

HELM'S ATHLETIC FOUNDATION

HELM'S HALL, 8760 VENICE BOULEVARD - LOS ANGELES 34, CALIFORNIA

AL CLAIBORNE, MT. CARMEL, AND GEORGE VAN VLIET, WHITTIER, NAMED CO-PLAYERS OF YEAR IN CIF BASKETBALL, CENTRAL SECTION, FOR '57

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1957 and after

For the second straight year, and only the third time in its history dating back to 1938, All-Southern California Board of Basketball selected co-players of the year in the CIF's central section for the 1957 season just concluded. From the perennially strong Pacific and Catholic leagues, George Van Vliet (Whittier) and Alvin Claiborne (Mt. Carmel) were firmly picked as the outstanding players from a list of over one-thousand boys participating in C.I.F. central section basketball during 1957. Last year's co-players were Jim Hanna of Long Beach Poly and Jerry Pimm of Montebello.

Al Claiborne, who led Mt. Carmel to the Catholic League crown with a 13-1 record and to runner-up spot in the CIF playoffs behind El Monte, scored 486 points for 30 games from his center position. Coach Martinelli singled out Claiborne for special praise, noting Al's great all-around ability. Named player of the tournament at both Mt. Carmel and Compton, Al was exceptional at blocking opponent's shots. At 6' 8" and 190 pounds, Claiborne was remarkably agile all over the floor.

Picked with Claiborne was Whittier's star center, George Van Vliet. A first team All-C.I.F. end in football, George was no less devastating on the basketball floor. George was top scorer in the Pacific League with 292 points for 14 league games and a 21.9 average. Although not playing much in Whittier's five practice games, he scored an additional 63 points, to give him a 19-game total of 355 points. Of his star player Coach Glen Kelly says, "I have not seen a player this year that could fill his shoes. He is a hard worker, a scholarship student and I honestly believe he is the best in the C.I.F. this year."

Both Al Claiborne and George Van Vliet will receive their player of the year medal awards at the 20th annual All-Southern California Board of Basketball awards program to be held at Helms Hall on Saturday morning, March 30th at 10:30 am.

Three teams placed two players each on the two teams. Playoff finalists Mt. Carmel and El Monte and strong Catholic League contender Notre Dame were the clubs to land two berths. All first team members are seniors, with three lower classmen being named to the second club. High scoring Stan Andersen, forward on Millikan's strong free lance quintet, is only a junior as are Bill Parsons of Mt. Carmel and Bob Jordan, All-Metropolitan player of the year from Sweetwater.

Two players repeated from the 1956 team. Tony Salas, high scorer in the Catholic League with 300 points in 14 contests, moved up from a second team center post to the first team. Richard Ruffell, named last year at guard on the number two team, was picked at a forward on the top team this season. Ruffell wound up the season with over 500 points, to mark him high on the list among southland shooters.

C.I.F. championship team El Monte placed its diminutive guard, Dave Haynes on the first team, along with three other outstanding performers -- Tom Bennett (Santa Monica), Dick DeMars (Excelsior), and Don Roarty (Covina). Bennett finished second in league scoring to Ruffell, with a 16.3 average in league play. Roarty was second to El Rancho's Marty Vedova in San Gabriel League scoring, with a 15.4 average. Excelsior's Dick DeMars averaged 12.6 points for the season.

Named at forwards on the first team along with Van Vliet and Ruffell were Glendale's Alan Simila and Newport Harbor's Eddy Pope. Simila led Foothill League scorers with a 15.4 average in 10 ball games, while Pope finished third in Sunset League shooting competition with a 15.6 average.

Bill Engesser, El Monte's 7-foot center, was named to the second team. Bill finished second to Whittier's George Van Vliet in league scoring with a 19.3 average. Other top scorers to be named to the second team are Dick Johnson, Oxnard second in the Ventura League (15.8 avg.), David Mielke, San Bernardino second in the Citrus Belt League (14.7 avg.), Wayne Adams, Hoover, San Diego third in the San Diego City League (13.6 avg.), Marty Vedova, El Rancho first in the San Gabriel Valley League (16.5 avg.), Kent Pembroke, Fullerton second in the Sunset League (18.6 avg.) Bill Gregory, Notre Dame second in the Catholic League (18.7).

All players named to the first and second C.I.F. teams will be presented Helms Board scroll awards at Helms Hall on Saturday morning March 30th, at 10:30 am.

