



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2021 VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

2 State Champions

1997 Division II
2011 Division I

3 CIF-Southern Section Champions

1996 Division V
1997 Division V
2011 PAC-5

26 CIF-Southern Section Playoff Appearances

1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997,
1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,
2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017
2019 & 2021 (Fall)

4 League Champions

1996, 1997, 2000 & 2001

32-Plus Varsity Seasons

Overall Record: 232-136-3 (.629)
Home: 127-62-3 (.669)
Road: 105-74-0 (.583)

7 Nationally-Ranked Teams

1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2011, 2012 & 2017



Santa Margarita Catholic Eagles (6-4) at Servite Friars (8-2)

LeBard Stadium - Orange Coast College
(Costa Mesa, California)

Thursday, November 11, 2021 • 7:00 p.m.



LAST GAME RECAP & HIGHLIGHTS VS. ORANGE LUTHERAN

Dense fog rolled in after halftime but that didn't stop Santa Margarita Catholic from ending the regular season with a win. Quarterback Jaxon Potter was on fire as he hit 35-of-55 passes (63.6%) for 462 yards and three touchdowns. All of Potter's attempt and completion numbers bested previously established school marks, while the passing yards were second all-time. He also rushed for one score. The talented junior now has 2,703 passing yards for the season with 23 touchdown passes. Three of Potter's receivers smashed the 100-yard receiving barrier: Jalen Jones (135), Niko Lopez (134) and Ty Benefield (101). One of Benefield's receptions, of 67 yards, helped set up the game winning score. Running back Jake Foye rushed for 137 yards and one touchdown. Offensively, it was a stat freaks delight. Defensively, Hero Kanu had six tackles (4 for loss), one sack and one forced fumble. Linebacker Jacob Bower had five total tackles, while Noah Sulick had five tackles (2 for loss) and one interception. As a team, the Eagles also broke the single game record for offensive plays from scrimmage with 89.

Prep RedZone - Southern California Top Performances: Week 10



Defense: Hero Kanu
Passing: Jaxon Potter
Receiving: Jalen Jones and Niko Lopez
Rushing: Jake Foye

All-Time SMCHS Passing Record Book Entries

Most Pass Attempts in Single Game: **55 by Jaxon Potter**. Previous: 47 by K.J. Costello vs. Orange Lutheran - 2014
Most Pass Completions in Single Game: **35 by Jaxon Potter**. Previous: 34 by K.J. Costello vs. Orange Lutheran - 2014
Most Passing Yards in Single Game (2nd): **462 by Jaxon Potter**. Others - See chart below

Most Passing Yards in Single Game at SMCHS - All-Time			
Quarterback	Yards	Opponent	Date
K.J. Costello	495	Orange Lutheran	October 17, 2014
Jaxon Potter	462	Orange Lutheran	October 29, 2021
K.J. Costello	446	@ Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas)	August 30, 2013
Carson Palmer	423	Tustin (CIF Playoffs) @ Cal-State Fullerton	December 13, 1997
K.J. Costello	423	@ Santiago (Corona)	September 4, 2015

All-Time SMCHS Receiving Record Book Entries

3 Players with 100-Plus Receiving Yards in Same Game at SMCHS - All-Time

Receivers	Receiving Yards	Combo Yards	Opponent	Date
Kyle Sweet	235	475	Orange Lutheran	October 17, 2014
Conner Bianchini	139			
Noah Rasheed	101			
Niko Lopez	134	370	Orange Lutheran	October 29, 2021
Jalen Jones	135			
Ty Benefield	101			
Mike O'Gorman	127	365	Tustin (CIF) @ Cal-State Fullerton	December 13, 1997
John Minardi	124			
Greg Orlando	114			

All-Time SMCHS Combined Offense Record Book Entries

3 Players with 100-Plus Receiving Yards and 1 Player with 100-Plus Rushing Yards in Same Game at SMCHS - All-Time

Players	Offensive Yards	Combo Yards	Opponent	Date
Jalen Jones	Rec = 135	507	Orange Lutheran	October 29, 2021
Niko Lopez	Rec = 134			
Ty Benefield	Rec = 101			
Jake Foye	Rush = 137	469	Tustin (CIF) @ Cal-State Fullerton	December 13, 1997
Mike O'Gorman	Rec = 127			
John Minardi	Rec = 124			
Greg Orlando	Rec = 114			
Bryant Wolfsberger	Rush = 104			

