

Schools Leave SPAL

San Jose's Withdrawal Ends Half-Century of Tradition

1/14/58
By DENNIS ANDERSON
Tribune Correspondent

The death knell sounded for one of the longest eras in Northern California sports yesterday when the Board of Managers of the South Peninsula Athletic League accepted the application for withdrawal of San Jose, Lincoln and Willow Glen high schools.

The move banished forever any recognizable form of the Peninsula Athletic League, one of the oldest prep unions in the state.

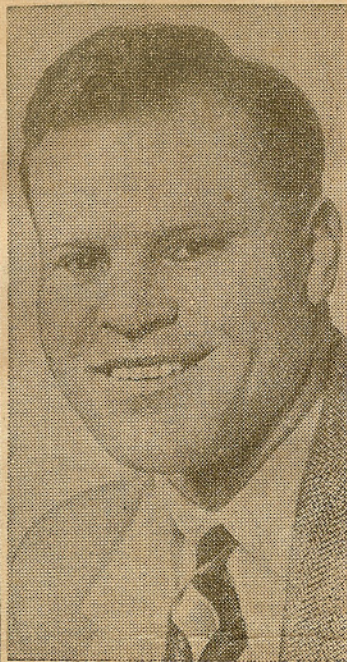
League competition between Sequoia, San Jose, Palo Alto and San Jose high schools has been traced back as far as 1906, and may well have roots even before the turn of the century. At that time the P.A.L. was a "sub-league" of the Academic Athletic League, which included all of the coastal section of Northern California (similar to the North Coast Section).

A wedge was driven into the historic group on Jan. 7 last year when the P.A.L., bulging with 16 members and expecting more, split into two separate groups. The league already had been playing in northern and southern divisions in most sports for several years and the principal immediate effect of the split was to end inter-division playoffs for championships.

Now, however, it has led to further division of leagues which has also split the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League and will no doubt continue until the tremendous population influx into the Peninsula levels off.

The three San Jose schools contributed much of the rich heritage of Peninsula prep sports with numerous fine athletes, outstanding coaches and teams.

San Jose High, in the late '30s when it was the city's only high school and had a huge enrollment, was the scourge of the Peninsula, and, indeed, of



SAN JOSE'S TAYLOR

much of Northern California.

With a backfield that included Pete Kmetovic and Chuck Taylor, the Bulldogs bowled to successive P.A.L. football championships in 1936-37. San Jose completely dominated lightweight sports, won five varsity track championships in seven years between 1936-42, and inaugurated a skein of 10 baseball championships in 22 years.

Cross-town Lincoln stole some of San Jose's thunder when it entered the league in 1943. With Lee Cox handling football and track teams, the Lions ran up enviable records and produced numerous college stars.

One of the most fascinating personalities in Peninsula sports, Cox won four football titles in 15 years and produced a won-lost record of 63-36-7 in league play. He gained national recognition in track while winning eight consecutive varsity championships, two at San Jose High and six in a row after moving to Lincoln.

Lion basketball teams are

currently in their greatest era. Under George Brinck, Lincoln has won four titles in the past five years and is favored again in '58.

Willow Glen was the first post-war school to open on the Peninsula. The Rams entered the league in 1950 and have been upper-division contenders ever since. Their trophy case, in seven years, includes two baseball crowns, two track dual meet championships and several lightweight basketball wreaths.

A list of luminaries contributed to collegiate, amateur and professional sports by the San Jose schools would fill this page.

Of the modern athletes, the top footballers, of course, must be Kmetovic and Taylor, who gained All-America honors with Stanford's Wow Boys and have led successful coaching careers there. Lincoln has also developed a handsome list of grid stars, headed by Joe Ramona, Santa Clara All-America and pro star for the New York Giants; John Rohde, Little All-America at C.O.P.; Holy Boruck at Stanford; John Stewart at Cal; Mike Jones at San Jose State; and many more.

