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

115th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem
This tidbit dedicated to the memory
of Assistant Commissioner Glenn Martinez
who coached in this game

CIF-REEBOK FOOTBALL BOWL
December 18, 1992 Anaheim Stadium

Bishop Amat High School “Lancers” (14-0) CIF-SS Division 1 Champion
Vs.
Sylmar High School “Spartans (13-0) CIF-LA 4-A Division Champion

From the game notes:

--GAME NOTES--

THE GAME: Tonight’s contest is the game Southern California prep grid fans have waited to see for 58 long years ... It marks the first time ever for the CIF Los Angeles City Section Champion to take the field against the CIF Southern Section Champion in the same season, a natural rivalry that has been the dream of coaches, players and fans for nearly six decades ... The two organizations started out as one in 1913, with the inception of the California Interscholastic Federation, an association founded by the member schools themselves on a voluntary basis, for the purpose of organization, governance, administration and management of interscholastic athletics ... In 1934, the member schools of the Los Angeles Unified School District parted company with the Southern Section, but maintained ties to the State Federation, becoming known as the CIF Los Angeles City Section ... In the ensuing years, the two entities were referred to simply as the L.A. City and CIF, misnomers that remain in many circles to this day ... The idea for this matchup has been discussed for years ... The interest and support of broadcast television and the current state of school finances finally made it a reality ... As it stands now, the KCOP promos have been right on target. It’s simply a game that had to happen.

THE MATCHUP: After a season of many debates concerning which schools would be represented in the first-ever CIF/Reebok Bowl, the issue was decided succinctly last weekend ... In the Southern Section division I final played last Friday at Cerritos College, top-seeded La Puente Bishop Amat posted a narrow 7-3 win over third-seeded Del Rey-League-rival Los Angeles Loyola. Not only did the Lancers win the title over a school that had notified the Southern Section Office prior to the season it would not accept the Reebok Bowl invitation, it finished a spectacular season with a perfect 14-0 record ... The next afternoon at El Camino College in Torrance, No. 1 seeded and previously-undefeated Sylmar blanked perennial L.A. City-power Carson (Carson’s first shutout in 157 games), 17-0, to win its first section title and qualify for the CIF/Reebok Bowl sporting a sparkling 13-0 mark. Although the Spartans entered the City playoffs as the top seed, many experts expected Carson to prevail, especially after the Colts 55-0 rout of Van Nuys in the semifinal round ... As a result, tonight’s first-ever L.A. City vs. Southern Section showdown is an unqualified beauty, featuring two undefeated teams, the best the area could possibly provide ... Both clubs are big on ball control and defense, but each has shown the ability to score, as well, with Sylmar averaging 32.7 points per outing, and Bishop Amat 26.9 ... The contest also marks the first gridiron meeting ever between the two schools.
Prep Football Champions to Play in Bowl Game Dec. 18

By TOM HAMILTON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

After 20 years of discussion and negotiations, a football game matching the Southern Section's Division 1 champion versus the City Section's 4-A champion that will be televised live on Dec. 18 was announced Tuesday.

The game, "The CIF/Reebok Bowl," will be likely played at Anaheim Stadium with proceeds divided between the State CIF, Southern Section and City sections. Participating schools will receive a guaranteed $12,000.

Game organizers also announced a five-year television contract with Channel 13 that will generate another $295,000. The station will pay $50,000 for television rights the first year and up to $100,000 by the final year.

"There have been a number of formal and informal moves to try to put this game together over the years," said Hal Harkness, City Section commissioner. "But for whatever reason, the move was always unsuccessful until this time."

Stan Thomas, Southern Section commissioner, said the financial condition of many high school districts that are struggling under a reduced state budget dictated the formation of the bowl game.

"Athletics are being hit hard, and we foresee this game as a way of relieving the financial situation for some of our high schools," Thomas said. "What a game we would have had last year. It was unfortunate that we couldn't put the game together before now."

Administrators had hoped to schedule the first CIF Bowl last December between Mater Dei and Dorsey, but organizers failed to sell the advertising needed to televise the event.

Mater Dei drew 33,204 fans to Anaheim Stadium and grossed $196,458 for its Southern Section Division 1 championship game against Eisenhower.

Southern Section administrator Bill Clark said a site for the game would be announced within the next month, adding: "Anaheim Stadium is a strong contender, but we're also considering the Coliseum and the Rose Bowl."

Tom Byrnes, State commissioner, said a lot is riding on the game's success. "If this game is successful, I think you'll see other sections in the state forming a bowl game," he said. "This game could become the premier high school football game in the United States."