All-Time SMCHS Team Offense Record Book Entries

Most Offensive Plays from Scrimmage: 89 (34 rushing & 55 passing) Previous: 86 vs. Bishop Amat - 2014 (43 rushing & 43 passing)

***** Special Note**

Each week, Michael Huntley, prep football journalist from Orange County publishes his online column entitled: Hits, Misses and Helmet Stickers. On November 2 in the *Orange County Register*, Huntley recognized our own master statistician Shane Mielke with a "Huntley Hit" for his effort to keep the numbers straight during the fierce blanket of fog that engulfed Saddleback Stadium during the last home game versus Orange Lutheran.

HEAD COACH ANTHONY ROUZIER

Anthony Rouzier begins his second season as the Head Varsity Coach at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. Prior to taking the reigns of the program in the spring of 2021, Rouzier coached at SMC for three seasons, first serving as the linebacker coach and then as the Eagles' defensive coordinator. The path to Head Coach started on August 27, 2020 when Rouzier was named on an interim basis. He replaced Tim Walsh after his resignation from the position to focus on a medical issue. On February 5, 2021, Rouzier was named fulltime Head Coach by school President Andy Sulick.

Rouzier played collegiately at the University of Connecticut in 2005. There he was the first true freshman walk-on to start in the Division-era of the school. He then transferred to the University of Massachusetts as a scholarship athlete and was a member of two Colonial Athletic Conference championships teams. In the classroom, Rouzier earned All-Academic All-Conference honors in 2007 and 2008.

After his collegiate playing days, in 2014, Rouzier coached at Amherst Regional High School (Massachusetts) where he started as the linebacker coach and was promoted to Defensive Coordinator mid-season. Rouzier then proceeded to coach the outside linebackers at Winston-Salem State University (North Carolina) in the spring of 2015. Shortly after that,

he returned as a graduate assistant at his Alma Mater, the University of Massachusetts. There he worked with the defensive backs in 2015 and linebackers in 2016.

Rouzier then found his way to Europe to coach with the Hamburg Huskies of the German Football League. There, in 2017, he was the interim Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator. For his success, Rouzier was promoted to and accepted the Head Coaching position. Rouzier was also the Defensive Coordinator for the Under-17 Hamburg State All-Star team and worked with a recruiting service that helped European prospects earn Division 1 college scholarships in the United States. One of the other German coaches was current SMC assistant coach Sean Embree. It was Embree who convinced Rouzier that coaching at SMC would be worth his while and he soon found his way to South Orange County.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Rouzier married his wife Elwira, who he met in Germany in 2018. He holds Juris Doctor and Master's of Business Administration degrees from Florida International University and a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the University of Massachusetts. He is the co-creator of a children's book and non-profit organization that promotes health and wellness.

SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC - PLAYER NOTES, HIGHLIGHTS & STATS

