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MEDIA RELEASE

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION NAMES WEST AS NEW COMMISSIONER

LOS ALAMITOS - The CIF Southern Section Executive Committee has named Mike West, currently Principal at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, as the organization's 10th Commissioner of Athletics.

West replaces retiring Commissioner, Rob Wigod, and will begin his tenure as Commissioner July 5th.

"To be selected as the 10th Commissioner of the CIF Southern Section is both a personal and professional dream come true," said West. "I would like to thank all members of the CIF Southern Section Executive Committee led by President Jim Perry for their belief in me to fill such an important role."

"I also need to thank Commissioner Rob Wigod for his leadership, his mentorship, and his friendship over the last 20+ years," added West. "He has set a high bar for anyone in this position to attain and I promise to do my best to meet that level of excellence in leading the CIF Southern Section."

The CIF-SS Executive Committee tabbed CIF-SS Council President Jim Perry to lead the search for Wigod's replacement.

The CIF-SS Executive Committee conducted an extensive national search and received a tremendous number of highly qualified candidates from a variety of education based athletic backgrounds. A very in-depth paper screening and background check on all candidates was completed and a group of finalists

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WEST (Cont.): were unanimously sent forward to the first personal interview round. After the final round of interviews, the Executive Committee agreed to unanimously recommend Mr. Mike West for ratification. That ratification by the full CIF-SS Executive was also unanimous.

“The Executive Committee is extremely proud and happy to have chosen such an extraordinary educator and leader to guide the CIF-SS into the future,” stated President Perry.

West has been involved in CIF-SS athletics for nearly 30 years beginning his career in education as an Athletic Trainer at Ayala High School in 1994 where he also eventually taught World History, PE, and ROP Sports Medicine. For the past eight years, West has been Principal at ML King High School in Riverside.

“Congratulations to Mike West on being selected as the next Commissioner of Athletics for the CIF Southern Section,” stated Commissioner Wigod. “He has a wealth of knowledge and experience in high school education and high school athletics, along with a passion for serving the young people we are so fortunate to work with and for, which will be valuable assets to our member schools.”

“He will do an outstanding job leading our organization forward and I pledge to help and support him in every way possible,” added Wigod.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, West went on the University of Arizona to attain his Masters Degree in Athletic Training. In 1994, he was hired as a full time Athletic Trainer at Ayala High School where he stayed for 6 years. During that time, he taught ROP Sports Medicine classes and obtained his teaching credential to also teach World History and PE.

In 2000, West was hired as the first Athletic Director at Chino Hills High School serving in that role for 7 years. In 2003, West was recognized by the California State Athletic Directors Association with the Norm Mackenzie Distinguished Leadership in the Field of Athletics Award for New Athletic Directors.

In 2007, West obtained his Administration Credential and moved to the Jurupa Unified School District to serve as Assistant Principal at Patriot High School in its first year. While at Patriot, he oversaw Discipline, Attendance, Special Education and Athletics. In 2010, he was promoted to be the Principal at the Jurupa Unified School District’s alternative education site called The Learning Center. While there he oversaw the district’s community day school along with credit recovery, independent study, and adult education. In January 2013, West was assigned to Jurupa Valley High School as the Principal where he served until June of 2015. It was during his tenure at Jurupa Valley High School that West was nominated and selected to serve on the CIF Executive Committee as the Citrus Belt Area Representative. In 2015, West was hired by the Riverside Unified School District to serve as Principal of Martin Luther King High School where he will continue for the remainder of this school year.

West began serving in athletic leadership roles within the local and national athletic training associations. He was selected to serve as the Secondary School Committee Chair (1997 – 2004) and the Public Relations Committee Chair (2004 – 2007) for the Far West Athletic Trainers Association (FWATA) and was the Governmental Affairs Committee Chair (2004 – 2008) for the California Athletic Trainers Association. West also served as the President of the California Athletic Trainers Association from 2009 – 2014. West received numerous awards for his work within the athletic training profession to include a FWATA Special Service Award (2000), National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) Governmental Affairs Recognition (2006), FWATA Special Recognition Award (2008), NATA Athletic Trainer Service Award (2010) and the FWATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award (2014).

West has also had numerous responsibilities within the State and Southern Section CIF. He was tasked as the first State CIF Master Assessor for Wrestling in 2005 and remained in that role until 2015. West currently serves on the State CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee where he began his tenure in 2013. In 2018, West was elected as President Elect of the CIF Southern Section Executive Committee and then served his term as President of the Executive Committee during the pandemic years of 2020 –

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WEST (Cont.): 2022. Most recently, West was elected to the State CIF Executive Committee beginning this school year.

“Though I have served in a variety of different roles throughout my career, athletics has always been at my core” added West. “To have contributed in the service of education-based athletics in so many different ways has allowed me to develop a holistic viewpoint that I will use while serving in my new role as commissioner.

“I truly want to focus on the individual student experience which encompasses excellent coaching, excellent officiating, proper medical care, sportsmanship, and quality playoff championship experiences,” shared West. “I look forward to serving our member schools and their student athletes to the best of my ability.”

West resides in Riverside along with his wife Rhonda and has three children Kevin (24), Brian (21), and Michelle (18).

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