



## CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION

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### LAST NIGHTS DIVISION III BOYS GAME WAS HELD BEFORE A MORE THAN CAPACITY CROWD.

Our apologies to those of you who were unable to get in to see the Division III Boys game last evening at Foothill College. We know that many of you drove over the hill, paid to park and then were unable to get into the gymnasium and we feel terrible about that. This is first, a public apology to all of you, but also an explanation of how we had no choice but to play the game at Foothill College.

We first would like to thank Foothill, Shannon Rosenberg, the boys coach, his players, the policeman and our staff for all their help in handling this difficult situation. Foothill rearranged events for us to be there Friday night and we greatly appreciate it, because there was no other gym as big available in the Central Coast Section and we would have had to turn even more folks away at any other venue that was available.

The CCS procures sites well in advance of the playoffs. In the case of basketball we have our dates out to the local college sites for multiple years ahead of time. We have been working with the major college sites on this event in earnest since September in attempt to work around their own regularly-scheduled events. All the colleges have been terrific in trying to work with us, but in most cases their hands were tied by their own policies and events being held in their own facilities.

- **Santa Clara University**—not available, hosting the WCC
- **San Jose State University**—not available on Saturday—hosting their final men's game of the year. We attempted to work with San Jose State to have our D-3 finals after or before their men's game. Fortunately for them, unfortunately for us, that game is being televised and that requires them to block out the entire day for that one game, so we were unable, despite their best attempts to help us, to give us any time on Saturday. Division I and II have historically been our largest crowds, hence they were scheduled there Friday. Had we moved Division II to Foothill, we would have had the same problem and turned many of their crowd away as well. When schedules are set, we don't always know which schools will be in the finals, so we do our best to schedule our historically biggest games at our largest venues. Also the semi-final and quarter final spectator counts for Santa Cruz and Burlingame were no indication of the huge numbers of fans that wished to attend the finals.
- **Stanford University**—They were unavailable both days due to their own events in their gymnasiums
- The next biggest gym in the bay area is **Independence High School**—holds about 3,000. We were informed by them in January that the renovation of their gymnasium was not going to be completed as scheduled and are still under construction, so that gym was not available to us for Basketball or Wrestling, due to circumstances beyond their control.
- The next biggest high school gymnasium holds approximately 2,500. **Foothill College** is the biggest junior college gym and has just undergone a beautiful renovation. They seat approximately 2,700. They were so terrific and moved one of their own events out of their gym on Friday to accommodate us. They were not available Saturday, as their women are playing at home. Had they not been so generous in working with us, we would have been at an even much smaller venue and had to turn even more people away.
- **HP Pavilion** was not available—hosting the PAC 10 and is more costly than our school association can afford.

Again, we have been working with these great folks at our local colleges for months on our finals, unfortunately, despite everyone's desire to help us and provide our kids a great venue to play AND a venue sufficient to accommodate our crowd, it simply was the biggest gym available for that game.

I further want to commend the great fans who were outside standing in the doorways watching the game. What a wonderful group of people you were. We certainly appreciate your understanding and graciousness in making the best of a bad situation. Needless to say it was a rough night for our staff, knowing we were disappointing a thousand or so great fans, but those of you who stayed and watched from outside the doorways, were a great encouragement to us and I wanted to say thanks!

The other "rumor" I want to dispel is that the gym was full of St. Ignatius and Mills fans who came for the girls game prior to the boys. This simply is not true. There were approximately 200 people in the gym from SI and Mills when the girls game started. Santa Cruz and Burlingame fans began arriving in the first quarter of the girls game. By the end of the girls game the stands were nearly full with Santa Cruz and Burlingame fans. The SI and Mills fans all left with the exception of maybe a handful of folks, so contrary to what was being said in the crowd outside the gymnasium, it was not a gym full of SI and Mills fans watching the Burlingame/Santa Cruz match up.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding, we couldn't feel worse that so many fans were unable to watch this game.