1 Isreal Solomon | Defensive Back | Junior | 5-10 / 170

- Collected one interception in win at JSerra Catholic and loss at Servite

5 Jaxon Potter | Quarterback | Junior | 6-3 / 170

- Lit up the scoreboard in last second win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale. Set a new school-records for pass attempts (55) and pass completions (35) and threw for the second-most yards in a game (462). Scored the game-winning touchdown on a one-yard sneak with 0:13 seconds remaining. Nominated for Cal-Hi Sports (calhisports.com) State and SoCal Offensive "Player of the Week" and selected as a "State Stat Star of the Week"
- Ranked the No. 4 quarterback in Orange County by Steve Fryer in his "First and 10 for High School Football's Week 7" (10/04/21) -- Top 10 in order: 1. Noah Fifita - Servite, 2. Elijah Brown - Mater Dei, 3. Malachi Nelson - Los Alamitos, **4. Jaxon Potter - Santa Margarita Catholic**, 5. Darius Cowens - Pacifica, 6. Kadin Semonza - Mission Viejo, 7. Trey Kukuk - Capistrano Valley, 8. David Rasor - Corona del Mar, 9. Logan Gonzalez - Orange Lutheran and 10. Parker Awad - Edison. Honorable Mention: Dylan Eldredge - Cypress (Injured - out for season). Described by Fryer as "Better than ever"
- Threw for a new career-high 387 yards (since broken) in win at JSerra Catholic. That represented the eighth-most in a game in SMC history. Awarded a weekly "Helmet Sticker" by Michael Huntley in the *Orange County Register*
- Threw four touchdown passes -- all in the second half -- in stunning upset win over Los Alamitos, which established a new career-high
- Completed 29-of-43 passes (67.4%) and set new season-high marks (all since broken) for passing yards (311), attempts (43), completions (29) and tied for touchdowns (3) in resounding win over Nolan Catholic. Also rushed for one score. Recognized by the *Orange County Register's* with "Huntley's Hits" for Week 4
- Named Team Offensive Player of the Week vs. St. Augustine
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com for one of the Top Passing Performances for Weeks 0, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 10
- Threw for the second-most passing yards ever by an SMC quarterback in debut game in season-opening win versus San Juan Hills -- 294-yards. Connected for three touchdown passes

Most Passing Yards in First Career Game at SMCHS - All-Time				
Quarterback	Yards	Opponent	Date	Class
Peter Costelli	325	Downey	August 16, 2018	Sophomore
Jaxon Potter	294	San Juan Hills	August 20, 2021	Junior (Transfer)
K.J. Costello	243	@ Bishop Amat	August 30, 2013	Sophomore
Josiah Norwood	243	@ Downey	August 25, 2017	Senior (Transfer)
Ryan World	222	@ Mater Dei	October 19, 2007	Junior

- Ranked the No. 82 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason All-State Second-Team - Offense (QB)
- Ranked No. 22 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- Ranked No. 5 quarterback in Orange County for Fall 2021 by the *Orange County Register*
- Cal-Hi Sports 2021 Preseason Hot 100 - No. 71 in state for Class of 2023
- Selected to the Summer Showcase Academy Prospect Watch list

- Demonstrated poise and confidence in helping lead the Eagles to the championship of the 7-on-7 “Battle at the Beach” Passing Tournament at Edison (Huntington Beach) in July
- Transfer from JSerra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano) where he saw action at quarterback during his freshman and sophomore years on varsity

6 Nicholas “Niko” Lopez | Tight End | Junior | 6-4 / 210

- Caught 10 passes for 134 yards (13.4 average) and one touchdown in the win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale
- Was selected Team Co-Offensive Player of the Week in upset win over Los Alamitos with two receiving touchdowns. Streak has now extended to each game this season -- 5 (School record is 10, set by John Minardi overlapping the 1996 and 1997 seasons)
- Tallied a receiving touchdown in win over Nolan Catholic and in loss at Servite
- Tied career-high in receptions with nine versus St. Augustine, including a touchdown
- Tallied a team-high six receptions and scored one touchdown in loss at Norco
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com for one of the Top Receiving Performances for Weeks 0, 2 and 10
- Achieved new career-highs in pass receptions (9) and yards receiving (96) in season-opening win versus San Juan Hills
- Ranked the No. 178 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023
- Ranked No. 63 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- *Los Angeles Times* Potential Breakout Star in the Southland for Fall 2021
- A significant contributor in the Eagles’ championship run at the 7-on-7 “Battle at the Beach” Passing Tournament competition at Edison (Huntington Beach) in July. Named event Most Valuable Player by PrepRedzone.com
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Offense
- Had 14 receptions for 164 yards (11.7 average) and two touchdowns in Spring 2021 season
- Called-up to varsity for the CIF-Southern Section Division 2 playoff game at Sierra Canyon in 2019 and had one catch for 11 yards
- A member of the Eagles basketball program who is described as having sound basketball instincts that transfer to the football field, especially when going after and securing the ball

