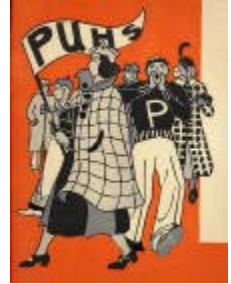


HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)



24th historical “tidbit.”

WHAT WAS THE LARGEST SCHOOL IN THE CIFSS IN
DECEMBER, 1937?

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL
ARIZONA



4,142 students
(almost 1,000 more than the next largest
high school in CIFSS)

Phoenix Union High School, in Arizona, was a very large school who had difficulty in finding suitable opponents to play in the state of Arizona. They began playing California schools with the creation of the CIF and even challenged for the Southwest Football Championship in 1920 when they ventured to the city of Long Beach to play the Long Beach Poly Jackrabbits.

Although the outcome was a disaster (lost 102 to 0), they continued to play California schools whenever they could. The following is found in the CIFSS Council minutes of April 10, 1937:

“Moved by Mr. Burnight, seconded by Mr. Hayshurst that the State Council be asked to make Phoenix High School and Tuscon High School associate members of the C.I.F., Southern Section for the year 1937-1938. Carried.”

The advantage of being an associate member was that they could play California schools without any special permission and they had all the privileges of regular membership without being placed in any specific league (they were considered to be free-lance). It was a rule at that time too that no athletic competition of any kind be allowed between CIF and non-CIF schools. The State Federated Council allowed Phoenix Union High School to have associate membership as long as they limited their competition to Arizona and Southern California.

From the CIFSS Council “Monthly Bulletin” of December, 1937, is gleaned the following:

“Phoenix with an enrollment of 4142 is our largest member. Big Pine with 20 is our smallest. Alhambra with 3167 has the largest enrollment of any of our Southern California schools.”

Phoenix was active in their membership as noted in the December, 1938, CIFSS “Monthly Bulletin:”

“The Phoenix High School requested that it be allowed to conduct an intra-mural football tournament after December 1 among boys who had not been on the squad during the season...the request was not allowed.”

Free-lance schools of 1941 included Phoenix, Tuscon and Yuma High Schools all of Arizona. Las Vegas High School also asked for associate membership. Later Glendale, Arizona High School, Mesa and North Phoenix were added to the list.

