

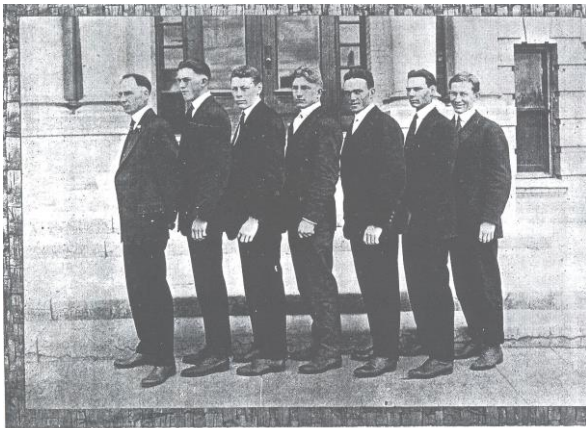
HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)



16th historical “tidbit.”

1915 CIFSS BASKETBALL CHAMPION

WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL
Defeats Covina High School 38 to 32 – February 27, 1915
(First half played inside – second half played outdoors)



ALL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM, 1915



Whittier High School

Basketball, or “basket ball” as it was called at the beginning of the 1900’s, was a very popular sport in the Southern California area. It could be played indoors at the numerous athletic clubs and outdoors on courts than ranged from hard packed dirt to concrete. Next to track, it was the most organized interscholastic sport prior to the creation of the CIFSS in 1913. Basket ball was first mentioned in the November 19, 1914, CIFSS Council Meeting minutes with this comment, “Basket ball semifinals will be played second week in February (1915)...and 5% of finals proceeds goes to the Council.” A.B. Clayton, Manual Arts High School, was named the manager of the championship. Mr. Clayton was a representative of the Los Angeles City League which was one of the four leagues when CIFSS was founded. The City League included Pasadena, Long Beach, Santa Monica and Whittier High Schools. In the March, 11, 1915, Council minutes, “Mr. Clayton

reported upon the basket-ball Championship series... Whittier was declared the winner.” Later in the May 20, 1915, minutes Mr. Clayton stated, “...that some provision should be made to settle disputes in reference to the kind of a court that Championship games should be played on...a motion was made and carried that all Championship games be played on outside courts except by mutual agreement between parties concerned.”



Town of Whittier – 1900



Manual Arts High School

The second CIFSS Championship Basketball game was played at Manual Arts High School on February 27, 1915, and Whittier High School was the victor by a score of 38 to 32 over Covina High School. **The first half of the game was played indoors as Whittier played on that surface during the regular season and the second half was played outside as Covina was accustomed to an outdoor court.** Covina was led by “a fat boy” named Dalin, according to the “Los Angeles Times,” and Whittier stars were Beam and Benton. Whittier had defeated Manual Arts and Redondo to get to the finals. The Whittier team was coached by John Wilson who would go on to win the first three CIFSS Basketball Championships...40 to 19 over Azusa High School held at the Los Angeles YMCA in 1916 and 34 to 16 over Hollywood High School held at the Pasadena YMCA in 1917. Total receipts turned over to the Council from the first Championship game were \$20.65.

Whittier High School would also go on to defeat Berkeley High School 31 to 20 in 1916, for the first California State CIF Basketball Championship game held which was played at Whittier High School...this atoned for the unofficial State Championship three years earlier played in Berkeley with the northerners winning.

(Special thanks to Morris E. Sawyer, Historian and Archivist for Whittier High School, for providing many of the attachments from Whittier High School yearbooks, school newspapers and for his true dedication to the preservation of the community of Whittier and Whittier High School.)

WHITTIER HIGH WINS PREP BASKETBALL TITLE

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Feb 28, 1915;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1988)
pg. VII10

Covina Falls.

WHITTIER HIGH WINS PREP BASKETBALL TITLE

WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL won the Southern California basketball championship for the fourth successive time yesterday, when Covina was defeated in the title finals at Manual Arts, 38 to 32.

Covina is accustomed to an out-door court, Whittier to an indoor court; so half of the game was played inside and half out.

At the end of the first half, which was played in the gym, Whittier was leading, 16 to 11. The score for the second half on the out-door court was 22 to 21 in Whittier's favor.