7 Nick Gallegos | Wide Receiver / Defensive Back | Senior | 5-11 / 175

- Led team with 94 yards receiving in loss at Norco
- Named to OCVarsity.com Orange County “Bonus List of Top Contenders & Overlooked Players”
- Hauled-in 6 receptions for 106 yards (17.7 average) in season opening win against San Juan Hills. Also scored one touchdown. This included his longest reception -- 52-yards
- Recognized as an outstanding player at the 7-on-7 “Battle at the Beach” Passing Tournament at Edison (Huntington Beach) in July by PrepRedzone.com
- Transfer from Lutheran (Orange) where he played on offense and defense for the Lancers in the Spring

9 Ben Durham | Defensive Back | Junior | 5-11 / 195

- Registered a team-high 12 tackles (tied with teammate Donovan Comestro) in loss at Norco
- Spring 2021 Letterman
- Listed on PrepRedzone.com’s “Watch List” of state prospects for Class of 2023

10 Ryan Zolnick | Defensive End / Linebacker | Senior | 6-1 / 215

- Notched one sack in upset wins over Los Alamitos and at JSerra Catholic
- Registered a team-high 1 1/2 sacks in win over St. Augustine
- Ranked No. 85 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- Transfer from JSerra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano)
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity League First-Team - Defense
- Registered 17 total tackles and two sacks in spring 2021 season

11 Levar Talley | Defensive Line | Sophomore | 6-3 / 205

- Has received an offer from Georgia
- Enjoyed an outstanding game on defense in loss at Mater Dei -- logged five tackles (four for loss) and three quarterback sacks
- Had one quarterback sack in win over Nolan Catholic. Recognized by the *Orange County Register*’s with “Huntley’s Hits” for Week 4

- Named No. 4 “Defensive Riser” for Class of 2024 selection by PrepRedzone.com fro California
- Spring 2021 Letterman
- Ranked No. 84 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024

12 Gage Grant | Quarterback / Strong Safety / Athlete | Senior | 6-0 / 180

- Ranked No. 132 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- Recognized as an outstanding player at the 7-on-7 “Battle at the Beach” Passing Tournament at Edison (Huntington Beach) in July by PrepRedzone.com
- Transfer from Tustin High School where he spent last two school years after completing freshman year at Mater Dei
- Spring 2019 Empire League Co-Defensive Player of the Year at Tustin High School - Strong Safety
- Saw significant action at quarterback and strong safety for the Tillers who finished in a three-way tie for the Empire League title with Pacifica (Garden Grove) and Cypress
- As a quarterback, completed 63.8% of pass attempts and threw 10 touchdowns. Rushed for three touchdowns and added one receiving
- Connected for four touchdown passes in each of the final two games of spring 2021 season for the Tillers versus Kennedy (La Palma) and Valencia (Placentia)

13 Donovan Comestro | Defensive Back | Junior | 6-0 / 160

- Had one interception and team-high 14 tackles in loss at Servite and also registered one interception in loss to St. John Bosco
- Credited with four passes defended to help preserve upset win over Los Alamitos
- Had one quarterback sack in win over Nolan Catholic
- Registered a team-high 12 tackles (tied with teammate Ben Durham) in loss at Norco
- Collected one interception in win over San Juan Hills in season-opener
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Defense
- Notched 16 total tackles (4 for loss), a half sack, one interception, three pass defenses and forced two fumbles in Spring 2021

15 Ty Benefield | Wide Receiver | Junior | 6-2 / 180

- Caught three passes for 101 yards (33.7 average) and one touchdown in the win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale. His 67-yard catch in the final moments help set up the game winning touchdown
- Caught a career-high four receptions in loss at Servite
- Scored first career touchdown in win at JSerra Catholic

