

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

121st historical “tidbit.” Dr. John S. Dahlem

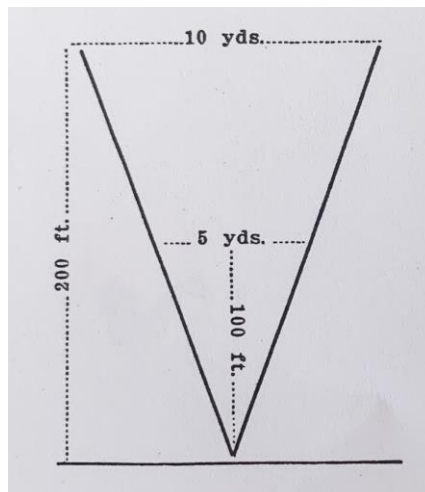
The “Football Throw” as an event in the CIF State Track Meet

During the late 1920’s and early 1930’s the Principals in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) had been concerned about the safety of the javelin and discuss events during high school track meets. From the meeting of the CIF Federated Council on November 28, 1931:

“It was decided that the Javelin Throw be eliminated after the 1932 Track and Field Event. It was decided that the Football Throw be included in the 1932 Meet, in accordance with the following regulations: ‘Football Pass for distance. Ball to be passed between parallel lines five yard apart. Javelin rules of throwing shall apply. If the ball touches either parallel line the throw does not count. The football shall have regulation intercollegiate specifications.’ Medals will be awarded for this event, but points will not be awarded.”

On November 19, 1931, at a Federated Council Meeting it stated:

“The next State Track and Field Meet will be held in the south, May 20, 1933. At this meet there will be no javelin events. The football throw will be included as it was in the 1932 Meet, with the same regulations. ‘Ball to pass between parallel lines five yards apart. Javelin rules of throwing shall apply. If the ball touches either parallel line the throw does not count. The football shall have intercollegiate specifications.’ The following diagram shows the range and method of measuring. All measurements to be made at right angles to the restraining line. Ball striking the line is out. The host school will furnish two footballs.” Note...the Football Throw became a scoring event in the CIF State Track meet from 1933 through 1938.



On May 25, 1935, at a Federated Council Meeting the following decision was made:

“In the Football Throw nothing shall be used on the hands of the contestants which shall in anyway interfere with others who wish to use the ball.”

The first “non-scoring” Football Throw at the State CIF Track (May 21, 1932) had the following results (Modesto-Herald)...Boyd, Fresno throw of 186'8”

Exhibition football throw-- Won by Boyd (Fresno); second, Back (Palo Alto); third, Kingsley (Hoover, Glendale); fourth, Shaw (Lacaton); fifth, Conlee (Chico). Distance, 186 feet 8 inches.

From The California State High School Track and Field Meet 1915 – 2006, by Tom Casacky and Bill Peck, the winners and placers from 1933 through 1938:



Football Throw					
1933	5/20	Coliseum, Los Angeles		(16)	
1	Buster Wilson*	Compton	S	202'0"	61.58m
2	Lester Abshear	Whittier	S	200'4"	61.06m
3	Howard Worth	University	LA	186'6 1/2"	56.84m*
4	Jerry Mackay	Stockton	SJ	183'5"	55.90m
5	Sylvester Jennings	Compton	S	178'5"	54.38m
1934	5/26	Edwards Stadium, Berkeley			
1	Karl Gudmundson	Inglewood	S	203'7 1/2" R	62.06m
2	Myron McCormick	Stockton	SJ	201'10"	61.52m
3	Pedro Manos	Orland	N	196'9 1/2"	59.98m
4	Burt Lanceford	Victor Valley	S	194'4"	59.24m
5	Marvin Wright	Pasadena	S	193'3"	58.90m
Notes: Buster Wilson (Compton, S) did not compete in the State Meet but recorded an all-time state best throw of 237'/72.24.					
1935	5/25	Ratcliffe Stadium, Fresno			
1	John Raitt	Fullerton	S	220'0" R	67.06m
2	Abe Freedman	Santa Monica	S	211'0"	64.32m
3	Guy Manuel	Vacaville	SJ	205'6"	62.64m
4	Grafton Baird	Sanger	C	195'9"	59.66m
5	Morris Samuelien	Fresno	C	191'2"	58.28m
1936	5/22	Gridley HS			
1	Chuck Fenenbock	Pittsburg	NC	206'2"	62.84m
2	Cliff Bertelson	Stockton	SJ		
3	Melvin Ellett	Inglewood	S		
4	Bob Berryman**	LB Poly	S		
5	Johnny Allen	Berkeley	NC		
1937	5/27	Wilson HS, Long Beach			
1	Wilbur Thompson	Modesto	SJ	195'0"	59.44m
2	Ted Voudouris	Chico	N	192'10"	58.78m
3	Ed Stutt	Berkeley	NC	178'3"	54.34m
4	Jim Jurkovich**	Fresno	C	172'11"	52.70m
5	Elwood Long	Wilson LB	S	165'5"	50.42m
1938	5/28	San Benito HS, Hollister			
1	Ray Overhouse	Sacramento	SJ	193'6"	58.98m
2	David Tuel	Hayward	NC	185'7"	56.56m
3	Don Mills	Stockton	SJ	183'1 1/4"	55.80m
4	Bill McNary	Roseville	SJ	183'0"	55.78m
5	Mike Frankos	Vallejo	SJ		
1939: Event discontinued					

