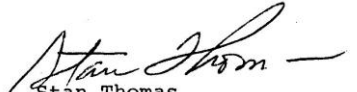




79<sup>th</sup> historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA**  
**INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION**  
**SOUTHERN SECTION**  
**(CIFSS)**

  
Stan Thomas  
Commissioner of Athletics

**CIF-SS COMMISSIONERS**

**STANLEY RAY THOMAS**



Stanley Ray Thomas was born May 28, 1931, in Torrance California. He attended Manual Arts High School where he was a football All-Star making the Southern League First Team as a 5’10” 157 pound half back. He played for the famous coach Jim Blewett. He graduated from Manual Arts in 1948 and joined the Air Force where he was on active duty during the Korean War from 1951 to 1954. He attended Whittier College and played football under another famous coach, George Allen. He graduated from Whittier with a B.A. in 1957, got married to Gloria (would later have two sons and two daughters) and finished up his Master Degree in Education (M.Ed.) from Whittier in 1964. In 1957 he was a teacher/coach at Clinton Intermediate School in Monrovia. From 1959 to 1964 he was a teacher/coach at La Mirada High School. In 1964 he moved to Neff High School in Norwalk as a PE/Science teacher and coach. As the football coach at Neff High School he won 9 league championships and two CIF titles in 1966 and 1974. From 1974 to 1978 he served as an Assistant Principal at Neff and later from 1978 to 1980, an Assistant Principal at Excelsior High School.

In 1980, he became the Principal at Foothill High School and in 1984 moved to the Tustin School District administration as the Commerce and Technology head. He was very active in CIF-SS affairs serving on the Blue Book, Life Pass and Season of Sports Committee. He was President of the Century League and representative to the CIF-SS council and served as the Chairperson of Releguing in Orange County. In 1986, he was named the 6<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of the CIF-SS and served till 1993 when he was asked to step down by the Executive Committee. Stan was a coach and mentor to many in the community of Fullerton helping with Little League, Bobby Sox, Meals on Wheels, Assistance League and other local activities. He was very proud to have his son Chris Thomas serve as the CIF-SS Director of Marketing from 1990 to 1997. Stan Thomas passed away on January 20, 2010.



**FIRST TEAM**

Leroy Fairman	Fremont	5'11	161	Sr.
R. L. Lawrence	Man.Arts	6' 0	168	Sr.
Duane Larson	Man.Arts	6' 1	185	Sr.
Joe Konada	Wash'n	6' 2	205	Sr.
Ben Avila	Fremont	5' 8	175	Jr.
Morrie Eydakinoff	Roosevelt	5' 9	175	Sr.
Abel Armas	Fremont	5'10	166	Sr.
Frank Pedilla	Fremont	5'10	147	Sr.
Gunther Seelig	L. A.	5' 9	165	Sr.
Stan Thomas	Man.Arts	5'10	157	Sr.
Tom Brown	Man.Arts	5'11	170	Sr.



All-Southern League – 1948

Allen and Coryell at Whittier – 1950's

Neff High School – CIF-SS Champs  
1966 & 1974



**2A FOOTBALL TROPHY PRESENTATION:** Neff HS Coach Stan Thomas (Right Front) holds CIF-SS 2A Championship trophy high as Executive Committeeman Tony Balsamo prepares to award perpetual trophy.