18 Jalen Jones | Wide Receiver | Senior | 5-10 / 180

- Has received an offer from Morehead State and University of San Diego
- Caught 12 passes for 135 yards (11.3 average) and one touchdown in the win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale
- Notched one touchdown reception in win at JSerra Catholic and was selected Team Offensive Player of the Week
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com for one of the Top Receiving Performances for Week 4 and 10
- Registered two touchdown receptions in upset win over Los Alamitos
- Receiving touchdown versus Nolan Catholic was his fourth of the season
- Ranked No. 58 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- Listed on PrepRedzone.com’s “Watch List” of state prospects for the Class of 2022
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Offense
- Caught 15 passes for 195 yards (13.0 average) and two touchdowns in Spring 2021
- Has received offers from Valparaiso and Davidson
- A speed-burner, has run 10.9 in the 100-meters
- A member of the Eagles track team, participating in the 100, 200 and 4x100 meter relay

19 Ian Grogan | Wide Receiver | Senior | 6-0 / 185

- Notched one touchdown reception in win at JSerra Catholic
- Executed a 2-point conversion on a run vs. St. Augustine
- Rushed four times while appearing at running back in Spring 2021, scoring two touchdowns. Also added one receiving
- 2019 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Offense
- Team leader with 511 receiving yards (21.3 average) in 2019 with two touchdowns

- Notched career highs with five receptions along with 113 yards receiving in loss at Cherry Creek in 2019

24 Romen Christensen | Linebacker / Punter | Senior | 5-10 / 180

- Had six punts for a 41.0 average and a long of 57 yards in loss at Mater Dei
- Collected an interception in win at JSerra Catholic
- Launched a 51-yard punt in upset win over Los Alamitos
- Had one quarterback sack in win over Nolan Catholic
- Selected Team Special Teams Player of the Week vs. San Juan Hills
- Led the team with nine total tackles in season-opening win against San Juan Hills

34 Blake Wilson | Defensive Back / Kicker / Punter | Junior | 5-11 / 170

- Had team-high 10 tackles in loss versus St. John Bosco
- Registered one interception in upset win over Los Alamitos and at JSerra Catholic
- Was selected Team Special Teams Player of the Week in win over Nolan Catholic
- Connected for a successful 46-yard field goal in loss at Norco
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com as one of the Top Defensive Performances for Week 0
- Selected Team Defensive Player of the Week vs. San Juan Hills and St. Augustine
- Registered 2 interceptions in win over San Juan Hills in season-opener -- first two of his career
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Defense
- Second on team in Spring 2021 in total tackles with 32
- Handles the team's kick-off duties

42 Jake Foye | Running Back | Junior | 5-10 / 190

- Rushed for 137 yards and one touchdown in the win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale. Recognized by PrepRedzone.com as one of the Top Rushing Performances for Week 10
- Was selected Team Co-Offensive Player of the Week in upset win over Los Alamitos
- Named to OCVarsity.com Orange County "Bonus List of Top Contenders & Overlooked Players"
- Selected Team Offensive Player of the Week vs. San Juan Hills
- Rushed for a career-high 181 yards on 21 attempts (8.6 average) in season opening win against San Juan Hills. Also scored one touchdown

43 Noah Sulick | Linebacker | Sophomore | 5-10 / 160

- Registered first career interception in the win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale
- Enjoyed the best game of his young career against Nolan Catholic: four tackles, three tackles-for-loss and one-and-a-half quarterback sacks. Recognized by the *Orange County Register's* with "Huntley's Hits" for Week 4

44 Jacob Bower | Linebacker | Junior | 6-2 / 175

- Registered a career-high 10 tackles in loss at Servite
- Had another monster game on defense in win at JSerra Catholic - two sacks and one interception
- Enjoyed the best game of his career thus far with two interception, a 27-yard fumble recovery and return for a touchdown and nine tackles in upset win over Los Alamitos in Week 4
 - Named the Cal-Hi Sports (calhisports.com) SoCal "Defensive Player of the Week"
 - Awarded a weekly "Helmet Sticker" by Michael Huntley in the *Orange County Register*
Link with photo: <https://www.calhisports.com/2021/09/21/norcal-socal-players-of-the-week-63/>
 - Slave (scorebooklive.com) nominee for "Southern California High School Athlete of the Week"
 - Web feature interview on SBLive (scorebooklive.com)

