made many offers to coach at colleges and universities but has spurned them all, preferring to keep on turning out his winning teams at Bakersfield. When "Goldy" gets through coaching, he'll probably be elected the mayor of the Kern County metropolis.

Like most of Griffith's elevens, the Drillers started out rather slowly this year, barely winning some of their earlier games. However, the Blue and White squad gradually gathered momentum on the season progressed, having won its last three games by overwhelming scores. Bakersfield won the San Joaquin Valley title by defeating the Lemoore eleven, 47 to 0, and last week went up to San Francisco where the Salinas Cowboys were submerged, 38 to 0. The victory over Salinas gave the Drillers the Northern California grid crown and the right to meet Covina today for the state title.

Probably the most outstanding star on the Driller eleven is "Tex" Jones, who has red hair and, like most red-heads, never quits fighting. Tex has proved a tough hombre to stop once he gets into action behind the charging Bakersfield line. He is only a sophomore and weighs about 170 pounds. Jones has two more years of prep grid competition coming up, so it looks as if the Drillers will be battling for the state crown at least another two years.

Lawrence Johns, who captains the Bakersfield squad, is one of the outstanding prep ends in the state. Johns is big, fast, charges in fast enough to keep the opposition's play hurried, and also is a bear at getting down under punts.

George Harper, the Driller fullback, also must come in for mention. Harper consistently punts around 40 yards, and this means from the line of scrimmage, not from where he kicks. Aside from being a sweet punter, Harper can pack the ball with considerable effect. You'll probably see Jones and Harper in plenty of action today.

(Note—Due to the limited amount of time on the publishing of this Program, pictures from Bakersfield were necessarily omitted.)

COVINA



Revitalized: The History of California's Football State Championships

When the California Interscholastic Federation was established in 1914, one decision made by the Federated Council at its first regular meeting was to implement a State Football Championship. The first football championship game was played in 1919 between Long Beach Poly High School and Berkeley High School, while the final one, in 1927, pitted Bakersfield (known then as Kern County Union) against Fullerton High School. Both contests took place in Los Angeles.

From 1914 through 1927, the two major football powers in the state were Berkeley High School in the north and Bakersfield High School in the south.

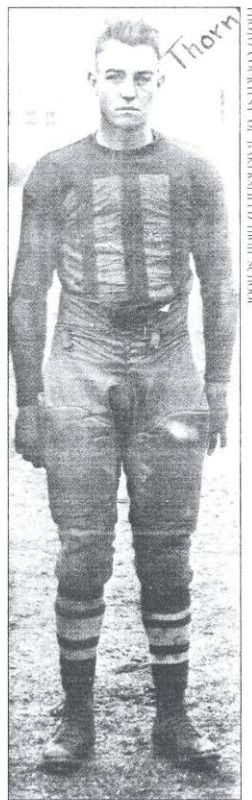
THE FIRST CIF STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The first CIF State Football Championships took place December 27, 1919, between Long Beach Poly High School and Berkeley High School. This came after schools converted from having played "rugby football" to "American football."

The State CIF had tried to play the state championships for three years prior, but was unable to get a game organized due to a flu epidemic and scheduling conflicts. Leading up to the first game, both teams scrimmaged and beat local "college" teams. Twelve thousand fans were in attendance that first year when tickets cost 25 and 50 cents.

BAKERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Bakersfield High School had been a strong football power since the beginning of the 20th Century, and won the first and last CIF State Football Championships, as well as five others in between. In 1916, World War I considerations helped cause San Diego to forfeit to Bakersfield in the first CIF State Football Championship game. In the 1920's Bakersfield played in six state football championships, had the best overall season win-loss record (90-11-5), were 10-time CIF Central Section Champions and named the State Team of the Year five times.



Young Thornburgh played halfback on Bakersfield's 1925 state championship team.

Heading into the final state championship game, in 1927, one newspaper wrote that Bakersfield had most of the "beef" up front as the offensive line averaged 180 pounds and they also had a bruising fullback weighing in at 175.

One of these Bakersfield greats, halfback Young Thornburgh, is still running around the Bakersfield area at the "young" age of 100.

From 1899-1985, only four men held the head coaching post at Bakersfield: Fayette Birch (1899-1907); Dwight M. "Goldie" Griffith (1908-1945); Homer Beatty (1946-1952) and Paul Briggs (1953-1985).

