LONG BEACH HIGH SCHOOL (Poly)

CALIFORNIA’S FIRST STATE CHAMPION IN FOOTBALL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1919
TOURNAMENT PARK, PASADENA
21 – 14 over Berkeley High School
And
CHAMPIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST
102 - 0 over Phoenix High School
January 20, 1920

Ninth historical “tidbit.”

Long Beach High School (now called Long Beach “Polytechnic”) won the first California State Football Championship defeating the Berkeley High School Yellowjackets by a score of 21 – 14 on December 27, 1919. The State CIF had tried to play the state football championships for three years prior but was unable to get a game organized due to a flu epidemic and scheduling conflicts. Here are some historical “tidbits” from that first Championship game:

From the minutes of the March 8, 1919 State CIF meeting:
“It was moved, seconded, and carried that there be no award of a State Championship for football for the year 1918 because the Spanish influenza had prevented the sections from completing their schedule.”

- Rose Bowl officials organized the game to be held annually at the Pasadena Tournament Park on the Saturday preceding the New Year’s game which in 1919 was Harvard vs. Oregon.
- The game was played at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon with ticket prices set at 25 & 50 cents, $1.10 and World War I taxes were included.
- Long Beach defeated Dinuba 41 - 0 in the semi-final game played before one of the largest crowds ever to see a sporting event in Fresno. Dinuba protested the game saying that a Long Beach player was completing his ninth semester of school work which was against the state rules…the protest was not upheld.
• A “Governor’s Trophy” was presented to Long Beach for being the State Champions.
• Both teams had defeated local “college” teams and Berkeley scrimmaged regularly against the University of California frosh team.
• In addition to their official nicknames, many called Berkeley the “University Eleven” and the Jackrabbits were referred to as the “Seasiders.”
• Berkeley’s uniforms were the same color as the Harvard team and when the two squads just happened to practice on the same field many felt it was attempt to scare the Oregon boys who brought three full teams to the Rose Bowl and Harvard only two.

1920 Rose Bowl…Harvard 7 – Oregon 6
• Long Beach was favored by three touchdowns because of their bulk…their line averaged 175 pound and the fact that many local Trojan alumni said the Jackrabbits could have beaten USC’s frosh team. Coach Hunt of Berkeley said his team average was 158 pounds.
• One of Berkeley’s victories was by a score of 116 to 0 over Tamalpais Union High School and they twice trounced the University of California’s J.V’s.
• In their eleven games, Berkeley had scored 520 points and gave up only 51. In ten games, Long Beach had scored 413 markers and allowed just 14.
• 12,000 fans were in attendance.
• It was said that Berkeley outplayed Long Beach and made twice as many yards rushing the ball. One sports writer wrote, “All during the first two periods Long Beach stood up like telegraph poles as if to get a better view of the proceedings…and the Berkeley backs made monkeys of them.” Long Beach scored on two long runs and pass for a touchdown and Berkeley ground out two long drives for their scores.
• There were several holding penalties during the game at crucial times and a “Los Angeles Times” reporter wrote, “A man would make a long run and then be called back for a teammate’s misconduct.”
The stars for Long Beach were “Hoggy” Evans, Capt. Chet Dolley and Lawson. The stars for Berkeley were Cheek, Dunn, Witter and Dickson.

Members of Scott High School out of Toledo, interscholastic champions of the East, were also in town on their way to play Everett High School of Washington state for what some referred to as the mythical National Championship. Scotts’ head coach Pat Dwyer even gave a pep talk to the Jackrabbits during intermission and, “put some zip” in the Long Beach linemen.

Long Beach was coached by Ed Keinholz and Berkeley by E. P. Hunt.

Immediately after the game, the undefeated Phoenix High School of Arizona (six-time state champions) challenged the Jackrabbits to a game played in Long Beach for the Championship of the Southwest.

The game was played January 10, 1920 on the campus of Long Beach High School. The grandstand had been enlarged and circus seats were obtained to accommodate a large crowd on the Seasider’s field. Phoenix coach Francis Geary, a former 1904 All American at Fordham, also wanted to take on the winner of the Everett/Toledo game.