45 Hero Kanu | Defensive Tackle | Senior | 6-5 / 300

- A Top-100 national and Top-10 California 5-star prospect currently with 26 offers from Division 1 Power Five conference schools. On July 9, officially narrowed down to ten: Alabama, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Clemson, LSU, Oklahoma, USC, Georgia, Washington and Texas. After the win over JSerra Catholic on October 1, announced that the list was whittled down to five with official visits either conducted or pending in near future: Ohio State, Oklahoma, Notre Dame, Georgia and LSU
- Web feature profile on americanfootballinternational.com (AFI) / Hero Kanu: Europe's First Five-Star NCAA Prospect? (Alex Malchow - 10/21/21)
- Collected six total tackles, including four for loss, one sack, one quarterback hurry and one forced fumble in the win over Orange Lutheran in the regular season finale

- Ranked No. 1 defensive lineman in state by scorebooklive.com -- 10/15/21. Criteria = 2021 spring and fall statistics, film review, discussions with coaches and college interest
- Nominated for Cal-Hi Sports (calhisports.com) State and SoCal Defensive "Player of the Week" for performance in win at JSerra Catholic. Selected as a "State Stat Star of the Week"
- Web feature profile on rivals.com / California Preps: Four-Star DL Hero Kanu Ready to Announce Top List (Adam Gorney - 09/28/21)
- Enjoyed the most dominating game of his prep career in win at JSerra Catholic: 2 1/2 sacks, two tackles (both for loss), a blocked PAT and two quarterback hurries
- Experienced a solid game with two sacks, four tackles (two for loss) and one quarterback hurry in upset win over Los Alamitos
- Registered first full quarterback sack of the season in victory over Nolan Catholic
- Numerous profile and highlight videos on youtube.com - 2021
- Feature on E:FB Insider | Episode 3 (03/31/21)
- Web feature profile on theathletic.com: Suh Comparisons: DT Goes from Geltendorf, Germany (pop: 5,600) to 10 Quick Scholarship Offers
- Web feature profile on: seismicssportscoverage.com: German Import @HeroKanu Is a Hero at Santa Margarita Catholic
- Television / Web feature interview on Bally's Sports West / SoCal Prep Zone: "From Germany to So Cal High School Football"
- Web feature interview on Spectrum News 1: "Santa Margarita Eagles Build New Culture Centered on Diversity, Family"
- Newspaper / Web feature interview in *Orange County Register*: "Hero Kanu is a Marvel"
- scorebooklive.com Fall 2021 State Defensive Player of the Year nominee
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com for one of the Top Defensive Performances for Week 2 vs. St. Augustine and Week 10 vs. Orange Lutheran
- Led team with three tackles-for-loss in win over St. Augustine (Also notched 1/2 sack)
- Featured in four 247Sports.com online highlight videos in 2021
- Ranked No. 1 Top Prospect for Class of 2022 by Europe's Elite / europeselite.com
- Ranked No. 1 Prep Prospect from Germany for Class of 2021 / 2022 by Europe's Elite / europeselite.com
- Ranked No. 9 football recruit in state for Class of 2022 by stacker.com
- MaxPreps.com Fall 2021 Preseason All-State Team - Defense (DL)
- rivals.com Prospect Rankings: National: 80, Position: 8 and State: 8
- Ranked No. 6 by *USA Today* High School Sports in Top 25 Class of 2022 High School Players from California
- Ranked No. 6 by yahoo.com Sports in Top 25 Class of 2022 High School Players from California
- Ranked No. 7 prospect by ESPN / ESPN 300 in Class of 2022 High School Players from California
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason All-State First-Team - Defense (DL)
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason All-Orange County First-Team - Defense (DL)
- scorebooklive.com Fall 2021 Preseason All-State Team - Defense (DL)
- scorebooklive.com Fall 2021 Preseason All-CIF - Southern Section Team - Defense (DL)
- SI.com All-American Watch List - Top Interior Defensive Linemen - "Notable"
- Ranked No. 10 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- Ranked No. 1 defensive lineman in Orange County for Fall 2021 by the *Orange County Register*
- Ranked No. 12 prospect in the state and No. 189 in the nation on the On300 2022 (on3.com) Football List
- *Los Angeles Times* Top 10 Defensive Linemen to Watch in Fall 2021
- *Los Angeles Times* Prep Rally: "Big Men to Watch" in Fall 2021
- MaxPreps.com compares to Kanu to Cameron Hayward of the Pittsburgh Steelers
- Ranked No. 8 overall prospect in the state by MaxPreps.com
- Ranked No. 1 prospect in the state and No. 7 in the nation at defensive tackle by MaxPreps.com
- Ranked No. 9 overall prospect in the state and No. 1 at defensive tackle by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2022
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason Hot 100 - No. 11 overall in state for Class of 2022
- *Orange County Register's* - "Juniors Who Will Reign in the Fall of 2021"
- 2022 San Antonio Sports All-Star Football Game invitee -- January 8, 2022: Will announce college selection
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity First-Team League - Defense
- Ranked No. 8 defensive lineman in the state after Spring 2021 season by scorebooklive.com
- scorebooklive.com Spring 2021 All-State Football Team (DL)
- Cal-Hi Sports Spring 2021 All-State Second-Team - Defense (DL)
- Cal-Hi Sports Spring 2021 All-State First-Team - Defense - Junior Team (DL)

