High Schools

All-star football game recovering fr

By Wayne Washington
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It could have been a black cloud, as dampening and threatening as a rainstorm.

Instead, the Almaden Valley Rotary Club, which will sponsor the 16th annual Santa Clara County high school all-star football game at 8 p.m. Friday, seems to have recovered from the storm warnings of a month ago, when San Jose State officials told the club that 28,400-seat Spartan Stadium would not be available for the game.

The Rotary Club simply swallowed hard — the $3,000 it had spent printing tickets, fliers and posters listing Spartan Stadium as the site was difficult to choke down — and moved the game to San Jose City College's Jaguar Stadium.

Because of the confusion it might have created, Jack O'Brien, chairman of the game's organizing committee, said the tickets were not reprinted. Those sold before the move was announced will be honored, and tickets are still available from Ticketron and the San Jose Box Office for $5.

With SJS out of the picture this year — officials there said the field couldn't be made ready after a motorcycle event last month — O'Brien said 9,000-seat Jaguar Stadium may become a permanent home of the game.

"We're certainly going to be looking at the site for future consideration," he said. "We just want to see how this year's experience goes."

This year's experience may net less money for charity because of the move.

In the past, the Rotary Club donated about $2,000 of the game's proceeds to the Spartan Foundation at SJS for use of Spartan Stadium, and the rest went to charity.

This year, O'Brien said, the Rotary Club must pay $375 for use of Jaguar Stadium and also has to pay for custodial costs, which could be as much as $3,000.

Still, O'Brien said, the attitude of San Jose City College officials has impressed him.

Overfelt's Dave Johnson, who will coach the South team's defense, said the players are not bothered by the move.

The Game at a Glance

- **WHAT:** The 16th annual Santa Clara County high school all-star football game.
- **WHEN:** Friday, 8 p.m.
- **WHERE:** San Jose City College's Jaguar Stadium
- **TICKETS:** Available for $5 at Ticketron and the San Jose Box Office.

PUBLIC HEAR

from shift to SJCC

He said the main concern of the players he has been working with is trying to stop the North's two offensive schemes — a run-and-shoot led by Ryan Hancock and a wishbone led by Jason Tyrus.

Hancock, who has signed a football letter-of-intent to attend Brigham Young University, starred for Monta Vista in its run-and-shoot offense. Tyrus said he ran a wishbone offense during his freshman and sophomore years at Milpitas.

"I like to run the ball," Tyrus said. "And most of the passing (in the wishbone) is sprint-out, so I get a chance to move."

That movement, and the fact that the game's rules prohibit teams from using anything but a simple defense with no more than five coverage schemes, has Johnson worried.

"I don't feel you should let the defensive guys just stand there and be blocking dummies," he said. "You want a good game, but the defensive players feel they have something to prove, too."

Tyrus said it is the defense that has the advantage in all-star game preparation.

"It's harder to get the offense together because you've got to get the timing down," he said. "The defense can come together pretty quickly. They just hit people."