The athletic era of 1918-1919 was unique in the history of the CIF-SS as the section had to deal with World War I and the flu epidemic. The influenza epidemic (known as the Spanish flu epidemic...even though it did not originate in Spain) played havoc with all interscholastic competitions. The influenza probably made its way to Southern California with returning servicemen from their duty in Europe. The first cases in Southern California appeared in September, 1918, with the Medical Advisory Board taking quick actions to fight the spread of the flu to include banning all public gathering including funerals, movie houses, theaters, schools, athletic contests, etc. The “Fullerton News” included the headline, HELP STAMP OUT THE FLU by “keeping your children at home at night and don’t allow them to be out running around....” Daily statistics showed the number of new flu cases and the number of deaths. When certain areas were considered “flu free,” schools in those neighborhoods were allowed to reopen. This was the first time that educators actually were given sick days off and were paid at the same rate.
time. The CIF-SS took action by rearranging schedules and canceling athletic events and championships.

**San Diego High School Students during Flu epidemic wearing masks**

**FORBID SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

All city high schools are forbidden to hold any athletic contests or practices until further notice. This is the gist of an order sent out by the Board of Education as the result of a recommendation to that effect by the health board. However, there remains the hope that at the meeting of the CIF, next Friday night, the athletic coaches and officials will have a chance to get in a good word for the slow-pedaling chances of the good old sport of high football.

The officials of the city schools are rather divided on the question of the entire abandonment of football for the year. The late start of the season would run the game on into the rainy months and a schedule could not be depended on to be played out. However, the question of finances is not to be entirely neglected. Football is considered the chief source of revenue for the school district. The gate receipts would have to be made up in some other way: to carry on the basketball, track and baseball programs.

Coach Glen Whittle of Los Angeles High School is strongly in favor of playing out the football season. "If any feasible plan of doing so can be devised without endangering the health of the boys," giving the boys a chance to get in some friendly games.

Fred Haney, coach of Polytechnic High, says it might be possible to put off the prep school schedule instead of the regular spring football. However, this plan might conflict with the baseball program, he states.

**NEW BLOW AT GRIDIRON**

The chances of prep football to survive the season received another blow yesterday when it was learned that the state director of physical education, at a meeting of representatives of schools and coaches of various high schools Thursday, advocated a change of athletic policy which would tend to eliminate football.

The proposed new system would apparently eliminate all inter-school athletics and limit the contests to inter-class or locally organized athletics, the chief reason being, it is argued, that gate receipts at athletic contests and coaching systems tend toward professionalism.

"Tiny" Leonard, coach of South Pasadena, says such a substitution is a proposition in the city which would eliminate all incentive for play.

"Anyone who has been conversant with athletics in Southern California in the last few years," says Leonard, "is fully aware that the welfare of the men engaged in games has been the first consideration of all coaches and school principals. While there may have been a few instances of violations of the general principle, there are no cases that would justify dropping a system that has been in the main prove wholesome and has produced the type of men who have been the army leaders in the late war and substituting a system that is purely the development of academic ideals.

The schools outside the city have no quarrel with anything the city desires to do, but at the same time these schools should feel confident that there should be any attempt on the part of others to destroy a system that we have been more than ten years developing. The athletic system in the public schools of Southern California is the result of careful study and practice, and such an important matter should be thoroughly gone into before such a far-reaching decision is made."

The opinion of Leonard is held by practically all of the other city and suburban coaches.

**PREP FOOTBALL IN SIGHT AGAIN**

The latest news concerning the temporary ban placed upon high school athletics by the health board is contained in a circular sent out by Dr. Herb True and "O.K.d." by Dr. Shields of the Board of Education to be sent out to various high schools.

In substance, the restriction against athletics, including football practice and games, will be lifted on the recommendation of a physician sent out by the Board of Education to each school. This is expected to be more or less of a formality and the schools hope to begin play off the City League games in the very near future. The circumstances will probably arise Wednesday and the heroes will
By February, 1919, the epidemic was coming to a close and many games, which had been delayed, could now be played. It is interesting to note that the CIF-SS passed a motion that allowed athletes an extra semester of eligibility due to the flu epidemic...giving more competitive time than the eight semester rule. The State CIF, fielding complaints from other sections, rescinded the Southern Section “Influenza Semester Rule,” as being unfair to the rest of the state. In addition, the State CIF, in the minutes of the April 23, 1920, Federated Council Meeting, stated, “No future rules or regulations should be passed by any section for inter-section games which are contrary to the rules and regulations of the Federated Council.” The State CIF also canceled the 1918 State Championship in Football because many of the sections were prevented from completing their schedules due to the Spanish Flu. The CIF-SS on the other hand, stated in their Council minutes of February 12, 1918, “Semifinals in Football for Southern California will begin February 21, 1919.”

