

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

# O.C. All-Star games impacted by COVID-19

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Orange County All-Star competitions have long provided lasting memories for student-athletes at the end of their senior year of high school.

As steps have been taken to slow the spread of the coronavirus, the impact on athletics has been immeasurable.

The 53rd annual Orange County High School All-Star Baseball Game, presented by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim, has been canceled.

Joe Dale, the chairman of the All-Star Baseball Committee for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim, said that rosters will not be produced for the game, noting that only about a third of the season had been played.

"It truly is a major disappointment," Dale said of canceling the game, which had been scheduled for May 26 at Dee Fee Field in Anaheim. "It's a big program that we work for all year. We have a lot of fun. The kids get to know each other. They don't spend a lot of time together, but they just bond and we hear from them later on that they've stayed in touch through the years."

"We have about 143 players that have made it into the major leagues over the years, so we won't be able to match this year's players up against that list, but that's just another part of the loss."

The Orange County Softball Coaches All-Star Classic, in its 22nd year, and the Orange County vs. Inland Empire All-Star

Softball Game also were canceled.

Premier Girls Fastpitch is the presenting sponsor for both games. The Orange County game was set for May 19 at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, while the Orange County vs. Inland Empire game would have been on May 20 at Big League Dreams in Chino Hills.

Dan Hay, the president of PGF, said that the decision to cancel the All-Star games coincided with the cancellation of the high school season on April 3.

"When [CIF] came out and canceled the official season and the championship season altogether, that's when we just decided to call it a day from the high school side of things," he said.

Hay added that the All-Star teams will still be selected, and an official list of those who would have played will be put out.

Newport Harbor High girls' volleyball coach Dan Glenn, who is helping to organize the 43rd Dave Mohs Memorial Orange County All-Star volleyball matches, believes that producing rosters is the right thing to do.

"I really want to make sure we do that because the spring sports have gotten absolutely crushed," Glenn said. "I still think that they should try to pick an All-CIF and do all that. I think they should do as much as they can."

The volleyball season had not quite reached the league portion of the schedule, but many of the top teams had already seen action in several



**ESTANCIA** starting pitcher Jake Covey delivers against Costa Mesa during a tiebreaker game to determine second place in the Orange Coast League on May 11, 2018.

Don Leach  
Staff  
Photographer

tournaments. Newport Harbor had already competed in the Tesoro Tournament, the Orange County Championships, and the Best of the West Invitational in San Diego.

Glenn's son, Jaden, bound for UC Santa Barbara, was a senior libero for Corona del Mar. Glenn did not miss any of his son's matches this season.

He sat on the bench for the Newport Harbor boys' volleyball team when matches did not overlap with one for CdM.

Glenn added that decisions on whether the All-Star matches occur do not need to be made until May, but he said the teams will be formed, whether the event happens or not.

The Orange County Boys' and Girls' All-Star Basketball Games are scheduled for May 9 at Cypress College, but event organizer Jesse James indicated that the games could be pushed back in response to the coronavirus.

All-Star teams have been picked in basketball. On the boys' side, Estancia coach Xavier Castellano

has been chosen to head the South roster.

Ethan Barnella (Marina), Judah Brown (Pacifica Christian), Jake Covey (Estancia), Brian Pacheco (Los Amigos) and Jack Stone (CdM) were selected to the South roster.

Castellano knew that baseball was Covey's first love in sports, but he said that the senior center was excited about the opportunity to be on the same team one more time.

"When I kind of mentioned that he had been nominated to play in the All-Star game, he was thinking about it," Castellano said of breaking the news to Covey. "Then I asked him again, and I said, 'Jake, if you do, I get to coach you.'"

"We were both looking forward to it."

Locals chosen to compete for the South roster on the girls' side were Taylor Fullbright (Edison), Greta Graeler (Marina), Kat Luu (Fountain Valley) and Marisa Tanga (Huntington Beach).

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**DRAFT**

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the folks at Irrelevant Week have long celebrated the last selection as the No. 1 pick in their hearts.

