

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

2016 – A YEAR TO REMEMBER



I believe that 2016 will always be known as a year to remember. I say that because we ushered in the new year on January 27, when the CIF Southern Section Council voted to implement a competitive equity playoff model for several of our sports. That issue became the dominating theme for this particular year and generated a tremendous amount of discussion among all of our stakeholders. Now that 2016 is coming to a close, I thought it would be fitting to end my last message of this year with not my words, but the words of others who experienced and observed the competitive equity playoff model for the first time. So, in their own words...

Orange County Register, Corona del Mar coach Dan O'Shea said this after losing 36-35 to Sierra Canyon in double overtime last night in the Division 4 Championship Final, *"These playoffs were unbelievable," said O'Shea, whose squad rallied to edge Lompoc 35-34 in the semifinals and held off Colony 49-48 in the second round. "So proud of our kids. So proud of our coaching staff. We will live and die with these kids every single day...(This) just tells you how competitive these divisions are now with the competitive equity (model), and we love it."*

Russell Ingold, Writer – Fontana Herald News – *"The new system, geared toward achieving the laudable goal of competitive equity, made its debut this past week for football teams (including three from Fontana). So far, the results of the experiment appear to be positive. One of the key concerns about the competitive equity model was whether the new system would eliminate teams from the playoffs that would have automatically qualified under the former system of picking the top three teams from each league. But, as it turned out, the new system actually increased the number of participants; ten more third-place teams qualified this year."*

Loren Ledin, Writer, Ventura County Star – *"If the CIF-SS's new playoff structure taught us anything this fall, it's that virtually everybody has a chance in the right postseason division."*

Louis Brewster, Columnist, San Gabriel Valley Tribune – *"This year, like most others, there have been events – major and minor – that we will remember and be forever grateful for, including reorganizing the CIF Southern Section football playoff structure. It was a bit of a gamble on the sanctioning body's part to change where teams were placed, but it seemed to work out very well."*

Nathan Brown – Writer, The Desert Sun – *"Friday was a success for the CIF Southern Section's new competitive equity divisional system set in place starting this fall."*

Steve Fryer, Writer, Orange County Register – *"The new system worked out for Orange County football. In past seasons, there were the Southwest and Southern Divisions that were made up of Orange County leagues and teams. Now, those teams are spread across several divisions. The result was that Orange County had teams in seven different CIF-SS finals. That's a record."*

Aram Tolegian, Writer, San Gabriel Valley Tribune – *"Here's something you don't hear very often: CIF got it right. The first full set of results as it pertains to the new divisional grouping format for football are in and one doesn't need to wait for all the data to be crunched to determine it was a rousing success."*

As always, I sincerely thank you for your continued help and support, it is truly appreciated, and I wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

All the best,

Rob Wigzel

