The first great sport’s hero in the early years of the CIFSS was George Washington “Tuffy” Conn, a multi-sport legend from Pasadena High School. Tuffy was born in 1892 and participated in basketball, soccer, swimming, track and has been named the California State High School Football Player of the Year for 1915 (Cal-Hi Sports). He weighed 155 pounds, was 5’6” and was the school record holder for the 50 yard dash. He ran alongside the famous Olympian Charles Paddock on the Pasadena track team. On a crisp December day, at the Occidental College football field, Conn led the Bulldogs to the CIFSS Football Champion by defeating Whittier High School 55 – 0. When Selma High School, the Northern Champion, could not play due to injuries, Pasadena was declared the State Football Champions for 1915.

Upon graduation, Conn entered Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) and, in a game against Nebraska, set an all time NCAA record. Tuffy was playing in his fourth game of varsity competition as a freshman defensive back when Nebraska was about to score and fumbled the ball right into the hands of Conn. Tuffy then proceeded to run 103 yards for a touchdown and into OSU Beaver history. The following season Conn transferred to Pennsylvania and played for the Quakers. During World War I Conn was part of the U.S. Army Ambulance Corps and before deploying for Europe he played on the “Usaacs” football team. In 1920, he played professional football for the Cleveland Tigers and the Akron Pros of the American Professional Association (renamed the National Football League in 1922). He also coached the John Carroll University football team. He later
moved back to Pasadena, became a successful real estate agent and member of the prestigious Pasadena Athletic Club. He passed away in 1973.

GEORGE “Tuffy” Conn. By his scintillating work as an open field runner, and as a drop kicker, “Tuffy” Conn has burned his name deep into the walls of records. “Tuffy” gained more yards than any other man in the south, and he scored more than half the points made by Pasadena in the fight for the state championship. He was for two years All-Southern halfback.
Controversy about Tuffy’s age... CIFSS age rule at that time was of 21 years of age or less to be eligible:
“Tuffy” as an Oregon Agricultural College (Oregon State) Aggie in 1916

The start of the “run” in Portland’s Multnomah Stadium before 6,500 fans against Nebraska…103 yard fumble recovery return for a touchdown.

**Fumble** | **Ball** | **Conn**