

76th historical "tidbit."
Dr. John S. Dahlem

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
(CIFSS)

J. Kenneth Fagans Commissioner
Signature of Officer and Title



CIF-SS COMMISSIONERS

J. (Jay) KENNETH "Kenny" FAGANS
"Mr. Southern Section"
"Tanglefoot"

J. Kenneth Fagans was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1909. He moved to California with his parents in 1923 and settled in the Huntington Park area. He attended Huntington Park High School and was an outstanding basketball player leading his team to the 1927 CIF-SS Championship defeating Long Beach Poly 18-14. A fuse blew putting the floor into total darkness at USC where the game was played in the final few minutes adding to the excitement of the Spartans victory. His teammates referred to him as "tanglefoot" and he was one of the top prep players in Southern California.



1927 CIF CHAMPIONS — Huntington Park High School, who we honor tonight, won the coveted championship trophy 50 years ago. Pictured from left to right; (front row) — R.E. "Pop" Squire (coach), *Jimmy Shrader, Clary Stienen, Kenny Fagans, *Gene McKee, *Bud Swinefort, Bill Keighley, *Bob Matthews and Bill Hagar (Mgr.). (Back Row) — Merle Mashburn, John Renner, Dusty Allen, Harry Millar, Garrett Arbelbide, Clint Hubbard, Cliff Holt and John Balch. (Note: *deceased).

He attended Oregon State University and was an All-Pacific Coast forward for the Beavers for three years. He was the President of the Senior Class.



In 1936 he barely missed making the Olympic basketball team. He was an Air Force Captain in World War II and started his educational career in Southern California. He played AAU basketball for 20th Century-Fox. He was a basketball coach at Compton High School and Compton College during the time from 1947 through 1953. He accumulated an incredible record of 284 wins and 23 losses.

Compton College Coach



Ken Fagans



Fagans basketball career at Compton High School was incredible from 1950 through 1953. His Tarbabes won 53 straight games and they were crowned the CIF-SS Champions in 1951 and 1952 and lost in the finals in 1953. His 1952 team had a record of 32 – 0. He coached George Selleck, Ed Tucker, Woody Sauldsberry and Jim Marshall (later manager of Chicago Cubs).



UNDEFEATED — This picture was taken March 8, 1952, just moments after Compton High School had won its second straight CIF, SS, crown and its 32nd straight win of the 1951-52 season. Coach Kenny Fagans (who incidentally played on the 1927 team, the other team we honor tonight) holds the championship trophy. That's CIF Player of the Year, George Selleck second from the left in the front row and ALL-CIF honorees Al Waner (Lower Left) and Del Johnson (next to Coach Fagans). Woody Sauldsberry, who was to go on to fame in the National Basketball Assn., is standing, fifth from the left.

Fagans receiving the 1951 CIF-SS Basketball Championship Trophy from Commissioner William Russell



He received his Master degree from USC. Fagans was the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Centennial High School in 1953 when he applied to be the head basketball coach at Stanford University. He was 44 years old and when he did not get the job starting to look for other opportunities. His background in athletic administration included 12 years as the Commissioner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association and two years as the Pacific Coast Athletic Association. For ten years he was a basketball official for the Pacific-8 Conference.

C. I. F., SOUTHERN SECTION

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Vol. 18

SEPTEMBER, 1954

No. 1

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CIF, SOUTHERN SECTION, HELD JUNE 4, 1954 AT POMONA H. S.

The special meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman B. L. Bergstrom. Those present included Messrs. Oliver Corbin, Floyd Johnson, Bruce Lawson, Winston Nelson, and William Russell.

1. Mr. Floyd Johnson informed the Executive Committee of the election on May 29, 1954 of William W. Russell, now Commissioner of Athletics for the C.I.F., Southern Section, to the position of Assistant Executive Secretary for the State CIF and CIF Protection Fund. Mr. Johnson reported to the Southern Section the offer of the State CIF to employ Mr. Russell on a half time basis until not later than January 1, 1955, at which time Mr. Russell would report for full time service to the State CIF. The plan would allow Mr. Russell to remain on half time employment for the Southern Section so as to assist in training a new Commissioner. Mr. Russell requested the Southern Section to consider his resignation as outlined above. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept with congratulations and regret the resignation of Mr. Russell according to the arrangement offered by the State CIF Council.