- MaxPreps.com Spring 2021 All-State Second-Team - Defense (DL)
- *Los Angeles Times* Spring 2021 All-Star High School First-Team - Defense (DL)
- Class of 2022 "Stock Risers" selection by PrepRedzone.com for California
- Cal-Hi Sports Winter 2021 Class of 2022 Top-100 recruit

47 Taurian Nash | Running Back | Freshman

- Was selected Team Special Teams Player of the Week after upset win over Los Alamitos. Also scored one rushing touchdown
- Gained 68 yards rushing and scored his first-career touchdown on a 46 yard romp in win over St. Augustine

62 Jalani Liva | Offensive Line | Junior | 6-4 / 320

- Has received an offer from Arizona Christian
- Recognized as a "Lineman on the Rise" in Orange County for Fall 2021 by the *Orange County Register*
- Spring 2021 Letterman
- Ranked the No. 124 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 and Outstanding Newcomer

67 Kilian O'Connor | Offensive Line | Senior | 6-2 / 285

- Has received an offer from Columbia
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason All-State Second-Team - Offense (OL)
- Ranked No. 5 offensive lineman in Orange County for Fall 2021 by PrepRedzone.com
- Ranked No. 61 by *Orange County Register* of Hot-150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2021
- Ranked No. 6 offensive lineman in Orange County for Fall 2021 by the *Orange County Register*
- Listed on PrepRedzone.com's "Watch List" of state prospects for the Class of 2022
- Spring 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Offense
- Cal-Hi Sports Winter 2021 No. 63 state prospect for Class of 2022
- Cal-Hi Sports Summer 2020 No. 59 state prospect for Class of 2022
- 2019 All-Trinity League First-Team - Offense

81 Bain Eiseman | Wide Receiver | Sophomore | 5-11 / 165

- Caught career-high five passes in loss to St. John Bosco. Matched that in next game win over Orange Lutheran. Also scored first career touchdown versus St. John Bosco

88 Kyle Brody | Tight End | Sophomore | 6-4 / 230

- Ranked No. 84 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024

NEXT OPPONENT: SERVITE - CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFFS D 1



SMCHS Season Game No. 10 / CIF-Southern Section Playoff Game No. 1

Game Day / Date: Thursday, November 11, 2021 @ LeBard Stadium - Orange Coast College (Costa Mesa), 7:00 p.m.

