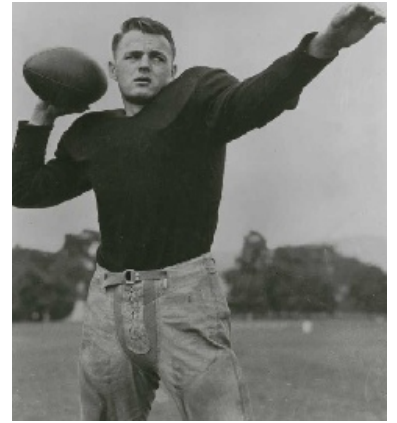




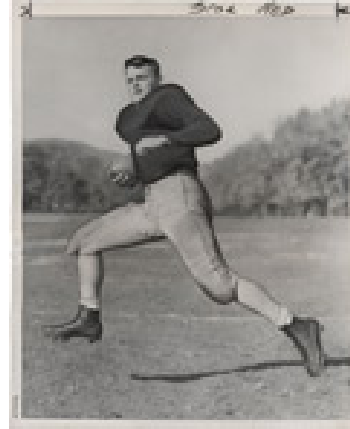
HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIFSS)



42nd historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

GLENN DAVIS - BONITA HIGH SCHOOL THE FIRST HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER FROM THE CIFSS

Glenn Davis, who graduated from Bonita High School in 1943, was the 12th winner of the Heisman Award given to the finest collegiate football player in the nation for 1946. The CIFSS also had John Huarte (1964) Mater Dei High School, Carson Palmer (2002) Santa Margarita High School and Matt Leinart (2004) Mater Dei High School, as Heisman Trophy winners. Glenn Davis won the award as a star halfback for Army and was referred to as “Mr. Outside” along with his famous Heisman Trophy (1945) running mate Doc Blanchard who was called “Mr. Inside.”



Bonita High School

TIDBITS ON GLENN DAVIS

- Glenn Woodward Davis was born December 25, 1925, in Claremont, California.
- He was referred to as “Junior” because he was born 90 minutes after his twin brother, Ralph.

- His father Ralph was the bank manager of the First National Bank of Claremont. He also owned 644 lemon trees and 644 orange trees with his wife Irma in La Verne.
- Both the boys were very active and “always on the go.” They double dated together, played harmless pranks and were both fine athletes. They hung around the Bonita High School football field as ten year olds.
- They worked summers as fruit pickers, camp counselors in the San Bernardino Mountains and as defense workers at a plant on Olympic Boulevard in Los Angeles
- While at Bonita High School, Glenn Davis played in four sports...football, baseball, basketball and track. He won 13 varsity letters (some say 16 letters because of the exponent system then in effect).
- The “Smudge Pot” award goes to the winning team when Bonita High School plays San Dimas High School in football. During Davis’s time at Bonita High School their big rival was Claremont High School.
- Early Bonita High School yells:
 - “Sock ‘em in the collar button –
 - Hit ‘em in the jaw.
 - Drag ‘em thru the ceme-tery, Rah! Rah! Rah!”
- Another great Bonita athlete in the 1930’s was future major league pitcher Ewell Blackwell, who was the best pitcher of his times for the Cincinnati Reds. Both Ewell and Davis were coached by Orville Thomason, who went on to open Loara High School in Anaheim as Principal in 1962.
- Davis scored 236 points in football his senior year and led Bonita High School (the Bearcats) to a 39 to 6 win over Newport Harbor High School and the CIFSS Class A title with five touchdown runs. They won their play-off games 47-0, 41-12 and 39-6. In the 41-12 win over South Pasadena, Davis became a Ripley’s “Believe it or Not,” item. In Bonita’s single wing offense he threw a touchdown pass to his brother, Bonita was offside. He threw another TD pass to his brother and they were offside again. On the third play, Davis threw another TD pass. Bonita was flagged for holding. On the fourth play, from 55 yards, out he faked a pass and ran it in for a touchdown. As a result he became known as the “**Claremont Comet.**”
- He was the 1942 CIFSS Player of the Year in football.
- He was All CIFSS in baseball.

