HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIFSS)

82nd historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

CIF-SS COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT “Rob” LEWIS WIGOD

Robert Lewis Wigod was born on April 15, 1959, in Los Angeles, California. Rob grew up in Long Beach. He lived in Japan (Yososuka) from 1963 to 1967 while his father, Doctor Wigod, was stationed in the Navy. He attended Long Beach Wilson High School where he was Student Body President, played football and basketball, and graduated in 1977. He began his college education at U.C.L.A. and matriculated to California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) graduating in 1982 with a Bachelor’s Degree in History. While at CSULB, Rob began his coaching career at Long Beach Wilson in football and realized that he wanted to be a teacher/coach. In 1983, he earned his Secondary Schools Teaching Credential and began teaching at Herbert Hoover Middle School in Long Beach for one year and then moved to Lakewood High School for 14 years. Rob taught U.S. Government, U.S. History and Criminal Law/Civil Law, served as the Athletic Director along with coaching baseball and football. In 1988, Robert received his Master’s Degree in Education from Azusa Pacific University. In 1998, he accepted the position of Athletic Director and head baseball coach at Los Alamitos High School. On August 21, 2000, Rob Wigod was announced as an Assistant Commissioner for the CIF-SS with his main duty to manage the sports of football, wrestling and baseball along with student eligibility and sports officials. On August 2, 2011, Rob became the 9th Commissioner of the CIF Southern Section.

ZYGOMAS Member

Thinking ASB President

Senior
Factoids on Rob Wigod:

- Rob turned 52 years of age (April 15, 2011) the same day he was named Commissioner.
- Rob’s father, mother, older sister and his wife all attended Long Beach Wilson.
- He played tight-end and defensive back for Wilson and his number was 83. The Bruins were Moore League champions that year (1977).
- While coaching at Los Alamitos, his baseball teams reached the quarter-finals and the semi-finals. He was named Coach of the Year by the “O.C. Register,” “Los Angeles Times,” “Long Beach Press Telegram,” and the Sunset League.
- When he was named Assistant Commissioner he stated, “This is a dream come true for me.”
- When he was named Commissioner he said, “I am thrilled to be selected as the next Commissioner of Athletics for the CIF-SS and I pledge my total commitment to all the stakeholders.”
- Rob lives in Seal Beach with wife Kelly, and their two daughters, Hailey and Kate.
- He proposed to Kelly in the middle of the first inning during a CIF baseball game.
- When he became the A.D., at Los Alamitos High School he replaced the legendary football coach John Barnes.
- His favorite sporting time the year is the first day of the Big West Basketball Championships.
- He was an assistant baseball coach on the 1987 Lakewood High School CIF-SS Championship baseball team.
- He is a member of the Long Beach Century Club.
- He likes to keep in shape by walking and traveling with the women in his family.
- Rob has said, “I’ll always consider myself as a Long Beach guy!”
- They still run a drill called “Wigods,” much to the chagrin of the current Lakewood baseball team.
Wigod has received numerous awards and accolades for his work as an educator, coach and administrator. He has been lauded by the Orange County Wrestling Coaches Association for Outstanding Service (2002); he received the Distinguished Services Award from the Foothill-Citrus Athletic Director's Association (2007); has been inducted into the Los Alamitos Baseball Hall of Fame (2003); has received accolades from the High Desert Football Coaches Association, the National Junior Basketball Association as well as the Al Malaikah Shriners' for his work on the Shrine Football Game. This past spring Wigod was honored by the National Football Foundation, Riverside Chapter for “Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football”. Additionally, Wigod has been a three-time presenter at the California Athletic Directors Association Annual Convention (2005, 2007, and 2010).

CIF-SS Commissioner Wigod speaks out on transfers in high school sports

Lunch with John Wooden
Wigod’s CIF-SS tenure:

- The CIF-SS celebrated their 100th Anniversary in 2013 with a gala reception and the announcement of the 100 Top CIF-SS Athletes and the creation of a Yearbook celebrating the total history of the organization.
- Implemented a web-based communication system for all the member schools called CIFSSHome.
- Expanded communications with all stakeholders through social media including Facebook and Twitter.
- Significant growth in coverage and revenue distribution to the member schools.
- A six year expansion of the Fox Sports West partnership resulting in increased revenue and coverage of CIF-SS events.
- Enhanced championship experience for student/athletes and all stakeholders by holding Championship events at the Honda Center, Angel and Dodger Stadiums, and wrestling at the Ontario Citizens Business Bank Arena.
- Creation of a League Compliance officer for each of the 83 leagues.
- On-line ticketing process for Championship Events,
- Complete modernization of the business procedures.
- Creation of a Historical library to include DVD’s, films, programs and other ephemera to showcase the history of the CIF-SS.
- Continued emphasis on Private/Public issues…issued position paper on the Private/Public school debate.
- Creation of a Student Leadership Advisory Committee.
- Increased cooperation with the other nine sections and the State CIF office.
- Periodic messages from the Commissioner on the section website.
- Eligibility workshops for member school site administrators and athletic directors.
- Implemented new process for Area Placement in the releaguing cycle.
- Revision of the CIF-SS Employee handbook.
- Creation of new championship events to include golf and girls wrestling.
- Upholding the CIF-SS Mission Statement and the Blue Book in the face of continuing legal battles.
COMMISSIONERS

BYRNES PLUTKO WIGOD CROWLEY STAUNTON