Rich Hosley, star at Lincoln



WILLOW GLEN'S HERRMANN

Cubberley Keeps '57 Grid Title

SOUTH PALO ALTO - San Jose, Abraham Lincoln and Willow Glen High Schools withdrew from the South Peninsula Athletic League yesterday.

The move, which took place at the regular league board of managers' meeting, becomes effective at the end of the current school year.

The San Jose district schools ended a 52-year affiliation with the SPAL to join a segment of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League, reforming into two divisions to accommodate an expanding number of high schools in the San Jose area.

Five members now remain in the SPAL—Sequoia, Menlo-Atherton and Carlmont High Schools from the Sequoia district, and Palo Alto and Cubberley from the Palo Alto district. Ravenswood and Woodside High Schools are expected to join the organization in September of 1958 but will not compete in varsity sports until September, 1959.

In another significant action yesterday, the board of managers voted 5-2 to allow Cubberley to retain its 1957 varsity football championship.

Cubberley inadvertently violated a league rule by allowing transfer guard Ed Valencia to play in three league games before he had legal clearance.

Valencia came from Omaha, Neb., to live with Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Grundmeier in Palo Alto. But documents establishing him as the Grundmeiers' ward were not on file when Valencia began play.

Valencia's mother in Omaha, however, had assured James Laurits, Cubberley principal, that proper documents existed.

Because there was no intent on Laurits' part to violate the league rule, Valencia yesterday was declared eligible. Sequoia and Palo Alto cast dissenting votes. Cubberley abstained.

In an effort to shore up their ranks after the San Jose schools' withdrawal, managers moved to invite Mountain View and Los Altos high schools into the SPAL next September. It appeared unlikely that Mountain View district schools would accept the offer, however. Superintendent Blaine Huntsman told the Tribune yesterday his district would remain with the SCVAL at least one more year.

SPAL Commissioner Gordon McKeon, confronted with a series of drastic schedule revisions, said he planned to meet with Bill Perry, SCVAL commissioner, in an effort to coordinate open dates next football season.

"I hope we can retain some of the dates with San Jose schools," McKeon said, "and play them as practice games."

San Jose High

this winter, may well be the best basketball player ever to come out of the three schools. To gain such rating, however, he must surpass the exploits of such as George Clark, who was P.A.L. player of the Year at San Jose in 1948, became an all-time stand-out at San Jose State, and returned to San Jose High to be named SPAL Coach of the Year last season. Lincoln's Carroll Williams, all-time scoring champion at San Jose State, and Willow Glen sharpshooters Eric Anderson and Wayne Marion are other standouts.

No. 1 in track, of course, is Lincoln's Don Bowden, who last May became the first American to run the mile in less than four minutes. He is certainly not alone, however. Willow Glen's Frank Herrman (Stanford) was rated the world's eighth best broad jumper last year and San Jose's Vern Wilson (San Jose State) has high jumped all over the world for United States' teams.

Though Lincoln's team has been short on baseball championships, the Lions have been long on individual standouts. Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Bob Bowman prepped there as did Doug Weiss, who pitched Cal to the NCAA championship last spring and then signed a fat bonus contract with the Yankees.

Stanford chucker Dick Jones led Willow Glen to a league title and Ben Gonzales, San Jose Josox outfielder, was rated one of the best horse-hiders in league history when he won all-star honors three years and was twice named Player of the Year at San Jose High.

Willow Glen Coach Ralph Romero was all-league for San Jose High and did a pro hitch.

The San Jose schools will doubtless continue to make sports history in their new role in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League, but their years of prowess in the P.A.L. will not soon be forgotten.

Creation of New SPAL Ends 37-Year-Old Organization

Official division of the Peninsula Athletic League Monday climaxes 37 years of history beginning in 1920. Action by the league's commissioners followed a trial split of the league in 1952.

Previously, before Monday's division, however, the league was still technically one, although it was split into the northern and southern division.

Creation of the southern league, of which Menlo-Atherton High School is a member, is expected to clear the way for eventual creation of a combined Palo Alto-Sequoia district league.

CARLMONT IN SPAL

Carlmont, which started life in the SPAL, was switched back to this league following Monday's division after competing in the NPAL most of the time since 1952.