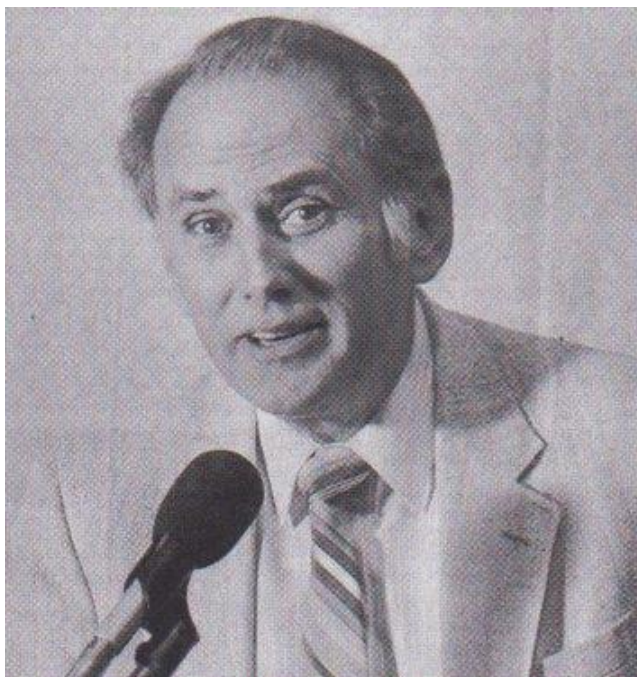
- When Stan was a coach at Neff he said he learned in basic fundamentals and drills learned from his high school coach Jim Blewett at Manual Arts and George Allen at Whittier College. He said he, “tried to emphasize organization in our scouting and game preparation.”
- He did not like booster clubs and did not have one at Neff.
- Stan gave a lot of credit to his football players saying that they had “brainpower” and did very well in school. They audibalized many times on defense. They set a CIF-SS record of 43 interceptions in 1974.
- Stan’s competition for the job was Barbara Wilson and Dean Crowley (plus 16 other applicants). "I read in the paper that Ray was leaving," Thomas recalled. "I joked with my son about going for it and thought about it for a week. Then I said, 'Why not?' I have the experience in the area and have been successful, so I decided to take a run at it."
- He was very accessible, quotable and friendly. One of his constituents once described him as “sort of a God.”
- The CIF-SS expanded their office space at the Gahr headquarters.
- In 1988, the CIF-SS celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- During his tenure the R&R period was created, 2.0 GPA rules established, membership fees were 25 cents per student, coaching certification begins, trainers for schools recommended, steroid education, and the CIF-SS numbered 480 schools with 550,000 student/athletes.
- During his time as Commissioner there were two large legal cases, one involving coach Harry Welch football coach at Canyon, which the CIF-SS lost and were forced to pay a sum to Welch and the Montclair Prep School in Van Nuys, which was placed on probation in 1991.
- Thomas’s annual salary was \$85,798 and he ran an office of 15.
- Stan’s problems started with a lack of financial oversight and his autonomy. Questions arose over expenditures for a Christmas office party for staff and spouses, gas expenditures for his leased car, golf expenses of \$3,500, numerous meal expenditures near his Fullerton



CHRIS THOMAS  
Director of Sports Marketing

home, a conference in Hawaii and side trip to Maui, and others amounting to \$35,000.

- In 1992-3, an audit indicated a CIF-SS deficit for the 1992-1993 school year of \$112,000. Thomas's spending did not cause the deficit, but pushed the Executive Committee to audit all accounts.
- Thomas always contended that he was doing business as has been done in the past and he had done nothing illegal.
- On October 13, 1993, Stan Thomas resigned and agreed to pay \$5,000 in restitution to the CIF-SS. He continued to insist that he did not violate policy and stated, "Nobody ever said a word to me... I was never provided with policies, rules or regulations."





# CIF-SS BULLETIN



VOL. 47 NO. 6

JUNE 1986



## STAN THOMAS APPOINTED SIXTH CIF-SS COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETES

Stan Thomas, Administrator of Commerce and Technology for the Tustin Unified School District, has been named the new CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics, it was announced by Moe Chavez, President of the CIF-SS Executive Committee.

Thomas, 54, replaces Ray Plutko, who will move on to assume the commissionership of the Colorado High School Association in July. Thomas becomes the sixth commissioner in the history of the 73-year old organization, following Seth Van Patten (1913-1951), William W. Russell (1951-1954), J. Kenneth Fagans (1954-1975), Thomas E. Byrnes (1975-1980) and Plutko (1980-1986).

Since joining the administrative staff at the Tustin Unified School District in 1984, Thomas has overseen the instruction for grades K-12, as well as the district's programs in applied arts, athletics, computer literacy, the coastline regional occupation program, driver education, foreign language and physical education. He has also been the district liaison with the local business community, as well as developing the Partnership in Education Program.

*(Continued on page 9)*

Thomas has had a long and successful career in the field of educational administration. Prior to accepting his post at the Tustin District Office, he was the principal of Foothill High School in Santa Ana for four years. He also served as an assistant principal at Excelsior High School in Norwalk from 1978 to 1980 and at Neff High School in La Mirada from 1975 to 1978.