The idea of Mr. Irrelevant was brought forth by Paul Salata, who firmly believed that being picked, regardless of draft position, was a cause for celebration. Honoring the last choice in the draft is an underdog story everyone can get behind.

As the country is largely staying at home, that allowed for the 93-year-old Salata to be a part of the draft festivities once again.

Melanie Salata-Fitch, Paul's daughter and the CEO of Irrelevant Week, was able to bring her father over to participate in the taping of a lead-in that was to be featured in the production of the NFL Draft.

"They did a live-stream with a camera that we had here," Salata-Fitch said. "We set it up with lighting and the camera, but it went live to the production in New York, and then they're going to edit it down."

Of course, as long as no assumptions are made that the 255th and final pick of the draft will remain with the New York Giants, the timing of the taping is, in fact, irrelevant. Those bases were covered with a generic "Mr. Irrelevant 255" jersey that is white with black lettering.

There are also 58 draft prospects featured via remote video to show their reactions during the draft.

"Roger [Goodell] is just going to be in his home," Salata-Fitch said. "There is a production team that will be getting these feeds. That's how they will be trying to switch in a timely manner so that you can see the reaction of the player when his

name is called. "The team war rooms will have cameras set up, too. It's going to be quite the production."

If the coronavirus had not altered the original plans for the NFL Draft, Salata-Fitch would have been celebrating her 65th birthday in Las Vegas on Saturday.

Not to worry. She is perfectly happy at home with her husband, Ed. The couple has been married for 30 years, and Ed has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Mr. Irrelevant tradition throughout.

Salata-Fitch said that they are excited about the draft, and she joked that they might even watch it together in the same room.

Irrelevant Week has had to be flexible to accommodate the schedule of the team that makes the last selection in the NFL Draft. The annual celebration was scheduled for June 22-27, but as the new Mr. Irrelevant will hold that title for a year, the Irrelevant Week festivities can be moved as needed.

The coronavirus pandemic has taken its toll on families, and Irrelevant Week is once again working with Serving People In Need (SPIN) to help out.

"SPIN's demand has gone up, so far, just as of [Tuesday], they've received 181% more calls than ever before, so they've got their hands full," Salata-Fitch said. "We think it's important to help these families, help the kids that are with these families, families that were in transitional housing, [that] have lost their jobs."

"We're focused on making sure that the impact on these kids is as minimal as possible, so SPIN is our main charity that we'll be helping this year."

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**SOULELES**

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that I know and am very confident will be able to provide support during this time of transition," Kim said at a Thursday news conference.

On Monday, Souleles informed Kim and the Health Care Agency's interim director, Bob Wilson, that he is retiring.

"I am proud of the accomplishments of public health over the past 16 years I have been here, and know that the staff in Public

Health Services will continue to do good work moving forward," Souleles wrote in a letter addressed to Wilson.

Lilly Simmering, the health agency's assistant director, will step into Souleles' role while the county seeks a permanent replacement.

On Monday, the county should announce Sanchez's replacement, Kim said.

In daily virus updates, the county reported nearly 80 more cases and two more deaths Thursday.

Cases now sit at 1,827 total infections and 36 deaths.

The Health Care Agency also said 158 people were hospitalized with the virus Thursday, 59 of them in intensive care.

Among the 36 people who have now died, 21 were older than 65, the age group considered to be most at risk.

Here are the latest case counts for select cities, with their numbers per 10,000 residents:

- Anaheim: 239 (6.7 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Santa Ana: 202 (6 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Huntington Beach: 162 (8 cases per 10,000 resi-

dents)

- Irvine: 119 (4.2 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Newport Beach: 90 (10.3 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Laguna Beach: 36 (15.4 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Costa Mesa: 33 (2.8 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Fountain Valley: 25 (4.4 cases per 10,000 residents)

Updated figures are posted daily at [ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc](http://ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc).  
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**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

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**H.B.**

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of what we do in our city of Huntington Beach to make the recovery as quick and as robust as possible," Semeta said.

