



**HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION**  
**SOUTHERN SECTION**  
**CIF-SS**



59<sup>th</sup> historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

**1915 CIF-SS FINALS TRACK MEET MEDAL**  
**Won by Earl Thomson, Long Beach High School**  
**Earl “Tommy” Thomson would become an Olympic Champion**

The first medals handed out to CIF-SS track individual champions were made by The T.V. Allen Company at 723 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Los Angeles. The company would continue to supply championship medals for over a half a century to the Southern Section. Track coach Robert Summers, from Hemet High School, has a very nice collection of old track medals including one from the 1915 CIFSS track finals held at the YMCA Track Field on March 28, 1915. The medal was awarded to the first place finisher in 120 yard hurdles. Researching the records we find the winner was Earl Thomson from Long Beach (Poly) High School. Earl’s name was often misspelled Thompson. Earl Thomson was very busy that day as he also won the discus and the high jump, was third in the low hurdles and would have run in the relay had he not been still jumping. He accumulated a total of sixteen (16) points in the meet and won individual honors. Manual Arts won the team title and Long Beach, thanks to Thomson, was second. At the first CIF State Track Meet in Fresno, Thomson won the 120 yard hurdles in a new world interscholastic record of 15 1/5 seconds. Thomson was also an outstanding baseball and football player for Long Beach.

Thomson, a Canadian citizen whose parents moved to California from Saskatchewan when he was 8 years old, won the gold medal in the 110 hurdles at the 1920 Olympic Games for Canada. Earl, who was almost totally deaf, became a National Champion at USC and Dartmouth College and coached at the U.S. Naval Academy for thirty-six (36) years where his team won the national collegiate title in 1945. He died in 1971.





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## Meet where the medal was presented to Earl Thom(p)son

### RESULTS OF PREP MEET.

The score of the Southern California Interscholastic championships follows:

School	Points
Manual Arts	34 13-15
Long Beach	25
L. A. Polytechnic	15 1-5
Riverside Boy's High	13
Pasadena	7
Santa Paula	6 7-10
Glendale	5
Redlands	5
Los Angeles High	4
San Diego High	4
Santa Ana	4
Fullerton	3
Anaheim	2
Pittsburg	2
San Bernardino	2
Compton	1
Hollywood High	1
Chaffey Union High	1-3
Monrovia	1-3
Santa Monica	1-5

### Manual Wins.

(Continued from First Page.)

nd he was through for the day. Before the relay he tried to limber up. With every stride his face twisted in response to the painful effort. He could not run.

### WAVES SUB. ASIDE.

A substitute runner was placed on course to take the last lap. Wark stood watching Manual Arts climb up on each lap. As his team made time down the stretch, several feet behind the Manual Arts man, someone said, "Take it, Wark, make up the loss and give us the relay."

It was like a powder stimulant. He Long Beach boy threw off his athletic robe, shoved the substitute aside

and jumped into the race. He was touched off three yards behind the Manual Arts runner. For twenty-five yards he held his own. Then he began to weaken strength, he gathered his muscles again under control and picked up a few inches; but it was no use.

Once on the straightaway, he headed in the general direction of the tape; but he was an athletic derelict. His head fell forward, his choppy little stride was irregular, he took up the whole course then pitched forward. As he was going down he fought gamely to keep his feet like a football player stumbling through the line; but he fell in the shadow of the tape.

Los Angeles High was second in the relay. Anaheim won third place and Hollywood fourth. The race gave Manual Arts a new record. The time of 1m. 34 3-5s., made by Long Beach last year, was cut to 1m. 33 3-5s. by the Manual men.

### THOMPSON IS THERE.

Thompson of Long Beach and Bidwell of Glendale went fifty-fifty on a new record in the high jump. The boys tied at 6ft. 1 3-4in., breaking the record made by Argobrite of Ventura High at Bovard Field in 1908 by three-fourths of an inch.

H. Lamport of Manual Arts clipped one-fifth of a second off of the 220 hurdle record formerly held by Gene Kern of Pasadena High. Lamport won a close race from House of Riverside in 25 3-5s.