Long Beach High School overwhelmed the Phoenix High School Coyotes 102 to 0. The day became known in Long Beach as the “Big 102” as fifteen touchdowns were scored…running back Tiernan carried for 333 yards and LeFevre covered another 205 yards on the gridiron. It was said that the Seasiders where mad about their State Championship game performance. A humorous twist of the game was told by Harry J. Moore, the first President of the CIFSS Council and an administrator in Long Beach:

“A close game had been anticipated and Long Beach merchants had offered prizes of hats, shirts, ties and so forth to players scoring touchdowns. Late in the rout the backs decided that they’d won enough prizes and so allowed linemen to score the remainder of the touchdowns and collect their share of the haberdashery.”

“Los Angeles Times”
February 4, 1954
SEASIDERS WIN PREP HONORS.

Defeat Berkeley for the State Championship.

Long Beach Fails to Play Its Usual Game.

Twelve Thousand Fans Witness the Struggle.

BY PAUL LOWRY.

Long Beach won the prep football championship of California by defeating Berkeley High on the Tournament Park turf yesterday. The score was 21 to 14. About 12,000 persons witnessed the game, which was punctuated with thrilling runs by the Long Beach backs and sensational line plunging by Berkeley.

It was a tough game for Berkeley to lose. In the matter of yards gained the northerners outdistanced the victors four to one. Each of Berkeley's touchdowns was the outcome of a break in the line by the visiting backs and a free run by their quarters. Berkeley counted on touchdowns by Happy and Dicken.

Each team scored two touchdowns in the first half, the score at the end of the second period reading 14-14. Long Beach had registered twice as the result of a 45-yard run by Capt. Tubby, and a 40-yard run by Phil Walls, which started thirty-two yards and a score. Berkeley countered on touchdowns by Happy and Dicken.

The way Berkeley drove into the tactics of the Long Beach defense in the first half made it look like a five-touchdown game. The backfield was torn into pieces, and the visiting team was left with two touchdowns in the books.

Long Beach's line work was as fine as any seen in this game. The backs were in the agreed-upon places, and the line held all the time the ball was in play.

NO ONE KNEW

In the fourth quarter Coach Ehrhardt of Long Beach removed LeFevre from the proceedings, and substituted Ehrhardt—just why no one seemed to know at the time, for LeFevre is the better back. Long Beach was then able to get the ball in the air and score.

JOHNNY THEE

Perhaps the psychological play of the game came in the third quarter when "Johnny" Dunn of Long Beach stopped G. Dicken on the Long Beach twenty-yard line. Berkeley had a yard to go, but Evans stepped into the breach and saved the day just in time when the slashing Berkeley backs were going strongest.

True enough, Berkeley started on another march after Price had kicked, and succeeded in reaching the ten-yard chalk line, but the ball on the last yard was short and the punt of the former was fumbled and gained by Long Beach.

EARLY IN FIRST

Long Beach made its first touchdown early in the first quarter, when LeFevre received a punt on the forty-five-yard line and threaded his way through a scattered field. It all seemed as he was tackled just over the line, but picked himself up and ran the ball. Berkeley came right back and LeFevre went over the ball traveling sixty yards on line plunges.

BROKE AWAY

Wide end runs by Ehrhardt and LeFevre, a fifteen-yard penalty on Berkeley for unnecessary roughness and the ball was on the Berkeley thirty-two-yard line point. At the opening kickoff, here LeFevre broke away from the bunch after apparently had run into a pocket of Berkeley men, and pointed the secondary defense.

Berkeley's second touchdown was the result of a sixty-yard pass, Dickson coming over. Ehrhardt kicked the goal, as he had the first. Berkeley's third possible touchdown blew away, as fate had it. The Berkeley line on full power was not strong enough to put the ball in the air. There were a number of holding penalties inflicted on both teams in the first half and in fact throughout the game. None of these came at critical times, particularly when a man would make a long run and then he called back for a teammate's misconduct.