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Press conference announcing the game with left to right: Hal Harkness, CIF-LA Commissioner, Tom Byrnes, Commissioner of the State CIF, Reebok Representative and Stan Thomas, CIF-SS Commissioner
## SYLMAR SPARTANS

### VALLEY EAST LEAGUE #1 ENTRY

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**L.A. CITY**

**4A**

**SECTION CHAMPION**

**PRINCIPAL**

Linda Antoro

**LOCATION**

Sylmar

**SCHOOL COLORS**

Blue and Navy Blue

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**HEAD COACH**

Jeff Engilman

**ASSISTANT COACHES**

Obbie Brown, Darryl McIntyre, Mike Ross, Paul Gordon, Hugo Contreras, Dan Moreno

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Bob Miller
# BISHOP AMAT LANCERS

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## SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 1 CHAMPION

**PrINCIPAL**
Mr. Aidan Carroll

**LOCATION**
La Puente

**SCHOOL COLORS**
Blue and Gold

**HEAD COACH**
Mark Paredes

**ASSISTANT COACHES**
Joe Rodger, Richard Nila, Glenn Martinez, Dick Salter, Tom Salter, Bill Mulvehill, Mike Difiori and Joe O'Connor

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**
Mark Paredes
THE MATCHUP

CIF Los Angeles City Section 4-A Division Champion
SYLMAR HIGH SCHOOL SPARTANS
(13-0)

Head Coach - Jeff Englman

SEASON LOG

20 Chatsworth 14
55 El Camino Real 0
33 North Hollywood 7
40 *Grant 0
40 *Montre 0
26 *Canoga Park 0
25 *Birmingham 0
0 *Van Nys 14
0 *Polytechnic/L.A. 14

L.A. CITY SECTION PLAYOFFS

49 Venice 7
28 Crespi 2
27 Garfield 7

L.A. CITY SECTION FINAL
17 Carson 0

CIF Southern Section Division I Champion
BISHOP AMAT HIGH SCHOOL LANCERS
(14-0)

Head Coach - Mark Parades

SEASON LOG

14 Carson 10
13 Damien 12
20 Long Beach Poly 12
33 Arroyo Grande 0
42 Long Beach Jordan 7
34 *Crepi 7
28 *St. Paul 0
34 *St. John Bosco 6
25 *Loyola 14
30 *Allemany 13

SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFFS

38 Mission Viejo 0
28 Long Beach Wilson 7
28 Eisenhower 6

SOUTHERN SECTION FINAL
7 Loyola 3

Bishop Amat Pounds Sylmar, 31-10

**Football:** Southern Section champion Lancers beat City Section winners to set record for most victories in season.

By ERIC SHEPARD
Times Staff Writer

ANAHEIM—A high school football debate that had been brewing for over 30 years was settled in only 10 minutes Friday night.

In that short span, La Puente Bishop Amat High scored 24 points in its way to a 31-10 victory over Sylmar in the inaugural California Interscholastic Federation Redbook Bowl at Anaheim Stadium.

The convincing victory that answered, at least for one year, a question that has been asked repeatedly since the Los Angeles City and Southern sections split in 1953. Which section has the best football team?

Top-ranked Bishop Amat, the Southern Section Division I champion, finished 16-0, establishing a state record for the most victories in a season. Several schools were tied with 14 victories, the most games allowed until this bowl was established.

Third-ranked Sylmar, the City Division 4-A title, ended the year 13-1, a disappointing finish to a season in which its average margin of victory was 27 points.

"I can't take anything away from Bishop Amat, but we played a bad football game tonight," Sylmar Coach Jeff Englman said. "Unfortunately, it doesn't matter that we won 13-0, people always remember how you did in the final game. This will leave a sour taste in our mouths."

There was no scoring in the first quarter. The momentum shifted in the second quarter, when Bishop Amat quarterback Mike Smith found sophomore receiver Dayton McCutchon all alone on a 67-yard touchdown pass play to help give the Lancers a 7-0 lead.

Four minutes later, Smith struck again, this time a 49-yard touchdown pass to senior Trevor Woods for a 14-0 lead.

Moments earlier, Bishop Amat was preparing to punt from its own 34-yard line when George Gutman lobbed the ball. Unable to get to the kick, he carried the ball upfield for a 17-yard gain and a first down. One play later, Smith threw his second touchdown of the game.

Things got worse for the Spartans. On their ensuing possession, running back Ibn Bilal fumbled on the first play at his own 27. Bishop Amat defensive lineman Chris Gallardo recovered the ball, and the Lancers added their third touchdown of the game three plays later on a Rodney Sermons' nine-yard run.

The Lancers increased their lead to 24-0 when senior Jeff Banks kicked a 24-yard field goal with 24 seconds remaining in the first half.

Sylmar, which had one first down and 13 total yards at halftime, never got untracked. It managed 128 yards for the game, most coming in the fourth quarter against Bishop Amat reserves.

Smith, who completed nine of 16 passes for 194 yards and two touchdowns was selected the most valuable player of the game. Sermons, who had 1,998 rushing yards entering the game, had 45 yards in 10 carries.

