

C. I. F., SOUTHERN SECTION MONTHLY BULLETIN

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No. 3

NEWSPAPER WRITER ANSWERED

Mr. Braven Dyer, Sports Editor for the Los Angeles Times, on October 11, 1944, criticised severely the action of the Executive Committee of the C. I. F., Southern Section, in refusing to approve games of football between our member schools and the Hollywood Boy's Club.

As our Executive Committee does not settle the questions that come to it for adjustment in the columns of the sports page of our daily papers, no reply was made to Mr. Dyer's "blast."

We believe, however, our Principals and Physical directors will read with interest the following letter from Captain John B. Shepard, to Mr. Dyer. Captain Shepard was Vice-Principal of the Eagle Rock High School before entering the armed forces of the Nation.

Carmel, California
Box 2587
14 October 1944.

"Mr. Braven Dyer
Sports Department
Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Dyer:

Reference is made to your column of 11 October 1944 dealing with the relationship between the Hollywood Boys' Club, the C.I.F., and the Los Angeles City Schools, and the following comments pertain thereto:

1. A study of the history of the C. I. F. will reveal that the rules and regulations of this organization were developed over a long period of time, and for the purpose of curbing certain pernicious practices which were affecting relationships among the various schools. The net result has been to afford an opportunity for all high school boys to participate in athletics under conditions which insure that each individual will compete with those of a comparable physical and maturity status. Furthermore, it is believed that relationships between participating schools have improved greatly while under the jurisdiction of the C. I. F. and it is seldom that a game is marred by riots or other rowdiness either among the players or spectators.

2. The governing principles of the C. I. F. are consistent with those of the High School Athletic Associations in the majority of other states, and in many instances California has been recognized as a leader in the field.

3. You state that the reason given by the C. I. F. for refusing the application of the Hollywood Boys' Club to compete against C. I. F. schools is "That there is a State law which says

no public school can compete in athletics against a non-educational institution." If this is the present regulation it is not felt that you would advocate open violation or disregard of the law either by the C. I. F. Council or other school authorities. Seemingly the only course of action open would be to have the law or regulation changed if such change would be for the best interests of all concerned. You have had a personal acquaintance for a long period of years with many of the leaders of the C. I. F. and it is felt that you will agree that these men have been willing to give a fair hearing to any facts which have been presented to the Council. This body does not merit the term "Gestapo" in bold face type especially in view of the present day connotation of that term.

4. If the members of the football team of the Hollywood Boys' Club are regularly enrolled in a public high school, or in a private or parochial secondary school which supports an athletic program, they are eligible to participate in the sport activities of their school provided that they have met the age, residence and scholastic requirements which apply to all participants. If they are not regularly enrolled in a secondary school it is presumed that they are in part-time attendance, that they are over eighteen years of age and no longer subject to the compulsory school attendance laws of this State, or that they are of such age that they are enrolled in a junior high school. Over a period of years no protest has ever been raised to the rule prohibiting the participation in athletics by part-time pupils, while one of the fundamentals advocated by physical education and athletic leaders throughout the nation for the equalization of athletic competition between secondary pupils has been the proper alignment of the various age and physical maturity groups.

5. You state "If I looked long enough in our Times files I know I could discover accounts of games between C. I. F. members and service teams." The accuracy of this statement is questioned. It is not believed that you will find any record of such a game being played in the last fifteen years unless the participating school has had special approval from the C. I. F. or if the game was played without the permission of this body undoubtedly investigation will reveal that the offending school was subjected to disciplinary action.

6. In no way should this reply be construed as detracting from the important and vital work being done by the Hollywood Boys' Club. Such programs must be expanded and undoubtedly

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION, SOUTHERN SECTION

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President of the Council
Executive Committee

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Ernest W. Fischer, Principal Chaffey High School

Normal C. Hayhurst, Principal Herbert Hoover
High School (Glendale)

A. R. Veenker, Vice-Principal, Santa Monica
High School

Seth F. Van Patten, Commissioner of Athletics

there will have to be close co-operation between the public school and such agencies as this boys' club; however, it is felt that the athletic competition of the public schools will function best when conducted with like educational institutions, while teams representing organizations such as the above club will compete with similar groups or teams sponsored by the public playgrounds. It is believed that your article was presented with the idea of helping to advance the program of the Boys' Club, but also it is felt that many readers will not have the background of information regarding the work of the C. I. F. to enable them to interpret properly the facts presented by you. There are many problems to be worked out in the program for our young people, and it is felt that the ultimate aims will be best achieved through orderly meetings of all concerned, rather than through the presentation of material, which at best can cover only a portion of the facts, and which can easily make an emotional rather than a logical approach.

Very truly yours,
John B. Shepard"

PICO BOXING ARENA LICENSE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

In the September issue of this Bulletin we related some of the facts regarding the boxing situation that existed in the Whittier and the Montebello districts.

Below we present copies of letters received at the C.I.F. Office from the two high schools concerned.

