



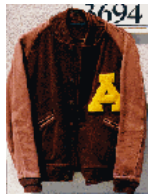
HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIFSS)

This is the second 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.

- Plans for the first California State Basketball Championship game in 1915 fell apart because some of the schools did not have gymnasiums and some of the games would have to be played outside.
- The 1919/1920 California State CIF Championships were held in the sports of Football, Basketball, Track, Swimming, Tennis and Baseball.
- The State Championship Football game was cancelled after the 1927 game because, “The games were becoming unwieldy with too many schools concerned, the season was too long and drawn out, and it was detrimental to the pupils engaged.”
- In 1945 (right after WWII) the CIFSS tried to develop a common policy for the awarding of athletic letters in all member schools. The rationale given:



“The whole problem of letter awards is one of concern to all of Southern California. The automobile, the places of summer resorts, the beaches and the mountains bring together athletes from all high schools...one soldier recognizes the award of another, even though he may have fought 8,000 miles away. One student should be able to recognize the award of another high school in Southern California, even though it may be 200 miles distant.”

The basic policy held that you had to participate in 60% of the contests to letter.

- Questions of eligibility never seem to change much. The following is from the April 23, 1927 CIFSS Council Meeting:

“Question... a boy obtains release from his parents and so becomes a ‘released minor,’ and transfers from Town X where he was a ‘Letter Man’ to Town Y. Is he eligible?”

The Commissioner (called Secretary at that time) ruled that while the courts might recognize the minor as a “free agent,” we the CIF, could not recognize ‘Released minors’ for if we did a ‘crop’ would spring up all over the South.”



- In 1928 there were 20 leagues including one “Private School League” consisting of Harvard Military, Cathedral Preparatory, California Preparatory and Webb Military.
- The November 3, 1922 CIFSS Council Meeting minutes noted that several members stated, “Only school men should be used as officials whenever possible.”
- In the San Fernando Valley League of 1924, there was a school called Owensmouth. What happened to that school? Answer: the school was named after the town which was given its name by General Otis of the “Los Angeles Times” because it was the closest to the outlet of the Owens River Aqueduct. In 1930 it was changed to Canoga Park because the town people didn’t like the original name and high school was renamed Canoga Park High School...now a member of the Los Angeles City Section of CIF.
- A complaint against water polo was brought to the Council in 1939 because, “...too much of the activity is beneath the surface of the pool where it cannot be seen and controlled. It is claimed too that water polo players are often subject to annoying sinus infections.”
- Sound familiar? “Questions involving the eligibility of boys who have come to our member schools by transfer have caused more friction in the CIF Southern Section, than ***all other problems put together.***” That statement came from the minutes of the September, 1941 Council Minutes.

During World War II the CIFSS Council curtailed many of the sports programs in keeping with the national program of conservation. The following is a list of those reductions:

- Limited the number of games that used a ball to keep down the rubber consumption
- Only the teams could travel...no spectators from the visiting teams to save gas
- Reduced the schedules
- The development of an intra-mural program to take the place of competitive high school sports