Thompson of Long Beach sprung a surprise on the critics when he showed over House of Riverside in the 120 high hurdle, but the Riverside boy crowded him back to third in the low stick event.

The Thompson boy was a busy man on the field yesterday. While appearing in the discus, he stopped long enough to win the high hurdles, then went back and took first in the former event. During the high jump he entered the low hurdles, taking third and then returned to the high jump and tied for first place and a new record. He was to have run in the relay but was still jumping when that event was called and his coach decided to keep him out of the final act.

House of Riverside took the broad jump with a leap of 20ft. 11 1-8in.

Plaven of Santa Ana was but one eighth of an inch behind him when the measuring took place. Second in both the hurdle events also went to House.

The Lamport brothers of Manual Arts did an excellent day's work for their school. W. Lamport finished second in the 100 and 220-yard dash giving Wark a close call. The other brother took first in the low hurdle and third in the high sticks.

### GOOD MANAGEMENT.

All the morning the high school boys worked through the preliminaries and when it came to the finals the events were run off with systematic management, seldom seen in such a great meet. Seth F. Van Patten manager, and every official on the field did their duty perfectly. The policing of the field was excellent and only officials and athletes were allowed on the course at any time.

### The summary:

100-yard dash: Won by Crispin (Poly); Frost (Redlands, second; Walker (Pomona); third; Martin (Riverside), fourth; time 4m. 40 3-5s.

120-yard hurdle: Won by Thompson (Long Beach); House (Riverside); second; H. Lamport (Manual Arts); third; Needham (San Diego); third; Jameson (Los Angeles); fourth; time 10 1-5s.

220-yard dash: Won by Conn (Pasadena); Hughes (Manual Arts); second; Norwood (San Bernardino); third; Dow (Redlands); fourth; time 53s.

220-yard hurdle: Won by Lamport (Manual Arts); second; Fitzsimmons (Manual Arts); third; Needham (San Diego); fourth; time 27 4-5s.

220-yard low hurdles: Won by H. Lamport (Manual Arts); House (Riverside); second; Thompson (Long Beach); third; Strible (San Diego); fourth time 25 3-5s. (The Southern California record.)

800-yard run: Won by George (Poly); Korte (Poly); second; Rice (Fillmore); third; Kount (Redlands); fourth; time 2m. 3 2-5s.

Pole vault: Won by Maurer (Manual Arts); Dal (Santa Paula); and Creswell (Pomona); tied for second and third; Phillips (Manual Arts); Smith (Monrovia); Harro (Santa Paula); Hanz (Poly); Ziel (Santa Monica); tied for fourth; height 11ft. 2in (The Southern California record.)

Discus: Won by Thompson (Long Beach); Stewart (Manual Arts); second; Helm (Manual Arts); third; Sauer (Compton); fourth; distance 120ft. 1in.

Shot put: Won by Brubaker (Hemet); Pettigrew (Fullerton); second; McConahay (Pasadena); third; Hines (Manual Arts); fourth; distance 48ft. 1 1-2in.

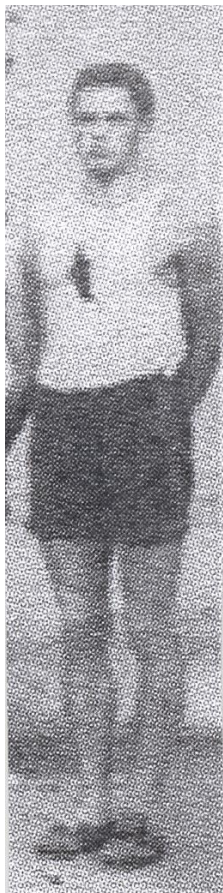
Broad jump: Won by House (Riverside); Pierce (Santa Ana); second; Webster (Santa Paula); third; Bidwell (Glendale); fourth; distance 20ft. 11 1-8in.

High jump: Thompson (Long Beach) and Bidwell (Glendale) tied for first; Webster (Santa Paula); third; Armet (Chaffey); Beas (Manual Arts); and Stewart (Manual Arts); height 6ft. 1 3-4in. (Southern California record.)