October 4, 1944

"Mr. Seth Van Patten
C. I. F. Southern Section
1955 Fremont Avenue
South Pasadena, California
Dear Van:

I am confirming our telephone conversation in regard to our boys taking part in the boxing

matches being held at the Pico Arena located in our school district.

The first case that came to our attention was that of Gordon Kelly. The school and parents of this boy had worked very hard to establish his eligibility, with the thought that under supervised athletics we could do a lot for him. He has been a problem in the past and the father had tried several schools, including George Junior Republic, in an effort to help him. Now we discover that this boy has boxed two exhibitions, August 21 and August 28, at Pico and is therefore ineligible for one year. In questioning the boy and his father I have the following information:

The boy worked around the arena odd times during the summer and it was well known to the promoters that was only 16 years of age. However, they asked him if he would fight for them. The night he was to make his first appearance, Dave Landau, the promoter, asked him how old he was. He replied, "16 years," Landau then told him to go out and borrow a draft card from someone. The boy went out and secured the card of Bill Othart, who is in service. He showed the card to Landau, who signed him, and he fought under the name of Bill Othart.

It seems to me, that regardless of any technicalities that these promoters may hide behind, they cannot deny that they knew the boy was only 16 and that they knew his right name.

The second case is that of John Varela. In talking with John I received the following information:

A boy named Rudy Romero, who is one of their main event fighters, told John he had some ability in boxing and should try it. John told him he was 17 years old and Rudy told him to do as Kelly had and borrow a draft card. This John did and boxed September 4, under the name of Bill Givoff. He was matched with a boy called Bill Holmes who he told me he knew went to Montebello High. This information was sent to Mr. Wilson, whose report I believe you have.

The third case is that of the Rudy Romero mentioned above. Rudy is only 15 years old and is a truant from our school, not having attended this year although he lives in this district. He is fighting under his own name. Just how his age is falsified, I do not know. His last appearance was last Monday, October 2.

A fourth boy appeared in last Monday nights contest, Mike Gutierrez, age 16. I haven't had a chance to talk to him.

There is another angle to this business which is going to cause trouble soon. In the past, gangs of boys from the different localities, Pico, Jimtown, Pico Park, Loe Nietos and Rivera have had their gang fights and feeling between these groups was very bad. The different social agencies, schools, churches and recreation departments,

have worked hard to overcome this and have succeeded to a large extent. This is being undone by matching boys from these different places in grudge fights.

I sincerely hope that through the C.I.F. and the A.A.U. some action can be taken to punish someone besides the boys themselves.

Sincerely yours,
Don Douglas, Dean of Boys"
October 5, 1944

"Mr. Seth Van Patten, Sec'y C.I.F.

1955 Fremont Avenue
South Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Van Patten:

I have investigated the case of Joe Napolitano, who boxed in the arena at Pico on or about September 4th. This seems to be the case. The boy contends that the use of the assumed name of Bill Holmes and the presentation of Bill Holmes' draft card was his own idea, knowing that he is only 16 years of age and that he is not eligible to box until he is 18.

According to the boy's story he boxed only one time in a match down at the arena, and that for his services he received \$3.50. It seems unusual that a 16 year old boy should think up this subterfuge without some suggestion from more experienced people but that is his story and he sticks to it.

In line with the regulations of the C.I.F. we have declared Joe ineligible to compete on our athletic team and have this day refunded the \$2.00 which he paid in for a C.I.F. insurance card.

This is all of the information which we have been able to secure on this particular case.

Very truly yours,
Claude E. Wilson, Dean of Boys

P.S. It occurs to me that perhaps Bill Holmes has been responsible for the violation of a Federal Statute when he allowed someone else to use his draft card. This might be a further angle of investigation."

In carrying out the instructions of the Executive Committee, the Commissioner of Athletics first presented the matter to the State Athletic Commission through Mr. William Houghton, one of the Commission members.

A hearing was had in the Commission's office on October 17, 1944.

Gordon Kelly, of the Whittier High School, and Joe Napolitano, of Montebello High School, under questioning by members of the State Athletic Commission, verified all the charges set forth in the above letters.

The promoter of the boxing club denied the charges but the State Commissioners accepted the letters from the two schools and the testimony of the two boys as facts in the case and by unanimous vote suspended indefinitely the license of the promoter to conduct boxing bouts.

It was definitely established at the hearing be-

fore the State Athletic Commission that the promoter had violated State Boxing Regulations by:

- (1) Using boys under eighteen years of age.
- (2) Using minors without their parents' permission.
- (3) Using boys who had not been in training for a month prior to the matches.
- (4) Not publishing the matches as drawn, forty-eight hours in advance of the contest.
- (5) Letting boys compete under assumed names.
- (6) Advising boys to borrow draft cards to help falsify their ages.

The District Attorney of Los Angeles County is investigating the case with a view of bringing charges against the promoter of contributing to the delinquency of minors.

The F.B.I. Office in Los Angeles is checking with the intent of prosecuting those guilty of borrowing and loaning draft cards for false identification.

We believe we have taken the first stride in the direction of a clean up of the boxing club mess so far as it affects our high school boys.