California State High School Championship Football Game
2:15 Saturday, Dec. 27
TOURNAMENT PARK, PASADENA

Seats on Sale Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Los Angeles and the 119 Los Angeles Street, Pasadena.
Prices 25c, 50c and $1.10, including War Tax.

LONG BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
VS.

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL.
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OF STATE WON BY L. B. H. S. IN LAST QUARTER OF HARD GAME

It was a case of luck and good generalship with luck having considerably more to do with the victory than the good generalship. Which is to say that Poly High's football team had plenty of competition in the game with Berkeley High for the state championship Saturday.

Poly High won by a score of 21-14 after what might properly be termed a heart-breaking game for players on both teams in general and fans favoring Long Beach in particular. Poly High's score reminded one of those made by U.S.C. in the 14-13 game with California, with the difference that Poly High put over enough to win the game. Not only that but Poly High took the lead and the best Berkeley's score ever was, was 14-14. It couldn't well be said, however, that Berkeley didn't threaten to take the lead for there was considerable threatening, and likewise considerable strength behind the threats.

The game might be called a masterpiece of generalship on the part of Chet Dolley, captain and quarterback for Long Beach. After Long Beach's two scores had been equalized by Berkeley, it might be said that Dolley repeatedly punted the ball in order that the Northern backs might wear themselves out trying to carry the ball the length of the field. Then when they were exhausted, Long Beach started its march for the winning score. That is one version of the game. Another and what seems to be the most logical explanation of the final score is that Long Beach was stiff, whereas it was the week's stay at Hotel Green or just a case of ordinary staleness, such as all teams show at least once during a season, can be settled as one chooses. At any rate the team was up against a real squad of football players and a team with ordinary luck would have piled up a large score on the final count. As it were. On this account, it would seem that Long Beach was lucky and yet in the critical moments of the game the Long Beach team was superior. When Berkeley invaded the zone inside the 50-yard line during the third quarter, Long Beach's line held for downs and in turn when Long Beach got the ball past the center of the field, there was no stopping on the way to a touchdown.

Story of the Game

Long Beach scored first exactly five minutes after the opening whistle. Chet Dolley received the Berkeley punt on his own 50-yard mark and ran thru the broken field to glory. He shook off three tacklers and eluded practically the whole team. LeFebvre ran 40 yards for the second Long Beach score from a crisis-point play which foiled Berkeley in first class fashion. For the third and final Long Beach score, James Lawson carried the ball for 60 yards and tossed it to Darrell Freeze in the box. The fourth pass, the first of three in the game, was intercepted by Long Beach's Hank Whitley.

Berkeley's scores came in somewhat a different manner. One sturdily run play by name of Cheek, aided by three equally sturdy line-plungers proceeded to tear Long Beach's line to pieces, after Long Beach had made its first two scores. The very successful in their attempts, the first score being chalked up two minutes after Long Beach had made the initial seven points and the second going over four minutes after Long Beach had again taken the lead. After Long Beach's third score, a cog slipped somewhere and Berkeley's regularity was disrupted, so much so that the game ended with the ball in possession of their own 40-yard mark. Many of their players concealed themselves at the whistle by picking up handfuls of dirt and throwing it with tremendous force at the turf field which ornamnts Tournament Park.

Approximately 30,000 people witnessed the game, gate receipts of the 21-14 game were $384, which was the largest crowd of fans ever visiting the campus of the Southern California Athletic Union.

The lineup:

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<td>Gerry</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Dickson</td>
<td>G. Dickson</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Miller</td>
<td>E. Miller</td>
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Substitutions—For Long Beach: Coleman for Dutch, Miller for Chet, Dickson for Larry, Watt for Tom, Price for Cy Miller, for Berkeley: Dickson for Dunn, Cook for Wood, Spelman for Cheek, Stein for Dunn, Martin for Nickelson.