2. It was agreed that the following procedure be followed:

- a Release to the press immediately a story on Russell's resignation, suggesting applications be forwarded.
- b Release to schools immediately similar story, and send application blank to all schools.

c Advise CIFSS Council of Russell's resignation and the action by the Executive Committee. Ask the Council if they wish to convene to vote, or vote by mail, on Executive Committee's recommendation for new Commissioner of Athletics.

d Deadline for applications will be June 17.

e A personnel screening committee will review all applications, and invite those candidates deemed outstanding to come to Santa Barbara HS June 22 at 1:30 for interview by entire Executive Committee. Committee will consist of Messrs. Nelson, Corbin, Bergstrom, and Russell. Committee will meet at Covina HS June 18 at 1:30.

f Qualifications for Commissioner

Age: 30-50

Education: minimum of college degree.

Must be a school man experienced in athletics.

Must be available on or about July 1, 1954.

Offices will continue to be at Helms Athletic Foundation; man must be willing to live in area near office.

g Candidate selected will be offered Starting salary of \$7000 for 12 months service.

Retirement plan will be instituted at end of first year if employee proves his ability.

CIFSS will pay reasonable moving expenses for the man selected.

Vacation of two weeks at end of first year; vacation of month at end of each year thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,
William W. Russell
Commissioner of Athletics

**NEW COMMISSIONER TO ATTEND
LEAGUE MEETINGS**

Kenneth Fagans, newly elected Commissioner of the C.I.F., Southern Section, plans to attend as many league meetings as possible in the near future, so as to become acquainted with school personnel, operating procedures, and problems of the 27 leagues of the Southern Section. Announcement of Fagans' election by the C.I.F., Southern Section Council was made by President Joseph Bonnet of Fremont Junior High School in Pomona. Mr. Bonnet released the story to the public July 28.

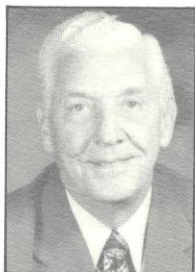
Fagans, former vice-principal of Centennial High School and coach at Compton High School, was elected by the Southern Section Council to succeed William W. Russell, who has been named as Assistant Executive Secretary of the State CIF. The new Commissioner assumed his responsibilities early in July, and will continue to

work with Russell until the latter leaves in November for Berkeley, where the State CIF Office is now located.

The new commissioner is widely known in southern California athletic circles where he has established himself as an outstanding coach and athletic official. Fagan's basketball teams at Compton High won two consecutive CIF championships, and barely missed the third straight when they lost to Loyola HS in the 1953 finals. He is President of the Southern California Basketball Officials Association, and a Pacific Coast Conference basketball official. He served as a technical advisor for the 1954 National Federation football training film "Better Football" made at Mesa, Arizona.

Fagans graduated from Huntington Park High School, and played on the 1927 CIF championship basketball team coached by Roy E. "Pop" Squires. Fagans gained further recognition at Oregon State College where he played 3 years for the Beavers under Coach A. T. "Slats" Gill, graduating in 1932.

THE KENNY FAGANS YEARS



**1954-
1975**

J. Kenneth Fagans

The mid 50's to mid 70's have been viewed as perhaps the most significant and exciting era of CIF Southern Section history. It was an era of tremendous expansion in many areas. It is recognized as the period in which the organization came of age. And it was orchestrated masterfully by a highly talented and devoted man by the name of J. Kenneth Fagans. If Seth Van Patten was recognized as "Father of the CIF", then Kenny Fagans surely was "Mr. Southern Section".

As the third CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics, Fagans began his term in June of 1954 when Bill Russell assumed the position of State CIF Commissioner. He was well suited for the job. At the age of 44, he had long been a pillar of the Southern California athletic community. He was an assistant principal and director of athletics at Centennial High School of Compton at the time of his appointment. His background in athletic administration included 12 years as Commissioner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association and two years as Commissioner of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association. Fagans had also worked for 10 years as a basketball official in the Pacific-8 Conference.