The semifinal results had Coronado High School from the San Diego area defeating Redlands by a score of 14-0 with the game being played at San Diego Stadium. In the other semi-final, Fullerton High School from Orange County, defeated Santa Monica 60 – 0 (a local Santa Monica paper reported, “A hard hitting, massive Fullerton crew piled up 60 points to the local’s zero in a CIF playoff game. It was the worst defeat ever handed a Santa Monica eleven.” The finals were played on the campus of Fullerton High School on March 8, 1919...the latest day for a football game to be played in CIF-SS history! The championship contest was won by Fullerton with a score of 18 – 0.

**Coronado’s Schedule**

| Coronado 9 - Section Naval Base 27 |
| Coronado 7 - San Diego 19 |
| Coronado 42 - Army-Navy 0 |
| Coronado 53 - Army-Navy 0 |
| Coronado 1 - Sweetwater 0 |
| Coronado 1 - San Diego Reserves 0 |
| Coronado 14 - Redlands 0 |
| Coronado 0 - Fullerton 18 |

**Fullerton’s Schedule**

| F. H. S. 60—Santa Monica 0 |
| F. H. S. 6—Chaffey 0 |
| F. H. S. 0—Covina 0 |
| F. H. S. 6—Citrus 9 |
| F. H. S. 13—Orange 6 |
| F. H. S. 13—Poly 0 |
| F. H. S. 6—Pomona 6 |
| F. H. S. 20—Orange 6 |
| F. H. S. 6—San Diego 13 |
| F. H. S. 13—Pomona 10 |
| F. H. S. 20—San Diego 13 |
| F. H. S. 60—Santa Monica 0 |
| F. H. S. 18—Coronado 0 |

From Santa Monica High School Yearbook - 1919

FULLERTON GAME

Santa Monica High School played Fullerton Union High School in the semi-finals for the Southern California title, and were beaten by the score of 60 to 0. The Fullerton squad out.played the Blue and Gold men some twenty pounds to the man and were pastmasters at the gentle art of forward-passing, making nearly all of their touchdowns in that manner.
Reading the newspaper articles leading up to the game and the game report are very interesting reflecting the unique sports writing of that era:

- Fullerton High School was referred to as the “Big Red” or the “Reds”
- Coronado High School was referred to as those boys from “Tent City,” the name given to John S. Spreckels’ tent city south of the Hotel Coronado
- The game was one of “hard line play”
- Fullerton’s backfield was “one of the best in the South”
- “Both teams were on edge”
- “Coach Culp radiates with optimism”
- “He can carry the pill”
- “Fullerton villagers casting their eyes on the Southern California gonfalon” (gonfalon…pennant or banner)
- “Two of the fastest and shiftiest backs in prep division”
- Fullerton High School and coach Culp made their way to San Diego to watch the semi-final Coronado game
- “Despite the fact that this an exceptionally late time of the year to be playing football, considerable interest has been manifested”

Fullerton Indians

George Meiser
The big light-haired fellow, who enjoyed walking over anyone who got in his way.

Roy Hale
The only “Swede” on the team, who, copying Samson, a ways let his whiskers grow before a game.

George Osborne
The only Freshman on the team. Many successful years ahead of you, “Duke.”

Glen Hartman
He of the big feet enjoyed most, the art of walking on his opponent.

Theodore B. Kuchel
Who packed all of his “beef” from Anaheim and played center for us.

Fred Gale
Whose broad but young shoulders helped bring glory to the name of Fullerton.

Team

Earl Stogsdill
Our noble captain, whom to our sorrow, has played his last game for Fullerton High School.

John Hawkins
The Captain elect, who intends to bring our team to victory next year.

Archie Hawkins
The famed forward passer, who will quit queening long enough next year to play football.

Coleman Travis
The speedy little quarterback, who specialized on running back punts.

Almon Goodwin
Our handsome right end, who was able to catch man forward passes.

Albert Hesebrink
Altho “Pete” was the smallest man on the team, he never let anyone run around left end.
A sincere note of appreciation to **Rick Smith**, San Diego Prep Sports History, ([http://www.partletonsports.com](http://www.partletonsports.com)) for his research on Coronado High School and his vast knowledge of the San Diego prep sports world. Most of the articles reproduced are from the “San Diego Union” newspaper circa March, 1916.

