72ND historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

The CIF-SS did not celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the organization in any formal way. Under the outstanding leadership of Scott Cathcart, CIF-SS Media & Public Relations Director, a large celebration for the 75th Anniversary was planned. Scott, along with the office staff, had done an outstanding job in organizing much of the history of the CIF-SS and had keep copies of many of the pertinent documents and programs of the early years. A great deal of research was done on the early history to include a list of the early leaders and “Red Letter Dates.” A 75-Year Anniversary Luncheon was held on May 5, 1988, at the Sequoia Athletic Club of Buena Park. A Special 75th Anniversary Edition of the “CIF-SS Bulletin” was produced and a special logo was created to celebration the 75th Anniversary.
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY
RECOGNITION AWARDS

Mrs. Barbara Wilson
"Pioneer in the Development of Girls' Athletics"
...Presented by Mr. Tony Balsamo

Mr. Don H. Andersen
"Outstanding CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics"
...Presented by Mr. Scott Cattan

Mr. Chuck Benner
"40 Years of Service to Athletics"
...Presented by Mr. Bill Shumard

Mr. Braven Dyer, Jr.
"Curator of All-Time CIF-SS Awards"
...Presented by Mr. Steve Montiel

Mr. Charlie Seaver
"Initial CIF-SS Corporate Sponsor"
...Presented by Mr. Dean Crowley

Mr. Paul Zimmerman
"Outstanding Interscholastic Media Contributions"
...Presented by Mr. Scott Howard-Cooper

Mr. J. Kenneth Fagan
"21 Years of Outstanding Service to Interscholastic Athletics"
...Presented by Mr. Tom Barnes

CLOSING REMARKS
Jay Johnston

ALL-TIME CIF SOUTHERN SECTION ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

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CLOSING REMARKS
Jay Johnston
**CIF SOUTHERN SECTION: WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE BORN**

By Scott Cathcart
Director of Media & Public Relations

The list of legendary athletes spawned on the playing fields of high schools in Southern California—more specifically within the membership of the California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section—is as impressive indeed. From pitcher Walter Johnson of Fullerton to sprinter Frank Wyack of Glendale, from slasher Ted Williams of San Diego Hoover to Heisman Trophy-winner Glenn Davis of Bonita. Since its inception in 1913, the CIF-SS has seen hundreds of its athletes achieve national acclaim.


In basketball, CIF-SS member schools can claim among their alumni standout such as Paul Westphal of Aviation, Lynn Sackerfield of Bur- bank Burroughs, Jamaal Williams of Long Beach Wilson, Santa Barbara and Cheryl Miller of Riverside Poly. Current stars include David Greenwood of Ventura, Bill Laisteler of Palisades Verdes and Byron Scott of Morningside.

The CIF-SS has been well represent- ed in the Olympics, too. In the 1984 Los Angeles games alone, Southern

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**California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section**

11011 Artesia Blvd. (9071) • P.O. Box 488 (90702)

Corona, CA

(213) 360-3144 • (714) 836-5390

OFFICERS

Mr. Pat Mauch, Principal, Los Altos High School, President
Mr. Bob Paizola, Principal, Lompoc High School, President-Elect
Dr. Robert Packer, Superintendent.

Duarte Unified School District, Past-President
Mr. Bruce Keating, Superintendent.

Bellflower Christian Schools, Treasurer
Mr. Stan Thomas, Commissioner of Athletics

SPECIAL 50-TH ANNIVERSARY BULLETIN

Written and Edited by Scott Cathcart.

CIF-SS Director of Media and Public Relations

Thanks to Lois Belling, Betty Wunderley and Andy Rapport as contributors. Special thanks to former Commissioners Bill Russell, Kenny Fagan, Tom Byrnes and Ray Plunk. Published by CIF Southern Section.