Spartans' running back Tyrone Crebshaw, who averaged 140 yards per game this season, managed only 66 yards in 18 carries.

The future of the bowl is uncertain. The game became a reality when KORP-TV, Channel 13, approached the CIF about televising the event live for a $50,000 rights fee.

Station officials signed a five-year contract for the game but can get out of it if attendance and television ratings do not meet expectations.

Friday's crowd of 8,132 was much lower than expected, and ratings won't be available until Monday.
With the small attendance (8,132) and the rout of the game it was decided not to play another Reebok Bowl game. Many were disappointed as they saw this game as a beginning to hold a State Championship football game again. The first CIF State Championship game was in 1919 and the last was played in 1927 due to concerns over whom should play, cost and travel. After 79 years, the State CIF started the Football Championship game once again in 2006.

Who Plays the Best Football?

City Schools May Have More Skilled Players, but Southern Section Has Depth and Money

By LONNIE WHITE
TODAY'S STAFF WRITER

There are 98 players on current NFL rosters who played for one of the 306 Southern Section football programs. There are 50 NFL players who played for the 49 Los Angeles City schools. With an average of more than one NFL player per school, the City holds a clear advantage in producing pros. Does this mean that the City plays better football than the Southern Section? Probably not. There might be a slight advantage toward the City in producing skill-position players, but because of its size, the Southern Section is a little deeper talent-wise and for the most part has more good teams,” Dorsey High Coach Paul Kneive said. The debate regarding which section plays better football has become a tradition throughout Southern California at playoff time. Southern Section supporters claim their teams would dominate the City’s and City fans say that their top teams would have too much talent for any in the South. “We still argue about who would beat whom, whenever we talk about high school football,” said USC standouts Keyshawn Johnson, who played for two City high schools, Palisades and Dorsey. “Guys who went to a Southern Section school always say that they were better, but I tell them not when I was in high school.”

The only time the Southern Section Division I champion played the City 4A Division winner was in 1992, when La Puente Bishop Amat defeated Sylmar, 31-10, in the CIF/Reebok Bowl at阿薛廣安Stadium. “That was really a tough game for us,” said Sylmar Coach Jeff Englinagan, whose Spartans were 13-1 that season. “Our kids didn’t even know who or what Bishop Amat was. Our season had been so long and they were as a team better fundamentally than we were.”

The championship matchup was discontinued primarily because of a lack of fan support. “If the game was held earlier, it probably might have more of an interest,” said Glenn Martinez, Bishop Amat’s athletic director who has been an assistant coach for the Lancers’ football team for 18 years. “We don’t have any coaches that have a real interest in the game. The game is at a time that is most inconvenient for the players and coaches, and we have a serious problem with attendance.”

When City teams play South Section teams, the games are generally held early in the season, “The last time we played a Southern Section school,” said Bishop Amat’s Coach Bob Krone, “it was a pretty close game.”

Sylmar Coach Jeff Englinagan said, “At that time, (Southern Section) teams have a very tight schedule. We usually play when they are not at their best. We try to take advantage of that. We usually have two or three coaches working on the same day before a big game.”

Southern Section teams take different practice plans and are generally not as deep as City teams because of the academic calendars, so it is not uncommon for City teams to be behind their Southern Section counterparts in early season preparation.

Southern Section teams also have considerably larger coaching staffs than City teams, which is the product of attendance and booster help.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to have a lifetime of experience teaching and coaching football,” Martinez said. “That’s why I’m here. I love the game and I want to share that love with my players. I think that’s what makes us special.”

Martinez synonymous with the City schools’ plight because he grew up in Los Angeles and started his coaching career before he began working at Bishop Amat.

“I’m a city guy at heart, so I understand the situation,” he said. “When I first arrived at Bishop Amat, the first thing I noticed was that City schools always had more players than Southern Section schools. In terms of what they could or could not do, costs were always a problem in the city in comparison to the Southern Section.”

Plenty of Blame to Go Around

Prop football Sylmar players and coaches pointed fingers at one another while Bishop Amat romped to a 31-10 win in the CIF/Reebok Bowl game.

By PAUL A. LEHMAN
TODAY’S STAFF WRITER

If winning brings out the best in athletes, the Sylmar High football team proved that notion last night.

The Spartans outscored and outnumbered each other in front of 4,312 spectators and numerous uniformed viewers Friday night at City Stadium to hand the Spartans their fourth consecutive possession and take a 24-0 lead over the Spartans.

For Sylmar, it was an unbreakable team performance, while for Bishop Amat, it was a lack of coordination and missed tackles.

Defensive back Dwight Patterson and Robert Chacono were among those critics after being burned by man-to-man coverage by Bishop Amat. Receiver Alphonse impressed 62 and 49 yards, running the quarterback pass plays to score the first and second touchdowns.

For Bishop Amat, the first quarter was the only time that the team scored three points, but even that was a passing touchdown to Armano.”