"For economic recovery, you know, really, what government can do is really just get out of the way. And what we can do to facilitate economic recovery is ... make City Hall more business friendly in getting businesses restarted, new businesses have started and follow through on the permitting process," Councilman Mike Posey said.

"I love this idea, and I know that the county is doing something similar. So I hope that whatever task force that we create in

Huntington Beach can have some sort of partnership with the county and all the work that they're doing," Councilwoman Kim Carr said.

The City Council also unanimously approved an Emergency Facility Use Agreement with Orange County to establish an emergency shelter at 17631 Cameron Lane for homeless residents in Orange County who are not COVID-19 positive and do not show symptoms.

The collaboration will help the county meet its effort to supply 2,300 new emergency beds for homeless residents, as mandated by Gov. Gavin Newsom in March. The estimated \$2-million project would be paid for, developed and operated by the county,

though at the end of the agreement, the facility will be transferred to Huntington Beach and could be used for the city's own infrastructure for homelessness services. There will be no capital or operating costs to the city under the proposed agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Jill Hardy requested that, as part of the project, the city staff work with the post office to reassign the property's address to Beach Boulevard — where the property backs up to and will more clearly correlate with planned ingress and egress.

The City Council also gave the green light to a payment deferral program for local businesses that aims to provide a cushion for business license renewals and transient occu-

pancy taxes payments. Local businesses would still owe their business license and TOT payment due, however payments owed in the period of March 1 through July 31 would be given a grace period until June 30, 2021. All payments are still owed in full.

The proposal was "developed to provide business support in a manner that does not relieve the obligation of businesses, hotels and motels to pay their requisite taxes, fees, and assessment," the staff report said.

The program may also defer business improvement district assessments on properties and business for respective BIDs that direct the city to do so.

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**FOOD**

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hearing from families and residents about a need for food in the city about three weeks ago.

"The question was how are we going to feed Costa Mesa," Tangie said. "[Families] were just destroyed, so many friends losing their jobs. ... They were scared, they didn't know what to do."

The three women met over Zoom to brainstorm and work out the kinks in an idea that germinated into a full-blown operation involving nearly half a dozen local organizations, over 100 volunteers and about 60,000 pounds of food.

Around 5 a.m., two Goodwill of Orange County trucks, packed with food from the Orange County food bank, rolled onto the IKEA lot.

Volunteers, who had signed up to help through

the collaborative nonprofit organization Trellis, began arriving a half hour later, many adorned in "Love Costa Mesa" T-shirts.

The Power of One Foundation, a Santa Ana-based nonprofit that is also conducting food distribution at the MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana, trained them on the workflow.

Even before 9 a.m., cars packed the expansive parking lots. Marr, Reynolds and Tangie had asked several community organizations — including Save Our Youth, Project Hope Alliance and Share Our Selves — to invite their participants to the giveaway.

Within three days, Marr said, 1,000 people had signed up for supplies.

"Give everything that you can get out," Andre Roberson, founder of Power of One Foundation, instructed his army of volunteers.

Food pantries across the

**"I was just so excited to get out of my house and do something I felt was useful."**

— Andrea Marr  
Costa Mesa councilwoman

county have been swamped since the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic, said Isabel Carpenter, Trellis' director of operations and volunteer engagement — many have had to close. Meanwhile, more families are flocking to them, hungry.

"I've heard numbers like the need has quadrupled," Carpenter said. "It's just a really crazy strain on the system."

James Barkley, a Goodwill truck driver from Costa Mesa, watched the well-oiled operation from a shady spot beside his

truck.

"I love it," he said, surveying the scene of colorfully masked workers delivering supplies. "I hope it stays like this. I hope everybody still comes together, is polite like everyone is — a lot more thankful."

The team is working on coordinating a second food distribution next month, with the goal of making them regular occurrences, Tangie said.

"Costa Mesa came together in a beautiful, beautiful way," she said.

The next phase, Tangie hopes, is to repurpose IKEA's cafeteria kitchens into food canning and preservation areas.

She also hopes to transform the farmers market that typically runs at the Orange County fairgrounds into a drive-through market at the IKEA parking lot.

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