

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)

80th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

CIF-SS COMMISSIONERS

DEAN CROWLEY
“The Right Man at the Right Time!”



Dean Crowley was born in Alhambra, California on May 11, 1934. Crowley attended Alhambra High School and graduated in 1952. Dean participated in sports at Alhambra under the exponent system in the C & D classifications. He played basketball and tennis. Due to his size limitations, he became a manager of the athletic teams and continued his passion for athletics (interesting to note that in 1999, Dean Crowley was inducted into the Alhambra High School Athletic Hall of Fame). Upon graduation, he attended John Muir College (a two year college on the campus of John Muir H high School). In 1953, he transferred to Whittier College and in 1956 received his degree in Liberal Arts (sociology, psychology and physical education.) In 1956, he began his teaching career at Ocean View Elementary and East Whittier Intermediate Schools (East Whittier Unified School District) from 1956 to 1966.

In 1957, he got married and was drafted into the Army. He was deployed to Nuremburg, Germany with the Army Military Police (became a sergeant) and was active in the recreation leagues as an official. When he returned to the United States he continued his teaching career and entered the Master Program at Whittier College paying his tuition with the GI Bill. He received his Master’s in Education in 1969. In 1967, he moved to Gahr High School in Cerritos as a teacher and coach of the freshman football, JV basketball and J.V baseball teams. He then became the Athletic Director at Gahr. Dr. Hansford Rants was the Principal at Gahr and became Dean’s mentor. Dr. Rants was very active and influential in the CIF-SS. In 1976, Crowley became a Vice Principal at Gahr and was active in CIF-SS affairs. In 1976, he became the Associate Commissioner of Athletics for the CIF-SS. He was responsible for cross country, water polo, basketball, soccer, badminton, golf, swimming and track & field plus numerous committees. In 1994, he became the 7th Commissioner of the CIF-SS at the age of 59 years old and retired in 1999 after 23 years of service to the CIF-SS. During his entire public career Dean continued his

distinguished officiating, instructor and supervising career and continues to help the State CIF (Director of Championship Events) and CIF-SS stage athletic contests.

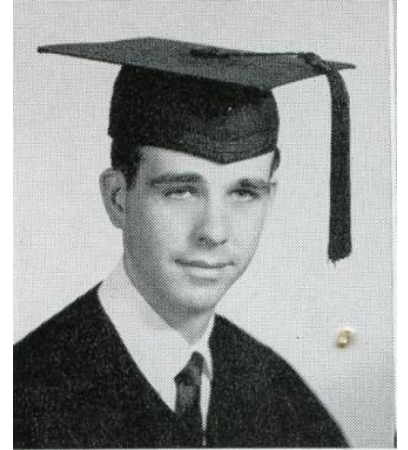
Alhambra High School Tennis



Alhambra High School - 1952



Whittier College - 1956



Gahr High School



Assistant Principal



CROWLEY CIF-SS YEARS

- Problem solving was the main aspect of his job along with working with Principals. He felt that the CIF-SS was like a School Board.
- Crowley felt that teamwork was the most important aspect he brought to the CIF-SS office.
- Hired former L.A. City Section Commissioner Hal Harkness on a part-time basis and he became Dean's right-hand man.
- Dean was a student of the famous football coach George Allen.
- The biggest problem he initially faced as the new Commissioner was the deficit position of the CIF-SS (when he came to office they were \$178,000 in the hole and when he retired that had \$1 million in reserve).
- Faced many difficult decisions regarding eligibility and transfers.
- Believed strongly in corporate sponsorship.
- Litigation took up a great deal of his time.
- Had to deal a lot with Public/Private school issues with Mater Dei, Santa Margarita, Damien, St. Lucy's, etc.
- Very concerned about improving "sportsmanship" in high school sports.
- Open enrollment bothered Dean a great deal.
- Celebrated the 80th year of the CIF-SS
- Famous CIF-SS athletes included Tiger Woods, Lindsay Davenport, Misty May, Joanna Hayes, Bryon Davis, Angela Williams, etc.
- First Strategic Plan for CIF-SS issued.
- 10 run mercy rule in baseball.
- Bill Clark became an Assistant Commissioner.
- Mater Dei National Football Champions (1994).
- Girl's Water polo becomes a sanctioned sport (1996).
- Harold Cebrun named Assistant Commissioner
- Thom Simmons become Director of Communications
- Technology Committee formed
- Margie Godfrey 1st female President of the CIF-SS Council



