



HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)



47th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

UNCROWNED CIFSS CHAMPIONS
WORLD WAR II AND THE FULLERTON HIGH SCHOOL
1942 BASEBALL TEAM

During World War II, the CIFSS had to adjust the playing of interscholastic sports due to the war effort and the fact that many high schools could no longer field teams and hire the necessary coaches. Rations dictated that many games could not be played due to transportation concerns (gasoline) and the lack of balls (rubber was needed for the war effort). A perusal of the CIFSS record book indicates that very few CIFSS Championships were held during the 1943-1945 school years. In addition, the sport of high school baseball was suffering from a lack of popularity and the ability to make money at the gate. In 1939, a plan was developed where group baseball Champions would be declared instead of one major Champion for the whole sport of baseball. At the close of the 1941 season, only two of the CIFSS groups played through to a Championship. Many teams were entitled to enter the play-offs but did not due to costs or lack of interest. In the Central Group of leagues Bonita defeated Brea-Olinda and in the Western Group Santa Barbara defeated Woodrow Wilson. It is interesting to note in the CIFSS Official Record Book that Santa Barbara, the winner by a score of 4-3 over Wilson, is listed as the 1941 Major Division Champion, but no mention is made of Bonita High School's victory.

The same chaos and difficulty of the war years would continue for the 1942 baseball season and again the uncrowning of a deserving CIFSS Champion... **THE BASEBALL TEAM FROM FULLERTON HIGH SCHOOL - 1942.**

The 1942 Fullerton High School baseball team would go undefeated in the Sunset League and defeated Excelsior High School by a score of 10 – 3 in

the League Championship game. The Fullerton coach was the popular Richard Spaulding. They were led by their star pitcher Vaughn Jones, a tall right hander, and catcher Kenny Sullivan. Other key members of the team included Ernie Johnson (2B), Lee Hodge (CF), Frank Munoz (LF), Ed Hill (3B), Trenton Mitchell (SS), Joe Juarez or “Yutch” Rayburn (RF), and Bob Trook (1B). They defeated San Gabriel Valley League Champion Burbank by a score of 5 – 3 in the first round of the playoffs. They advanced to the finals of what was called the “Minor Division” and met a very strong Bonita High School team led by the great Glenn Davis who would go onto win the Heisman Trophy for Army in 1946. The game was tied going into the 8th inning when Fullerton scored three runs and secured the victory by a score of 8 - 6. Stars of the game included Munoz, Johnson, Hodge, Hill and the catcher Sullivan who had two hits. Glenn Davis had one hit and a run for Bonita. The “Daily News Tribune” Fullerton newspaper for that Saturday, May 30, 1942, had an article on the front page entitled, “Japanese Launch Offensive Eastward From Nanchang” and a cartoon showing Uncle Sam bowing his head and saying **WE’LL NOT FORGET** at a memorial inscribed: **IN MEMORY OF THE HEROES OF PEARL HARBOR, BATTAN AND CORREGIDIOR.** In the “Dailey News Tribune” write up of the game it was stated:

“There is a possibility that Fullerton will issue a challenge to Long Beach Poly’s major champions for an extra playoff, although Coach Simpson said he would not know until next week.”

The writer had the story a little wrong as San Diego Hoover actually beat Long Beach Poly by a score of 8 - 3 and the game was played at Hoover High School. San Diego Hoover is the only Champion listed for the 1942 baseball season in the official CIFSS Record Book. The CIFSS Baseball Championships would not be contested again until after the war in 1946. Finally, in 1950, the CIF “officially” divided the Baseball Championships into a Major and Minor Division configuration.

It is poignant to find out that the challenge was never made by Fullerton High School to San Diego Hoover. The restrictive issues of the war effort and the fact that beloved Coach Richard Spaulding was drafted and reported to duty that next week to serve his country put an end to a glorious CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON.



Many of the young men who played on that Championship team went onto to serve their country and some died during that great conflict. Kenny Sullivan is one of the two surviving members of that baseball team and came ashore with the Army in the second wave at Normandy. He was wounded with shrapnel and never got a chance to realize his dream to play professional baseball. He did return to Fullerton and mentored the great Del Crandall who was a successful catcher with the Milwaukee Braves.



