



## **HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIF-SS)**

114th historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

### **The Sport of Push Ball played by CIF-SS Schools**



**Push ball** is a game played by two sides on a field usually 140 yards long and 50 yd wide, with a ball 6 feet in diameter and 50 lb. in weight. The sides usually number eleven each, there being five forwards, two left-wings, two right-wings and two goal-keepers. The goals consist of two upright posts 18 ft. high and 20 ft. apart with a crossbar 7 feet from the ground. The game lasts for two periods with an intermission. Pushing the ball under the bar counts 5 points; lifting or throwing it over the bar counts 8. A touchdown behind goal for safety counts 2 to the attacking side. It was mostly played by men but there were a few ladies teams and some games with a smaller ball for children usually in school matches. The injury rate for players was very high and the ‘rules of play’ were somewhat ‘fluid’!!



**Report from a contest between Orange High School and Santa Ana High School**  
**1917 (from the yearbook)**

“The first Push Ball contest between two schools of the county was between Orange and Santa Ana High Schools. It was a slippery affair and Santa Ana won 1 to 0. The celery growers (Santa Ana) were not handicapped by the slippery peat because they get accustomed to this when picking celery, but the boys from the sandy loam (Orange) could not dig their claws in and it resulted in a defeat for the Orange boys.”



JANUARY 20, 1917  
The Santa Ana Polytechnic huskies defeated the Orange Union men in a push ball contest on the local field yesterday afternoon.



*Early 6-foot push ball was made from the hides of nine horses and took 2 ½ hours to inflate*



## **PUSH BALL GAME** **RESULTS IN DRAW**

An attempt was made by the Sophomores last Friday afternoon to get the better of the Freshies in a **push-ball** contest, a new kind of sport at O. U. H. S. and certainly lively and interesting. The contest was staged as a substitute for hazing, and was *better sport and more fun* into the bargain. The score was 0 to 0.

The **push-ball**, which is a giant ball costing something like \$500, was rented to the school by the B. H. Dyas Company of Los Angeles, for this special occasion.

Equal teams were picked from the two classes and goals as in foot-ball were chosen.

The game started off at a blast from the whistle. The object was to push the ball over the opponents' goal-line. As it is perfectly permissible in this game to "hold" occasionally some husky Freshy would grab half a dozen Sophs and hold on like a leech, thus keeping them from helping their friends and incidentally allowing the Freshy to rest and get his breath.

In the first half neither side accomplished much. The ball was pushed back and forth across the field but little headway toward the goals was made. In the last quarter the Sophs rushed the ball across the goal-line, but as it didn't go between the goal posts, no count was made.

Leon Blank's water-wagon and ambulance combined was in great demand.

There was a large crowd out to see the event. It is to be hoped that the ball can be borrowed again soon and the contest be repeated with Juniors and Seniors in the leading roles.

## **PUSH BALL TO** **MARK CLOSE OF** **CLASS SPORTS**

Tomorrow afternoon will see the wind up of interclass sport activities at the high school.

Push ball will hold the niche of honor in tomorrow's contests. The big ball will be hoisted up and started at 2:45. A tug-of-war, interclass boxing bouts and other stunts will precede this event.

## **FOOTBALL**

O. U. H. S. Field. N. Glassell and Walnut  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12TH**

**Compton High**

*vs.*

**Orange High**

**Freshman-Sophomore Annual Class Event**  
**Push Ball Game--Sack Rush--Girls' Captain Ball**

*Class Events 1:30 p. m. Football 3p. m. Adm. 25c*