Officials—Jerry Abbott, referee; Jim Irsfeld, umpire; Wilson, head Miller, Patrick, field judge; Ralph Johnson, timekeeper.
Information gleaned from the 1919, 1920 and 1921 Long Beach High School yearbooks called *Caerulea* (meaning lotus or water lilly):

**FOOTBALL**

Long Beach High School’s fighting team placed an indelible record of victories on the 1919-20 football escutcheon by defeating the best prep teams in the west and winning the undisputed interscholastic championship of Southwestern United States.

Combining a fast versatile backfield with a heavy experienced line, Long Beach possessed a powerful offensive that, with a single exception, scored at least once during the first quarter of every game. In the twelve games played, Long Beach amassed a total of 549 points to the opponents’ 25, and it wasn’t until the Berkeley game that the locals’ goal was legitimately crossed.

Never in the history of western football has a high school team annexed as many championships as has this year’s eleven, and a world of credit for the squad’s marvelous success is due the coaching of Eddie Kienholz.

Returning to school after two years in the service, Kienholz succeeded in putting a team on the gridiron that met and defeated the strongest grid machines in the country, going through a most gruelling schedule without a single reversal, and ending the season in a blaze of glory by overwhelming Phoenix Union High School, for six years Arizona state champions, by the record-smashing score of 102-0.

The willingness on the part of every member of the squad to give everything that was in him to bring victory to the Green and Gold, created a spirit that refused to accept defeat.
BERKELEY-14, LONG BEACH-21

At Tournament Park, December twenty-seventh, before approximately 10,000 people the undefeated Jackrabbit machine brot the state championship to Long Beach by besting Berkeley High, Northern California champions, 21-14.

Forced to play on the defensive through almost the entire contest, with what looked to be certain defeat staring the men in the face, the Green and Gold outgamed their heavier northern opponents and led by a single touchdown when the final whistle blew.

The first half was featured by the dazzling broken field running of Dolley and Lefebvre, which resulted in two Long Beach touchdowns, and the line-smashing tactics of Berkeley that brought the Crimson-clad warriors an equal number of scores.

With the game tied 14-14, Berkeley continued to pound the local line during the third quarter. Their attack advanced the ball in their own territory but was ineffective when within striking distance of the Long Beach goal, and the score was still the same at the start of the final period.

The ball was in Long Beach's possession on Berkeley's 35-yard line when Phil Tiernan dropped back as if to try a drop kick. Instead of kicking, Tiernan shot a beautiful forward pass over one end of the line. The great crowd held its breath in the agonized intensity of the moment; then out of the melee of players leaped Lawson. He pulled down the ball and without losing his stride set out upon his twenty-five yard journey to the Berkeley goal line. The Long Beach crowds on one part of the field were instantly on their feet. Here was the moment which every Long Beach student and every backer of the local team had been looking for.

The stands were in a mad frenzy as Lawson wormed his way past all the Crimson players except Cheek, the quarterback. With a straight-arm jab and a sudden side step, Jimmy eluded the opposing quarter and fairly hurled himself over the line.

There still remained a few minutes of play after this nerve-tingling run, but the touchdown had taken the heart out of the Berkeley team and the game ended without further scoring.
PHOENIX SQUAD ARRIVES TODAY.

Desert Rats to Clash with Long Beach Saturday.

Coach Geary Brings Twenty Players with Him.

Arizona to Work on the Scindlers’ Field.

Phoenix High’s undefeated football team will arrive here this afternoon. This was the news given out yesterday by the principal of the school, who was here in the city for the past week arranging details of the game with Long Beach for the championship of the Southwest.

The contest is to be played at Long Beach next Saturday. To accommodate the large crowd which it is expected to attend, extra stands have been erected by the Long Beach people and located on the present field. These stands are temporary seats, the grand stand being unchanged, and it is said that 15,000 persons can now be seated in comfort—provided each is number desires to witness the struggle.

AN OLD FORMERAN.
Twenty players are in the Arizona party which Coach Francis views hoping to tank today. Twenty is an old Fordham quarter-back and

was selected for the all-American team in 1906. Helping him with the coaching duties has been friend, Ed Brooks—the boy who crashed the hopes of the University of California for a football championship. Brooks was forthright on the Occidental team this year. It was his terrific line play that brought the Tiptons a state title.

