



81th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

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

CIF-SS COMMISSIONERS

JAMES THOMAS STAUNTON



James Thomas Staunton was born June 26, 1949, in Los Angeles California. He graduated from San Gabriel High School in 1967. He began his college studies at the University of San Diego and transferred to Whittier College where graduated with a B.A. in 1971. He received his Masters in Art from California State University at Fullerton (Speech and Language Pathology) in 1976. He received his Administrative Credential from University of California at Irvine. In 1997, he received his Doctorate in Education Policy and Administration from the University of Southern California.

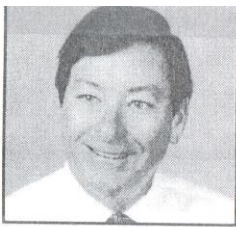
He served in the National Guard. Jim began his teaching at Bushard Elementary School in Fountain Valley. He moved to Fountain Valley High School in 1978 in speech therapy. Jim became a Dean of Students at Ocean View High School in 1986. In 1989, he returned to Fountain Valley as an Assistant Principal and became Principal at Huntington Beach High School in 1991. On September 1, 1999, he became the 8th Commissioner of the CIF-SS and would serve 12 years in that position...the 3rd longest serving Commissioner next to Seth Van Patten and Kenneth Fagans. Dr. Staunton retired from the CIF-SS on August 2, 2001 and currently is the Coordinator for the Western Region for Concordia University in Irvine, California.



San Gabriel H.S.
Senior Photo



Ocean View H.S.
Dean



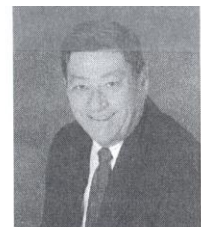
JAMES STAUNTON, ED.D.
Commissioner of Athletics



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Staunton's CIF-SS tenure:

- Acquired new property for the CIF-SS office and moved from the Gahr High School to the current Los Alamitos location.
- Worked with the Josephson Institute to develop the **16 Principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor.**
- Helped develop a coaching education program.
- Created the “Ethics in Sports Committee” and the yearly celebration of “Champions for Character” which is now named the “Jim Staunton Champions for Character” awards.
- During Jim’s tenure, he worked on changes to the transfer rule, multi-campus status, penalties for discipline and protocol for statewide appeals.
- The office staff was expanded and instituted a change in the dues policy.
- Corporate sponsorship increased 400% and the section grew from 505 schools to 580.
- Dr. Staunton represented the Southern Section at the State CIF Federated Council serving on the Risk-management Committee, Political Action Committee, Editorial Committee, and the Eligibility Committee.
- He was instrumental in the expansion of Golf at the State CIF level.
- Every year that he was Commissioner, the CIF-SS met and exceeded budget projections.
- Developed a television rights fee program.
- Jim believed strongly in equitable competition and his basketball play-off divisions were based on previous success of teams in the play-offs.
- Improved the www.cifss.org website.
- Constantly dealt with cub sports and student transfer issues.
- Litigation and legislation took up a lot of Jim’s time.
- Very supportive of girls sports and the California Girls and Women Sports Week.
- Terry Spears becomes the first Activities Director on the Executive Committee.
- Long Beach Poly National Football Champions and Lynwood Girls National Basketball Champions.
- Famous athletes during Jim’s tenure included Tony Azevedo, Diana Taurasi, Ryan Hall, Matt Leinart, Aaron Piersol, Lashinda Demos, Marc Sanchez,

Toby Gerhart, Bryshon Nellum, and Long Beach Poly named by “Sports Illustrated” as the top High School Sports Program in the United States.

- At-large women minorities added to CIF-SS Council.
- Forum help on Private/Public issues.
- Developed protocol for the use of supplements by student athletes.
- Sport of Lacrosse becomes popular.
- Legal fees assessment of all member schools.
- New audit committee formed
- Association rule eliminated.
- Student Athletic Leadership Council created.
- Manzanar High School made an Honorary Member



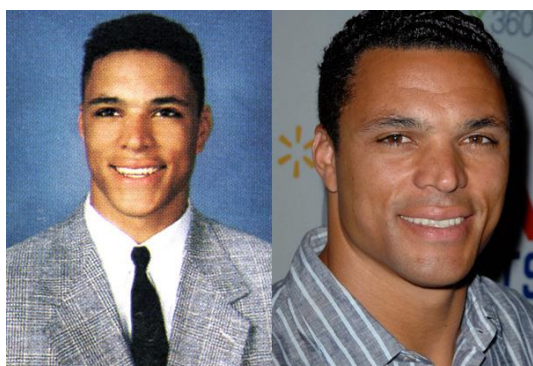


Oilers

Factoids on Jim Staunton:

