

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(CIFSS)



28th historical “tidbit.”

JAPANESE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES
DURING WORLD WAR II AND FOLLOWING THE WAR

Football at Camp Manzanar....1943
Photo by Ansel Adams



The start of World War II caused the relocation of Japanese American families to the ten different relocation camps around the nation. Many Japanese Americans had settled in Southern California and were successful and contributing members of their communities. Japanese American high school students were active on their local high school campuses and participated in numerous sports. Those students and families lost their homes and were forced to leave their schools in the middle of their studies and sports. Many never received their high school diplomas and missed out on numerous extra curricular activities. Camps, like Manzanar, attempted to create a high school atmosphere including academic classes, high school sports, yearbooks other activities. But, those students were never allowed to leave their camps and sports were of an intra-mural nature. When World War II ended the families moved back to their home towns and began their lives over again even though many had lost all of their possessions. Burbank High School became a relocation high school while families established new homes. It is interesting to see how the CIFSS handled this situation in a very enlightened way. The CIFSS had amended many of their resident and transfer rules to deal with the war years and returning veterans.