The league has tried to solve its overgrowth problems for the past nine years; the handwriting on the wall was first seen in 1948 when a few far-seeing sportswriters began to warn of the coming tremendous student influx.

Following its organization in 1920, the Peninsula Athletic League was reasonably stable until 1933 when several schools dropped out to form the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League. At this time there were seven schools, Jefferson, South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Mateo, Sequoia, Palo Alto and San Jose, competing in football. Half Moon Bay was the eighth member of the league, but did not compete in football.

GROWING SINCE 1943

Lincoln entered competition 10 years later and the league has been growing ever since. Willow Glen became the league's tenth member in 1950, and Capuchino joined in 1950, Menlo-Atherton in 1951, Carlmont in 1952, Hillsdale in 1955, while numbers 15 and 16 in the league were Cubberley and Westmoor, admitted last spring. (Some of the schools did not begin competition during the year they were admitted to the league.)

During the war, in 1944 and 1945, the league was split into division for all sports other than varsity football, but overall round-robin play was resumed later and continued until the fall of 1952.

High opens in Millbrae sometime next year the district will already have five schools (Mills, San Mateo, Burlingame, Capuchino and Hillsdale) and another school for San Mateo seems inevitable within a short time.

Sequoia-Palo Alto combined districts: Within six years, according to present plans, there will be eight schools—Carlmont, Sequoia, Woodside, Menlo-Atherton, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Cubberley and a new school in

the Barron Park area.

San Jose district: Principals of PAL schools in San Jose have confided to other board of manager members that even without the cooperation of the SCVAL schools in San Jose, they will be able to form a city league was new schools by 1959.

Any new reorganization might also include private schools, such as Serra, Bellarmine, and less likely St. Francis of Mountain View and Menlo School.

Menlo Park Recorder AND GAZETTE SPORTS... RECREATION

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It was at this time that the league's board of managers (the principals of the schools) tried a trial split into northern and southern divisions with inter-division playoffs of three games to determine league champions. Football competition was not included in the plan, however.

FIRST MOVE

In the fall of 1954 the first move toward a north-south division in football was made. The league schedule was increased to eight games, five against teams in the same area and three from the other end of the peninsula.

Last fall, the long-expected final division of football competition was made, eliminating any championship playoff.

It is expected that the two new leagues are really just transitional loops to bridge the gap until, most observers believe, eventual district leagues are created.

PROBABLE LEAGUES

The organization, at that time, might look something like this:

Jefferson-South SF combined districts: South S.F., Jefferson, Westmoor and at least two new schools (school officials say that five new plants will be needed in the two districts in the next five years.)

San Mateo district: When Mills

Meet Ends Long P.A.L. Track Era

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A Peninsula track tradition begun nearly 50 years ago will be staged probably for the last time ever tomorrow afternoon at Stanford Stadium. The 48th Annual—and last—Peninsula Athletic League Finals get underway in the big bowl at 1:30 p.m.

Actually, total-Peninsula competition was ended in the late 1920s when Mountain View, Santa Clara, Los Gatos and the other schools comprising the present Santa Clara Valley Athletic League pulled out of the P.A.L. to form their own circuit.

The first league finals which have been found from searching old newspaper files were held in April, 1910. There is evidence to indicate this was the first formal P.A.L. championship meet although there may well have been informal competition for at least 15 years before that.

Until about 1920, all Northern California high schools there weren't too many—belonged to the Academic Athletic League, which comprised an area similar to the present North Coast Section. There were various sub-leagues and sometimes divisions within the sub-leagues.

The Peninsula sub-league was also called the Peninsula Athletic League—a combination of names which grew from shortening "Peninsula sub-league of the Academic Athletic League." Newspaper mention of this Peninsula circuit has been traced back as far as 1906, when there was competition in rugby and baseball.

The track championships in 1910 marked the first time all Peninsula high schools competed formally at one gathering. Six schools—Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Sequoia and Mountain View—were entered. Palo Alto won.