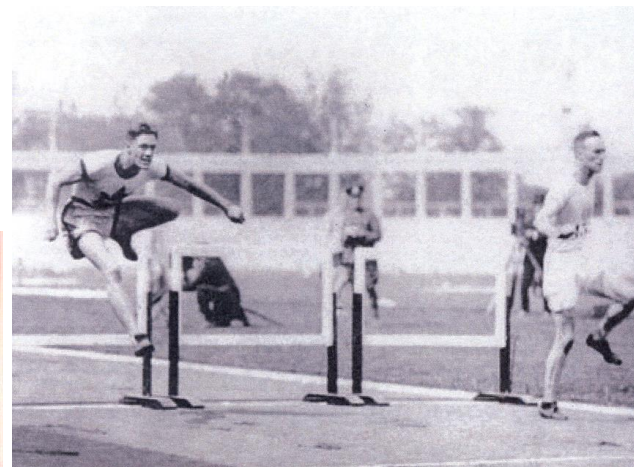
Relay: Won by Manual Arts; Los Angeles, second; Anaheim, third; Hollywood, fourth; time 1m. 33 3-5s. (Southern California record.)



Earl Thomson at Long Beach (Poly) High School - 1915  
(Track team with Thomson on the right)



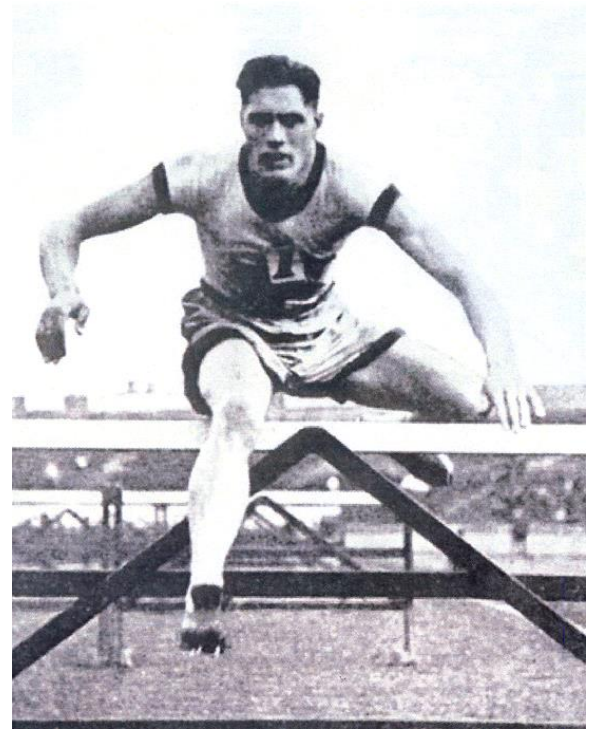
1920 Olympics





Earl Thomson (centre, in shorts) won an Olympic gold medal for Canada in the 110-metre men's hurdles at the 1920 Summer Games in Antwerp. The source of the photo is unknown but is probably from a Canadian military track meet in Ontario during the final months of World War I.

*Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum*



## Enters USC...note last paragraph

### Naval Academy

### THOMSON TO ENTER U.S.C.

[LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

LONG BEACH, Jan. 5.—Long Beach's loss will be the University of Southern California's gain next month, when Earl Thomson, star track and football man, graduates from the local institution.

Thomson, although a versatile athlete, is at his best on the track. He holds the Pacific Coast interscholastic record in the high hurdles with a mark of 15s. flat, and should fill the gap in the obstacle department of track athletics left vacant this year at U.S.C. by Fred Kelly.

Thomson established a new Coast record in the high hurdles in the State interscholastic meet at Palo Alto last spring by clipping 1-5 of a second off the previous best time.

Thomson also consistently clears the bar at over six feet in the high jump, making a six foot, two-inch jump last spring in the same meet that he set up a new record in the high hurdles. He is also a good broad jumper and runs the low sticks in excellent time.

The Long Beach marvel is also a remarkable athlete in the respect that he has developed into an exceptional performer both in track and football in spite of a bad hole in his side sustained several years ago when the accidental discharge of a shotgun blew out a couple of his ribs. His injury, however, never bothers him, he says.

