

**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA**  
**INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION**  
**SOUTHERN SECTION**  
**CIFSS**



53<sup>RD</sup> historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

**WORLD WAR II**  
**“THE UNOFFICIAL FOOTBALL CHAMPION”**  
**1943**

**REDONDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL SEAHAWKS**

The World War II years proved to be a very difficult time for the CIFSS. Travel of teams was restricted due to gas rationing. Rubber was difficult to find for balls, money was scarce and teams could not play at night due to blackout restrictions. Many of the schools in the CIFSS went to an intra-mural type sports program and leagues were bunched together to deal with transportation restrictions (streamlined into 14 geographical compact groups). Coaches were difficult to find as most of the young men were off fighting in the war. The CIFSS even restricted the printing of the “CIFSS Monthly Bulletin” to save money. The 1943 football season was limited to 6 games and no playoffs. Numerous teams lost valuable letterman that would have returned as seniors, but were instead drafted into the service.

Redondo High School won the CIFSS Football Championship in 1942 under coach Russell Striff over Alhambra High School by a score of 21 – 14. Because of the fact that Redondo was the returning Champion and represented a very competitive Bay League it was decided that the winner of the Redondo “Seahawks” and Santa Monica “Vikings” game would be crowned the “unofficial” CIFSS Football Champion. Santa Monica High School won the title in 1941. If you look in the CIFSS Record Book under ALL TIME FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS you will see listed 1943 with the “@” sign next to Redondo. The “@” sign is defined at the bottom of the page and states, “No official playoffs - undefeated Redondo claimed the title.”

Redondo had an excellent football team that would go undefeated for four years and no one would play them in a playoff game in 1945 because they were so good. 4,500 fans showed up at Santa Monica Municipal Stadium on a Wednesday afternoon, November 24, 1943, to see the Seahawks, under Coach Harold Grant, defeat the Vikings by a score of 27 – 13. It was a Thanksgiving clash and after the game Coaches Grant and U.C. Uhls, “were paraded around, only to end up under the showers, clothes and all...” The powerful Red and White Seahawks were led by their All-CIF first team selection halfback Ronnie Dean, a senior 6’ 148 pounder. It was the 16<sup>th</sup> straight win for Redondo. It is interesting to note that Redondo’s “B” team also defeated Santa Monica for the mythical lightweight championship. The varsity team at their banquet, in a show of class, awarded a sweater to the janitor of the boys’ gym and a gold football charm to the elected football sweetheart of 1943.

