

SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

24 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 &

4 League Champions

1996, 1997, 2000 & 2001

32-Plus Varsity Seasons

Overall Record: 230-135-3 (.630) Home: 125-61-3 (.671) Road: 105-74-0 (.587)

7 Nationally Ranked Teams

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



Nolan Catholic (1-1) vs. Santa Margarita Catholic Eagles (2-1)

Panish Family Stadium (Bellflower, California) @ St. John Bosco High School • "Trinity League Showcase" Saturday, September 11, 2021 • 4:00 p.m.



AST GAME RECAP & HIGHLIGHTS VS. ST. AUGUSTINE

After suffering a difficult loss on the road at Norco, the Eagles looked refreshed as they took the field back home versus visiting St. Augustine from San Diego. It was "Senior Night" at Saddleback College Stadium and SMC arrived with high emotions on both sides of the ball as they prevailed, 39-10. After surrendering an early field goal, the defense played inspired throughout and allowed a total of 41 passing yards to the Saints for the game, with the long being a nine-yard gain. The defensive line continued to apply pressure in the trenches, finishing with eight tackles-for-loss and three sacks. The Saints never managed to gain any traction and scored a late touchdown when the contest was out of reach. The offense was led QB Jaxon Potter's 270 yards and 67.6 completion percentage. Junior Niko Lopez scored a receiving touchdown for the third-consecutive game. Lopez and teammates Jalen Jones and Nick Gallegos all made highlight-reel type catches during the rout. Freshman back Taurian Nash scored the first rushing touchdown of his career. Sophomore receiver Bain Eiseman (45 yard reception) and senior Justin Rivera (46 yard rush) each had big play gains that led to SMC scores.

- Special Teams Player of the Week: Jonathan Connor Teasley (4/4 PATs & 1 Field Goal)
- Offensive Player of the Week: Jaxon Potter (270 Passing Yards & 2 Touchdowns)
- Defensive Player of the Week: Blake Wilson (7 Tackles)

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 PLAYERS TO WATCH

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

- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com as one of the Top Passing Performances for Week 0
- 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	08/16/18	Sophomore		
Jaxon Potter	294	San Juan Hills	08/20/21	Junior (Transfer)		
K.J. Costello	243	@ Bishop Amat	08/30/13	Sophomore		
Josiah Norwood	243	@ Downey	08/25/17	Senior (Transfer)		
Ryan World	222	@ Mater Dei	10/19/07	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 guarterback 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
- 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

- 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 @ Norco
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com as one of the Top Receiving Performances for Week 0
- 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

6 Syncere Brackett | Linebacker | Sophomore | 6-3 / 230

• Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason All-State Second-Team - Offense (LB)

2

- Ranked No. 41 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024
- Saw significant game action as a freshman during the Spring 2021 season when he registered 11 total tackles

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

- Led team with 94 yards receiving in loss @ 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 @ 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

- 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

- 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

- Registered a team-high 12 tackles (tied with teammate Ben Durham) in loss @ 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

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

- 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

- 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

- Selected Team Special Teams Player of the Week vs. San Juan Hills 08/20/21
- Led the team with 9 total tackles in season-opening win against San Juan Hills

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

- Connected for a successful 46-yard field goal in loss @ 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 08/20/21
- 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 Nick Foye | Running Back | Junior | 5-10 / 190

- Named to OCVarsity.com Orange County "Bonus List of Top Contenders & Overlooked Players"
- Selected Team Offensive Player of the Week vs. San Juan Hills 08/20/21
- 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

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

- A Top-100 national and Top-10 California 5-star prospect currently with 24 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
- 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
- MaxPreps.com Fall 2021 Preseason All-State Team Defense (DL)
- Ranked No. 6 by yahoo.com Sports in Top 25 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)
- 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
- 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
- Cal-Hi Sports Winter 2021 Class of 2022 Top-100 recruit

47 Taurian Nash | Running Back | Freshman

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

- 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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: NOLAN CATHOLIC



SMCHS Season Game No. 4 / Non-League Game No. 4

Game Day / Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 @ Panish Family Field - St. John Bosco

(Bellflower), 4:00 p.m. -- "Trinity League Football Showcase"

School Location: Ft. Worth, Texas

Nickname: Vikings

Head Coach: David Beaudin (37-19, .661) - 6th Season

2021 Fall Record: 1-1

Last Week: Won vs. Catholic (Little Rock, Arkansas), 40-34 (3 OT) -- Inaugural "Catholic Bowl" at the

Ford Center at the Star in Frisco, Texas (Dallas Cowboys practice facility)

2021 Spring Season: 8-1 Overall | 6-0 TAPPS Division I - District 1 (1st) | 2-1 District Playoffs (2nd) 2019 Season: 11-1 Overall | 4-0 TAPPS Division I - District 1 (1st) | 1-1 District Playoffs (2nd)

All-Time Series: First Meeting

Players to Watch:

- Curlee Thomas | Senior | Defensive End
- Kaleb James | Junior | Defensive Line (DE / DT)
- Saimone Davis | Junior | Tight End / Running Back
- Damario "Tre" Parks-Vinson | Senior | Wide Receiver / Cornerback