Printed by Imperial Press, Long Beach, CA

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**THE SETH VAN PATTEN YEARS**

1913-1950

Seth F. Van Patten

When Mr. Seth F. Van Patten came to Southern California as a member of the Escondido High School faculty in December of 1900, there existed some beginnings of high school athletic le- agues, formed for the purpose of promoting football and baseball games between area schools. These leagues were more or less informal organizations, with no constitutions, or by-laws. Eligibility rules had not been heard of, or if at all too frequently, young men and boys wound up playing in the games of schools they were not attend- ing.

School administrations took no part in the management of these contests. The lack of administration and organi- zation was such a loose setup provid- ed for a great many disputes, causing the average high school principal to give little attention to the cause of interscholastic athletics.

Two ill-fated attempts were made at organizing prep athletics—and most notably, a championship track meet in Southern California prior to 1912.

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**COMMISSIONER’S CORNER**

To: Public Relations student who participate in high school activities are more likely to have higher grades and be better attendance records than those who don’t.

The success of the CIF Southern Section is voluntary membership. The organization’s success or failure depends solely upon the willing ness of its members to strive together for the common goals. The future welfare of interscholastic athletics in our area is up to each of us. Only we, as individuals representing our member institutions, can control our mutual destiny. How we handle this responsi bility will ultimately determine profes sionalism.

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**RED LETTER DATES 75 YEARS OF PROGRESS**

The following is a chronological listing of important events that have shaped the progress and growth of the 75-year history of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section.

**OCT. 1912**

The California Interscholastic Federation was organized in a meeting conducted at the old Y.M.C.A. playground on Stevenson Avenue in Boyle Heights.

**APR. 1913**

Pomona High School, under Coach Ralph Digawesty, wins the 1913 Southern California Track and Field Championships, held at the Y.M.C.A. field in Los Angeles.

**MAY 1915**

Orange High School captures the first-ever CIF-SS baseball championship with an 8-4 win over Long Beach Poly. The game was played at Occidental College.

**FEB. 1915**

Whittier High School wins a 38-33 win over Covina in the first-ever CIF-SS basketball championship game, played at Manual Arts High in Los Angeles. Coached by John Wilson, the Cardinals go on to win the first three CIF-SS league titles consecutively, with wins over Citrus in 1916 and Hollywood in 1917.

**NOV. 1915**

Under the direction of Head Coach Daffy Seigle, Pasadena High School wins the 1915 CIF-SS wrestling championship, held at Occidental College. However, Pasadena is the second member school to claim a CIF-SS title as Santa Ana was declared the 1914 champion by virtue of its league record, which included no losses and one tie. The 11 Saints were coached by Walter Hall.

**NOV. 1922**

The “Four Points” rating table (height, weight, age and grade) adopted for classification of high school boys for interscholastic competition.

**MAY 1926**

Los Angeles High School captures the first-ever CIF-SS swimming championship, in a meet held at Huntington Park High School.

**NOV. 1926**

Los Angeles Poly High School wins the first-ever CIF-SS Cross-Country Championships, conducted at Griffith Park.

**MAY 1930**

Mr. Seth Van Patten recommended for the position of first CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics.

Van Patten had participated activity in CIF-SS affairs prior to this date as manager of track and field and secretary of the organization.

**OCT. 1930**

Seth F. Van Patten assumes post as first CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics.

**MAY 1935**

Los Angeles City Schools depart from the CIF-SS membership to form the CIF Los Angeles City Section.

**SEPT. 1935**

CIF-SS Council passes a new “three-year” system for classification of lower level athletic competition.
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION CELEBRATES

The list of legendary athletes spawned on the playing fields of high schools in Southern California — more specifically within the membership of the CIF Southern Section — is indeed impressive. From Walter Johnson of Fullerton to Frank Wycoff of Glendale. From Ted Williams of San Diego Hoover to Glenn Davis of Bonita. Through the years there have been hundreds.