**Coronado Islanders – often referred to as the “Poppy City Team”**

Photo of Coronado High School’s 1919 basketball team with football coach George Perry on the right and star running back Ed Suggett on the left:
It is interesting to note that Ed Suggett also played with the Balboa Park Navy training team that lost to the Marines of Mare Island in the West Coast Service Football Championship. The CIF maximum age rule in 1916 was 21 years of age and did not change to 20 years of age until 1935. Many high school players in the early years played on adult teams and rules were much less stringent.

CIF-SS semi-final information and photo from the Coronado-Redlands game
SOME freaks happen in football. In a battle game in a season which seems to have no end, Coronado high school's eleven will play the strong Fullerton high school squad at Fullerton tomorrow afternoon. This game will be for the Southern California inter-scholastic championship, and should Coronado win, Coach E. H. Perry has promised his boys that he will send them against Bakersfield High. Bakersfield holds the North end championship, and a clash between Coronado and that school would be for the state title.

Coronado will go north this morning fortified with hopes and ambitions, but there exists doubt in the minds of many football followers of Coronado's ability to down the Fullerton boys. Despite this, the fact that Coronado is engaging in a Southern California championship will bring glory to the transistor school, a situation which adds to the school's name when it is considered that Coronado probably is one of the smallest high schools in the south end of the state. Its enrollment is about 46 boys.

When it is considered that a school with no more material than this can turn out a team to edge its way into championship play, the efforts of all concerned stand out in luminous light. The fact is not denied by the Coronadans that luck favored them, and even though they did not seek advantage they were duly given the best of the breaks in the arrangement of schedules. In other words, Coronado did not earn the right to play Fullerton by beating stronger teams of the same class as Fullerton, but rather through a mixup in dates and rulings. Nevertheless, Coronado is taking credit for being in the championship stakes and its huskies are going to work mightily hard at Fullerton tomorrow afternoon.

**GRID SEASON FINAL TODAY.** Coronado Team Clashes with Fullerton Squad;... Los Angeles Times (1881-1990) 22 May 1919.

**GRID SEASON FINAL TODAY.**... Los Angeles Times (1881-1990) 22 May 1919.

**Southerners are Light, but Extremely Fast.**

**Teams Sail Through Season in Good Style.**

This afternoon on the gridiron of Fullerton High School the Southern California football championship will be decided. The principals in the title battle are Fullerton and Coronado high schools. Throughout the longest season in the history of the San Diego district squad has an abundance of speed. Suggitt and Jessop, both back field men, are said to be two of the fastest and shifted backs in the prep division. Coronado runners are placing their hopes in these two men, and until the final whistle blows they will be figured as dangerous.

Coach Cuill is radiating with optimism. The Fullerton team has earned a good brand of football throughout the season, and, due to its great driving power and the forward-passing ability of certain members of the eleven, the Fullerton villagers are casting eager eyes on the Southern California gridiron.

The teams will line up as follows:

**Coronado.**


**Fullerton.**


FULLERTON NOW GRID CHAMPION: Defeats Coronado for the Southland Honors.

Fifty-Yard Forward Pass Featured the Game.

Victors to Challenge for the State Title.

[EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH.]

FULLERTON, March 8.—Fullerton Union High won the Southern California gridiron championship this afternoon when it took Coronado High into camp by the score of 18 to 0. From start to finish Fullerton showed superiority on the field, though the punting and tackling were about even.

The feature of the game was a 50-yard pass from Hawkins of Fullerton to Goodwin. Three times Stogsdill failed to kick goal, no excuse, other than the wind, is made as he is ordinarily good at the trick. Meiser for Fullerton was the most spectacular player, while the work of Suggett of Coronado, who was with the team that played at Pasadena on New Year’s Day, stood out above all others of the team.

Fullerton had another touchdown within its grasp but a fumble within a foot of the line gave Coronado in kick at the ball and the game ended with Fullerton within about fifty yards of the Coronado line.

Lineup:

Coronado—Young, L.E.; Mesa, L.T.; Gilbert, L.G.; Lukins, C.; Welch, R.G.; Young, R.T.; Rittoff, R.E.; Jessop, Q.B.; Suggett, L.H.; Thompson, R.H.; Ellis, F.B.


Fullerton will challenge Bakersfield to decide the championship of the State.