As a youngster, Fagans was a standout athlete at Huntington Park High School, where he led his team to CIF-SS basketball titles in 1926 and 27. He went on to star at Oregon State University, earning All-Pacific Coast honors as a forward. But Fagans gained even greater recognition as one of the Southland's most successful basketball coaches, guiding junior college and high school teams to a phenomenal 248-23 record over a seven-year period

a remarkable winning percentage of .915. His Compton High School team won 53 consecutive games from 1950-53, a mark exceeded only twice in the 75-year history of the CIF-SS. His 1951-52 club went 32-0 and was the second of Fagans' back-to-back major-division champions.

The sheer growth of the section during the Fagans era was nothing less than dramatic. When he started his long term as commissioner, the CIF-SS was composed of 218 schools. By the time he left, the membership had expanded to 458, even though 48 schools left when the San Diego Section was formed in 1960. During the period, the number of CIF-SS sanctioned sports increased from 11 for boys only to 22 for both boys and girls. The dramatic growth also created a greater demand for services and an ever-increasing volume of phone calls, correspondence, inquiries, requests and paper work. As a result, the CIF-SS office staff itself was expanded from just Fagans himself to nine full-time employees.

When Fagans assumed his position as commissioner in 1954, the CIF Southern Section was a rather low-key operation. The assets of the organization consisted entirely of one typewriter and one desk. The office was housed in a single room at Helms Hall, which came free of charge thanks to Paul Helms. The CIF-SS was also provided with the opportunity to use Helms' addressograph and mimeograph machines in order to conduct its daily operations.

"The only expense we had in those days was our telephone bill," recalled Fagans. "And the only assets we had were in war bonds that Seth Van Patten had purchased years before. A major portion of my responsibility was to assign the officials for a wide area so I soon found out more help was needed."

One of the first items on his agenda was to re-organize and simplify the process for assignment of officials by providing a complete schedule to each rather than game-by-game correspondence. In 1956, he brought in Darol Roundy, a UCLA Phys-Ed graduate, to assist in the assignment process.

In the fall of 1954, Fagans' had his



FAGANS

(Continued from page 8)

first experience with the football playoffs, and the major-division results did not meet with his expectations. Here was the most popular of all high school spectator sports and the organization's best chance to improve its financial situation, yet nothing could be shown for it when it was all over.

"When I started, the established policy for pairing the playoffs were for the Executive Committee to set the draw by leagues in the spring of the year for the following season," said Fagans. "So what happened in '54 was that the best two teams, Long Beach Poly and San Diego, met in the first round. It just killed the interest. In addition, we had 10 league champions going into an eight-team bracket, so you would have byes for two teams in the first round. Everybody complained. The teams with the byes argued that they lost their competitive edge with the week off, and the teams without the byes claimed they had more chance for injury to key players. I had to agree with both."

So for the 1955 season, Fagans convinced the Executive Committee to hold off on seeding the football playoffs until the end of the league season, when the best information would be available on the strength of the teams. He also eliminated the byes by filling the draw with representative

teams to form a playoff structure that was workable mathematically. The result was a more competitive structure, which helped to cultivate the fans and draw more attention from the press. Soon afterward, the Executive Committee and Council determined that Fagans' plan could apply to the playoff structure for all sports, laying the foundation for all future CIF Southern Section playoff activities.

The fruits of Fagans' new playoff structure came to bear in the fall of 1956. Two football teams of unmatched capabilities, which were led by the finest ball carriers of their era - Anaheim with Mickey Flynn and Downey with Randy Meadows - were on a collision course from the outset of the campaign. When playoff time rolled around, Fagans skillfully seeded Anaheim and Downey one-two, so if both teams survived, the only game in which they could possibly meet would be the championship final. Kenny's dream game became a reality on Dec. 14, 1956, when the Colonists and Vikings each brought perfect 13-0 records into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

"When we secured the Coliseum for our championship final that year, they insured us we would draw eight to 10,000-max for a high school game," recalled Fagans. "On their recommendations, we employed six ticket sellers and eight ticket takers for the event.

Well, the game was so attractive, that the people just ate it up. Of course I was there at 4 p.m. to start setting things up, and when I checked to see how our ticket sales were going at about seven, the people were literally lined up for blocks trying to get in. I went down immediately to open another ticket booth, but it didn't do much good. So I went to Bill Nichols, who was operating the stadium, and asked him to open the big double gate below the press box. We announced 'anyone with the right change can enter here' and it was a stampede. We got some boxes and filled them with money as the crowd came through. I was able to grab off a couple of coaches that I recognized to give us a hand, but that crowd was just too much. At about a quarter of eight, I ran back to the field and brought together the coaches (Clare Van Hoorebeke of Anaheim and Dick Hill of Downey) and said, listen, we've still got 20,000 people outside. I want to set the starting time back to 8:30. They weren't happy about it, but they agreed, and we were able to get all of those people in."