FOOTBALL THROW					
No.	Name	Affiliation	No.	Name	Affiliation
39	Abshear	Whittier	71	Peacock	Chico
11	Raitt	Fullerton	114	Hamilton	Patterson
37	Worth	University	149	Maekey	Stockton
5	Wilson	Compton	167	Edison	Weed
155	Holmes	Tamaplias	159	Jennink	Tulare
141	Netto	Santa Cruz	162	Adams	Tulare
120	Seeno	Pittsburg	124	Hutchenson	Porterville
119	Erickson	Piedmont	76	Randall	Esoter
Won by			202'4"		
2nd	193'4"		3rd	186'6"	
			4th	183'5"	
			5th	178'5"	

The CIF-Southern Section took a different approach and had the Football Throw during their Sectional Track Championship meet but did not count the results.

Copy of the original 1935 California Interscholastic Federation State High School Track and Field Meet Program when the all-time State record in the Football Throw

California Interscholastic Federation

State High School

TRACK AND FIELD MEET



Fresno State College Stadium
Fresno, California
Saturday, May 25, 1935

◆

FEDERATED COUNCIL MEMBERS

C. L. BIEDENBACH	HERMAN SPINDT
C. L. GEER	HOMER S. TOMS
HARRY MOORE	SYDNEY A. TIBBETTS
W. H. ORION	LEO A. WADSWORTH

E. W. OLIVER

Football Throw

2	Baird	Sanger	85	Bradshaw	Redondo
3	Barreior	Hanford	93	Freedman	Santa Monica
33	Samuelian	Fresno High	107	Minnear	Santa Barbara
35	Simmons	Taft	113	Raitt	Fullerton
53	Campbell	Gridley	135	Feneback	Pittsburg
64	Manuel	Vacaville	125	Allen	Berkeley
66	Olson	Placer Union	157	Shelby	Martinez
78	White	Stockton	154	Pinkham	Santa Cruz

Winner Distance

2nd..... 3rd..... 4th..... 5th.....



JOHN EMMETT RAITT

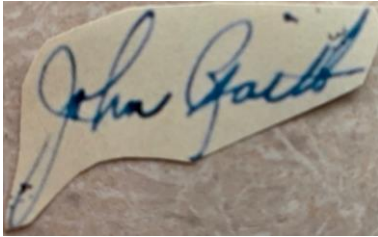
Fullerton High School

1935 California State Championship

1st Place in the Football Throw - 220' State Record

(helped his school almost single-handedly to the State Title)

(see Tidbit #32 for info about John and daughter Bonnie Raitt's singing careers)



JOHN RAITT
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4;
Capt. 4; Track 1, 2, 3, 4; Class Pres. 3; Hi-Y
2, 3, 4; Vice-Pres. 4; Glee Club 3, 4.

John's weight was around 190 lbs. and he was 6"1'



**FULLERTON TAKES
MEET AT FRESNO**

FRESNO STATE COLLEGE STADIUM, FRESNO, May 25.— (AP)—Fullerton High School kept the track and field championship of California in the southland with a 14-point victory at the Fresno State College Stadium in the annual CIF championships tonight.

Raitt of Fullerton paced his school to victory with a double win in the football throw and shotput.

Hoover High School was second with 13 3/4 points.

