



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

104th historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

**EARLY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION**  
**SOUTHERN SECTION IN 1913**

High School sports prior the founding of the Southern California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section (CIF-SS) in 1913 had minimal rules. Schools would get together for interscholastic competition not worrying whether the contestants even were enrolled in the school, what their age was or their amateur standing. Many times the teams were coached by the players and often the few school who had coaches simply used them as chaperons to accompany the teams when they traveled. Seth Van Patten, the “Founding Father” of the CIF-SS, was typical of the early coaches:

He took a teaching position at Escondido High School and coached the football team to victories over San Diego High School in 1903 by scores of 6-5 and 5-0.

He also coached the baseball team and wanted the other schools in the county to play only high school students.

The other country schools said no so **he became the star pitcher for the Escondido High School baseball team.**

The following newspaper accounts show the versatility of Van Patten (teachers were often referred to as “Professors” in the early days) who not only coaches, but also officiated in the same game that he was coaching. (Thanks to Rick Smith, San Diego Sports Historian, for the articles).



## ESCONDIDO WON FROM SAN DIEGO

One of the Prettiest Games of  
Football Ever Seen on  
Local Field.

Visitors Were on the Long End of a  
Score of 6 to 5—The Difference  
of Kicking a Goal and Just  
Missing It.

One of the cleanest and prettiest games of football ever seen at Bay View park, was that of yesterday afternoon, between the Russ and Escondido high schools, in which the latter came off victorious by the narrow margin of 6 to 5. The only difference in the score was that Anderson for Escondido kicked an exceedingly pretty goal after a touchdown, while Doig for the San Diego team missed the goal by the narrowest kind of a margin.

It was a good game from start to finish, free from rough language and from rough play, except the natural roughness of the football game. All of the scoring was done in the second half. Though the first half was full of interest. The line-up of the two teams was as published yesterday morning.

The officers of the game were Dr. Elliott and S. F. Van Patten, judge and referee; Warren Gates and Edwin Halloran, linesmen, and Lee Baldrige and Byron Valle, timers.

From the kick-off of the first half until the end of the half, the ball was almost continuously in the territory of the Escondido team, and was once up to the four yard line, but there it was lost on a fumble in a bad place, and was, by the Escondidos, carried back toward the center of the field where it remained. In the first half of the game there was very little attempt at end running. It was a constant bucking of the line, some of the time making reasonable gains and at other times being held. Hal Doig and Fred Allen seemed to get into most of the plays for San Diego and Crise was most prominent among the Escondido players. In the line bucking the ball changed hands on downs several times, so evenly did the men play.

During the interim between halves there was a good deal of consultation between players. Capt. Doig had his men to one side under the grand stand giving them a sort of curtain lecture as to what to do, and how to do it, and Capt. Graham of the Escondido team gathered his men about him at the score board for the same sort of a gabfest.

### THE SECOND HALF.

In the second half of the game it was plain that both captains and men were prepared to do their best to score and to keep the others from scoring. The San Diego boys had the first opportunity. The ball was close to the middle of the field when Doig went through and over the line for a gain of full five yards. Fred Allen followed with a gain of two more and then Louis Miller went around the end for some eight or ten yards more. Line bucking brought more gains and Doig finally went across the line for a touchdown. He failed to kick the goal and the score was 5 to 0 in favor of San Diego.



The Escondido boys were not long in evening up the score. They allowed the kicked ball to roll out at the end of the grounds and took a kick back, but Doig did not kick quite so far and it was Escondido's ball in San Diego territory. Crise made a slight gain, but it was not enough and Anderson fell back for a kick and made a good one almost up to the San Diego end of the field. There it was San Diego's ball, but it was not run back very far. Two downs and no gain and then Doig tried another punt, but the ball went out of bounds to one side, and was still in San Diego territory. There was some hard line bucking by Escondido and one fumble, but the ball was saved to the visitors by Denton.

It was the third down and some to go, when Capt. Graham seemed to take the burden on his own shoulders. He went through the line in one direction for full five yards and then again for full five yards. There was a signal for an end run, but it did not gain any ground and again Graham went through the line for several yards, finally reaching the line for a touchdown, from which Anderson kicked a very pretty goal and the score was 5 to 6 in favor of Escondido.

The next kick-off was brought in well by Anderson and a succession of line bucks gained ground for Escondido until the ball was lost on a fumble. Then it was the same thing for San Diego, a good many bucks resulting in slight gains, each until on a false play the San Diego were set back twenty yards, because the ball was not properly put in play. San Diego could not regain that twenty yards, nor could Escondido carry it further down the field, though the ball was in that team's possession for a time. The ball was near the center of the field when the game was finished, with Escondido winner by a point.

Prof. Coy of the San Diego high school complimented the visiting players and Prof. Van Patten, who came down with the Escondidos, spoke highly of the San Diego team. The game certainly was a good one and a clean one. The attendance was excellent, and a large party of high school girls called the San Diego yells to the boys across the field. The game was well managed, and the field was kept clear. A return game will be played, but the date has not yet been fixed.

Last evening the visitors enjoyed life in the city and will start early today by tally-ho for home.

## FOOTBALL FERVOR MOUNTED HIGH

Russ School Defeated at Escondido  
—Normal School Victor  
at Ramona.

Scores One-sided Yet the Games Were  
Gallantly Fought—Many Brilliant  
Plays Were Made—Thanks-  
giving Day Game.

School spirit was very much in evidence yesterday and it was the football fever that evoked it. From 5 p. m. until "bedtime" the telephone bell of the Union news room was kept jingling by students and others wanting to know the news from the Berkeley-Stanford game or the Escondido-Russ game. The tie between the two universities was something of a disappointment, except to those who favored Stanford, and who philosophically consoled themselves with the thought that Stanford freshmen defeated Berkeley earlier in the season and the big fellows of Berkeley had not succeeded in downing Stanford's best.

Only meager details of the strife at Escondido could be learned, the players and rooters traveling homeward slowly by tally-ho. Russ was reported to have been defeated by a score of 5 to 1, the 1 evidently representing a "touchback." The Escondido informant said that the first fifteen minutes of the first half decided the whole game and that neither side gained any material advantage after the 5 and the 1 had been scored.

The ball at the end of the first half was three yards from the Russ goal. In the second half the ball was nearly in the center of the field, having been see-sawed from one end of the field to the other.

The game was well contested and no one was injured. There was plenty of enthusiasm. Escondido girls turned out in force and "rooted" with might and main, nor were the San Diegans behind on this score. The game was refereed in the first half by Mr. Campbell of the Y. M. C. A. of this city, and the second half by Mr. Van Patten of Escondido. Their decisions were satisfactory all around. Graham of Escondido and Doig of this city distinguished themselves by spurts across the field.