Considering the circumstances, an accurate crowd count for the evening was nearly impossible. But through the gate receipts and turnstile count, the official number was set at 41,383, which stands today as the largest crowd ever to witness a CIF Southern Section event. As for the game? The two teams battled to a 13-13 tie and were declared co-champions. According to Fagans, it was the night the CIF Southern Section came of age and one that would never be forgotten.

Another of Fagans' early goals was to restructure the make up of the Executive Committee. When he became commissioner, Fagans noticed that many of the committee's members had sat on the board for extraordinarily long terms. It was his contention that representation on such an important governing body should be spread further among the member schools. At his urging, the committee was expanded to include seven members - one for each of the section's distinct geographic areas - and committee members would serve four-year terms on a rotating basis. Fagans also recognized the outstanding contribution



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1960-61 - front row: Marion C. Hays, Keith Gunn, Oliver Corbin, Harold Wetzel, John W. Landrum. Back row: John R. Taylor, Winston Nelson, Frank O. Hopkins, Commissioner Ken Fagans, Robert D. Ashton, Robert J. Schilling.

see FAGANS page 18

FAGANS

(Continued from page 9)

made by the Executive Committee without compensation, so he enhanced its status and started a tradition by inviting the wives of the members to social functions and retreats to coincide with the meetings.

With the continued growth of the section and its ever increasing services, the need for more office space was required, so in April of 1959, CIF Southern Section headquarters moved to 5443 W. Washington Blvd. in West Los Angeles.

Due in large part to ongoing travel problems, the schools of San Diego County split off from the Southern Section in 1960 to form their own CIF section. The move was initiated and passed by the Southern Section and State CIF organization for the benefit of all member schools involved.

The Southern Section made great strides in the field of media and public relations in 1963, when Commissioner Fagans brought Don Andersen on board with the permission of the Executive Committee. Andersen, who had achieved national attention when he staged an elephant race to signal the beginning of the athletic program at Orange State College (later to become Cal State Fullerton), initiated the weekly CIF-SS press release based on top ten polls of the area sportswriters, published the first-ever CIF-SS record book and became editor of the monthly bulletin.

In May of 1965, ground was broken on a permanent office site for the CIF Southern Section on the campus of soon to be opened Richard Gahr High School in Cerritos. The land for the new structure was donated by the Artesia-Bloomfield-Carmenita School District, which at the time was headed by Dr. Murrell Miller. By November of the same year, the new office, which remains the home of the CIF Southern Section today, was open for business.

Commissioner Fagans added to his staff by bringing in Tom Morgan and Lou Joseph, who spent short periods as administrative assistants. They were subsequently replaced by Kendall Webb and Tom Byrnes, who went on to positions as San Diego Section Commissioner and State CIF Commissioner, respectively.

With growing support among the member schools and on state and



GROUND BREAKING - May 21, 1965. Commissioner Kenny Fagans is joined (from left) by Dr. Murrell Miller, Vern Furgerson, Executive Committee Chairman Robert D. Ashton, Gahr High Principal Willard Redfern and Charles Hutchinson, as ground is broken for the new CIF-SS Office in Cerritos. Miller, Furgerson and Hutchinson represent the Artesia-Bloomfield-Cerritos School District.

national levels, a competitive program for girls interscholastic athletics was on the horizon in the late 60's. In June of 1970, Fagans organized the first-ever CIF-SS sanctioned event for girls, a swim meet conducted at Beverly Hills High School. Expenses for the event, including the program and all awards were underwritten by Mr. Bruce Hopking and his Kalos Kagathos Foundation, which for many years had made tremendous donations of time, effort and funds in support of CIF-SS aquatic events. The meet was considered a "rousing success" and helped to open the door for girls athletics within the Southern Section.

