

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION-SOUTHERN SECTION (CIF-SS)

MARY MARGARET MONTGOMERY BELIEVED TO BE

FIRST FEMALE CREW CHIEF OF CIF-SS FOOTBALL 11 PLAYOFF GAME

#145 Historical tidbit.

Bill Prichard, Volunteer Historian



Pictured are, left to right, Chris Nguyen, Back Judge; Ben Hughes, Linesman; Mary Margaret Montgomery, Referee; Matt Goda, Line Judge; and Mike Hannah, Umpire.

A new milestone in officiating CIF-SS Football 11 playoff games occurred on Fri., Nov. 7, 2025, when Mary Margaret Montgomery served as Crew Chief of the five-member team that officiated the St. Pius/St. Matthias vs. Alta Loma contest (see photo above).

“I have spoken to a couple of long-time officials from other units. They are aware of female officials working in the playoffs but none have been the crew chief,” according to Paul Caldera, Assignor/Instructional Chairman, OCFOA. In addition, Dave Farmer, honored in 2025 with a CIF-SS Distinguished Service Award, and a football official with 69 years of experience, noted that he is unfamiliar with any prior instance of a female working as crew chief for a playoff game.

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION-SOUTHERN SECTION (CIF-SS)

Montgomery has worked in football officiating for 17 years, nine years with the Long Beach Football Officials Association and eight years with the Orange County Football Officials Association. Outside of football, she works for MemorialCare's Value Improvement Office in Long Beach as a Lean Fellow.

In the game itself, St. Pius X/St. Matthias Academy of Downey won their home game against Alta Loma, 35-6. It was a first round Division 6 game, with St. Pius/St. Matthias advancing to the quarter-finals to play Upland on Fri., Nov. 14.

-end-