Post-war individual track champions and their records in the Peninsula Athletic League finals:

880-YARD RUN			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Bornie Sellers	Burlingame	1:59.4
55	Tom Blackwood	M-A	1:58.7
54	Don Bowden	Lincoln	**1:58.2
53	Don Bowden	Lincoln	**1:57.0
52	Don Jahn	Burlingame	2:04.1
51	Bollinger	Jefferson	2:03.3
50	Larry Broeren	Sequoia	2:02.7
49	Bud Coffin	Lincoln	2:06.6
48	Herb Cohen	Lincoln	2:00.0
47	Herb Cohen	Lincoln	2:03.5
46	Wilbur	Lincoln	2:05.8
45	Bartholomew	Lincoln	2:06.4

MILE RUN			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Ron Larrieu	Palo Alto	**4:29.2
55	Ron Larrieu	Palo Alto	4:31.3
54	Roger Stephens	Palo Alto	**4:30.5
53	Roger Stephens	Palo Alto	4:36.7
52	Jack Jones	Sequoia	4:46.5
51	Carroll Williams	Lincoln	4:45.8
50	Joe Zanobini	Jefferson	4:36.2
49	Bob Green	Lincoln	4:42.3
48	Paul Bowen	Palo Alto	4:37.5
47	John Kaufman	San Mateo	4:37.5
46	Tom Liston	Lincoln	4:41.1
45	McGarrity	Lincoln	4:42.6
44	Dore Purdy	Lincoln	4:39.0

120-YARD HIGH HURDLES			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Ron Valentine	Carlmont	15.2
55	Reed Baird	Burlingame	15.0
54	Bob Newman	Burlingame	15.4
53	Chuck Henderson	SM	15.0
52	Jim Luttrell	Sequoia	14.9
51	Jim Luttrell	Sequoia	15.1w
50	Frank Harrison	San Jose	15.7w
49	Dick Welles	Lincoln	15.6
48	Melcher	Lincoln	16.1
47	Walt Miakenkoff	Burl.	15.4
46	Paul (Skip) Kent	Sequoia	15.5
45	Murphy	San Mateo	15.9
(P.A.L. record—14.3, Omar Cowles, Palo Alto, 1943.)			

100-YARD DASH			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Dick Brown	Lincoln	**10.9
55	Hank Olguin	Lincoln	10.1
54	John Tynan	Palo Alto	10.5
53	Hank Loumena	Burl.	*10.0
52	Bill Rupp	Sequoia	10.1
(Rupp tied record 10.0 in Trials.)			
51	Loren Sorenson	Palo Alto	10.1w
50	Al Tinker	San Mateo	10.3w
49	Bill Botieff	San Mateo	10.8
48	Chester Lax	San Mateo	10.2
47	Chester Lax	San Mateo	10.3
46	Franklin Johnson Jr.	PA	10.7
45	Bob Wood	Palo Alto	10.2

220-YARD DASH			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Dick Brown	Lincoln	22.2
55	Roger Peterson	Burl.	22.4
54	Hank Olguin	Lincoln	23.1
53	Bob Knott	Lincoln	23.1
52	Hank Loumena	Burl.	23.0
51	Art Hiatt	San Jose	22.6
50	Al Tinker	San Mateo	22.3w
49	Ron Dawson	Burl.	21.9w
48	Ted Murphy	Burl.	23.6
47	Chester Lax	San Mateo	22.9
46	Chester Lax	San Mateo	22.5
45	Ted Marr	San Mateo	22.6
(220 P.A.L. records—21.8, Peterson, San Jose, 1939.)			