The game was hard fought, close enough at all times to be exciting and filled with enough basket shooting to be spectacular.

Covina had a large crowd of rooters at Manual Arts, who cheered for the losers until the end, never once giving up hope. During the second half they made one continuous howl. Deam and Benton were the clever

basketball tossers for Whittier. Deam scored sixteen points, and Benton twelve. The work of Benton is all the more remarkable, because he only had his broken arm taken out of a sling last week and has not played for three months.

A fat boy by the name of Dalin was Covina's leading light. He played a forward.

To work their way into the finals, Covina had to defeat Fullerton, Orange county winners, who defeated San Bernardino, the Citrus Belt champions. Whittier defeated Manual Arts, the city champions, and Redondo, the bay title holders.

Whittier High will go north to play for the State championship, provided the townsmen of Whittier will back the trip with money enough to cover expenses.

The line-up

Whittier		Covina
Benton	Forward	Dalin
Jones	Forward	Edmondson
Deam	Center	Kendall
Bozen	Guard	King
Parce	Guard	Olmstead
Referee, Leon A. Mitchell		

Cardinal and White

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Whittier League Champions

The Whittier High School basketball team has completed its league schedule without a single defeat to the credit side of their ledger. It has been a profit account rather than a loss.

The game scheduled with Pasadena to have been played last Satur-

day was forfeited by Pasadena. This completes the league schedule. Whittier will meet Manual Arts High School Tuesday night on the L. A. Y. M. C. A. floor to decide the championship of the entire county.

The High School team is working

under difficulties, trying to capture the Southern California title. It seems no more than fair that if they succeed in accomplishing this that they be sent north to uphold the laurels of Whittier High in a state championship contest.



1915.

THE RECORD OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM

The Whittier High School basketball team with fifteen games to its credit, has yet to know the bitterness of defeat. Although playing under the most trying conditions and handicapped by the loss of its best player the team has overcome all difficulties and with the aid of Mr. Wilson, our splendid coach, has captured the League championship.

Following is a list of all games played and the total scores:

Practice Games

Huntington Park, 17; W. H. S. 55.

Downey H. S., 20; W. H. S., 40.
Fullerton H. S., 14; W. H. S., 40.
Downey H. S., 14; W. H. S., 93.
Montebello H. S., 30; W. H. S., 51.
Los Angeles H. S., 23; W. H. S., 49.
El Monte H. S., 26; W. H. S., 38.
Number of points scored against Whittier, 146.

Number of points scored by Whittier, 366.

League Games

Long Beach H. S., 12; W. H. S., 33.
Santa Monica H. S., 16; W. H. S., 45.
Pasadena H. S., 19; W. H. S., 29.

Long Beach H. S., 19; W. H. S., 26.
Santa Monica H. S., 18; W. H. S., 47.

Number points scored in League games: W. H. S., 191; Opponents, 84.

Summary of the League Games

The first League game was with Long Beach and staged on the opponent's outside court, this same court about equaling Philadelphia street in levelness of surface. In spite of this Whittier scored an easy victory as the score, 33 to 12 indicates.

The second game was with Santa Monica, played on the home court. The Santa Monicans having heard of Benton's fame set two men to guard him, thus allowing Merrick to run around loose. The result of this piece of strategy on their part resulted in Merrick getting nine baskets, while Benton even with his two opponents netted six. The game finished with a score of 56 to 13.

The game with Pasadena at Pasadena was one of the hardest games of the season. This was the fateful game in which Benton, our star player, had his right arm broken. This was a heavy blow to the team and Coach Wilson deserves especial credit for turning out a championship team under such adverse conditions.

The fourth game was the return game with Long Beach and was played in the High School gym. This was the first game played without Benton and for a time the Long Beach huskies made it look as though the loss of "Pink" meant the loss of the championship. But during the last ten minutes the team settled down to business and defeated the opponents by a score of 26 to 19.

The return game with Santa Monica was staged at Santa Monica. The most notable thing about this game was the fact that although both the manager of the captain were occupying seats on the bench the team was able to win by the somewhat lop-sided score of 47 to 18.

The return game with Pasadena did not come off as that High School forfeited the game. The league championship is now undisputably ours!

RAYMOND NETTLSHIP.