The CIF Los Angeles City Section is committed to providing quality support services in a respectful and gracious manner. We aim to enhance member schools’ abilities to manage safe and fair interscholastic athletic programs. Our goal is to promote healthy, safe, and fair interscholastic competition and develop programs that will raise academic achievement in all student-athletes.

www.cif-la.org

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For the first time since 2010, the LA City Section has a state champion in basketball. The View Park Knights won the CIF Division IV State title with a resounding 74-62 victory over Stuart Hall of San Francisco at the Golden1 Center in Sacramento on March 23. It was the first State title of any kind for the school and the first for the City Section since Westchester won eight years ago.

View Park earned an at-large bid and received the No. 6 seed in the SoCal Regional Playoffs. The Knights proceeded to defeat Lompoc, 84-46; Bakersfield Christian, 50-49; King Drew, 48-38; El Cajon Christian, 57-43; and Stuart Hall. Congrats to View Park on a historic accomplishment!

Photos courtesy of Nick Koza, MaxPreps, and Kaydi Kochi, CIF State (bottom left)
As the Commissioner of the Los Angeles City Section, I have the privileged opportunity to attend many games in various sports throughout our Section. As I attend these games I come across students that speak freely to one another, sharing thoughts about their experiences in victory and defeat. In some cases, it is gratifying to witness the character and dignity a student will project just by their moral compass that influences their attitude toward success and failure. In particular, the understanding that great competition is a benefit to the competitive worth of the individual striving to achieve greater standing in their particular sport and endeavor. It also conveys an understanding of self-worth and continued drive to achieve a higher standard and greater accomplishment.

During the Wrestling Championships this past February, I had the honor of presenting the medals to the top competitors after their competition. As I sat next to the wrestlers awaiting the next award presentation for the 115-pound classification, the runner-up was congratulating the champion on his victory for the Section championship and on his qualifying for the State Championship as the Section representative. He said to his competitor, “You showed a lot of heart and skill out there. You will do well at State.” Wow! Not something I usually hear from the losing side at a championship. This young man was not thinking of his defeat, but of praising the effort and ability of his opponent, the champion. I wanted to tell him thank you! For demonstrating what a true champion really is- gracious, dignified and benevolent in victory and defeat.

Emulating character and dignity is something that many more student-athletes would benefit from and many more spectators would appreciate. The ability to understand and practice the true purpose of Education Based Athletics is the responsibility of the coach and school administration in the design of their athletic program. A purpose lead coaching style can be a transformational approach to coaching and bring meaning to the coach’s role of mentor and role model. The lessons that are learned on the practice and playing field can carry a student far beyond the dimensions of the field.

The focus on a final score in a contest has no bearing on an individual’s ability and desire to strive to be their best, but the focus on everyday effort, attitude, and desire to compete will extend to every effort one makes in life. Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, and more resent Steve Jobs, all experienced many failures before they achieved great success. Perseverance, humility, determination, respect and their desire to achieve allowed them to overcome and eventually prosper.

Respectfully,

John Aguirre
The annual AD Symposium offered several workshops that benefit the day-to-day responsibilities of athletic directors. In addition, two NIAAA training courses were offered: “Principals, Strategies and Methods” and “Philosophy, Organizations and Professional Programs.”

This year’s keynote speakers were former Los Angeles Laker and coach, Byron Scott, and business CEO, Charles Norris. They provided a courtesy copy of their book Slam-Dunk Success to everyone at the Symposium.

Great leadership begins with great understanding. No one knows that better than basketball legend Byron Scott and lifelong business executive Charlie Norris who, respectively, won NBA championships and resurrected multimillion-dollar corporations by being team players no matter their position. Whether it’s on the basketball court, in the boardroom, or in everyday life, getting to the heads and hearts of people is paramount to getting the most out of them. A fabulous day was enjoyed by all!
InsideOut Initiative Comes to Los Angeles

Led by the leadership of Joe Ehrmann and Jody Redman, InsideOut Initiative returned to LA for a second visit. The InsideOut Initiative is supported by the NFL Foundation to reclaim the educational purpose of sports. InsideOut Initiative has partnered with local NFL communities. Both the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers are working together alongside InsideOut Initiative.

The purpose of the InSideOut Initiative is to transform the current “win-at-all-costs” sports culture where the value is often defined by the scoreboard, into one that defines and promotes sports as a human growth experience.

The InSideOut Initiative provides a blueprint for systemic change. We must become aware of the purpose of sport in our children’s lives, align school communities around this purpose, provide education to school community stakeholders, and hold all involved accountable to clearly defined expectations.

(L to R) Chase Hartman of the LA Chargers, Jody Redman, LA Rams’ Johnathan Franklin and Joe Ehrmann will return to LA in May for their final visit of the year.
Crenshaw head coach Robert Garrett has been named the Don Shula National High School Football Coach of the Year. The Los Angeles Chargers nominated Garrett who received the award at the NFL Pro Bowl on January 28 in Orlando, Florida.

