CSUF’S “TUFFY” THE TITAN

What began as a practical joke transformed into the first elephant race on a college campus. This event attracted elephants from colleges around the nation to Cal State Fullerton, then known as Orange County State College (OCSC). The Elephant Racing Club from OCSC sent invitations to 50 colleges challenging them to the competition on the fields in the northwest corner of the campus. Entrants came from all over southern California, including the University of Southern California and Long Beach State. The race even attracted entries from as far away as the University of Washington and Harvard University.

To publicize the event, a circus-like elephant called Tuffy the Titan was used. This elephant “mascot” began appearing on sweaters and notebook covers around the campus. With no other mascot, the elephant was unofficially adopted. A crowd estimated at more than 10,000 people turned out on “Dumbo Downs” on May 11, 1962 to witness history as the campus hosted the “First Intercollegiate Elephant Race in Human History.”

“ONCE A TITAN, ALWAYS A TITAN!”