



65<sup>th</sup> historical "tidbit."  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

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



H.J. MOORE-Principal  
WOODROW WILSON  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HARRY J. MOORE**  
**"Mr. C.I.F."**  
**"The Boss of Bosses"**

One of the most prominent men in C.I.F. history and a person that many consider to be a founder even though he did not begin his leadership role until 1916. Harry J. Moore was born in Los Angeles in 1891 and attended South Pasadena High School where he was the Student Body President. In 1908, he was taken to a meeting by South Pasadena High School teacher Seth Van Patten, the "Father of the C.I.F. Southern Section," to discuss the foundation of a new high school athletic group called the County League (Long Beach Poly, Los Angeles Poly, Santa Monica, Pasadena, South Pasadena and Alhambra). This was the beginning of formalized high school competition in Southern California which led to the creation of the C.I.F. Southern Section in 1913. In 1913, Moore graduated from U.S.C. and began his teaching career at Long Beach Polytechnical High School as a math instructor and coach. He coached the second team (J.V.) in football, assisted with the track team and was the mastermind behind the 110 Pound C.I.F. Southern Section Basketball Champions.



**110 lb BASKETBALL**

The 110 lb basketball team can lay claim to the 1920 feather-weight basketball championship of Southern California. The little fellows mopped up everything in sight and literally won their way out of games.

In the first contest of the season the L. A. Poly aggregation succeeded in defeating the L. B. "Babes", but it took the Mechanic 110 pounders an extra five minutes to turn the trick. The locals took this defeat to heart, and began intensive practice, that resulted in seven straight victories and the league championship.

Mr. Moore, the coach, looked for further fields for his scraggin' youngsters to conquer, but found only one other claimant to the midget court title, the Huntington Park five, winners in the Bay league. The game was quickly arranged, but proved an easy affair for Long Beach.

The line-up: Richards and Roberts, forwards, Luper, center, and Chichester and Barton guards. The subs were Rothrock, Walker, Larson, and McCoy.



In 1916, he started his official association with the CIF-SS as the Representative to the Council for the Bay League which he helped found. The first reference to Moore in the CIF-SS minutes:

MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION  
 September 28, 1916.

A meeting of the Southern California Interscholastic Federation was held at L. A. High School, 4:30 P. M., Sept. 28, 1916, with the following members present:

- E. H. McMath, Orange County
- E. W. Oliver, State Representative
- S. H. Upjohn, Central League
- Dr. Snyder, L. A. City
- H. P. Reynolds, Citrus
- H. J. Moore, Bay
- Ben. S. Milliken, Valley
- J. H. Whitely, L. A. City
- W. C. Wilson, City Section, L. A. County
- E. R. Pine, Burbank, Fernando Valley

In 1919, he became the Assistant Principal at Long Beach Poly and was in charge of discipline. His was very strict, but the students felt he was fair and you could talk with him.



In 1920, he became President of the CIF-SS and was also named as the President of the State CIF Federated Council. He would continue in these roles for thirty-four years where he attained fame as an adroit leader, a passionate proponent of high school sport and gained the nickname of the “Boss of Bosses” for his ability to build consensus throughout the State of California. From 1930-1932, he was Principal at Lindbergh Junior High School, the Principal at Long Beach Wilson High School from 1932-1947, and Assistant Superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District from 1947 to 1957.



*Harry J. Moore*

PRESIDENT of C. I. F.

PRINCIPAL

WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

One of his favorite moments as an administrator at Long Beach Poly was his involvement with the Southwest Football Championship when Poly defeated Phoenix High School by a score of 102 to 0. A close contest had been predicted and the local merchants had promised hats, shirts, ties, etc., to players scoring

touchdowns. When the game became a rout, the offensive backs allowed the linemen to run for touchdowns and share in the loot.