Phoenix has not gone through anything like the schedule Long Beach has in the season. They have practically drawn to a close. The Cardinals have won every game on the programme—thirteen in all—but four of these were of the regular type because the opponents apparently was too afraid to tackle the Phoenixites.

Arrangements have been made for the Arizona to work out at the Long Beach field today and tomorrow. In addition to their training at "Camp," the team will take in the "Fair" of Long Beach this Thursday.

Coach Eddie Kienzle of Long Beach has been making the last inspection of his men. They showed very little in the Berkeley tilt that the protracted season was taking its toll.

Long Beach Gridders.

Who will battle with the Phoenix High School team at the athletic city Saturday for the prep championship of the Southwest. Above, L. to R., Kieschnick, Long Beach coach; Benson, former gridder; George, D. Miller, Taggart, Nic, Wilkins, Craig and Francis; broom. L. to R., Miller, Tritten, Latchman, Bailey, below, Ed Miller, the beach fullback, who makes an elevated back of bone.
PHOENIX-0, LONG BEACH-102

The largest crowd ever assembled for a prep school game in the West witnessed the great Long Beach eleven win the championship of Southwestern United States by defeating the Phoenix Union High School squad by the largest score ever made by a local team—102-0.

It was a grand and glorious finish to the local gridiron season. Over 12,000 spectators viewed this contest. Although the seating capacity of the stands is slightly greater than half that number, the crowd poured in until there was a mass of jostling humanity encircling the field and tugging at the ropes impatiently.

Interest in the game ran high because of its intersectional flavor. Never had a scholastic gridiron clash of such importance been conducted on a southern field. Furthermore, the game furnished the final kickoff of the season which had excelled any of previous years, and in the unusually huge crowd were many whose desire to be "in" at the final whistle overshadowed their interest in the teams.

The game itself was as one-sided as the score indicates, yet the crowd seemed to enjoy it. Phoenix was outclassed in every way. Everything worked against the Arizonans. End runs, off-tackle smashers, forward passes, trick plays, all were used to roll up the total of 102 points.

If any one player stood out above the rest it was Phil Tiernan, Long Beach phantom-like halfback. Tiernan, along with Dolley, Evans, Morris, Rich and Willet, brought his career at Long Beach to a glorious finish in this end-season game. He caused repeated exclamations from the stands by his sensational open-field work and brilliant end runs. Nothing could stop him—at least nothing the Phoenicians could do.

The most remarkable and successful season Long Beach has ever enjoyed closed with this game, and the most brilliant of all Long Beach gridiron machines passed down into history. It was an all-star squad and the 1919-1920 Long Beach High School eleven will always be remembered as the bunch that would not accept defeat.
PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
1919-1920

From 1920 Phoenix Union High School Yearbook

PHOENIX, 0; LONG BEACH, 102

After football practice had been over for nearly a month, through the efforts of a committee of Phoenix High alumni a game was scheduled with Long Beach High School, champions of California, to determine the high school championship of the Southwest. The results of that memorable contest played in Long Beach on the afternoon of January 10 are only too well known throughout Arizona and Southern California. Although there are several things that could be said, since the team offered neither alibi nor excuse upon their return, none will be given in this history, so the whole tale may be summed up in the heading of this story. As far as Phoenix High is concerned, that is all there is to it.

Of the 1919 football team the whole school is proud. Every loyal Coyote is proud of the fellows who composed that team; proud of them because of their excellent playing as demonstrated against every Arizona team which had the fortune to encounter them, and proud of them because of their fighting spirit, their courage and their tenacity, displayed during the Long Beach struggle. To them goes the esteem of every person connected with the High School. May old Phoenix High always turn out a team with the courage and spirit of the team of 1919.

SUMMARY OF FOOTBALL GAMES

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Alumni
Tempe Normal
Indian School
U. of A. Reserves
Indian School
Long Beach High School...11