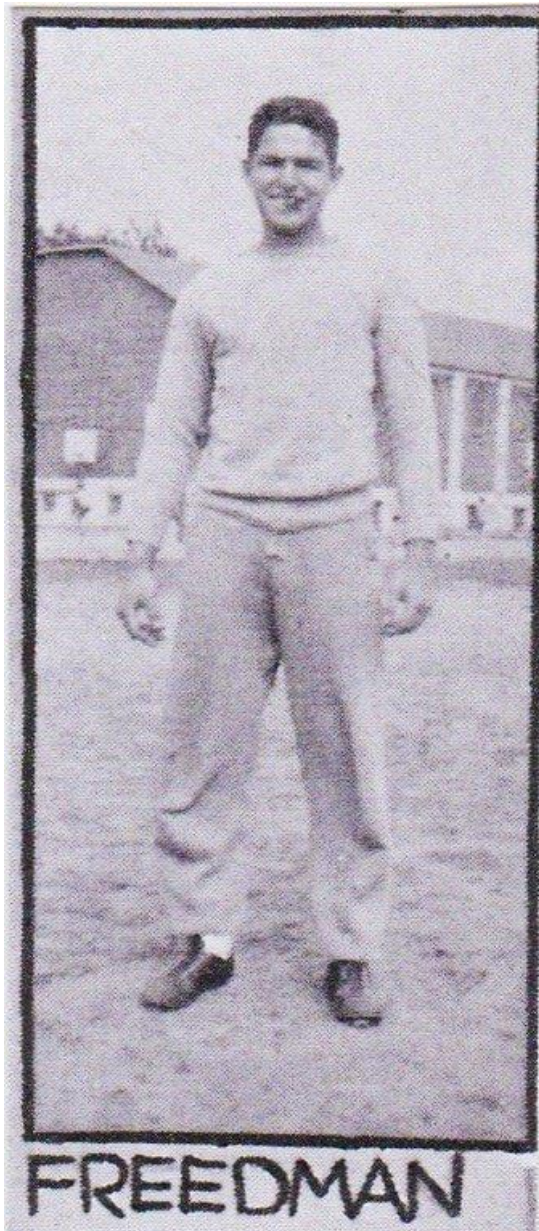
Raitt threw the football 220 yards for a new mark in that event.

Other schools finished as follows:

Inglewood, 12; Santa Monica, 12; Muir Tech, 11; Pasadena, Carpentaria and South Pasadena, 9; Excelsior, Monrovia, Alameda, 7; Santa Ana, 6; San Ramon, Chaffey, Turlock, Paso Robles, Palo Alto, 5; Perris, 4; San Diego, 3 1/2; Jordan, Visalia, Santa Cruz, Placer, Salinas, Madera, Compton, Redondo, Riverside, Vacaville, 3; Bakersfield, Sweetwater, Santa Monica, Sanger, Tulare, Sequoia, Anahy, Sonoma, Ukiah, Fresno, South Pasadena, 1; Hanford, Roosevelt of Fresno, 1/4.



ABE FREEDMAN
Santa Monica High School
1935 California State Track Championship
2nd Place in the Football Throw - 211'0"
(Second to all time State Recorder Holder in the Football Throw
John Riatt from Fullerton High School - 220'0")



Abe was also an All-Bay League starter on the football team at right tackle. His activities at Samohi included: Track 2,3,4; Football 3,4; All Bay League 4; Basketball 2,4; Letterman's Club 2,3,4; President Letterman's Club 4; Boys' Advisory Board 3,4; Latin Club 2; Senior B Athletic Manager.

Abe was 185 pounds and 6'1"



EARLE "BUD" "BUSTER" WILSON

Compton High School

1933 California State Track Championship

1st Place in the Football Throw - 202'0"

Did not complete in the 1934 State Track Championship

During the regular season threw the football 237' the best ever for the event
Buster played football for Black-Foxe Military Academy in 1934 football season



Game report when Wilson was playing
QB for Black-Foxe

Late in the third period Quarterback Wilson got off a long heave into the end zone and Preston Moore, all-Southern California end from Inglewood high, snatched the swineskin out of a mess of Santa Barbara players for the score. Wilson's kick was also wide and low to the left for the extra point.