Garrett led his team to the CIF State 4AA Bowl championship with a 46-43 win over Placer. It was the Cougars first-ever State title. The NFL will provide a $15,000 grant towards the Crenshaw football program.

San Fernando High Varsity Football Team Recognized by the Los Angeles Rams

The Los Angeles Rams honored the San Fernando Tigers varsity football team for winning the inaugural Rams Academic Team Challenge. The Tigers, champions of Division I, were recognized at a ceremony on campus on February 8.

The Rams Academic Challenge featured four LAUSD Varsity High School football teams from Crenshaw High School, Eagle Rock High School, Fairfax High School, and San Fernando High School. To begin the challenge, each varsity program submitted their team’s cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) at the beginning of the fall semester in August and participated in a character development session in which the student-athletes discussed the power of choices and goal-setting.

Rams Hall of Fame legend Eric Dickerson lead the assembly in a Q & A session covering the topics of character, education and success. The football program will receive a $2,500 equipment grant.

Following the session, all participants received a Rams-branded school planner for the academic year. At the end of the Fall semester in December, the four teams re-submitted their cumulative GPA’s. San Fernando recorded the highest cumulative GPA for the semester was named the winner of the 2017 Rams Academic Challenge.
2017 Fall Team GPA Winners

Boys Cross Country: Marshall High School – 3.66
Girls Cross Country: Animo South Los Angeles – 3.71
                  Belmont High School – 3.71
Boys Water Polo: Palisades High School – 3.2
Football: Westchester High School – 3.6
Girls Tennis: Gardena High School – 3.74

Congratulations to these schools and their student-athletes for representing the best in academics on and off the athletic field!
2017-18 Winter Team GPA Winners

Boys Basketball: Marshall High School – 3.5
Girls Basketball: USC Hybrid High School – 3.8
Boys Soccer: Palisades Charter High School – 3.2
Girls Soccer: Palisades Charter High School – 3.5
Boys Wrestling: Palisades Charter High School – 3.0
Girls Wrestling: Belmont High School – 3.3
Girls Water Polo: Cleveland High School – 3.4
Girls Water Polo: Palisades Charter High School – 3.4

Congratulations to these schools and their student-athletes for representing the best in academics on and off the athletic field!
Champion’s Salute!

**BASKETBALL**

Boys Open Division— Westchester
Boys Division 1— Washington
Boys Division 2— King Drew
Boys Division 3— South East
Boys Division 4— Canoga Park
Boys Division 5— Aspire Ollin
Girls Open Division— Fairfax
Girls Division 1— Carson
Girls Division 2— Hamilton
Girls Division 3— Gardena
Girls Division 4— Reseda
Girls Division 5— Math & Science

**SOCCER**

Boys Division 1— El Camino Real
Boys Division 2— Locke
Boys Division 3— Robert F. Kennedy
Boys Division 4— San Pedro
Boys Division 5— Torres
Girls Division 1— El Camino Real
Girls Division 2— Narbonne
Girls Division 3— Marquez
Girls Division 4— West Adams
Girls Division 5— Wilson

Washington Generals — boys basketball (Photo Dick Dornan)

Hamilton Yankees — girls basketball (Photo Dick Dornan)

San Pedro Pirates — boys soccer (Photo Jamaal Street)

Marquez Gladiators — girls soccer (Photo Keith Demolder)
Champion’s Salute!

GIRLS WATER POLO
Eagle Rock

WRESTLING
Boys– Birmingham
Girls– San Fernando

WRESTLING (Duals)
Boys– Birmingham
Girls– Birmingham

Eagle Rock Eagles — girls water polo (Photo Dave Abbott)

Birmingham Patriots — boys wrestling (Photo Dick Dornan)

San Fernando Tigers — girls wrestling (Photo Dick Dornan)

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Birmingham and San Fernando Girls Wrestlers Claim CIF State Individual Titles

Birmingham’s Alexandra Castillo and Adelina Parra of San Fernando each won a CIF State title. Castillo won her second CIF State title at 189 pounds after claiming the L.A. City Section title. She led the Patriots to a seventh place finish at the CIF State meet.

Parra won the title at 179 pounds and became the first-ever girls wrestler from the program to claim a state title. The Tigers took fifth place at the CIF State meet.

Basketball and Soccer Teams Represented at State Regional Finals

Birmingham, View Park and Van Nuys boys basketball teams advanced to the CIF State SoCal Regional Finals. View Park defeated El Cajon Christian to advance to its second State final in school history.

Sotomayor boys soccer advanced to the CIF State SoCal Regional Final.

Congratulations to all of our winter teams!