CROWLEY FACTOIDS:

- Didn't like working with discipline all the time at Gahr as an Assistant Principal and thus took a \$6,000 pay cut to come work for the CIF-SS. He loved the students.
- Worked as football Division 1 NCAA official at the Aloha, Independence, Freedom and Las Vegas Bowl games.
- Crowley was very well liked in high school.
- His high school athletic career ended when he was sitting at the end of the basketball bench in a game and the coach called his name. He was excited to finally get into a game and the coach then said, "I need your shorts for a cheerleader who had forgotten to wear the proper outfit!" Ouch! He then moved to being a manager.
- While at John Muir College, he found it strange being on campus with high school students.
- He was passed over for the Commissioner's job the first time he applied, but hung in there and eventually became the Interim Commissioner and then finally the Commissioner.
- Crowley stated, "...he loved challenges when he became the Commissioner."
- Did not like an unfair playing field and in a comment to "Sports Illustrated" said, "...that all shoe teams should make their own division so that high school basketball could be fair again."
- Principals make the decisions in the CIF-Council, but Dean was always ready to tell them how to vote.
- Dean felt that officiating was a stress reducer.
- As an official, Crowley felt that you had to be, "firm, cordial and professional."
- Crowley became the Commissioner of the Community College Foothill Athletic Conference.
- Taught basketball official's clinics in Korea and Australia.
- Dean's five principles of his career: everyone deserves a fair shot, service counts, rules are essential, amateur athletics must remain pure and sportsmanship is essential.



NEW CIF-SS STAFF MEMBER



DEAN CROWLEY, NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Joining the CIF-SS Southern Section staff is Dean Crowley, who leaves his duties as Assistant Principal at Gahr High School in Cerritos. Crowley came on board late this summer replacing Kendall Webb who was appointed Commissioner of the San Diego Section in July.

Mr. Crowley's duties will include the sports of water polo, wrestling, swimming and Boys and Girls track and field. Other major responsibilities will be the Monthly Bulletin, press releases, dealings with the news media, public relations, master schedules and CIF-SS publications.

Crowley has been in the field of education for 19 years, having been at
(Continued on Page Six)

DEAN CROWLEY TO LEAD CIF-SS

The CIF Southern Section Executive Committee announced at their meeting on November 23, 1993, the appointment of Dean Crowley as Commissioner of Athletics for the remainder of the 1993-94 school year.

Crowley, 59, has been with the Southern Section since 1976. He was named Associate Commissioner five years ago. "I am pleased to be at the helm for the rest of the year," Crowley said. "I look forward to directing the staff, which will continue to be committed to top service to our schools."

In addition to his duties at the Southern Section, Crowley also is very active in NCAA football as an official and Division I women's basketball as the Supervisor of Officials for the West Coast Conference. He will continue to manage the sports of cross country, basketball, and track & field, in addition to his new duties as commissioner.

Due to a hiring freeze, Crowley's position as Associate Commissioner will not be filled. At the end of the school year, the Executive Committee will review the commissioner position along with the structure

of the office and make any necessary changes in accordance with the strategic planning of the entire state.

Congratulations to you Dean and good luck!



DEAN CROWLEY

Southern Section Selects Crowley to Replace Thomas as Commissioner

Dean Crowley was selected as CIF Southern Section commissioner at an Executive Committee meeting Tuesday night at the section office.

Crowley, 59, replaces Stan Thomas, who was forced to resign last month for misusing his personal expense account.

Crowley has been a section administrator since 1976. He has been associate commissioner for the last five years.