Want more? How's this for a sampling: Baseball players Jackie Robinson of Muir, Bob Lemon of Long Beach Wilson, Ralph Kiner of Alhambra, Eddie Mathews of Santa Barbara and current stars George Brett of El Segundo, Tony Gwynn of Long Beach Poly and 1997 rookie sensation Mark McGuire of Darrien; Football legends Frankie Albert of Glendale, Billy Kilmer of Citrus, John Huarte of Mater Dei, Pat Haden of Bishop Amat and active NFL stars Ronnie Lott of El Camino, Dennis Smith of Santa Monica and Randy Cross of Creep; Basketball players Paul Westphal of Avilaun, Lynn Schacklette of Burroughs, Jaime Wilkes of Santa Barbara and Cheryl Miller of Riverside Poly; Track stars Earl McClure of Long Beach Poly, Dwight Stones of Glendale, Jeanette Borden of Compton, Golfers Al Geiberger of Santa Barbara and Billy Casper of Chula Vista; Swimmers Brian Goodell of Mission Viejo, Mike O'Brien of Newport Christian, Shirley Bazo of Fountain Valley and Tiffany Cohen of Mission Viejo; Volleyball champions Stan Towome of Estancia, Kiern Kinsky of Santa Barbara and Paula Westhoff of West Torrance.

The list could go on and on. Doubtless, many great names have been left out. But the point is, each of these nationally-known athletes — past and present — got their start in programs organized, authorized and administered by the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in the 1997-98 school year.

The CIF Southern Section was born in the spring of 1923, the outgrowth of a track and field meet. The late Seth F. Van Patten, who was elected to manage the Southern California High School Track and Field Championships that year, was instrumental in bringing together administrators from area high schools for the purpose of determining policies and rules for the competition. Recognized as the founding father of the CIF-SS, Van Patten remained in his post as manager of the track and field championships until he was officially named Secretary of the organization in 1929. He served as the CIF-SS’s first Commissioner of Athletics until his retirement in 1940.

Over the 75-year history of the organization, the CIF Southern Section has been governed by representation provided by its membership. Simply stated, its purpose is to direct and control both boys’ and girls’ athletics in the secondary schools within its membership. It is not only the oldest, but the largest of 18 such sections in the state, with a membership of nearly 500 schools.

Since its beginning, the CIF Southern Section has grown into one of the most progressive and respected organizations of its kind in the world. Despite its long history, the CIF Southern Section lists only six commissioners, with William W. Russell holding the position from 1950-54, followed by J. Kenneth FAGAN from 1954 until his retirement in 1970, Thomas E. Byrnes from 1975-80, Ray J. Phuko from 1980-90, and current Commissioner Stan Thomas, who accepted the post in July of 1986.

During his tenure, Commissioner Russell developed committees to establish policies and procedures for championship events, was instrumental in forming the first league for CIF-SS golf competition and restructured the CIF-SS track and field competition. Russell served as Chairman of the National Track and Field Rules Committee beginning in 1956, and through this leadership, developed the first combined rule book for boys and girls which he eventually developed into the largest school non-profit benefit and relief association in the United States.

Russell left the CIF Southern Section in 1980 when he was appointed as State CIF Commissioner, a position he held until his retirement in 1986.

Commissioner Fagan, affectionately known by his contemporaries as "Kenney," brought the CIF-SS of 1980’s age during his tenure. Under his leadership, the CIF-SS playoff system achieved a level second to none throughout the nation. The CIF-SS grew from a

75th ANNIVERSARY

The membership of 258 schools to 458 in Fagans’ term, even though San Diego County formed its own section in 1958.

Additionally, the number of sanctioned sports expanded from 11 for boys to 22 for both boys and girls. The advent of girls’ athletics in the Southern Section was due in large part to Commissioner Fagans’ foresight, influence and guidance.

Byrnes became the youngest CIF-SS Commissioner in 1975 and his five-year term has been viewed as one of the most eventful periods in the history of the section. Byrnes was instrumental in creating the highly successful conference format for football playoffs, enabling a greater number of member schools to participate in the largest crowd drawing of all high school spectator sports. He further stimulated the growth of girls’ athletics, increased the CIF-SS Office services and saw the membership climb to 477 schools. In 1980, Commissioner Byrnes replaced Bill Russell as State CIF Commissioner and remains in that position today.