In May of 1971, acting upon an overwhelming mandate of the member schools from results of a survey, the CIF-SS Council passed an initiative to form a Girls Interscholastic Athletic Board (GIAB), which marked the official beginning of girls athletic administration in the section. The following November, the CIF-SS crowned its first-ever official girls champions in the sport of tennis. In September of 1974, Fagans announced the hiring of Margaret Davis as an Administrative Assistant, and by 1975, Barbara Wilson of Beverly Hills High School became the first woman ever appointed to the Executive Committee.

Fagans was responsible for initiating the CIF-SS Gold Life Pass award in the mid 50's. Another key accomplishment of the Fagans era was the development and signing of the CIF-SS Articles of Incorporation, a critical

legal document which established the CIF Southern Section as a recognized non-profit organization unto itself.

During his 21 year-stint as commissioner, Fagans never once was forced to ask the Executive Committee or the Council to raise the annual dues paid by member schools. The CIF Southern Section achieved financial independence and flourished as an organization due to his skillful management of playoff activities.

"It was a hard row," Fagans pointed out. "Our budget kept increasing and costs kept going up. We wanted to have a first-class operation and provide our member schools with the best awards and best facilities possible. In my day, we couldn't allow ourselves to have sponsorships, because that was considered professionalism and commercialization. In my first five years, we were dependent solely upon contributions. Everything was done on a voluntary basis. Our officials, ticket sellers, ticket takers and the schools that provided and prepared the facilities were happy to contribute. So when we turned the corner, we started to pay these people. It wasn't much, but it was appreciated. And the people working for us made it a first-class operation."

In 1975, Kenny Fagans stepped down at the age of 65. His energy and will to succeed brought the CIF Southern Section of age. His foresight and management skills took a practically unknown entity and built it into an organization of strength and respect.



KEN FAGANS FRED GOSS BILL ARMSTRONG
Goss, all-time leading basketball scorer in CIF, SS, receives trophy from Commissioner Ken Fagans, congratulations from Coach Bill Armstrong



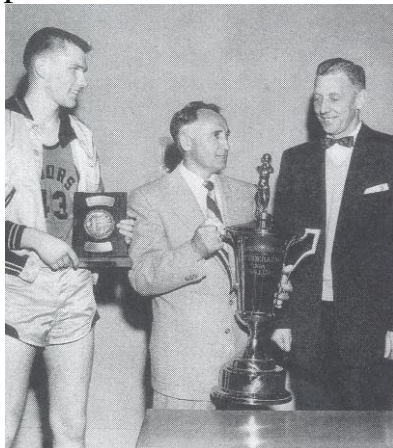
Commissioner Fagans

Jay K Fagans



Factoids on Commissioner Fagans:

- Ken was the batboy for the Detroit Tigers when the great Hank Greenberg was playing.
- When he started as the commissioner he had one desk and one secretary, Royce Wild.
- His license plate was “MR. CIF.”
- Only CIF-SS assets when he took over were War Bonds that had been purchased by Seth Van Patten.
- Started his tenure at age 44 and stepped down after 21 years at age 65.
- CIF-SS grew from 218 to 458 schools during his time as Commissioner.
- A very strong proponent of girls’ sports.
- Considered himself a workaholic and a self-described “rock.”
- Very punctual and do not be late to any of his meetings.
- He was a multi-tasker.
- He was a renaissance man, a perfectionist, mover & shaker, pro student/athlete, a visionary, all with the wisdom of fairness.
- Never liked calling a time-out in basketball just like John Wooden.
- Howie Dallmar got the job as Stanford basketball coach over Ken.
- He was beat out for the 1936 Olympic Basketball Team by Sam Balter who became a Los Angeles radio sportscaster.
- He did all the accounting for the CIF-SS office when he became Commissioner.
- He hated to see lines of spectators waiting to get into CIF-SS games...at the famous 1956 Anaheim-Downey Championship football game when the fans could not get in quickly enough; he started taking their money without tickets and placed in brown paper bags.
- He was a meticulous record-keeper and a master of minutia.
- He was loyal, expected you do your job, and if you didn’t you heard about it.
- He understood rules and their intent.
- Lived on Balboa Island for 25 years...enjoyed tennis and lawn bowling
- Attended Oregon State with James C. Heartwell from Long Beach Poly who helped start the CIF-SS record book.



ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL - CIF - CHAMPS - 1955


BACK ROW: L TO R - KEN KENNEDY, DICK WALLEN, COACH CLAUDE MILLER, WALT JENNINGS, CAPT. BOB ARCHER, BOB HILDE, GEORGE DUARDO, CIF COMMISSIONER KEN FAGANS, TOM CHARLTON, DARYL BAHOFF, JOHN RUSSELL, DAVE PYLE, BOB HURVITZ, STEVE KEMP, JOE DEVIN
FRONT ROW: MGR. BILL ROSECRANS, DICK LYONS, BILL LENSER, CHUCK BORN, ERNIE BAKER, BOB BAERNS, STEVE FRYER, MGR. JOHNNY GURROLA.

1958 CALIFORNIA STATE TRACK MEET

COKE SPONSORSHIP

State Commissioner Bill Russell & CIFSS
Commissioner Ken Fagens





SOUTHERN SECTION

	BALL	STRIKE	CUT	BATTER	PLAY			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R H E
SAXONS								0 0 0
LANCERS								0 0 0

ANAHEIM STADIUM SALUTES

J KENNETH FAGANS

**COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETICS
SO. SECTION OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
NOW CELEBRATING HIS 20TH YEAR
AS COMMISSIONER
CONGRATULATIONS 'KENNY!'**

SALUTE TO KENNY FAGANS

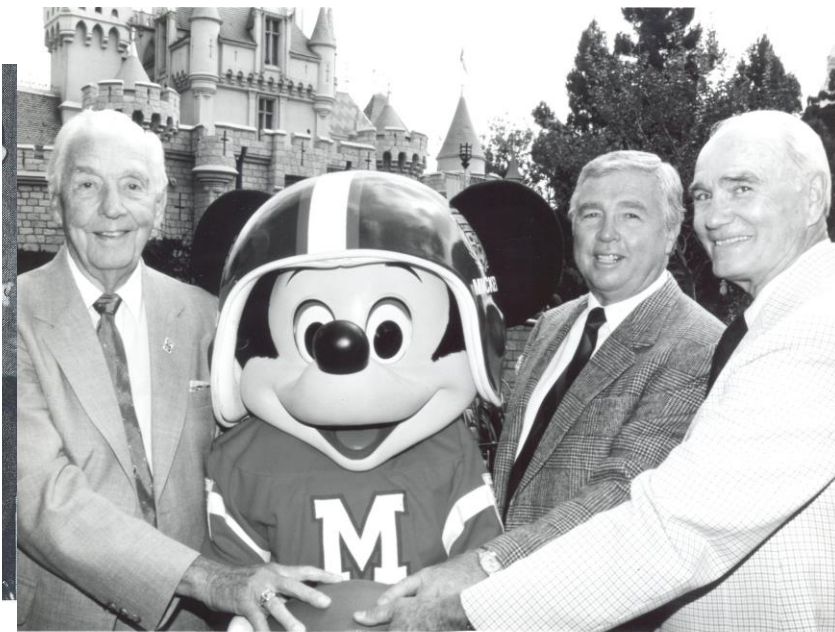
In commemoration of his 20th year as Commissioner of Athletics in the CIF-Southern Section, J. Kenneth ("Kenny") Fagens was honored with this scoreboard message at Angel Stadium on June 4, 1974, between the 3A and 4A championship baseball games. During his two-decade tenure Commissioner Fagens has seen Southern Section membership grow from 218 to 458 schools and the number of sanctioned sports grow from 11 for boys to 22 for both boys and girls.





CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Los Angeles City Councilman Gilbert Lindsay (right) presents Council resolution to CIF Commissioner Ken Fagans before the 1966 championship football game. The resolution saluted Fagans for his contributions to the interscholastic athletic program of the Southland. Charles Chapman, president of the Los Angeles City Employees Assn., (left) assisted with the presentation.



ANAHEIM, CA: 1992 Football Heritage Award winners Kenny Fagans (left), Mickey Flynn (center) and Dick Hill (right), surround Mickey Mouse at Disneyland.



Commissioners Byrnes and Fagans

C. I. F., SOUTHERN SECTION
MONTHLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 38

JANUARY, 1975

No. 5

J. Kenneth Fagans Retires January 31, 1975
CIF-SS Commissioner Steps Down In 21st Year



J. KENNETH FAGANS

The end of an era will be observed January 31, 1975, as J. Kenneth "Kenny" Fagans, 65, officially retires after nearly 21 years as Commissioner of the Southern Section of the California Interscholastic Federation. Nominated to succeed him is Thomas J. Byrnes, CIF-SS Administrative Assistant.