"I am pleased to be at the helm for the rest of the year," Crowley said. "I look forward to directing the staff, which will continue to be committed to top service to our schools."

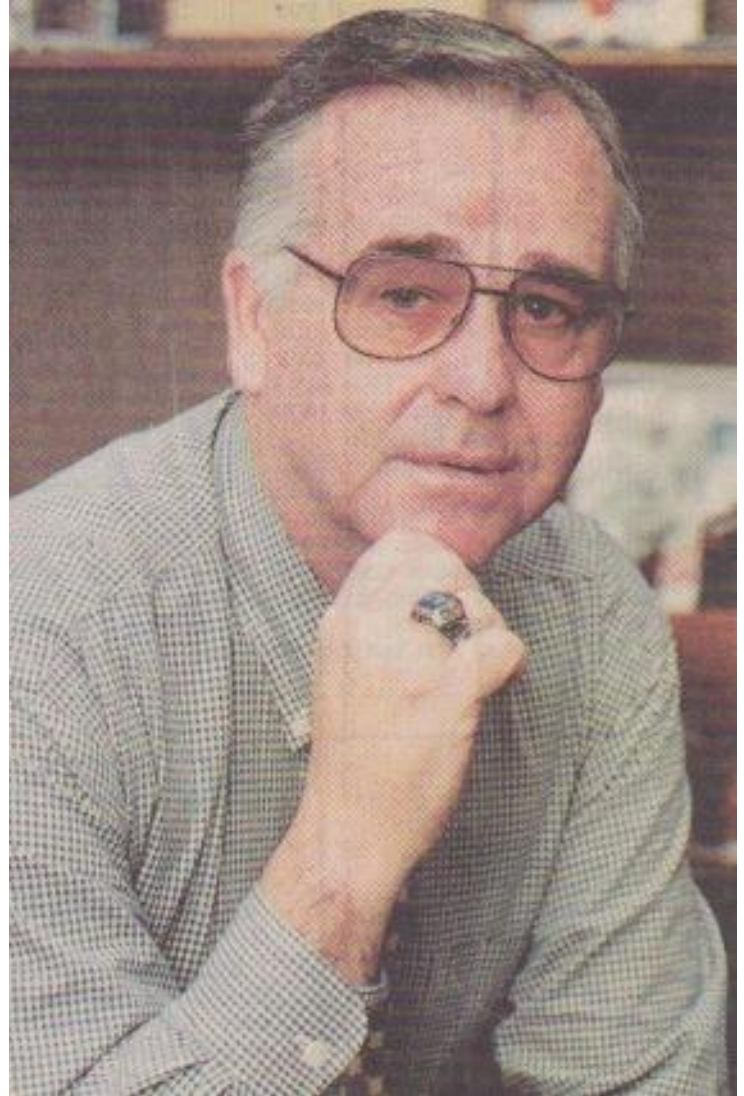
Crowley said the Executive Committee will review the commissioner's job again in June to see if further changes need to be made.

The committee wants to see what will happen with the state's continued efforts in strategic planning before appointing a commissioner for long term.

Crowley, who is in charge of basketball, golf, cross-country and track and field, will not be replaced. The section has a hiring freeze.

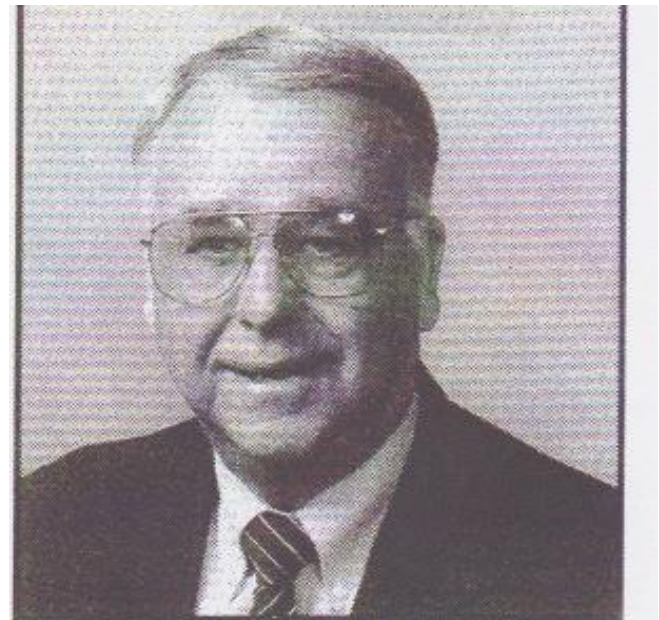
Thomas resigned Oct. 13 and was ordered to pay \$5,000 restitution. Crowley had been serving as interim commissioner.

