



## CITY OF COMPTON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Compton High School Wins First Championship in Over 40 Years**

*---Local Triumph For the City of Compton ----*

Compton, CA - After years of hard work and determination for the Compton High School Tarbabes Boys Basketball Program, on March 2, 2015 the team brought home its first CIF championship since 1969. Compton put on a relentless display of athletic domination against Redlands East Valley in the CIF-SS Division 2A championship game Saturday at Honda Center, defeating the Wildcats 63-48.

The win is the eighth CIF title for boys basketball program.

This was a prized accomplishment for Coach Tony Thomas and longtime athletic director Maxine Kemp. Tony Thomas' father Eddie Thomas was an assistant coach on the Compton championship teams in the 60s. Eddie Thomas, who the gym is named after, was head coach of the Tarbabes from 1972 until his passing in 1987, and helped lead the school through the riots in the early 70s. Although Eddie Thomas never won a championship as a head coach, his son can now celebrate this accomplishment and the foundation laid by his father.

"This game means a lot to me," said Coach Tony Thomas. "The school hasn't won it in 46 years, and to watch the city go from the 60s and 70s with all the drugs and the gangs. After all that transition, for us to pull it through—means a lot."

"Coach Tony Thomas is native resident of Compton, so bringing a championship the city that he was raised in has special meaning," said 4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Willie O. Jones. "Just as LeBron James is trying to do in Cleveland, Coach Thomas has brought that same spirit to the Men's Varsity basketball team. Congratulations to Compton High School C.I.F Southern Section 2A Champions."

**About the City of Compton** - The City of Compton, California covers approximately 10.2 square miles in Los Angeles County, California situated south of downtown Los Angeles. With a current population of almost

100,000 citizens, Compton is known as the “Hub City” because of its unique position in almost the exact geographical center of Los Angeles County, Compton is strategically located along the Alameda Corridor, a passageway of 25 percent of all U.S. waterborne international trade. Compton is rapidly emerging as a large industrial center in Los Angeles County for transit and distribution, business services, high technology, home and lifestyle products, metals, financial services, and textile manufacturing.

**About Compton High School** – Compton High School first opened in 1896 as Compton Union High School and then later reestablished as Compton Senior High School in the 1950s after Compton College separated from the high school district and opened its new campus. The mission of Compton High School is to empower teachers to facilitate their student's learning and to create an environment where students can attain their highest potential in personal and academic excellence. The Compton High School community (students, teacher, staff, parents & business partners) is committed to fostering academic excellence that instills character development, life-long learning, respect, self-discipline, collaboration, and communication skills. Compton High commits to expanding community partnership into mutually beneficial relationships with post secondary education institutions, career and industry resources, civic and social organizations and student volunteer service to others.

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