As the third Commissioner in the long 61-year history of the Southern Section, Fagans began his term of office in June of 1954, succeeding William W. Russell (present Executive Secretary of the State C.I.F.) who held the post from 1950-54. The "Founding Father" of the Southern Section was Seth F. Van Patten who served as its first Commissioner from 1914-1950.

Immediately preceding his appointment as the Southern Section's third Commissioner of Athletics, Ken Fagans served as an Assistant Principal at Centennial High School. His administrative background has also included a 12-year period as Commissioner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association and two years as Commissioner of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association. Another area of experience has been in the field of officiating where he has spent over 30 years at the high school and collegiate levels, ten of which were as a basketball official in the Pac 8 Conference.

During his 21 years of leadership, "Kenny" Fagans has guided an extensive expansion and development of an interscholastic athletic program that has grown from 218 schools in 1954 to 458 schools today. In that period,

the number of sports has increased from 11 for boys only to 22 for both boys and girls. This dramatic growth pattern is but one of the several significant changes that Fagans has seen take place during his two-decade tenure. (See Commissioner's Corner, Page Two.)

J. Kenneth Fagans, a standout athlete himself at Huntington Park High School and at Oregon State University where he was selected as an All-Pacific Coast forward in basketball, gained

greater recognition in coaching. In a basketball coaching career he achieved an outstanding 92 percentage by winning 248 of 271 games. Included in his 7 years of coaching basketball were 53 consecutive victories at Compton HS from 1950-53, a mark that has been exceeded only once in the 60 year history of the CIF-SS. Fagans' 1951-52 team was 32-0.

The retiring Commissioner has not yet announced plans for his future but is sure to follow closely the course of interscholastic athletics in the Southern Section. He and his wife Norma, residents of Balboa Island, will continue to be seen at various CIF-SS events.



Happy 80th, Kenny!

Recently, Commissioner Stan Thomas and the CIF Southern Section staff helped former Commissioner Ken Fagans celebrate his 80th birthday at a special luncheon. Fagans, who managed CIF-SS affairs from 1954-1975, has many times been referred to as "Mr. CIF" by friends and associates. Fagans will long be remembered for his tremendous contribution to the growth and development of the organization, which became nationally recognized as one of the most successful and unique of its type during his tenure. The CIF-SS is pleased to salute Kenny and his lovely wife Norma on the occasion of his 80th birthday - many happy returns!

FORMER COMMISSIONER KEN FAGANS HONORED BY ORANGE COUNTY HALL OF FAME

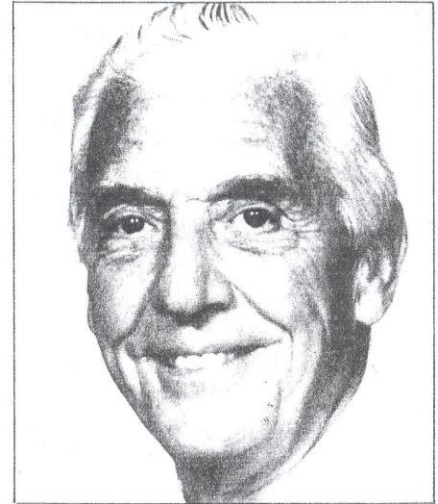
J. Kenneth "Kenny" Fagans, who served as the third CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics between 1954 and 1975, was inducted into the Orange County Sports Hall of Fame as a Lifetime Achievement Award winner during the organization's 10th anniversary celebration in July.

Fagans joins Gene Autry, Tommy Lasorda and Georgia Frontiere, among others, to receive the Orange County Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to leadership in the sports community.

Fagans, honored this year by the CIF Southern Section in a pictorial salute on the cover of the Blue Book, is credited with bringing the organization of age during his illustrious 21-year career. Under his direction, the CIF-SS expanded from a relatively unknown entity of 218 schools, to an association of strength and respect, with a membership of 458 schools. With Fagans at the helm, the CIF-SS initiated the in-

terscholastic athletic programs for girls; built its present office complex in Cerritos; ushered in competition in several new sports; revised the structure and responsibility of the Executive Committee and Council; reorganized the process for training and assigning contest officials; and established new procedures for the seeding and pairing of championship playoff tournaments.

