

Sweeping structural changes contemplated for CCS leagues

■ CHANGES

from Page 1D 1-29-92

ball in its new league, but its baseball and softball teams may not be as strong and might end up competing in the second or third divisions.

"These proposals in no way are etched in stone," said Manny Morales, the subcommittee chairman and principal at Mount Pleasant. "They are a beginning point to stimulate thinking (among school administrators) about the possibility of realignment in the Central Conference."

The realignment subcommittee is seeking permission from principals at the schools in the five leagues to accelerate the process allowed by CCS by-laws for possible realignment by the 1993-94 school year.

The next step would be to get the CCS board of managers to OK the accelerated process at its next meeting April 23. Should that occur, the subcommittee would start the realignment process in September.

Why board OK is needed

As it stands now, the CCS by-laws wouldn't allow the realignment process to begin until next January and would prevent actual realignment until the 1994-95 school year.

Although it will ultimately be up to the principals to determine whether there will be realignment, the principals may get some pressure from their bosses — the superintendents of their districts — to make it happen.

Tod Likins, superintendent of the Saratoga-Los Gatos Joint Union High School District, is pushing for realignment and is seeking the support of other superintendents. He said he will be discussing the subject this week with at least five superintendents from the county.

"Change is needed to create more equitable competition and to cut transportation costs by staying home and playing more schools in your general geographic area," Likins said.

Two previous efforts

"I tried twice to get the CCS to re-league when I was the principal at Saratoga, and it didn't happen. With the backing of the superintendents, it's my hope that it will get done this time."

CCS Commissioner Nancy Lazenby Blaser said she supports the concept.

"I think there is a need for it in some sports," she said. "A school may be strong in one sport and fit very nicely in that league but may be weak in another. It's no fun to be on a team that is always getting beat up."

"I think Manny and his subcommittee have done an excellent job of laying the foundation for possible realignment."

Lazenby Blaser, Morales, Likins and other school officials agree that realignment won't be easy because of such issues as league by-law differences, additional costs for transportation, breaking up rivalries and scheduling problems.

"I agree that there should be some sort of realignment, but I don't like the concept of the teams in your school playing in different (divisions)," Silver Creek girls' basketball coach Trish Groo said. "You would have a rivalry with a school in one sport and might not even play that school in another sport. I think the whole thing would be too confusing."

Differences in league by-laws include academic eligibility require-

ments, dates when teams can begin practicing, the number of regular-season games teams play in each sport and the amount schools are charged for league fees.

"One of the only ways we're going to get realignment to work is to have uniformity in the by-laws," said Marty Mathiesen Sr., commissioner of the De Anza Athletic League. "And I don't think it will happen without strong direction coming from the superintendents."

Cupertino Principal Barbara Nunes, vice president of the CCS board of managers and chairwoman of the section realignment committee, said she doesn't feel the leagues are that far apart in their by-laws.

"The Mount Hamilton and Santa Teresa leagues have differences in their by-laws, but that hasn't stopped them from competing in supplemental leagues in football," Nunes said.

The 10-school MHAL and six-school STAL merged their football leagues in 1989 to form two eight-team divisions.

But the difficulty in getting leagues to agree on restructuring can be seen in what is occurring between the eight-school DAAL and five-school WVAL.

Principals from the leagues have met twice in the last two months in an attempt to mix their teams in all sports in two leagues for the 1992-93 school year. They have been unsuccessful.

"There are philosophical differences in our leagues," said Earl Adams, commissioner of the WVAL. "But we seem to be working closer to an agreement. Our superintendents have told us to work it out, so it's up to us to get it done."

Said Nunes, "The bottom line in all of this is to do what is best for the kids."

Redrawing the map

In drawing up its three proposals for possible realignment of five leagues in Santa Clara County, a subcommittee of high school administrators and athletic directors used these criteria:

■ **GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY:** Schools whose enrollment areas have contiguous boundaries should be considered first for inclusion in the same leagues and/or divisions, along with traveling time and costs.

■ **ENROLLMENT:** Schools in basic leagues and/or divisions should have similar enrollments. A guideline might be 1,600 students and above in Division I; 1,100 to 1,599 in Division II; and fewer than 1,099 in Division III.

■ **HISTORY OF SPORTS:** The quality of the program should be considered when determining league and/or division assignments.

■ **NUMBER OF SPORTS PROGRAMS OFFERED:** All attempts should be made to place teams that offer comparable programs in the same league/division.

■ **DEMOGRAPHICS:** Each league/division should represent as closely as possible the ethnic composition of the area at large.

■ **LEAGUE SIZE:** No league or division should have fewer than six members.

■ **NO SACRED COWS:** The development of new leagues should not be hampered by longstanding traditions and/or arguments based on past practices.

Proposal I

EAST LEAGUE		WEST LEAGUE	
School	Enrollment	School	Enrollment
Independence ¹	3,985	Homestead ⁴	1,743
Oak Grove ¹	2,365	Fremont ⁴	1,630
Santa Teresa ¹	2,200	Monta Vista ⁴	1,544
Overfelt ¹	2,195	Los Gatos ⁴	1,425
Yerba Buena ¹	2,114	St. Francis ^{4 7}	1,385
Silver Creek ¹	2,008	Lynbrook ⁴	1,264
Mt. Pleasant ¹	1,978	Cupertino ⁴	1,099
Piedmont Hills ¹	1,838	Saratoga ⁴	916
Hill ¹	1,721	Leigh ⁵	1,786
Lick ¹	1,477	Prospect ⁵	1,396
Leland ²	1,683	Westmont ⁵	1,326
Gunderson ²	1,582	Del Mar ⁵	1,212
Willow Glen ²	1,378	Mitty ^{2 7}	946
Pioneer ²	1,257	Milpitas ⁶	2,187
Lincoln ²	1,140	Santa Clara ⁶	1,643
Presentation ^{2 3}	1,040	Wilcox ⁶	1,609
San Jose ²	969	Mtn. View ⁶	1,347

¹ — Present Mount Hamilton Athletic League members.
² — Santa Teresa Athletic League members.
³ — Girls' teams only.
⁴ — De Anza Athletic League members.
⁵ — West Valley Athletic League members.
⁶ — Santa Clara Valley Athletic League members.
⁷ — Girls' teams only.

Proposal II

Same as Proposal I, except Los Gatos from the DAAL, Milpitas from the SCVAL and Del Mar, Leigh and the Mitty girls from the WVAL would join present MHAL and STAL teams in the East League.

Proposal III

The East League would consist of all MHAL, STAL and WVAL schools, plus the Mitty and Presentation girls. The West League would be made up of DAAL and SCVAL schools, plus the St. Francis girls.

NOTE: Within the two large leagues, schools would be divided into divisions for each sport based on enrollment and strength of each school's team in that sport.

Valley Christian (enrollment 347), which will play an independent schedule in football next season and participates in the Christian/Private Schools Athletic Association of the Northern Conference in other sports, has indicated to the CCS that it wants to be included in the Central Conference realignment plans.