Fullerton High School Baseball

*ON BEHALF OF THE CIFSS HALL OF FAME VETERANS
COMMITTEE*

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE

1942 FULLERTON HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

**1942 CIFSS MINOR DIVISION BASEBALL
CHAMPIONS**

“WE’LL NOT FORGET”



ROW 3: C. Simpson, K. Sullivan, V. Jones, L. Rayburn, M. Bullis.

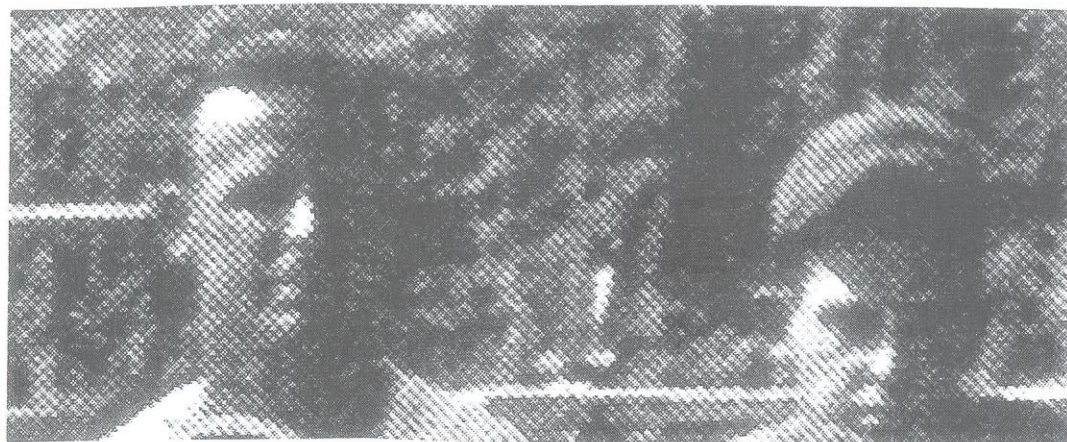
ROW 2: E. Hill, J. Juarez, T. Hill, T. Mitchell, G. Horne.

ROW 1: B. Trook, E. Johnson, L. Hodge, W. Johnson, E. Munoz.

KENNY SULLIVAN



COACH SIMPSON AND SULLIVAN



F.H.S. Wins Minor C.I.F. Pennant

Indians Trounce Bonita Nine in Playoff, 8 to 6

Simpson's Sluggers
Pound Out 15
Hits in Victory

Pounding out 15 hits, Coach Cliff Simpson's Fullerton union high school Indians won the minor division title of the C. I. F. baseball playoffs by defeating Bonita high school, 8 to 6, in baseball on the Bonita diamond yesterday afternoon.

There is a possibility that Fullerton will issue a challenge to Long Beach Poly's major division champions for an extra playoff, although Coach Simpson said he would not know until next week.

While Vaughn Jones, effective righthander, was holding Bonita to seven hits, his Fullerton teammates were having a field day at the plate.

Frank Munoz, leftfielder, and Ernie Johnson, second baseman, each hit three singles; Lee Hodge, centerfielder, contributed a double and a single; Ed Hill, third baseman, clouted a double and a single; and Ken Sullivan, catcher, came through with two singles in Fullerton's heavy assault.

The count was tied 5-5 going into the first of the eighth, when Simpson's Indians shoved across three runs on successive hits by Johnson, Hodge, Munoz and Hill. Bonita came back with one run in the same inning on Martin's homer, but Jones retired the next three batters in order.

Pitcher Jones struck out only four of the Bonita batters, but he kept their hits well scattered. Saldivar, shortstop, got a home run off Jones in the third with the bases empty.