In Brief: Since the turn of the century in 2000, Nolan Catholic has succeeded in being one of the most consistent and winning programs in the Dallas area. Its resume includes 10 league championships and seven state crowns during that period. The Vikings have currently won three-consecutive league titles and are looking to notch their fourth this fall. In the shortened 2020 fall season, Nolan lost to rival Parish Episcopal (Dallas) in the TAPPS Division I - 1 District championship game last December. It was their only setback of the campaign (8-1). The offseason saw Nolan lose some key starting players via transfer who are highly coveted Power Five Division 1 recruits. Still, they have four starters returning on each side of the ball. The Vikings defensive line is notable. It is sleek and quick, causing headaches for offensive coordinators. Senior Curlee Thomas (6-4 / 240) and junior Kaleb James (6-5 / 235) both clog the front and can rush the corners with effective penetration. Thomas, senior and Cal-commit, complied some gaudy statistics last season: 58 tackles, 22 tackles-for-loss and 16 sacks. James, a junior, was right there with his mate as he logged 57 tackles, 16 tackles-for-loss and 10 sacks.

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: LOS ALAMITOS



SMCHS Season Game No. 5 / Non-League Game No. 5

Game Day / Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 @ Saddleback College (Mission Viejo),

7:00 p.m.

School Location: Los Alamitos

Nickname: Griffins

Head Coach: Ray Fenton (38-17-1, .655) - 6th Season

2021 Fall Record: 3-0

Last Week: Won @ Paramount, 50-0

2021 Spring Season: 6-0 Overall | 5-0 Sunset League (1st)

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

All-Time Series: Series Tied 3-3. Last Game / SMCHS Win: 38-27 in 2011 @ Veterans Memorial Stadium (Long Beach)

Players to Watch:

• Malachi Nelson | Junior

• Makai Lemon | Junior

• Deandre Moore, Jr. | Junior

Nygel Osborne | Junior

• Cash Koepke | Senior

Sinn Brennan | Junior

• Connor Mclachlan | Sophomore

- Brian Jurado | Senior
- Alec Wills I Senior
- David Main | Senior
- Adam Tomczyk | Senior
- Gavin Porch | Junior
- Josiah Murray | Senior

In Brief: The reigning Sunset League champion Griffins may be even stronger this fall than the spring squad that was a perfect 6-0 and outscore their league opponents by an average of 34-points. The incredible tandem of quarterback Malachi Nelson and receiver Makai Lemon may be the best in the state or even the nation. Both are juniors and have committed to Oklahoma. They ignited an offense that averaged 51 points a game during the spring. All five starting offensive linemen return, including co-Sunset League "Offensive Lineman of the Year" Cash Koepke and all-league tackle David Main. Los Als' defense has three players who had at least three sacks in the spring. That includes Sinn Brennan (six sacks) -- a 6-5 junior who doubles as a tight end. Adam Tomczyk leads the defensive line, while all-league linebacker Brian Jurado returns, as well. Observers say that with this talent, Los Al might have the best public school team in the Orange County. Talented transfers include junior Deandre Moore, Jr., a standout receiver and defensive back who grew up in the Los Alamitos area and has transferred back in from Nevada. Running back Nygel Osborne and cornerback Kevin Overstreet came in from nearby St. John Bosco and Jordan Ginnis came from Saguaro High School in Arizona.

SANTA MARGAURITA CATHOLIC - ALL-TIME OUT-OF-STATE OPPONENTS

Season	Opponent	Result	Game Notes
2021	Nolan Catholic (Ft. Worth, Texas)		"Trinity League Football Showcase" at
	·		St. John Bosco (Bellflower)
2019	@ Cherry Creek (Greenwood Village, Colorado)	Lost 35-10	Traveled over 1,000 miles
2018	Orem (Utah)	Lost 51-45	Nenad: 3 receiving touchdowns
2018	Cherry Creek (Greenwood Village, Colorado)	Lost 21-14	Thomas: 111 rushing yards
2014	@ Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, Nevada)	Lost 41-10	Costello: 311 passing yards
			Sweet: 188 receiving yards
2013	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, Nevada)	Lost 34-31 (2 OT)	Costello: 446 passing yards
	-		Sweet: 294 receiving yards
2012	@ Brophy Prep (Phoenix, Arizona)	Won 27-14	ESPN national television broadcast
2005	@ Kealakehe (Kona, Hawaii)	Won 26-0	"Kona Classic" / 26-0 shutout win
1997	@ Durango (Las Vegas, Nevada)	Won 52-0	Wolfsberger: 191 rushing yards

TRINITY LEAGUE















www.trinityleagueathletics.org

Upcoming Trinity League Schedule

Thursday, September 9

Servite (Anaheim) @ Bishop Amat (La Puente), 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 10

Centennial (Corona) @ JSerra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano), 7:00 p.m.

East St. Louis (Illinois) @ St. John Bosco (Bellflower), 7:00 p.m. -- "Trinity League Football Showcase"

Orange Lutheran @ Damien (La Verne), 7:00 p.m.

Mater Dei (Santa Ana) vs. Liberty (Henderson, Nevada) @ Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas), 7:00 p.m. -- "4th Polynesian Football Classic"

Friday, September 17

JSerra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano) @ Rancho Cucamonga, 7:00 p.m. St. John Bosco (Bellflower) @ Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, Virginia), 7:00 p.m. EST Orange Lutheran @ Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks), 7:00 p.m. Servite (Anaheim) @ Sierra Canyon (Chatsworth), 7:30 p.m. Mater Dei - Bye