We urge all Principals and Physical Directors in towns where boxing clubs are operated to keep "a weather eye out" and let us know of any suspicious looking happenings associated with the boxing clubs.

We believe we can get corrective action from the State Athletic Commission.

NIGHT FOOTBALL PROBLEMS

The swing to night football among the high schools of the C.I.F., Southern Section, has been very rapid during the past five or six years. Since the ban on the use of lighted fields was lifted by the War Department about a year ago, practically all available lighted fields are being used by high schools each week-end.

There are several reasons for the popularity of night football.

Business men, employees, and many parents can attend an evening game who cannot go to an afternoon contest.

Trained officials are available at night who cannot officiate during the afternoon. A large number of Los Angeles City coaches are able to officiate C.I.F., Southern Section games at night. Los Angeles City has no high school athletic contests at night.

The increased attendance at night games is resulting in a surprising boost in the amount of money taken in at the gate. Crowds of 5000 to 7000 are the rule rather than the exception. Here are some of this season's attendance records to October 20. October 6, South Pasadena at Keppel, 5000. October 13, Pasadena at Alhambra 6,000. October 20, Woodrow Wilson at Alhambra, 7000. October 20, Hoover vs Pasadena at the Rose Bowl 5500. All of these games except the last one were practice contests.

As the season progresses and league standings

are at stake the attendance at all high school games will undoubtedly increase.

Some of the problems are—

Transportation at night is more hazardous than in daytime.

The game is harder to officiate.

The crowd in the bleachers is harder to control.

The sale and collection of tickets is more of a problem.

Guarding the fences is more difficult.

These problems will not solve themselves.

No school should attempt to play a night football game without careful planning to meet the above problems and any others of a similar nature that may arise.

The cooperation of the police force in the town where the game is held is of the utmost importance. The school may control the pupils and patrons of the school, but it is the job of the police to look after the home and the visiting "rough necks". This responsibility should be put squarely up to the police. If it is known that the police will act vigorously that is usually all that is needed.

BASKETBALL RULE CHANGES FOR 1944-1945

The Basketball Rule Books for 1944-1945 will probably not be available until about February 1, 1945. By that time the C.I.F., Southern Section basketball season will be nearly over.

There have been a few changes in last season's rules. Newspaper and magazine reports of these changes vary considerable in the statement of the changes.

In order to have all coaches and basketball officials in the high schools of Southern California applying these changes uniformly, Mr. Larry Houston, Supervisor of Athletics for the Los Angeles City high schools, and Mr. Seth F. Van Patten of the C.I.F., Southern Section, called a group of basketball coaches and officials together on October 24 at Mr. Houston's Office in Los Angeles. Those at the meeting in addition to Mr. Houston and Mr. Van Patten were, E. Y. Johnson and R. E. Squires of Huntington Park High School; Bark Garner, South Gate High School; Carroll Lockridge, Hollywood High School; Merrill Green, South Pasadena High School; James Kemp, Alhambra High School; and Charles Brown, Beverly Hills High School.

After a careful review of the available newspaper and magazine statements of the changes, the group agreed unanimously to recommend to the Los Angeles City high schools and to the C.I.F., Southern Section high schools, the following statement of the changes for our use for this year.

1. A player may reenter the game an unlimited number of times.

The only restriction in the substitution rule

is that a play must intervene before a player may reenter.

2. Five personal fouls now disqualify a player. The 5th personal disqualifies regardless of when it occurs. No extra personal foul allowed for extra period of play.

3. A list of all players and substitutes must be presented to the scorer at least two minutes before game time.

It is recommended by the committee that this list be presented at least 5 min. before the game and that a standardized score book be used.

4. The defense may not touch the ball on its downward flight if it is evident that the ball will hit either the rim or the basket. This touching must be above the level of the ring to be a violation.

Penalty. The basket is awarded and the points credited to the player who attempted the shot.

Note. All restrictions pertaining to the basket cylinder are still in force.

5. The Official may now kill the ball when it is evident that a player has been injured. However, if a scoring play is imminent the Official will withhold his whistle.

THE 1944 CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

The Crosscountry Championship Meet will be held at the Long Beach Recreation Park on Saturday, December 9.

From reports that have reached the C.I.F., Southern Section Office, it looks as if we will have enough schools competing to make it necessary to run the contestants in two or more groups.

Schools that expect to enter teams in the December 9 event are asked to notify the Commissioner of Athletics of that fact as soon as possible after receiving this notice.

Entry blanks will be mailed out from the C.I.F., Southern Section Office about November 25.

PATCHING MOLDED BASKETBALLS

We have been told by basketball coaches that the rubber covering to the molded basketball often pulls loose at the point where the ends of segments of the cover come together.

Mr. Bart Garner, of the South Gate High School, vouches for the following method of patching the ball when the rubber pulls loose.

Take a block of wood about 10' x 10' x 3' or more. Hollow it out on one side so that a basketball will fit closely into the hollow. Stick the loose cover back in place with some good rubber cement. Fit the ball fully inflated into the hollow in the block. Using a large clamp press the ball into the hollow with several pounds pressure per square inch. When the cement is dry the ball will be as good as new.