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL

In 1917, American football, which had grown steadily in popularity, replaced rugby at Berkeley High. The players took to the new game well, winning nine of 10 games their first season, often by lopsided scores. Their sole loss was to the Stanford Freshman, 23-17. Two years later, Berkeley achieved the goal of reaching the CIF State Football Championships – in only its second season in the sport. The Yellow Jackets didn't win, but they had shown that they could compete against anyone. They had several strong seasons, and earned their way into the state championships in four of the next five years.

The 1924 team captain, Ralph Dougery, commented on how he saw the philosophy and values of the sport of football as changing from a win-at-all-cost viewpoint.

"This sport is now an athletic activity fostered by the leading men of the country, not for the glory of having a winning team, but to help the students who participate in the game to attain a better manhood.

"Football training today teaches cooperation and team play, both of which are necessary qualifications in every undertaking of modern life...and the lesson of fair play and team work, gained from this athletic activity helps to make better citizens for the community. American football owes its progress and popularity to the development of sportsmanship, clean play, and leadership in tense moments...."

As it turned out, however, Berkeley High football never returned to the state championships following Dougery's ahead-of-their-time comments.



Young Thornburgh is believed to be the oldest living alumnus of Bakersfield High School. Gloria Rankin joins him at a celebration commemorating his 100th birthday, August 31, 2006.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BAKERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

The 1927 Kern County Union High School, now known as Bakersfield High School, football team won the last CIF State Football Championship game, defeating Fullerton, 38-0. Many historians consider this team to have been one of, if not, the best assembled team in the school's history.

CIF DISCONTINUES STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

From the beginning, issues that became problematic were deciding the length of the football season, how to determine the championship contestants, financial concerns, and when and where the state championships would take place. These matters were never fully resolved, and contributed to the decision to discontinue the CIF State Football Championship in 1927.

Originally there were four CIF Sections: Bay (later renamed North Coast); Central; Northern and Southern. In 1914, the Federated Council decided that the four Section championships were to be completed by November 21, the intersection games to be played by November 28, and the final game to be contested on or before December 12.

Several scheduling adjustments had to be made over the years, due to the growing population, the increased number of high schools established in the state, the resulting growth of football programs and leagues, longer seasons and the respect for the Christmas holiday.

The Council voted, as policy, "that the State Football Championship game should be played regularly on the fourth Saturday in December, unless that Saturday falls on Christmas Day, and in that case on the day before Christmas, unless by mutual consent of both teams another day is selected."

In 1921, one of the North Coast Leagues had proposed abolishing state championships altogether. After much discussion, the Council concluded that the state championships served a good purpose, and would be continued, except that "no state championships will be declared in any sport when the schools concerned find it difficult to bring about a game for financial reasons." Because it was cost-prohibitive to travel from one part of the state to another, it seemed advisable to accept any favorable offer from Pasadena.

Three years later, the Southern Section reported to the Council that although all efforts had been made to complete its football schedule before the State final

game on December 20, it proved impossible due to the Section's overabundance of leagues. As a result, the Council postponed the final to December 27.

The decision as to whether or where to hold the football championships had as much to do with cost as with the idea of alternating between northern and southern locales.

In 1924, the Council formed a committee whose task was to arrive at an arrangement by which each of the four Sections could develop a championship team and then compete for the state championship, while avoiding prolonging the season. Complicating matters was a tie between Orange and Glendale High Schools. The winner would have taken on Compton High School for the Southern Section title. However, at the time, there was no football tie-breaking rule (Federated Council adopted one in 1926). As a result, the Southern Section withdrew from competition for the state championship. Instead, Orange and Glendale played again on

December 13. Bakersfield High School ended up the winner of the Southern half of the State. The Council again rescheduled the State Championship for December 20.

Between 1914 and 1924, increasing population pressure in both northern and southern California necessitated the building of new schools. This in turn led to the creation of more football teams and more football leagues in each section. More teams and leagues had to play a fuller schedule at one game per week and still determine a champion within a very limited amount of time. For example, Bakersfield's regular-season schedules show a lengthening from 4 games in 1916 to 10 or more in the mid-1920's. Berkeley had already had such schedules before 1920; its enrollment jumped from just under 1,000 in 1917 to over 2,500 in 1927. Adding to the pressure was that gate receipts did not always cover the costs incurred in transporting teams and faculty to games, and it was becoming more problematic to find a school willing to host the championships. Those

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BAKERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Fullerton High School played in the final state football championship game in 1927.

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factors inspired opposition to State Football Championships again in 1925.