440-YARD DASH			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Don Wetteland	Burl.	50.8
55	Roger Peterson	Burl.	*50.0

54	Floyd Arterburn	SM	50.5
53	Lloyd Carter	Palo Alto	50.7
52	Bill Rupp	Sequoia	50.1
(Rupp set record of 50.0 in Trials.)			
51	Bill Rupp	Sequoia	51.8
50	Dick Rittenmeyer	Burl.	52.4
49	Ed Craddock	Lincoln	52.6
48	Ed Craddock	Lincoln	52.2
47	Salvatore	Jefferson	52.0
46	Dick Webster	Lincoln	51.6
45	Franklin Johnson Jr.	PA	51.3

180-YARD LOW HURDLES			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Ron Valentino	Carl.	19.6
55	Dennis Ballam	Seq.	20.4
54	Bob Newman	Burl.	19.9
53	Del Kephart	Lin.	20.7
52	Chuck Henderson	SM	k
51	Jim Luttrell	Seq.	**19.4
(Luttrell also set P.A.L. record of 19.7 in trials.)			
50	Jim Luttrell	Seq.	20.1w
(Luttrell set P.A.L. record of 20.4 in trials.)			
49	Dave Conway	Seq.	20.4w
48	Frank Harrison	SJ	set P.A.L. record of 20.8 in trials.
47	Dick VanderBeets	Burlingame	tied record 20.9 in earlier heat of trials.)
46	Fitch	SM	21.5
45	Haizenpillar	Lin.	21.0
44	Walt Miakenkoff	Burl.	20.9
43	Paul (Skip) Kent	Seq.	24.5
42	Sam Thornton	PA	24.0

SHOT-PUT			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Jim Cadile	SJ	52-11
55	Gino Della Libera	SM	52-6 1/2
54	Gino Della Libera	SM	53-6 1/2
53	Andy Anderson	SM	53-4 1/2
52	Don Sonnichsen	PA	51-7
51	Welfrid Anderson	SM	50-5 1/2
50	Ron Gile	SM	51-11 1/2
49	Rudy Feldman	PA	50-10
48	Jim Brown	Seq.	49-7
47	George Cross	SM	**55-5 3/4
(Cross also set P.A.L. record of 52-8 in trials.)			
46	Paul Giansiracusa	SJ	48-3 1/4
45	Dick Bischoff	Lin.	46-8 1/4

DISCUSS			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Rich Bortolin	SM	138-6 3/4
55	Leon Krueger	Burl.	138-4
54	Rich Babia	PA	140-4
53	Del Kephart	Lin.	129-5 1/2
52	Don Mallinoff	PA	**147-4
51	Baker	Jeff.	129-10 3/4
50	Jack Herring	Lin.	120-3 3/4
49	Bill Mills	SM	125-4
48	Jones	Lin.	122-9
47	Lipsky	Lin.	127-0
46	Ivan Allain	Seq.	130-10
45	Elgin Martin	Lin.	126-5

BROAD JUMP			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Ron Valentine	Carl.	21-0
55	Kermit Walker	Seq.	21-1 1/2
54	Bergesen	Cap.	21-3 1/2
53	Frank Herrmann	WG	22-2
52	Frank Herrmann	WG	**23-2
51	Lou Bortolin	SM	22-1 1/2 w
50	Bob Hamilton	Burl.	21-6 3/4 w
49	Skip Hill	Lin.	21-2 3/4
48	Roger Redig	Burl.	21-7 1/2
47	Goff	Lin.	21-5
46	Eddie Mack	SM	20-9 3/4
45	Donny Carroll	Lin.	21-10 3/4

HIGH JUMP			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Gary Estabrook	Cap.	5-11 1/2
55	Jack Searfoss	Lin.	5-10 3/4
54	Jack Searfoss	Lin.	5-8
53	Gary Houser	Seq.	5-0
52	Frank Herrmann	WG	6-0
51	John Stewart	PA	6-2 1/2
50	John Stewart	PA	5-11 1/2
49	Kelly	Lin.	6-3 3/4
48	Vern Wilson	SJ	6-1 3/4
47	Dick Welles	Lin.	6-1 3/4
46	Chester Lax	SM	5-8

47	George Welns	SJ	5-9
46	Brent Anderson	SJ	5-11
45	Gus Gilmert	Lin.	5-7 1/2
(P.A.L. record—Les Steers, Palo Alto, 6-5 1/2 in 1937.)			