* * * * F I R S T T E A M ALL-C.I.F. BASKETBALL FOR 1957 SEASON

POSITION	P L A Y E R	S C H O O L	HGHT	WGHT	Y E A R	POINTS
Forward	GEORGE VAN VLIET	Whittier	6-2	190	Senior	292-14
Forward	ALAN SIMILA	Glendale	6-5	184	Senior	355-27
Forward	ED POPE	Newport Harbor	6-1	172	Senior	407-29
Forward	RICHARD RUFFELL	Torrance	6-4	185	Senior	504-27
Center	ALVIN CLAIBORNE	Mt. Carmel	6-8	190	Senior	416-26
Center	TONY SALAS	Notre Dame	6-6	180	Senior	455-28
Guard	DAVE HAYNES	El Monte	5-8	145	Senior	291-27
Guard	TOM BENNETT	Santa Monica	5-8	150	Senior	420-28
Guard	DICK DE MARS	Excelsior	6-3	170	Senior	327-26
Guard	DON ROARTY	Covina	6-0	172	Senior	329-26

* * * * S E C O N D T E A M

Forward	DICK JOHNSON	Oxnard	6-3	185	Senior	396-24
Forward	STAN ANDERSEN	Millikan	6-1	165	Junior	560-26
Forward	DAVID MIELKE	San Bernardino	6-3	185	Senior	375-25
Forward	WAYNE ADAMS	Hoover, San Diego	6-3	187	Senior	234-21
Center	BILL ENGESSER	El Monte	7-0	265	Senior	434-27
Center	MARTY VEDOVA	El Rancho	6-1	180	Senior	165-10
Guard	BOB JORDAN	Sweetwater	5-11	160	Junior	234-18
Guard	KENT PEMBROKE	Fullerton	6-4	165	Senior	510-29
Guard	BILL GREGORY	Notre Dame	6-2	170	Senior	436-27
Guard	BILL PARSONS	Mt. Carmel	6-4	175	Junior	399-26

Selection of C.I.F. teams for the 1957 were made by All-Southern California Board members Ralph Alexander (Los Angeles Examiner), John de la Vega (Los Angeles Times), Joe Lyou (Los Angeles Mirror-News), Pete Kokon (Valley Times), Jack Disney (Los Angeles Herald-Express), Jerry Weiner (Hollywood Citizen-News), Bill Hollohan (San Pedro News-Pilot), Eddie West (Santa Ana Register), Mammie Pineda (Pasadena Star-News), Jack Teele (Long Beach Press-Telegram), Al Ames (Glendale News-Press), Dick Vanderveld (Santa Monica Outlook), Garland Rose (Riverside Press-Enterprise), Chuck Cherniss (Alhambra Post-Advocate), Claude Anderson (San Bernardino Sun), Bill Whitney (Breitbart Athletic Foundation), Philip Patton (Santa Barbara News-Press), Chuck Thomas (Ventura Star Free Press), Mory Kapp (Helms Athletic Foundation), Braven Dyer, Jr. (Secretary), W.R. Bill Schroeder (Chairman).

1957 BASKETBALL AWARDS PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT HELMS HALL, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 30

The Twentieth Annual All-Southern California Board of Basketball awards program will be held in the Helms Hall patio on Saturday morning, March 30th, at 10:30 am. All-C.I.F. and All-Los Angeles City players who have been named for honors, as well as coaches of honored players will be invited to attend. College cage personalities will also be invited to share in honoring these players.

All players named for honors will receive Helms scroll awards, attractively framed. The Voit Rubber Company will again present miniature basketballs to all honored players. Don Carlson, Manual Arts High School championship coach, along with C.I.F. championship coaches, Eugene Victor (El Monte), Frank Burke (Banning), and Bob McCutcheon (Santa Maria), will be presented special achievement awards.

All-City and C.I.F. players of the year will also receive special awards.

* * * PAST C.I.F. BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR FOLLOW

1938	Stuart Lewis	Whittier	1949	Wayne Kopren	Whittier
1939	Bob Howard	Poly (L.B.)	1950	Mark Costello	El Monte
1940	Ed Gillean	Poly (L.B.)	1951	Ronald Bane	Alhambra
1941	Horace Brightman	Wilson (L.B.)	1952	George Selleck	Compton
1942	Irving Noren	Pasadena	1953	Bill Bond	St. Anthony's
1943	Alan Grimely	Glendale	1954	Larry Hauser	Mt. Carmel
	Bob Hobbs	Orange	1955	Fred Crabtree	Covina
1944	Richard Robbins	Poly (L.B.)	1956	Jerry Pimm	Montebello
1945	Richard Barnes	Hoover (S.D.)		Jim Hanna	Poly (L.B.)
1946	Hugh Stewart	South Pasadena	1957	George Van Vliet	Whittier
1947	Houston Faulkner	Anaheim		Alvin Claiborne	Mt. Carmel
1948	Bob Johnson	Whittier			

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SPECIAL RELEASE

HELMS ATHLETIC FOUNDATION

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BILL KILMER, CITRUS SCORING SENSATION,
PICKED NORTH-SOUTH PLAYER OF YEAR FOR '57

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 21 and Friday am.