In an administration spanning six years, Commissioner Plutko was a driving force behind the CIF Southern Section’s highly innovative corporate sponsorship program. Plutko was also responsible for initiation of the popular CIF-SS Athletic Administrators Symposium, a detailed written account of CIF-SS playoff pairings procedures and numerous guideline reports on various subjects to assist the section’s coaches and administrators. Commissioner Plutko was active in several functions of the National Federation of State High School Associations and served as the organization’s keynote speaker at its 1992 convention in Florida.

Current Commissioner Stan Thomas brings a highly successful background as a high school coach, principal, and district administrator to the CIF Southern Section. Thomas guided Nef High School to nine league and two CIF-SS football titles between 1964 and 1974.

In 1976 he became the assistant principal at Nef, followed by a stint in the same position at Excelsior before being appointed principal at Santa Ana’s Foothill High in 1980. Before accepting the CIF-SS post, Thomas spent two years as an administrator with the Tustin Unified School District.
RED LETTER DATES

Following is a chronological listing of important events that have shaped the progress and growth of the 75-year history of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section.

OCT. 1912    The California Interscholastic Federation was organized in a meeting conducted at the old Y.M.C.A. playground on Stevenson Avenue in Boyle Heights.

APR. 1913    Pomona High School, under Coach Ralph Dignowitty, wins the 1913 Southern California Track and Field Championships, held at the Y.M.C.A. field in Los Angeles. The event is recognized as the first ever conducted by the CIF-SS.

MAY 1913     The Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council, which eventually became the CIF Southern Section, was formed in Los Angeles.

MAR. 1914    The California Interscholastic Federation initiative was adopted statewide.

SEP. 1914     The Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council officially changed its name to CIF Southern Section.
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION 75-YEAR ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON
SEQUOIA ATHLETIC CLUB OF BUENA PARK
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1988

PROGRAM SCRIPT

12:30 P.M. - OPEN MIKE

CIF-SS ADMINISTRATOR LARRY ZUCKER WILL CALL THE LUNCHEON TO ORDER BY INTRODUCING CIF-SS COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETICS STAN THOMAS

FOLLOWING

STAN THOMAS WILL WELCOME ALL, THANK THEM FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE AND THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS. HE WILL ALSO GIVE A BRIEF RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY. STAN WILL CONCLUDE BY INTRODUCING THE HEAD TABLE AND THE FOLLOWING CIF-SS PERSONELL AS HONORED GUESTS:

FORMER COMMISSIONER BILL RUSSELL & WIFE DOROTHY (1950-54)
FORMER COMMISSIONER KEN FAGANS & WIFE NORMA (1954-75)
FORMER COMMISSIONER/STATE COMMISSIONER TOM BYRNES (1975-80)
REGRETS FOR FORMER COMMISSIONER RAY PLUTKO (1980-86)
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PAT MAUCH OF LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL
MARGARET DAVIS - ASSOCIATE STATE COMMISSIONER
KENDALL WEBB - FORMER CIF-SS ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER OF THE CIF SAN DIEGO SECTION
LOU JOSEPH - FORMER CIF-SS ADMINISTRATOR
MIKE PECK - FORMER CIF-SS PUBLICIST
MAGGI HELMS - FORMER CIF-SS PUBLICIST
DAROL ROUNDY - FORMER OFFICE ASSIGNED OFFICIALS

ASK CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO STAND
ASK FORMER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO STAND
(These people are the heart of the organization)

SALUTE OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS
(Now in its eighth year, the CIF-SS corporate sponsorship program, one of the most innovative and progressive in the nation, has developed into a major ingredient to the continuing success of our organization.)

SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA
(The CIF Southern Section deeply appreciates the continued support of the Southern California sports media, which for many years has provided fair and outstanding coverage of our events.)

SALUTE THE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP
(Without our dedicated officials and the organizations who train and provide them for our member schools, the high school athletic program such as we know it would not be able to function.)

INTRODUCE CIF-SS STAFF (Dean, Bill, Karen, Larry, Scott and Secretaries as a whole)