- Jim is a very accomplished photographer.
- Dr. Staunton was instrumental in the creation of the California State CIF Golf Championship
- Jim has kept very close contact with the “Friends of Golf” organization.
- He was Principal at Huntington Beach High School when Tony Gonzalez was a star football player and took them to the CIF-SS Championship game in 1993.
- Jim was in charge of releguing for the Orange County Schools.
- The initial candidates for the Commissioner’s job were Bill Clark, Karen Hellyer and Clark Stephens. The application process was reopened and the two finalists were Jim and John Myers, Huntington Beach High School Superintendent.
- During the hiring process, Dr. Staunton said, “I had a different impression of the type of person they were looking for. After the process got going, I realized the executive Committee could be looking for someone with my background and what I perceived to be my skills.”
- Marie Godfrey, President of the CIF-SS Council said, “He (Jim) comes across with incredible professional poise and compassion. He has the leadership qualities, strength and courage, to address the challenges we are facing.”
- Jim is a member of Phi Delta Kappa.
- He was President the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region XVII in 2000.
- Loves to travel the world with his beautiful wife Susan.
- Jim is very active with the Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguard Association.
- He is an avid cook
- Keeps physical active bike riding and now with the Sierra Club
- Jim is an active member of a close group of friends who play golf and call themselves the “Sons of Cheaters!”

Tony Gonzalez....Huntington Beach High School 1993



AWARDS/RECOGNITION

- California Interscholastic Federation Distinguished Service Award, 2011
- California State Athletic Director's Association Distinguished Commissioner Award 2011
- "Teacher Beliefs on the Efficacy of Block Scheduling" Huntington Beach Union High School District Staff Development Day, February, 1997
- "Personalizing the School Experience: Establishing Effective School Climate" Green River Cooperative, First Annual Secondary School Restructuring Conference Bowling Green Kentucky, July, 1995
- "Personalizing the School Experience: Establishing Effective School Climate" Association of California School Administrators State Conference, Palm Springs, CA, November 11, 1994
- "Personalizing the School Experience: Establishing Effective School Climate" Presented at the Second Annual Conference on Gangs, Schools and the Community, Orlando Florida, May 15, 1994.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

A TIME
OF TRANSITION



By James Staunton, Ed.D.

CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics

When I heard that Dean Crowley was retiring, I felt a rush of anxiety. The Southern Section has, under his leadership and with the help of the Executive Committee, enjoyed a sustained period of growth, expansion, fiscal strength and strong competition. During his tenure Dean tackled several tough issues: eligibility, competitive equity, relegating, and a host of individual complaints that are time consuming and demanding. Nevertheless, the section thrived. I wondered how this momentum would continue.

Now, I am again anxious because I will be following Dean. This feeling stems from my personal concerns about following a successful administrator. I inherit an organization that is strong and poised to enter the next century providing leadership to over 500 high schools. Our office staff is well trained, competent and devoted. We have great administrators. The Executive Committee is made up of an outstanding group of individuals who represent all athletic interests and who have a passion for sports. The responsibility to carry on in a positive manner and to see continued growth is daunting.

We have some huge challenges ahead. The issue of relegating remains an item that begs resolution. Area placement is still a concern in certain segments of the section. Sportsmanship, behavior at athletic contests, preparation of coaches and race relations are still items that have to be resolved. Many people throughout the section do not know me or my personal philosophy and should have a chance to share their concerns and points of view. Communication will be critical.





STEVE FRYER
REGISTER COLUMNIST

Staunton earns his accolades

CIF-Southern Section commissioner Jim Staunton stood at the podium at last week's CIF-SS Council meeting and took the opportunity to do some bragging.

He had every right to do so. During his 11 years as its commissioner, the CIF-SS has accomplished much and improved plenty:

- The CIF-SS soon will pay off the mortgage for its offices in Los Alamitos. That will save \$56,000 in mortgage costs, which frees up more money for awards, for renting top-quality championship facilities, and it ensures membership fees paid by member schools remain constant.
- The section changed its membership fees structure. The section's fees for a school had been tied to the school's enrollment, with the larger schools paying more regardless of how many sports in which the school was involved. As of two years ago, the CIF-SS charges \$50 per varsity sport a school fields. The most a school can pay each year is \$1,200 (24 varsity sports, at \$50 a sport). In the CIF-Los Angeles City Section, where the fees structure still is tied to enrollment, schools pay as much as \$8,000 in membership fees.
- The Southern Section was the first of the CIF State's 10 sections to start a television rights fees program for regular-season contests, adding another \$200,000 in revenue over the past four years. That revenue goes directly to member schools.
- The Southern Section is the only one in the state to have its basketball playoff divisions based largely on playoff success, which moves small schools that are traditionally strong in basketball up to higher playoff divisions that make more sense for them competitively.

Add to all of that the sportsmanship and administration workshops, the improving cifss.org website, and more, and Staunton had every right to puff out his chest.

What was the reaction of the CIF-SS Council, which has followed Staunton's 11-year commissionership closely? A standing ovation.



COMMISSIONERS



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WIGOD

CROWLEY

STAUNTON

