



**PREP**  
*Views and News*  
 by **Mike Nolan**

**CCS f-s cut unwise**

5-24

The Central Coast Section Board of Managers made a big mistake this week when it voted to eliminate frosh-soph competition in the CCS finals.

The ruling, effective next year, means frosh-soph track, swimming and cross country will effectively

end with each league's finals.

At a time when more youngsters should be encouraged to set goals and go after them, this comes as a particularly unwise move

Fortunately, however, the decision can and hopefully will be re-considered in time to save the big season-ending frosh-soph events next school year.

The motion to end frosh-soph CCS competition came up suddenly at the Board's last meeting; swimming and track coaches weren't even aware it was to be considered.

In fact the matter wasn't even referred back to the individual leagues for study and consideration before any action was taken.

Someone pulled a fast one here; why isn't quite clear. Most of the Board of Managers aren't swimming or track people; they probably don't understand the ramifications.

Arguments for the decision concerned making CCS competition uniformly for varsity athletes, since that's the way it is in tennis, basketball and the like.

Overlooked there was the important goal-oriented nature of track and swimming with regard to times and marks. This is crucial here.

Also mentioned was the cost of medals for CCS frosh-soph competitors, something like a piddling \$500-\$600. That's a cop-out if we ever heard one. Heck, if the CCS is that cheap, give ribbons to the frosh-soph kids instead of medals.

Not that the time factor means much in one meet, but the frosh-soph events also provide good entertainment for the spectators between varsity races. A track or swim meet can be run only so fast anyway; the athletes need to rest.

Evidently, certain people just don't understand the meaning a medal — and the opportunity to compete in the CCS finals — has for these young trackmen or swimmers.

We'll bet there aren't two track or swim coaches in the entire section who want this cut.

And we'll be the many parents who've seen their kids profit from the current setup over the past few years will agree.

We urge those concerned about this latest step backwards in prep sports to write and express your views to Gene Arnold, CCS Commissioner, 2464 Cottle Ave., San Jose 95125.

Otherwise, the kids will be the only losers.

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On the other hand, the CCS Board did make a very smart move when it dropped that silly cross country finals format of large, medium and small school races, and just made it one big scramble again.

That way, the section's top harriers will compete against each other no matter which school they attend, as first suggested in this corner last fall.

Plans are being made to revive the old East-West prep basketball game on a slightly broader scale, now that the North-South All-State Classic is defunct.

Veteran Gilroy coach Bob Hagen heads a committee to re-instate the game which proved so popular in 1967-69. Tentative plans call for the East (San Joaquin Valley and other more remote parts of Northern California to play the West (San Francisco, East Bay, CCS).

Everything's still in the talking stage, but the people involved are hopeful the first game will be played next year.

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Palo Alto baseball coach Bob Pederson deserves a word of commendation.

After working like heck just to get into the SPAL playoffs, first-year coach Pederson dropped two of his top players for blatant training violations the day before the playoffs began.

Men like Pederson — who wants to win as much as the next guy, to be sure — are the only solution for prima-donna athletes who have to learn the hard way. We need more like him; they're the real winners.