

Warriors to Wildcats: Uni's mascot name-change story

From the [Uni Hi Education Foundation's Warriors & Wildcats Report](#) no. 4, from October 15, 2014:

When and why did Uni's nickname change from Warriors to Wildcats?

The Los Angeles Unified School District determined that three high schools – Birmingham, Gardena and University – were to change their team nicknames to eliminate references to American Indians, in September 1997. The decision was challenged in Federal court by alumni from Birmingham, but was upheld in mid-1998. Soon after, Uni students voted to become “Wildcats.”

Today, Birmingham's Braves are now the Patriots and Gardena's Mohicans have become Panthers.



The *Los Angeles Times* had more on the story of nicknames changes across American colleges and high schools on 2013 (for the full story, [click here](#)):

CHANGING SPORTS TEAM NICKNAMES IS COMMON

More than 600 colleges and high schools have done away with Native American nicknames and mascots that people found racist or offensive.

Los Angeles Times • December 15, 2013 • By Kevin Baxter

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L.A. HIGH SCHOOLS

In 1997, the board of the Los Angeles Unified School District passed a resolution banning the use of Native American mascots and nicknames. The ban withstood a federal court challenge, forcing University High (Warriors to Wildcats), Gardena High (Mohicans to Panthers), Birmingham High (Braves to Patriots) and Wilmington Middle School (Warriors to Jaguars) to change nicknames. However, the California Racial Mascots Act, which would have eliminated Native American mascots and nicknames statewide, was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.