—ERIC SHEPARD



H. LORREN AU JR./The Register
IN CHARGE: CIF-SS commissioner Dean Crowley's main objective this school year was to cut the organization's expenditures.



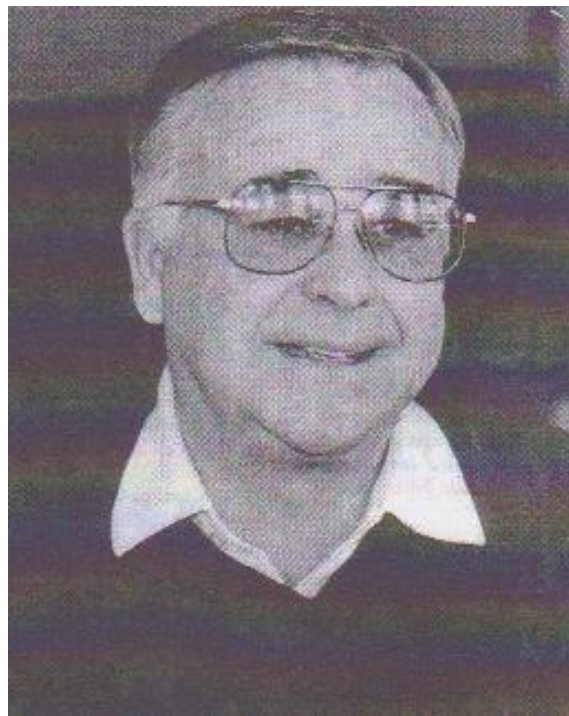


DEAN CROWLEY
Commissioner of Athletics

Honors and Awards

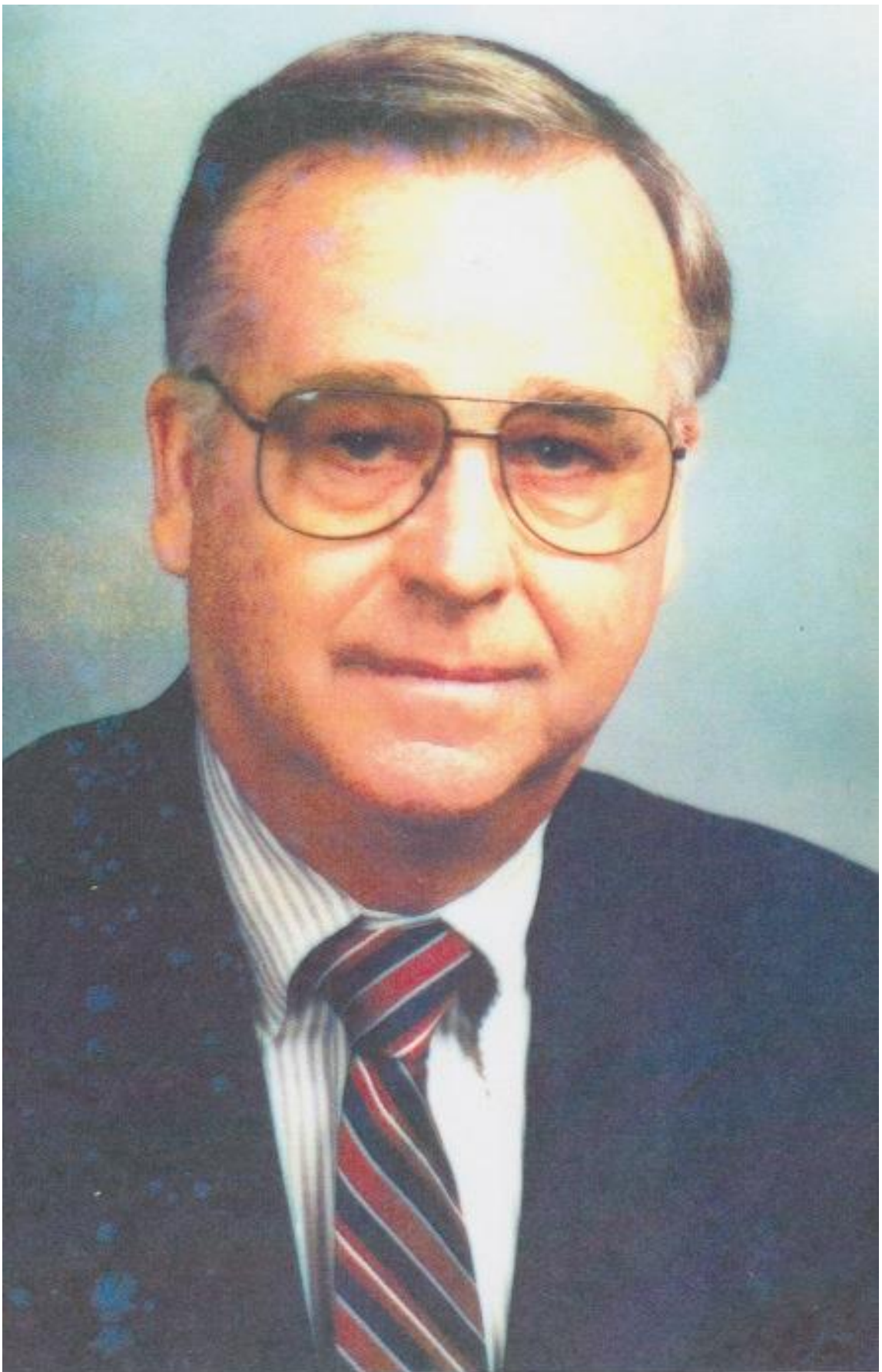
Dean Crowley has lived his life of service to amateur athletics and has been dedicated to the fundamental tenants of sportsmanship and fair play. His efforts have been recognized multiple times and he has received numerous awards and honors. In 1982 the Southern California Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association awarded the Distinguished Merit Award Crowley. He has been a speaker four different times at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Sports Officials. In 1999, Crowley was inducted into the Alhambra High School Hall of Fame. Upon his retirement in 1999, he received the highest honor awarded by the CIF, the State CIF Distinguished Service Award. In addition, Crowley received Special Recognition Awards from the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.





Many lessons can be learned from the storied career of Dean Crowley. The following five principles attempt to encapsulate themes throughout his career.

1. Everyone deserves a fair shot. Sport and education must be conducted in a manner that allows participants, coaches, and fans to enjoy the rigors of competition and learning on a level playing field.
2. Service counts. The foundation of teaching and athletics is service. In the midst of service, opportunities arise for advancement.
3. Rules are essential. There must be informed evaluation and evolution of rules, but when established it is essential that they are enforced no matter the circumstance nor the outcome.
4. Amateur athletics must remain pure. Work needs to be done to ensure that amateur athletics stays in its purest form of competition and educational setting. Athletics provides a vehicle to build character and produce positive lifelong habits and traits if it is conducted properly.
5. Sportsmanship is essential to healthy athletics. Sportsmanship begins with communication and proceeds to affect every individual involved in competition. Fans, officials, athletes, and administrators can provide a healthy environment that will provide ample opportunity for personal and social growth when sportsmanship is maintained.



DEAN CROWLEY

SELECTED AS COMMISSIONER IN 1994

Retired 1999

COMMISSIONERS



BYRNES

PLUTKO

WIGOD

CROWLEY

STAUNTON