Not all of his duties as President of the CIF-SS were as pleasant. The following 1919 controversy is told by Mike Guardabascio in his book, Football in Long Beach:

Poly's first seven games saw the team post a perfect record, outscoring its opponents 438-0. Kienholz's men opened the season with a 113-0 victory over Harvard Military Academy and proceeded to steamroll everyone they met, with a 49-7 victory over the Pomona College freshmen, their closest game of the year. The Jackrabbits averaged 62.6 points per game, the second best in California history according to *Cal Hi Sports Record Book and Almanac*. After beating Los Angeles Poly 55-0 in the first round of the playoffs, Kienholz talked with school officials and came to a decision: the Jackrabbits had already beaten the best the CIF had to offer. Their plan, revealed to the CIF in ambush fashion by Poly vice-principal Harry J. Moore, was to skip the semifinal and final games (having already defeated all potential opponents by upward of fifty points) and play out-of-state teams in a quest to be named national champions.

The CIF was incensed. Making things somewhat awkward was the fact that Moore, while vice-principal at Poly, was also the president of the CIF, a post he served in for thirty-four years. The CIF minutes of December 9, 1920 read: "Resolved: That Long Beach, by its refusal to complete the schedule for the semifinal and final games, has declared its football season closed. In order for the school to be readmitted, it must disband its football team for the present season." Forty-one of the forty-four schools in the CIF voted to ban the Jackrabbits from the organization, a move that Poly found shocking.

The local community was incensed as indicated by this cartoon in the Poly student newspaper:



Thanks to Moore leadership, Long Beach Poly was admitted back into the CIF-SS the following year and hard feelings were put to rest. He was most proud of his work in lowering the age of high school preps from 21 years of age to 19 and eventually 18 years of age to participate. He helped create a student insurance program and felt strongly that coaches needed to be certificated staff of the high schools. He was most proud of the three-point system of determining a student's classification for Varsity, Class B or Class C (exponents) to replace the old weight classification of 110 and 130 pounds which he felt forced the athletes to constantly sweat off pounds.



In 1957, Harry J. Moore retired and a league was named after him. The Moore League in the CIF-SS in the only league out of 82 leagues that is named after an individual. In addition, the "Harry J. Moore C.I.F. Perpetual Trophy" was created to recognize the A.A.A. Football Champions. *The trophy honored the man affectionately known as "Mr. C.I.F."*

LONG BEACH POLY HS DONATES NEW PERPETUAL TROPHY TO BE AWARDED TO THE CIF, SOUTHERN SECTION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



Through the courtesy of Long Beach Poly HS and the hard work of its capable and popular principal, Mr. Neil W. Philips, a beautiful new trophy has been donated as a perpetual award to be presented annually to the school winning the CIF, SS football championship. This award will be known as the "Harry J. Moore Trophy" in honor of the man who is affectionately known in California as "Mr.C.I.F." and who recently retired from his position as Assistant Superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District.

C. I. F., SOUTHERN SECTION  
MONTHLY BULLETIN

Volume 23

JANUARY, 1960

No. 5



Harry J. Moore Presents Coach Dave Levy of the Championship Long Beach Poly Football Team, the Harry J. Moore Trophy

# Long Beach City Schools

W. L. STEPHENS, SuperIntendent

## Polytechnic High School

DAVID BURCHAM, Principal  
HARRY J. MOORE, Vice-Principal  
FRANK G. REID, Registrar

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA,

January 7, 1924

To the Members of the So. Council of the C. I. F. :

In connection with my annual football report, I wish to call your attention to the following facts in reference to the past football season:

During the months of October, November and December I appointed officials for 162 football games over a district extending from San Diego on the south to Taft and Santa Maria on the north. Besides this, there were about thirty games played in the Citrus, Imperial, Ventura, Santa Barbara and So. Leagues for which I did not appoint officials.

In order to secure officials for these 162 games, it was necessary to interview 514 men during the season. Of these, 122 declined to act for one reason or another and of these 392 appointments were accepted.

At the height of the season it was necessary for me to interview 98 men in order to secure 66 officials necessary for that week.

The work of the season required 52 long distance telephone calls from my office as well as the many calls that came in from the outside.

Not only were officials appointed for high school games but requests were received from several of the junior colleges and from some of the college freshmen teams. In general I feel that the season has been a very successful one and that the officiating has been up to standard. Next year it is hoped to develop a different system for grading officials which will insure a still better type of officiating.

As to the financial result of this season, the 20% of the C. I. F. less the expenses amounted to ~~\$1825.38~~ which is about \$500. larger than any previous year.

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Respectfully submitted,

*H. J. Moore*  
Football Manager