POLE VAULT			
Yr.	Name	School	Mark
56	Jim Matejks	Seq.	**13-3
55	Jess Undlin	Burl.	**12-4
54	Jess Undlin	Burl.	12-6
53	Dick Stein	Burl.	12-6
52	Chuck Hightower	SJ	12-6
51	Bill Garner	SM	11-8
50	Roger Wetzel	Seq.	11-6
49	Jim McIndoo	Burl.	11-6
48	Dick VanderBeets	Burl.	11-10 1/2
47	Danny Allen	PA	11-8
46	Edgerly	SM	11-8
45	Russell	SM	11-3 1/2
44	Bob Radcliff	SM	11-0
43	Bob Simpson	Seq.	10-9 1/2

880 RELAY			
Yr.	School	Team	Mark
56	Burlingame	(Don Wetteland, John Kimball, Stu Welch, Bill Bevilockway)	1:31.0
55	Sequoia	(Ralph Franzen, Ken Crawford, Dennis Ballam, Fred Pinetti)	**1:30.5
54	Burlingame	(Bob Newman, Pete Altieri, Moher, Roger Peterson)	1:32.6
53	San Mateo		1:33.1
52	Sequoia	(Ed Baume, John Byrne, Jim Luttrell, Bill Rupp)	1:33.3
51	San Mateo	(Al Tinker, Mickey Lax, Lou Bortolin, Durham)	1:34.0
50	Burlingame		1:34.0
49	Lincoln	(Robinson, Griffith, Ed Craddock, Skip Hill)	1:34.9
48	San Mateo	(Chester Lax, Jurgsten, Mitchell, Edgerly)	1:32.7
47	San Mateo	(Chester Lax, Tyo, Jungsten, Stillman)	1:32.8
46	Palo Alto	(Rich Redeker, Franklin Johnson Jr., Gene Arnold, John Walker)	1:35.4
45	Palo Alto	(Don Martin, Al Reynolds, Sam Thornton, Bob Wood)	1:32.8

(Marks made in trials were not considered for league records after trials were split into Northern and Southern qualifying meets in 1953.)

** New P.A.L. record
* Ties P.A.L. record
w Wind aided

TEAM WINNERS			
VARSITY		CLASS B	
Yr.	Team	Yr.	Team
34	Palo Alto	34	Sequoia
35	Sequoia	35	Sequoia
36	San Jose	36	San Jose
37	Palo Alto	37	San Jose
38	San Jose	38	San Jose
39	San Jose	39	San Jose
40	Palo Alto	40	Burlingame
41	San Jose	41	Burlingame
42	San Jose	42	San Mateo
43	Palo Alto	43	San Mateo
44	Lincoln	44	Palo Alto
45	Lincoln	45	Sequoia
46	Lincoln	46	Lincoln
47	Lincoln	47	Burlingame
48	Lincoln	48	San Jose
49	Lincoln	49	Burlingame
50	Burlingame	50	Palo Alto
51	Palo Alto	51	Sequoia
52	Sequoia	52	San Mateo
53	San Mateo	53	Menlo-Ath.
54	Burlingame	54	Sequoia
55	Burlingame	55	San Mateo
56	Burlingame	56	San Mateo

CLASS C		CLASS D	
Yr.	Team	Yr.	Team
34	Burlingame	34	San Jose
35	San Mateo	35	Palo Alto
36	Palo Alto	36	San Jose
37	Palo Alto	37	Palo Alto
38	San Jose	38	San Jose
39	San Jose	39	San Jose
40	San Jose	40	Sequoia
41	San Jose	41	San Mateo
42	San Jose	42	Sequoia
43	Sequoia	43	San Mateo
44	Palo Alto	44	San Jose
45	Sequoia	45	San Jose
46	Sequoia	46	Burlingame
47	Sequoia	47	Sequoia
48	San Mateo	48	San Mateo
49	Sequoia	49	San Jose
50	San Mateo		
51	San Jose		
52	San Mateo		
53	Capuchino		
54	Menlo-Ath.		
55	Palo Alto		
56	Menlo-Ath.		

(Class D competition discontinued after 1949.)