



Staff Report

February 12, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council
FROM: Sean Rabé, Town Manager
DATE: February 12, 2019
RE: Direction to Mayor on Council Statement On Del Oro Football Title

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Council provide direction to Mayor Tim Onderko regarding whether or not the Town Council should formally weigh in on Del Oro Football being stripped of its CIF Section Title.

Issue Statement and Discussion

Del Oro Football was recently stripped of its CIF Section Title due to what has been described as a clerical error. Mayor Onderko has requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion by Council.

CEQA Requirements

There are no CEQA requirements associated with this action.

Financial and/or Policy Implications

None.

Attachments

- A. Loomis News Article dated January 25, 2019

Auburn Journal

Friday Jan 25 2019 | 5 comments

18

Del Oro football forced to forfeit playoff victories

Discovery of ineligible player forces Section's hand

By: Nick Pecoraro



On the playing field, the Del Oro football team rode an incredible stretch of postseason games to a CIF Division 2-AA state championship game this past season.

Players, coaches, fans, families, fellow students and observers of all sorts will have memories of a triumphant 2018 for the Black and Gold in Loomis.

But on paper, it will read as if none of it ever happened.

After one of the most successful seasons in Golden Eagles' football history, the Del Oro team was dealt a gut-wrenching blow Thursday as the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section office stripped its playoff victories for the use of an ineligible player.

Sac-Joaquin Section Assistant Commissioner Will DeBoard said that the section office received a call about a week and a half ago from someone mentioning that Del Oro may have used the ineligible player during its Nov. 9 quarterfinal playoff game against Tracy. Del Oro was asked to investigate.

“A violation of Bylaw 207 was discovered – this is a transfer student who wasn’t eligible to compete,” DeBoard said.

Specifically, the Section’s bylaw 207.3, regarding athletic transfer eligibility, states that, “Any athletic contests in which an ineligible student has participated either intentionally or unintentionally, involving both team and individual sports, must be forfeited.”

Furthermore, in the “penalties” section of the bylaws, it states that no matter how briefly the ineligible player participated or how much – or little – impact he or she had on the outcome of the game, it is grounds for “disqualification from playoff and championship competition for all seasons in which the student is a member of the school’s team,” and includes “divestment from the school of all trophies, banners and other indicia of athletic success obtained while the student was a member of the school’s team.”

Essentially, although the ineligible player was said to have no significant influence on the outcome of the 29-point victory for Del Oro, per the section bylaws, the program is forced to forfeit each game that followed for the Golden Eagles, including the section championship win over Central Catholic and the Northern California title game victory over St. Francis of Mountain View.

Del Oro appealed the ruling to the Section Executive Committee, DeBoard said, but was soon denied.

What would have been the Golden Eagles’ 12th overall section banner must now be returned to the section office. According to DeBoard, the 2018 portion of the section’s Division II history books will read “vacated”.

“It’s an unfortunate situation all around,” said Deboard.

Ironically, Del Oro’s scheduled section semifinal opponent, Jesuit, suffered the same fate during the postseason. The Marauders also self-reported a violation of an ineligible player during two playoff wins against Woodcreek and Granite Bay.

Per reports, both instances have been said to be due to “clerical oversight” and neither coach intentionally or knowingly inserted an ineligible player.

A season that saw the Golden Eagles fight to earn a 13-2 record will unfortunately be reduced to nine wins against five losses. Since the Jesuit playoff win was via forfeit, DeBoard said that it would be considered a “non-game”.

At press time, Del Oro head coach Jeff Walters nor Athletic Director Geoff Broyles had returned calls for comment.