The score:

Fullerton H. S. (8)		AB	R	H
Johnson, 2b	.....	5	2	3
Hodge, cf	.....	4	3	2
Munoz, lf	.....	4	2	3
Hill, 3b	.....	5	0	2
Mitchell, ss	.....	4	0	1
Rayburn, ss	.....	0	0	0
Jaurez, rf	.....	1	0	0
Kraemer, rf	.....	3	0	0
Trook, 1b	.....	1	0	0
Horne, 1b	.....	4	0	1
Sullivan, c	.....	4	1	2
Jones, p	.....	0	0	1
Totals	.....	40	8	15

Bonita H. S. (6)		AB	R	H
Stone, 2b	.....	5	0	0
Saldivar, ss	.....	5	1	1
Davis, cf	.....	4	1	1
Noah, c	.....	4	2	0
Masters, 1b	.....	3	1	1
Williamson, 1b	.....	3	1	1
Martin, lf	.....	4	1	2
Whitehead, rf	.....	3	0	1
Waters, p	.....	3	0	0
Breeding, p	.....	1	0	0
Totals	.....	36	6	7

Score by Innings	
Fullerton H. S.	002 012 030—8
Bonita H. S.	012 020 010—6



**Joe Juarez and
FUHS Team
of 1942 Honored**

PHOTOS BY BRYAN CROWE ©2009

AT LEFT: Joe Juarez poses with Fullerton HS principal Cathy Gach, and the Freeway League Champion Indians.

CENTER: 1942 meets 2009. Current Indian and League Champion Dominic Ficociello poses with 1942 Indian and League Champion Joe Juarez.

BELOW: Joe Juarez now in his 80's throws out the first pitch following a tribute to his 1942 Indian Baseball Championship team.

How the Boys of Spring Became Men By Fall

by Rob Belleque
PHOTOS BY BRYAN CROWE © 2009

In Fullerton, California baseball is king. But in 1942 with war breaking out in Europe and our democracy being challenged, even in Fullerton, baseball took a back seat to the war.

Almost forgotten that year in the events of the day, was the fact that Fullerton High School was busy working on another baseball championship and on the field was probably the best team ever assembled in Fullerton baseball history. And that's saying a lot for a town that has produced the likes of hall of famers Walter Johnson, Arky Vaughan, Gary Carter, Willard Herbberger and a guy that should be in the hall of fame...Del Crandall.

During the backdrop of the war, the boys of Fullerton went undefeated in the Sunset League and rolled on to a League championship over Excelsior High School by a score of 10 to 3. They were taking out opponent's right and left in the post season. They were led by their star pitcher Vaughn Jones, a tall right hander, and catcher Kenny Sullivan. Other key members of the team included Ernie Johnson, Lee Hodge, Frank Munoz, Ed Hill, Trenton

Mitchell, Joe Juarez, Yutch Rayburn, and Bob Trook.

They started out the season with 2 losses and went on a 26 game winning streak. In the playoffs, they defeated San Gabriel Valley League Champion Burbank by a score of 5-3 in the first round of the playoffs. They advanced to the finals of the "Minor Division" and met a very strong Bonita High School team led by the great Glenn Davis, who would go on to win the Heisman Trophy for Army in 1946. The game was tied going into the 8th inning when Fullerton scored three runs and secured the victory by a score of 8 - 6.

In 1942 two things were happening. Number one, most of the interest was going toward the war effort and not on high school sports. In the CIF that year it was not like today with multiple divisions. There was only a major winner which was San Diego that year and a minor winner which was Fullerton. Fullerton was supposed to play San Diego that year to determine on the field which was the better team. That game never happened.

That's because the seniors on the team and the popular coach, Richard Spaulding, of Fullerton High all went down before the season ended and enlisted in the military to serve their country. Most of those boys were in the battlefields by summer. Some of the boys never got back home. Vaughan Jones the right-hander was one of the team members who was killed in action that year.

Because they were war heroes and great men, they were and always will be our 1942 Fullerton High School CIF Champions. Joe Juarez, one of the team members of that 1942 CIF Championship team, threw out the first pitch at Fullerton's Varsity game with Troy High on May 15, 2009.

AT LEFT: A team shot from the 1942 FUHS annual with players C. Simpson, K. Sullivan, V. Jones, L. Rayburn, M. Bullis, E. Hill, J. Juarez, T. Hill, T. Mitchell, G. Horne, B. Trook, E. Johnson, L. Hodge, W. Johnson, and E. Munoz





Southern Section

Academics / Integrity / Athletics

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

**1942 MINOR DIVISION
BASEBALL CHAMPIONS**

FULLERTON HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS



Dr. John Dahlem

Dr. John Dahlem, Chairman
Hall of Fame Veterans Committee

Jim J. Staunton

Dr. Jim Staunton
Commissioner of Athletics