HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)

This is the third 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.

DO YOU LIKE ACRONYMS?
From IHSAASC to AAU to SCIAC to CIFSS

The Official Founding Date of the
Southern Section of the C.I.F.

The beginning of the CIFSS has its roots in the early attempts by high schools in the Los Angeles area to organize for the purpose of running local track meets. The IHSAASC (Interscholastic High School Athletic Association of Southern California) held track meets in 1904 through 1906 and folded when the largest school, Los Angeles High School, had to pay $100 to cover the debt of the 1906 meet…they cancelled their membership and HSAASC was done. The AAU (Academic Athletic Union) was next and worked with local colleges in staging the track meets. When their leader left for another job, the organization died by default. In 1913, the SCIAC (Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council) was created when Seth Van Patten challenged the local high schools to stop complaining about how the colleges and YMCA ran the track meets and take control over their own meets. The SCIAC was created at the first interscholastic track meet solely run by the high schools on March 29, 1913, during a meeting held between the prelims and the finals….this is considered to be the founding date of the CIFSS. The SCIAC created their governance structure on May 15, 1913, in a meeting at Los Angeles High School. Representatives from the five leagues of Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Suburban, Orange County and Citrus Belt were present. On March 28, 1914, at the YMCA Field House in Los Angeles, the California Interscholastic
Federation (CIF) was created for the purpose of organizing athletics on a state-wide basis. At the September 26, 1914, meeting of the SCIAC, the following annotation is found in the minutes:

“Since Southern California forms one of the sections of the ‘California Interscholastic Federation’ and since the ‘Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council’ is the representative body of Southern California affiliated in this California Interscholastic Federation, it it was moved, seconded, and carried, that the name be changed to ‘The California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section’ or for the purpose of brevity, ‘The Southern Section of the C.I.F.’”

- When the State CIF was created in 1914, the state was divided into four Sections corresponding to the four geographical Sections of the California Teachers Association…the Southern, Central, Bay (which became the North Coast) and Northern.
- The first difficult decision that had to be made by the State CIF in order for it to gain credence and members was how to define an amateur (professionalism). After some debate, the State CIF adopted the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) standard definition stating you could not be an amateur if you got paid for playing, you played with professionals or you coached for pay.
- It was interesting to note that the State CIF referred to illegal transfers as “TRAMPS.”
- The first five leagues of the SCIAC (CIFSS) in 1913 were the Citrus Belt, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, Suburban and Orange County. On September 26, 1914, the CIFSS, in their first releaguing process, dissolved the Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City and Suburban Leagues and created a new City League, Central League, Valley League and the Bay League.

Special tidbit: during the late 1800’s up until 1907, one of main high schools which participated in interscholastic sports was Throop High School founded by wealthy abolitionist and Chicago politician Amos Throop. Throop felt the school needed a fresh sense of purpose and abandoned Throop High School in favor a college program along engineering lines…the name of that college was California Institute of Technology (CALTECH).

Amos Throop
ROAR IN HIGH SCHOOL RANKS.

LOS ANGELES ATHLETES NOW HAVE A GRIEVANCE.

November, 1903. — Another tour has gone up among the ranks of high-school athletes who form the Intercollegiate High School Athletic Association of Southern California. A short time ago it was the Ventura contingent, which made the "kick". This time the Los Angeles High School is up in arms against the management of the association. The trouble with the Los Angeles boys is that they have been ousted from the association, and will not be allowed to participate in the April fifth day to be held here. They were round up several weeks ago, and only found out yesterday, when Abram.el Seck of the Los Angeles team came to this city. The rules of the association is that the school failing to send a representative to the meetings twice in succession is dropped, and this was the Los Angeles High School. It is the duty of the secretary of the association, however, to notify each school of the time and place of meeting. If a letter was not notified, and he was especially bitten, the rules of the Intercollegiate Association of Southern California were suspended, and the team, who is the secretary, hereby suspends the Intercollegiate Association of Southern California and the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of Southern California.

The judges decided the championship of everything in the southern class of Alabama. It is hardly likely that a team will be as strong as this year.

L. M. Barker, physical director of the Orange Union High School, in the Intercollegiate Athletic League, anti-basketball and will have complete charge of the championship games in the southern class.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP.

Intercollegiate Games Between Leaders of Several Leagues to Begin Today.

The first game in the semi-final in the basketball of the Intercollegiate Athletic Union of Southern California will be played today between the boys’ and girls’ teams of the Citrus League and the Orange County League. The Orange league will be represented in the boys’ team from the Orange Union High School and the girls’ team from Santa Ana High School, while the Citrus league will be represented by Pomona boys and Ontario girls. The winners of this match will meet the winners of the Orange County League in finals at Orange Union College, on March 5th. The championship in the Orange County League in the girls’ game was decided last Monday evening, when the girls from Orange Union High School lost to the Santa Ana High School by a score of 15 to 16 in a game played with sensational play. "Santa Ana had a great team this year and is counted upon as a good winner in the Southern California high school class, but they disposed of Orange Union girls, last but probably will have a hard battle in the finals with the winners of the Orange County League. Ontario will be somewhat handicapped by the fact that they have not only five players on the team, while the other teams have all been using six.

The girls’ game will be played at Ontario this afternoon and the boys at Pomona. The place of holding the semi-finals was decided by lot last week, but the dates were given by the league to Orange Union and Santa Ana. The meet has new interest in the opening round, and over 10,000 will undoubtedly be present.

The Santa Ana high school is a comparatively new school, and has not been accepted in intercollegiate athletics, but has never been inferior to the best in the country. The team consists of Whittier, George W. Brown of California, E. A. Claude Branan of Pomona College and others.

The latter’s team was defeated by the former’s team in the semi-finals, but was declared the champion of everything in the southern class of California. It is hardly likely that a team will be as strong as this year.

L. M. Barker, physical director of the Orange Union High School, in the Intercollegiate Athletic League, anti-basketball and will have complete charge of the championship games in the southern class.

HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETS.

DATES SET FOR BASEBALL AND OTHER CHAMPIONSHIPS.

May 11, the championship game of the Citrus Belt League is to meet the San Diego team. The Orange County champions are to break up with the title holders of the Suburban League the same day. Each contest is to be played on neutral grounds.

If this point is not decided before the games are scheduled to take place, the managers of the teams are to report to President Oliver of the council, and he is to arrange the place of meeting.

June 7 is the day set for the game between the Los Angeles city champions and the County League winners. On this same day, the winners of two games of the week before are to meet. One week later, June 14, the winner of the Los Angeles county and the Los Angeles city contest, is to meet the winning nines from the outside. In the finals.

FOUR YEAR LIMIT.

The Intercollegiate council also decided on eligibility rules to govern all intercollegiate contests. In the future, the school shall not be eligible until it has completed four years of intercollegiate competition. In the college, and is only the agreement of the school to complete the athletic field. Any boy in school for four years shall not be allowed to enter, because the fact that he is there an extra year shows that he needs to put more time on his studies.