Prior to succeeding Bill Russell as Commissioner of the Southern Section, Fagans served as assistant principal and athletic director at Centennial High School in Compton. His background in athletic administration included 12 years as Commissioner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association and two years as Commissioner of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association (since renamed the Big West Conference). Fagans also worked for 10 years as a basketball official in the Pacific-Eight Conference (now known as the Pac-10). He officiated football, basketball and baseball for more than 30 years on the



J. Kenneth "Kenny" Fagans

high school, junior college and collegiate levels and served as president of both the Southern California Basketball Officials

see FAGANS page 12

FAGANS TOUCHED BY HIGHLIGHT OF CAREER RETIREMENT DINNER SUCCESS

"This is by far the highlight of my life."

That quote by the man being honored painted the perfect picture to the J. Kenneth Fagans Retirement Dinner staged at the Los Angeles International Hotel.

It was a gala affair indeed as an overflow crowd was on hand to pay fitting tribute to the recent commissioner, who served in that capacity for virtually 21 years in the CIF Southern Section.

"I had a dream a number of years back to see this organization grow and it's gratifying to recapture that moment with you," added Fagans, who was not only touched by the evening, but by the number of awards showered on him by the representative groups in attendance.



An elated J. Kenneth Fagans



J. KENNETH "KENNY" FAGANS
(1954-1975)

DURING HIS TWO-DECADE TENURE AS COMMISSIONER, "KENNY" FAGANS WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS WITHIN THE SOUTHERN SECTION. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, THE CIF-SS PLAYOFF SYSTEM REACHED A LEVEL SECOND TO NONE IN THE NATION. THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS INCREASED FROM 218 TO 458, AND THE TOTAL OF SANCTIONED SPORTS EXPANDED FROM 11 FOR BOYS TO 22 FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS. THE ADVENT AND SUCCESS OF GIRLS' ATHLETICS IN THE SOUTHERN SECTION WAS DUE, IN LARGE MEASURE, TO COMMISSIONER FAGANS' FORESIGHTEDNESS, INFLUENCE, AND GUIDANCE.



CIF-SS Commissioners

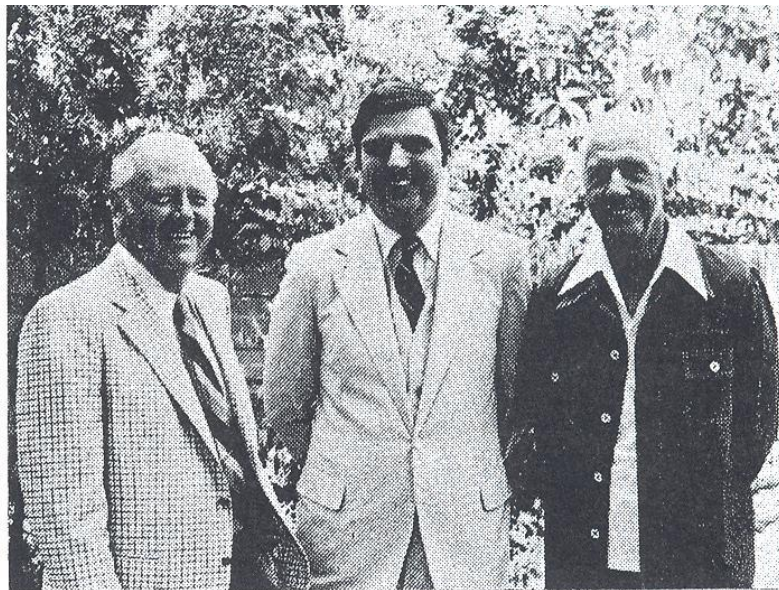
Russell

Plutko

Fagans

Thomas

Byrnes



Three Southern Section Commissioners (left) William Russell 1950 to 1954, (middle) Thomas Byrnes 1975-1979 and (right) Kenneth Fagans 1954 to 1975.



SOUTHERN SECTION

CIF-SS BULLETIN



VOL. 56, NO. 3

SPRING 1994



**J. KENNETH FAGANS
IN MEMORIAM
CIF-SS Commissioner -- 1954-1975
1909 - 1994**

See COMMISSIONER'S CORNER, page 4