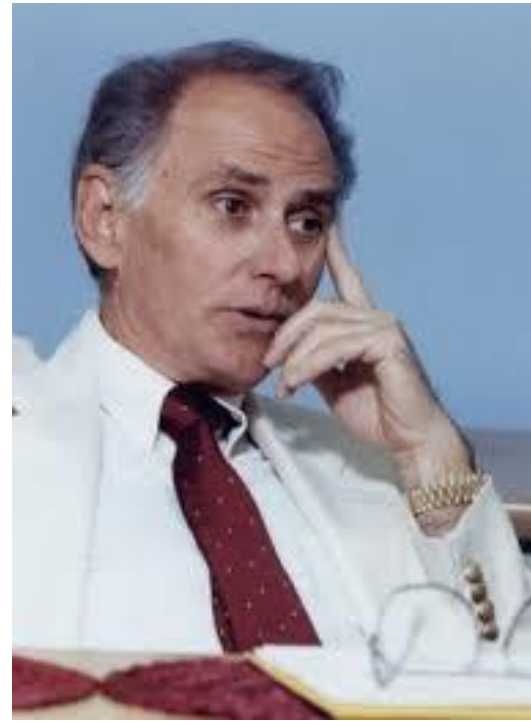
Thomas began his career in education as a physical education teacher and all-sports coach at Clifton Intermediate School in Monrovia in 1957. He moved to La Mirada High School in 1959, where he taught physical education and science and coached football. In 1964, Thomas became the head football coach at Neff, where he directed his teams to nine league titles, as well as CIF Southern Section championships in 1966 and 1974.

During his teaching and coaching career, Thomas played an active role in a number of CIF-SS activities. He donated his professional expertise as a member of the Blue Book Committee, the Life Pass Committee and the Season of Sport Committee. He was also the Century League Representative to the CIF-SS Council, the Orange County Principal's Representative-Chairperson and a member of the Orange County Releaguering Committee.

A veteran of the United States Air Force (1951-54), Thomas earned his bachelor of arts degree at Whittier College in 1957. He returned to Whittier for post-graduate work and received his masters of education degree in 1964. A resident of Fullerton, Stan and wife Gloria have two sons and two daughters: Chris, 22, Craig, 21, Carie, 18 and Cindy, 11.

## RED LETTER DATES (Continued from page 19)

- JUNE 1980** The CIF-SS Corporate Sponsorship Program is formally established with the hiring of Larry Zucker to a full-time position as Director of Sports Marketing and Advertising.
- OCT. 1980** Under the direction of Commissioner Plutko, the CIF-SS stages its first-ever Athletic Directors' Symposium, entitled "Athletics in the New Decade".
- MAR. 1983** The CIF-SS draws its largest crowd ever for a single day of championship basketball competition, with a grand total of 17,378 at the Long Beach Arena. The evening session features a showdown between Mater Dei and Long Beach Poly, attended by a capacity crowd of 12,506.
- JAN. 1984** CIF-SS Hall of Fame Recognition Awards founded. The new program gives the CIF-SS an alternative to the Gold Life Pass - which for obvious reasons must be limited - for showing its appreciation to outstanding contributors of the organization.
- AUG. 1984** Former CIF Southern Section athletes collect a total of 44 medals at the XXIIIrd Olympic Games held in Los Angeles. Had the CIF-SS entered the Olympics as a nation, it would have placed third in the final medal count.
- MAR. 1986** Commissioner Plutko announces he will step down to accept a position with the Colorado State High School Activities Association.
- JULY 1986** Stan Thomas, an administrator with the Tustin Unified School District, is appointed as the sixth CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics.
- MAY 1987** The CIF-SS Office staff undergoes a reorganization, which entitles Dean Crowley as the first-ever Associate Commissioner of Athletics.
- OCT. 1987** Remodeling and expansion of the CIF-SS Office in Cerritos is completed by the A.J. Padelford and Son Company, whose generous donation provides four new offices and a new conference room for the organization.
- MAY 1988** The CIF Southern Section celebrates its 75th Anniversary with a special invitation luncheon at the Sequoia Athletic Club of Buena Park.





**Harry Welch, football coach at Canyon CC, case ruling**

In issuing his decision in Lancaster Superior Court, Judge Haig Kehiayan rebuked the section's motion, calling it "frivolous and in bad faith." Kehiayan ordered the CIF, the Southern Section, Southern Section Commissioner Stan Thomas and the law firm of Patterson and Miller--the section's legal counsel--to pay \$5,290 to Welch and \$1,350 to the school district.