School Location: Anaheim

Nickname: Friars

Head Coach: Troy Thomas - 2005-2012 & 2018-Present: 99-38-0 (.723) - 12th Season

2021 Fall Record: 8-2 (Overall) | 3-2 Trinity League (3rd)

Last Week: Lost at St. John Bosco, 24-10

2021 Spring Season: 4-2 Overall | 3-2 Trinity League (3rd)

2019 Season: 7-4 Overall | 3-2 Trinity League (3rd) | 0-1 CIF-SS Division 1 Playoffs

All-Time Series: Servite leads 16-10-1

Last Game: Servite won 48-21 -- 4 weeks ago in Trinity League play at Orange Coast College

Last SMCHS Win: 51-28 @ Cerritos College - 2017

Players to Watch:

- Tetairoa McMillan | Senior | Wide Receiver
- Josiah Laban | Senior | Offensive Guard
- Noah Fifita | Senior | Quarterback
- Mason Graham | Senior | Defensive Line / Offensive Line
- Jacob Manu | Senior | Linebacker
- Mike Hurst | Senior | Defensive Back
- Houston Thomas | Senior | Running Back / Defensive Back

- Keyan Burnett | Senior | Tight End
- Emmett Mosley | Sophomore | Wide Receiver / Defensive Back
- Vaka Hansen | Junior | Defensive Lineman

Previous Game Summary (10/07/21): Santa Margarita Catholic and Servite, set to meet in the CIF-Southern Section Division 1 Playoffs, met just four weeks ago in Trinity League play at Orange Coast College. Facing the then No. 8 ranked team in the Nation, Santa Margarita Catholic went in to half down 21-14. However, the might of the Friars surfaced as they fired on all cylinders and pulled away in the second half for a 48-21 victory. Despite the outcome, the Eagles did have some success. Quarterback Jaxon Potter was 22-of-46 (47.8%) for 252 yards and one touchdown. Running back Justin Rivera rushed four times for 73 yards (18.3 average). This included an explosive 63-yard run to the end zone. Wide receiver Jalen Jones caught five passes for 56 yards (11.0 average). Tight end Niko Lopez caught three passes for 32 yards (10.7 average) and scored one touchdown. Defensively, safety Donovan Comestro had a team-high 14 tackles (6 solo & 8 assists) and also collected one interception. Fellow DB Isreal Solomon had eight tackles (6 solo & 2 assists) and also registered an interception. Linebacker Jacob Bower had 10 tackles (1 solo & 9 assists).

Game Broadcast: Check ballysports.com website or twitter: @prepzone for details if game is televised or streamed live

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFFS



CIF-Southern Section Playoff Game Schedule by Round

1st-Round Games (of 16): Friday, November 5

Quarterfinals: Friday, November 12

Semifinals: Friday, November 19

Championship Games: Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

- Division 1 championship game will be played at Veterans Stadium - Long Beach on November 26
- All other CIF-Southern Section football division championship games will be played at home team sites

CIF-Southern California Regional Championship Bowl Game Schedule

Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4

CIF-State Championship Bowl Game Schedule

Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11

- All CIF State Championship games will be played at Saddleback College (Mission Viejo)

[View all CIF-SS Division Playoff Brackets at www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org)

TRINITY LEAGUE



www.trinityleagueathletics.org

Upcoming Trinity League Schedule / CIF-Southern Section Playoffs

Friday, November 5, 2021 - Division 2 (Round of 16)

Simi Valley (14) vs. **Orange Lutheran** (3) @ Orange Coast College (Costa Mesa), 7:30 p.m.

Note: Ford Southern Section "Game of the Week" on Bally's Sports

JSerra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano) (15) vs. Sierra Canyon (Chatsworth) (2) @ Pierce College (Los Angeles), 7:00 p.m.



Thursday, November 11 - Division 1 (Quarterfinals)

Santa Margarita Catholic (Rancho Santa Margarita) (6) vs. **Servite** (Anaheim) (3) @ Orange Coast College, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 12 - Division 1 (Quarterfinals)

Norco (8) vs. **Mater Dei** (Santa Ana) (1) @ Santa Ana Bowl, 7:00 p.m.

Los Alamitos (7) @ **St. John Bosco** (Bellflower) (2), 7:00 p.m.

Also in Bracket: Mission Viejo (5) @ Centennial (Corona) (4), 7:00 p.m.