



**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
 INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
 SOUTHERN SECTION
 CIFSS**



30th historical “tidbit.”

TRONA HIGH SCHOOL’S SAND FOOTBALL FIELD

“THE PIT”



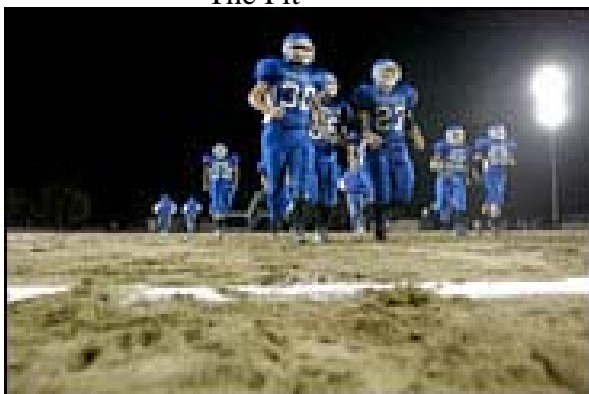
Trona High School Football Field



Trona Pinnacles – Tufa Towers

Even in the nicest areas, the front lawns are just dirt, with occasional scrub or cacti. The town is so polluted that grass simply won't grow. (Trona High School's football team plays on [one of only two dirt playing fields](#) in the United States; the other is glacial silt in Juneau, Alaska.)

“The Pit”



“TRONA TIDBITS”

- Trona High School founded 1940...104 students Coed
- Hi-Lo League members...”Tornadoes”...Royal Blue/White
- City of Trona founded 1913
- Trona population 800...decreasing and almost becoming a modern day ghost town
- Nearest fast food is 30 miles away in Ridgecrest
- State Hiway 178 on way to Death Valley...last gas before valley
- Searles Valley...named for mineral called Trona
- SP railroad built to town in 1913
- Big boom in World War I for potash
- Mined soda and potash (used for gun powder)
- Water is brackish and alkali fouled
- Temperatures in the summer can reach 125 degrees
- The wind blows hard and often causing large dust storms
- Drinkable water very expensive and piped in from Ridgecrest
- Sulfur smell caused by saline method of mining
- Town was build and laid out as a Company Town
- Trona High School annually plays Boron High School in the Borax Bowl...other teams hate the sand, Trona loves it
- The football field has always been sand...little vegetation in town
- The field is watered with the local water on game day, dragged, leveled and marked with chemicals from the local plant. Some of the salt from the alkali water remains on the top of the field
- The local kids love the field and dream (“Hoosiers” style) of playing when they get to high school
- Play their games at night due to the heat...field called “The Pit”
- They were CIF runner-ups in Small School Football Championships in 1965...went from 6 man to 11 man and now play 8 man
- When town was owned by Kerr-McGee Corporation from Oklahoma a lot of “Oakies” moved to town and loved their football
- Trona claimed the unofficial 6 Man CIF Football Championship in 1948
- Max Rafferty, former California State Superintendent of Education, once coached at Trona