BEST MARKS (ON RECORD) BY CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECORD</u>
100 YARD DASH	Frank Wykoff	Glendale High School	1928	9.5
220 YARD DASH	Frank Wykoff	Glendale High School	1928	20.9
440 YARD RUN	Frank Sloman	San Francisco Poly H.S.	1915	48.2
880 YARD RUN	DeMott Modisette	Los Angeles High School	1936	1:55.7
ONE MILE RUN	Chesley Unruh	El Monte High School	1925	4:20.4 *
	Louis Zamperini	Torrance High School	1934	4:21.2
HIGH HURDLES	LeRoy Kirkpatrick	El Centro High School	1934	14.5
LOW HURDLES	LeRoy Kirkpatrick	El Ceatro High School	1934	23.4
HIGH JUMP	Gilbert LaCava	Beverly Hills H. S.	1938	6' 7 1/8"
BROAD JUMP	Milton Holt	Hoover High; Schopl (Glen)	1932	24' 3 1/2"
POLE VAULT	Baylor Maynard	Belmont High School	1938	13' 9 1/4"
SHOT PUT (12 lb.)	Tom Direaux	Jefferson High School	1938	58' 5 1/8"
SHOT PUT (16 lb.)	Clarence Houser	Oxard High School	1921	46' 11 3/4"
DISCUS THROW	Ed Moeller	San Diego High School	1926	149' 7"
JAVELIN THROW	B. Churchill	Hollister High School	1932	195' 6.3/4"
FOOTBALL THROW	Bud Wilson	Compton High School.	1934	237' 0"
HOP STEP AND JUMP	Bob Beckus	Hoover High School (S.D.)	1938	46' 1 3/4"

Initial Reason for the creation of the Football Throw
("Los Angeles Times" January 17, 1932)

PREPS TO QUIT JAVELIN, DISCUS

Football Throw Substituted

by C.I.F. Heads

*Lack of Space and Danger
Given as Reasons*

*Loss Not to Affect Southland's
Title Chances*

BY IRVING ECKHOFF

California high school track and field athletes will no longer throw the discus and heave the javelin. Both events were ruled out of the State prep meet at a meeting of the C.I.F. recently. The ruling will go into effect next year.

The loss of the two events will not affect Southern California schools as much as it hurts the northern brethren. Neither the javelin nor the discus is used by the majority of the southern prep leagues, the sole major group using the discus being the Coast League while the spear-tossing event has been in bad with local preps for many years.

Southern California schools entered in the State meet have hitherto spotted their northern rivals points in these two events. Last summer at Visalia, athletes from Selma, Fairfield, Turlock and Madera placed in the javelin, while the discus saw Theodoratus of Sacramento annex top honors. Smith of Paso Robles, Carpenter of Compton and Parks of Long Beach placed in the spear event, which was more proof of the weak competition offered by the northern schools than anything else.

The chief reason for quitting the events is the one of danger. Lack of space for practice and competition is another leading argument.

The discuss throw was discontinued in the State Track Meet from 1933 through 1948 and has been held every year since then. The javelin throw was eliminated along with the discuss prior to 1933 and never returned as a State Track Meet event.

On December 10, 1938 at the CIF Federated Council Meeting the Football Throw at the State Track and Field Meet was eliminated by unanimous vote. It is interesting to see the feelings expressed about football in general at that meeting and it was probably felt why have an event for a sport which, "by some," was felt not serving the ends of education in the high schools. The polling results showed that the high schools still supported American Football (the term American football in those days was used to differentiate the sport from rugby).

It was moved and seconded that the football throw be eliminated from the State Track and Field Meet. Carried unanimously.

There seems to be doubt among some educators of the state that American football is serving the ends of education in our high schools. There are those who are not sure that the citizenship training of the students in the bleachers is all that could be desired. Some shrink from the thought of assuming responsibility for the safety of the boys and girls on the highways as they travel back and forth to football games. Others feel that the game as now played, is not safe for the players. On the other hand, the argument is presented that the high school boy needs this strenuous game to "work off steam," that the game has great value in the training of self control and team work. At any rate the attitude of the high school principals of the state will be of interest to the members of the Federated Council.

Moved seconded and carried that the high school principals be polled to see whether or not they wish American football continued as an interscholastic sport.

Results from the polling of Principals on the sport of American Football:

Size of School	Do you wish Am. football continued?		Does your school play Am. Football		Does your school play six man football?	Is your school a member of C.I.F.
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Under 200	63	29	54	37	24	86
200 to 499	64	27	84	9	6	91
500 to 999	51	10	58	2	1	56
1000 to 1999	48	4	54	0	1	48
2000 and over	30	8	38	0	1	23
Totals	256	78	288	48	33	304