- He received the 1943 Knute Rockne Trophy as the best track star in Southern California...he ran the 100 yard dash in 9.7 seconds along with a 20.9 in the 220 yard sprint. He also ran the relays. He placed 2nd in the 100 and 220 CIFSS finals.
- Davis was thinking of going to USC, but was offered a Congressional appointment to the Army Academy from Congressman Jerry Voorhis. Davis agreed only to go if his brother Ralph was given a berth too... which he was.
- During his plebe year he took the “Master of the Sword” physical fitness test at West Point which included the 300 yard run, dodge run, vertical jump, parallel bar dips, softball throw, sit-ups, chin-ups, and the standing broad jump. The average cadet scored 540...Davis’s score was 926.4 out of 1,000, an all time high. He later upped that score to 962.5.
- He led the Army team as a fullback to a 7 – 2- 1 record in 1943, one of their best results in years.



- He had trouble with his math scores at the Academy, was found deficient and was asked to leave West Point at the end of 1943.
- He enrolled at the Webb Prep School in California and completed an intensive four month math course and was readmitted back to the academy for the 1944-45 school year as a plebe.
- He was considered to be the fastest man in college football.
- He was 5-9” and weighed 170 pounds.

- His running style was referred to as “whip like,” deer-footed, devastating change of pace, powerful leg drive and a strong stiff arm. He ran like the wind and was poetry in motion
- He lettered in football, track, baseball (center fielder) and basketball at West Point.
- Branch Rickey of the Dodgers commented that Davis could fetch a \$75,000 bonus for a major league baseball signing.
- With the arrival of Doc Blanchard, “Mr. Inside,” who weighed over 235 pounds, they became known as the **“Touchdown Twins.”**
- In 1944, Davis led the nation with an average of 11.7 yards per carry, scored 120 points and won the Maxwell Trophy, the Walter Camp Trophy and the Helms Foundation Trophy. He was second in the Heisman voting. The Army team finished undefeated, the first time since 1916.
- Legendary Army coach Earl “Red” Blaik praised Davis as “the best player I have seen, anywhere, anytime.”
- In 1945 he was runner-up to Blanchard in the Heisman voting.
- In 1946 the Black Knights were again undefeated, but were tied by Notre Dame. Davis won the Heisman Trophy that year.
- His best game in 1946 was against Michigan when he played quarterback rushing for 105 yards, completed 7 of 8 passes for 160 yards, caught a 31 yard touchdown pass, intercepted two passes, played the whole game on defense and made the defensive play of the game at the end that closed out Army’s victory.
- He averaged 58 minutes per game and one TD every nine times he touched the ball. His 11.7 yards gained per carry in 1944 is still a NCAA record. In 38 games, he scored 59 touchdowns...27 were over 37 yards and the longest was 87 yards.
- He was drafted by the NFL’s Detroit Lions, but had to fulfill his military obligation which he did by serving in Korea until 1950.
- He played with the Los Angeles Rams from 1950 to 1953 participating in two Championship games; Davis led the Rams in rushing and touchdowns in 1950.
- He had injured his knee (tore cartilage and ligaments in his right knee) while filming the 1946 movie, **“The Spirit of West Point,”** on the UCLA practice field and the injury recurred in 1951. He said that in his last years of professional football he was a better physical player in high school due to his injuries.
- He was voted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1961.

- Coach Blaik said he was, “bashful as a girl on her first date, even though he was an All-American.”
- Even if Davis was bashful, he dated actress Ann Blyth and Elizabeth Taylor. He was married briefly to actress Terry Moore and to Ellen Harriet Lancaster Slack for 43 years until her death.
- His last wife was Yvonne, who interestingly enough was married to another Heisman Trophy winner Alan Ameche, the great University of Wisconsin and Baltimore Colts running back.
- He worked for the “Los Angeles Times” as their Special Events Director for over 30 years.
- He retired to La Quinta, California and loved to play golf.
- He gave his beloved Heisman Trophy to Bonita High School and asked that no publicity surround the presentation. On the day he left the Heisman Trophy on the Principal’s desk he walked by a trophy case and saw a small nondescript trophy inscribed with “Downtown Business Community” that they used to give to the athletes...he asked to take it home for the memories of his beloved school.



Glenn Davis’s Heisman Trophy in the main office at Bonita High School

- The football stadium at Bonita High School was named after him in 1986.
- The location where Davis attended high school now belongs to Damien High School in La Verne. The current Bonita High School campus was built years after he graduated.
- He died on March 9, 2005. He was 80 years old.
- He is buried at West Point near his football coach Earl Blaik.