Billy Kilmer, Citrus High School scoring sensation who over the past season set a new scoring mark of 900 points in 34 ball games, was named North-South section C.I.F. Basketball Player of the Year when the Helms Board met at Helms Hall to make its annual selections. Kilmer took over Southern California's single-season scoring mark from Jerry Pimm (864 points in 33 ball games) last season's central section co-player of the year from Montebello.

A fine all-around athlete, Kilmer performed at quarterback and fullback last football season and was named to the All-C.I.F. team. Over a three year period Bill has scored 1,901 points on the basketball court. This is believed to represent another scoring mark for southland high schools. Kilmer was named to last year's all-star basketball team at forward.

Four other players were selected for the second straight year. Roger Short of Burroughs and Don McConnell of Brea-Olinda were repeaters on the first squad, while Gene Shields, Arroyo Grande, and Wayne Wilson, San Jacinto, were again placed on the second team. Wayne's twin brother, Blayne, was named to a first team center position. The Wilson brothers led San Jacinto through the Southern Group playoffs to the finals, where they were defeated by Banning, the team which beat them out for the Riverside County championship. Banning placed two of her top players on the team -- Jerry Barr at forward on the first team and Larry Baca, one of three juniors named, at a forward on the second team.

A player given serious consideration for player of the year honors along with Kilmer was John Rudometkin, who led Santa Maria to the Northern Group playoff title. Rudometkin averaged a sensational 28 points per game for 24 contests from his center position. John has another year at Santa Maria, which brings smiles to the face of his coach, Bob McCutcheon.

The Twentieth Annual All-Southern California Board of Basketball awards program will be held at Helms Hall on Saturday morning, March 30th, at 10:30 am. At this time all players named for All-C.I.F. and All-Los Angeles City honors will be presented with scroll awards. Players of the year will be awarded special Helms medals, while championship coaches will receive silver tumbler awards. This marks the 20th year that southland high school basketball stars have received Helms Foundation awards.

* * * FIRST TEAM (All-C.I.F. Small Schools Team for 1957)

POSITION	PLAYER	SCHOOL	HGHT	WGHT	YEAR	POINTS
Forward	BILL KILMER	Citrus	6-0	185	Senior	900-34
Forward	BILL LEDGER	Big Bear	6-6	200	Senior	195-7
Forward	JERRY BARR	Banning	6-3	165	Senior	116-11
Forward	DON McCONNELL	Brea-Olinda	5-9	140	Senior	391-20
Center	JOHN RUDOMETKIN	Santa Maria	6-4	180	Junior	672-24
Center	BLAYNE WILSON	San Jacinto	6-2	175	Senior	200-14
Guard	JAN BARRETT	Santa Ynez	6-2	200	Senior	277-17
Guard	MAURILLO ESCAMILLA	Santa Clara	5-11	155	Senior	133-9
Guard	ROGER SHORT	Burroughs, China Lake	6-3	170	Senior	271-20
Guard	ROGER GONZALEZ	St. Monica's	5-11	165	Junior	378-25

* * * SECOND TEAM

Forward	ADRIAN LEDBETTER	Brea-Olinda	6-4	190	Senior	360-20
Forward	LARRY BACA	Banning	6-3	165	Junior	169-11
Forward	GENE SHIELDS	Arroyo-Grande	6-7	200	Senior	322-19
Forward	WAYNE WILSON	San Jacinto	6-1	174	Senior	168-14
Center	DAVE HOUSTON	South Pasadena	6-5	185	Senior	385-20
Center	ROLAND SKELTON	Beaumont	6-3	195	Senior	238-14
Guard	DON SEARS	Tustin	5-10	160	Senior	325-22
Guard	DICK BARRETT	San Marino	6-1	180	Senior	179-17
Guard	LANCE VAN WAVEREN	Bellflower Christian	6-3	185	Senior	292-22
Guard	MIKE LASSALETTE	Pomona Catholic	6-3	182	Senior	268-23

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