



109th historical "tidbit."
Dr. John S. Dahlem

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)



JAMES MONICO
President of the CIF-SS Council
2012-2014



Jim Monico attended Warren High School, was active on campus and a star player for the football team graduating in 1970. His Principal at Downey High School was former CIF-SS President Hanford Rants:

ALL COAST LEAGUE FIRST
TEAM
OFFENSE
Steve Marani
Jim Monico
John Stewart
Marc Springer



Dr. Hanford Rants
Principal





Jim attended Cerritos College and was able to play football for the CIF-SS Hall of Fame coach Ernie Johnson who had national success at El Rancho High School.



Jim continued his academic education at California State University at Fullerton where he played center for Peter Yoder another Hall of Fame CIF-SS coach while at Esperanza High School. Coach Yoder would later coach with John McKay at USC. The Titans during Jim Monico's playing days were very successful with a two-year record of 14 wins and 8 losses.



UNDER DURESS—Cal State Fullerton quarterback Rod Graves follows through after getting a pass away despite defensive pressure from Cal State (L.A.) de-

Coach Yoder



TITANS' MONICO WILL BID GOOD-BY TO GRID CAREER

BY EARL GUSTKEY
Times Staff Writer

FULLERTON—On Saturday, Nov. 24, James Victor Monico will go to the post for the final time as a college football player.

After that, the practices, the games, the teammates and the coaches will recede into memory. For Jim Monico, like most college seniors, this is the weekend that caps nearly a decade of tackle football.

Monico is Cal State Fullerton's starting center. At 5-11½ and 200 pounds, there is no chance he will play pro football. This is it. He sat in an empty classroom recently and talked about the game and the void it will create in his life.

"The strange thing is the part I'll miss the least is the games," he said.

"In most of the football games I've played in I've had so much to think about I didn't think about enjoying the game. The only times I've ever really ENJOYED playing football is when I've been in games where my team was winning by a wide margin. Usually, I worry in a game. I worry about making a mistake that will hurt us and let my teammates down. That's how I've always psyched myself up before a game—worrying about making mistakes."

Already, the practices are an endless panorama of drudgery in his memory.

"No one likes the practices. No one. The only times I can say I've enjoyed practices at Fullerton are the times I've beaten our middle linebacker, Steve Dolkas. All of our players think Steve is as good a linebacker as you'll find in college football. So when I beat him in prac-



Jim Monico

tics, it gives me as much a thrill as anything I could do in a game."

Monico says for him the name of the game has been camaraderie.

"I'll remember the guys I've played with long after I've forgotten the games. Twenty years from now I doubt if I'll be able to remember any one thing I did in a football game.

"Wait, I take that back. I'll remember something that happened in our Hawaii game last year. I was playing opposite this 265-pound nose guard. On the first play of the game, he picked me up in the air, threw me down and walked on me. The game deteriorated for me after that. I had cleat marks all over my body afterward.

"That's funny to me now and I'll enjoy telling that story to my kids 20 years from now. But it sure wasn't funny at the time.

"Mostly, I'll remember being with teammates. I'm sure when we're dressing after the game Saturday night in Hayward I'll feel pretty emotional. It'll be

the last time we'll be together. It'll be the last time in my life I'll be in that situation — being together with so many guys I've been close to. It'll be sad. It really will be.

"I'll always remember the kinds of conversations we've had in the locker rooms after the games. You know, saying things like: 'Hey, did you see me kill that guy on that sweep . . . ' or: 'Boy, were we hammering number 76 all night . . . '

"And I will never forget what our locker room was like the night we beat Long Beach State. That was the biggest win I've ever been involved in. When I was in high school at Warren High in Downey, Long Beach State was a big school to me. I couldn't get over the fact I played for a team that'd just beaten them. It was like a dream."

Soon, Jim Monico will walk away from football. He says he worries about facing his future.

"I'm a PE major but I'm not sure if I want to go into coaching full time or not. I've thought it's be nice to have a good, secure job—like a fireman—and coach in some program part time."

Monico says football also represents to him a measure of excellence in his life far surpassing any other endeavor.

"Football is the only thing in my life I've ever done really well. In high school, I was an awful student. All I could do was play football. Several big schools like Oklahoma recruited me but I'm exactly the same size now as I was in high school. They figured I'd grow."

Monico says his road trip

Jim graduated from California State Fullerton University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in English and Physical Education in 1974. He would later receive his Master Degree in Educational Administration and Curriculum Development from College of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Coached J.V. Football at Downey High School in 1974. He began his teaching career at Paramount High School (1975) where he taught Language Arts, helped create business partnerships, coached football (offensive line and defensive coordinator) and became the Athletic Director in 1980. He moved into administration at Paramount as an Assistant Principal in charge of Curriculum Instruction and the Master Schedule. In 1998 he became the Principal at Paramount High School and served in that position for ten years. He was promoted to the district office where he completed his 39th year as an educator. He was very active in WASC work and is currently a Consultant for helping schools implement successful educational programs.



James Monico became the 84th President of the CIF-SS Council in 2012. He became a member of the Executive Committee in 2005 as the Foothill Area Representative. He became the Treasurer in 2008, President Elect in 2010 and finished as Past President in 2018. During his tenure the CIF-SS continued to grow in number of schools and the CIF-SS celebrated their 100th Anniversary. The Top 100 Athletes in CIF-SS history were named and Girls Wrestling became a sanctioned sport.