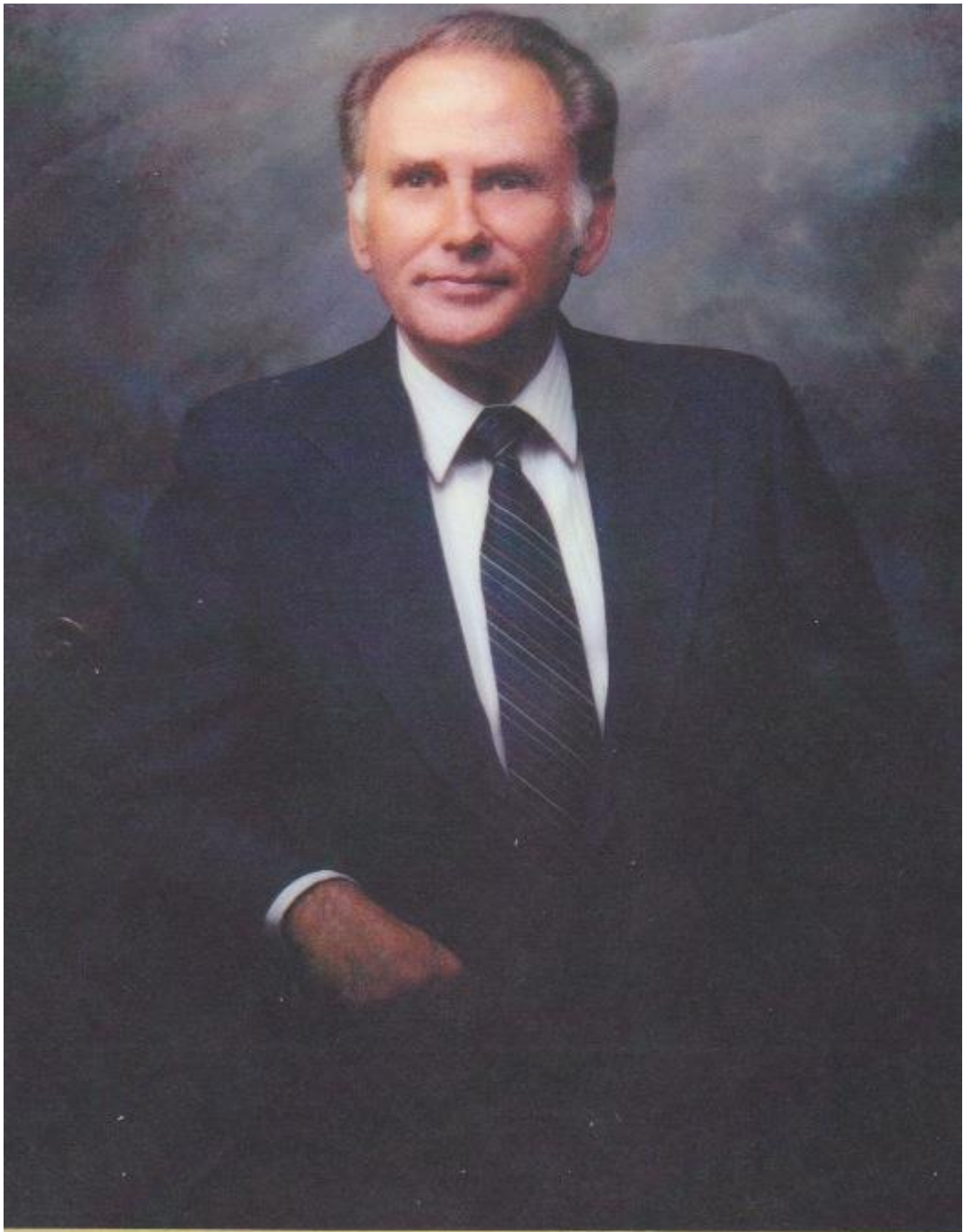
## Thomas' Spending Was His Undoing

■ **Preps:** Extravagant trip to Hawaii among items on former Southern Section commissioner's expense reports.

Crowley Seen as Possible Successor

**CIF's Thomas quits, must pay back \$5,000**





**STAN THOMAS**  
1986 - 1993

Stan Thomas served as the Commissioner of the Southern Section from 1986 until his retirement in 1993. During his tenure he was instrumental in designing and implementing an officials assignment program which provided better relations between officials and schools. He enhanced communication between the Southern Section, other sections and the State CIF Office. Among other accomplishments, he assisted the Amateur Athletic Foundation in the development of a coaching education program.



**COMMISSIONERS**

**Russell**

**Plutko**

**Fagans**

**Thomas**

**Byrnes**