The Federated Council met in 1925 to tackle the question of how to determine state champion football teams. One decision was that the three northern sections work out a way to select the northern champion, and that team would face the Southern Section champion for the state championship.

Another possibility was to have the Secretary of the Federation structure the northern championship by using the following formula:

- * the first preliminary would feature teams from the two Sections having the smallest number of teams competing;
- * the teams from the two Sections having the largest number of teams competing would play in the second preliminary;
- * the winners of each preliminary would compete for the northern championship.

At a later meeting, the Federated Council decided to preclude teams from playing in post-season games against schools not in their leagues, and when no championship was involved, on the ground that there was so much criticism that the football season was already too long.

At that same meeting, a letter was read which strongly called for abandoning the State Football Championships.

The reasons concluded that they were becoming unwieldy due to the number of schools involved and the season was too long, and, therefore, detrimental to the players.

After extended discussion, no definite action was taken except to postpone making a decision. The date of the 1926 State Football Championship, however, was set for December 18. But that was the date on which the Southern Section champion was determined. And because the following Saturday was Christmas Day, the 1926 State Football Championship was held on Tuesday, December 28.

However, there were too many ongoing significant problems in scheduling and implementing a State Football Championship. The event was a victim of football's popularity, and the nature of the game precluded scheduling more than one game per week.

In early December of 1927, the Federated Council decided that, going forward, all intersectional and state championship football games would be discontinued.



Coach Dwight M. "Goldie" Griffith, who coached Bakersfield for 38 years, led the Drillers to six state championships in eight seasons in the 1920's.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The Section's Boards of Managers had instructed their delegates to vote against continuing the games on the ground that they caused too much strain on both schools and players. Each Section, however, could continue holding its own playoffs to determine a Section Champion.

RENEWAL OF CIF STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The last CIF State Football Championship was played at the Los Angeles Coliseum on December 27, 1927. Now in 2006 – 79 years later – the concept has finally been revived. After nearly four years of work by the CIF's Championships, New Events Committee, headed by Ken Gunn, the Federated Council, in May 2005 adopted the proposal to add CIF State Championship Bowl Games.

The current concept calls for a bowl game format rather than a traditional tournament. Three games in each of three divisions will be played on the same field on a single day. Teams will be classified in Division I, Division II or Division III based solely on school enrollment. A team from a Northern California Section will face a team from a Southern California Section in each contest.

To qualify for the state championship bowl games, teams must have been a Section champion. Given the division breakdowns in each Section, 47 teams were eligible for participation in the 2006 state championships.

A selection committee was charged with determining who the six participating schools would be. They met on Sunday, December 10, following the final Section championship games. They made use of all relevant pieces of information to help them make as informed a decision as possible. Such material included statewide rankings, media reports, testimonials, statistics, and more.

Guidelines for team selection included won-loss record, strength of schedule, head-to-head competition and common opponents. Point differential in scores is not among the selection guidelines.

The CIF State Football Championship Bowl Games have been approved, at this point, as a two-year pilot program. Games will take place on December 16, 2006, and December 15, 2007, at the Home Depot Center in Carson. Following the two years, the Federated Council will decide whether or not to continue the event.

Bakersfield High School still has a strong program and a tremendous amount of community support. From 1916 to 2005, the Drillers won a record 33 CIF Section Championships and 10 consecutive league championships from 1992 to 2001.

De La Salle High School in Concord holds the record for the most consecutive CIF Section Championships with 15, from 1992-2006, the second-most overall (22 from 1982-2006), and the most consecutive undefeated seasons (19 from 1982-2003). The Spartans boasted a national-record 151-game winning streak during that stretch.

They say what comes around goes around. It's been nearly eight decades since the CIF last offered a state championship in the sport of high school football. The wait is finally over.

And despite the fact the ball has yet to be kicked off and a pass has yet to be thrown, history is already repeating itself.

Written by Michael Boot. Edited by Kyle Janzen. Special thanks to Ken Hooper of Bakersfield High School for his generous contribution of archived material.

STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

1919	Long Beach Poly	21	Berkeley	14
1920	Bakersfield	14	Berkeley	3
1921	Bakersfield	0	Berkeley	0
1922	Bakersfield	18	Berkeley	12
1923	Bakersfield	27	Lick-Wilmerding	13
1924	Berkeley	9	Bakersfield	0
1925	Bakersfield	14	Covina	13
1926	San Mateo	20	Covina	0
1927	Bakersfield	38	Fullerton	0