



2022

VARSITY FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER & PROSPECTUS

VOLUME NO. 1 / ISSUE NO. 1

2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1997 Division II
2011 Division I

3 CIF-SS CHAMPIONSHIPS

1996 Division V
1997 Division V
2011 PAC-5

26 CIF-SS 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

4 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1996, 1997, 2000 & 2001

34TH VARSITY SEASON

Overall Record: 235-139-3 (.627)

7 NATIONALLY-RANKED TEAMS

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

21 NFL ATHLETES



COACHING STAFF

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Anthony Rouzier | Head Coach / Defensive Coordinator |
| Sean Embree | Associate Head Coach / Offensive Coordinator |
| Corey Overton | Director of Football Operations / Cornerbacks |
| Jake Fey | Assistant Head Coach / Special Teams Coordinator / Safeties |
| Chris DeVera | Linebackers / Freshman Defensive Coordinator |
| Mo Latu | Defensive Line |
| Tim Holt | Run Game Coordinator / Offensive Line |
| Austin Pettis | Pass Game Coordinator / Wide Receivers |
| Ryan Porter | Quarterbacks |
| Kenneth McMillan | Head Freshmen Coach / Freshman Offensive Coordinator / Running Backs |
| Alan Bohn | Kicking Coach |
| Rasheed Williams | Assistant Defensive Line / Freshman Defensive Line |
| Anthony Ezeakunne | Freshman Wide Receivers |
| Chris Isner | Freshman Offensive Line |
| Joe Torres | Freshman Linebackers |
| Ocie Vest | Freshman Quarterbacks |
| Damian Holley | Director of Football Strength & Conditioning |

2021 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The fall of 2021 saw prep football return to a much more standard schedule and routine. The Eagles looked to build upon the positive efforts that commenced only a few months earlier in the shortened spring season. Coach Rouz was blessed with a group of rising juniors that proved to be significant contributors in the success the team enjoyed. In addition, several sophomores and even a few freshmen were part of the supporting cast for the varsity team that sported a 6-5 overall record and qualified for the CIF-Southern Section Division 1 Playoffs.

The 2021 calendar year was a turning point for the program and the first piece of the foundation that Coach Rouz calls the “Legacy” of Santa Margarita Catholic football was set. The future is quite bright for Eagle football as Coach Rouz possesses a solid stable of young payers with skill and athleticism. Here are the team highlights of note:

- 6-5 overall record with a postseason playoff berth in CIF-Southern Section - Division 1 Playoffs
- Three-game winning streak that included wins on Senior Night (St. Augustine), at the Trinity League Showcase (Nolan Catholic - Ft. Worth, Texas) and on Homecoming (Los Alamitos)
- Upset victory over Los Alamitos -- then ranked No. 7 in state by calhisports.com (See below)
- Top 10 rankings in several State, Southern Section and Orange County end-of-season polls (See below)
- No. 5 most difficult national prep schedule ranking at season's end (calpreps.com) (See below)
- The CIF-Southern Section - Division 1 ranked as toughest postseason bracket in the nation (MaxPreps.com) -- the field included four MaxPreps.com national top 25 schools and four Trinity League schools
- Season-high 716 all-purpose and 639 total offense yards in win over Orange Lutheran
- Six games with 400-plus yards of total offense
- Numerous individual league, section, state and national honorees
 - * 12 All-Trinity League selections (First & Second-Team), 1 Trinity League Positional “Player of the Year”
 - * 4 All-CIF-Southern Section selections
 - * 5 All-Orange County (*Orange County Register*) selections (First, Second & Third-Team)
 - * 1 *Los Angeles Times* / yahoo.com All-Star High School Football Team selection
 - * 1 MaxPreps.com All-State First-Team selection
 - * 4 Cal-Hi Sports All-State selections, 3 Cal-Hi Sports All-State nominees
 - * 1 U.S. Army All-American selection
 - * 2 High School Sports America (HSFA) Academic All-American selections
 - * 3 Orange County All-Star Game selections



2021 SIGNATURE MOMENT

At the close of the fall nonleague schedule last September, SMCHS erupted for one of its most notable come from behind victories ever as they defeated Los Alamitos, 42-21. The resounding comeback emerged as the Eagles trailed 14-0 at halftime. This is easily the signature win in Head Coach Anthony Rouzier's early career, thus far. In the game, SMCHS was challenged by one of the most heralded quarterbacks to hail from the Southland in years. Malachi Nelson, then a junior, was regarded as an All-America selection and the No. 1 recruit in the nation. But in this game, Nelson received his toughest challenge -- at one point 0-for-9 passing. The Eagle's stout defense was led by then junior Jacob Bower who intercepted Nelson twice and scooped up a fumble from his hands in another instance and returned it for a 27-yard touchdown. The Griffins came into the contest ranked No. 7 in the state by calhisports.com. The rematch this season is Friday, September 16 at Los Al.

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

#5 IN THE NATION

According to CalPreps.com -- "Schedule Strength" is an average of the ratings of the teams that a school has played or will play that season. The process starts in the preseason when CalPreps.com arrives at the ratings by contacting nearly 16,000 high school head coaches to request information regarding returning starters, statistical leaders and team strengths and weaknesses. NCAA Division 1 recruiting data is also factored into the equation. The Fall 2021 season was more of the same:

- SMCHS schedule ranked No. 5 toughest (Eagles held toughest-ranked national schedule in 2014 and 2018)
- Five Trinity League schools held the top-five slots and the sixth school was at number eight
- CIF-Southern Section - Division 1 ranked as toughest postseason bracket in nation (MaxPreps.com)

TRINITY LEAGUE

#1 TOUGHEST HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IN AMERICA

The 2022 high school football schedules have been analyzed. According to High School Football America's proprietary algorithm, the Trinity League ranks as the No. 1 toughest high school football league in the nation. Other California leagues also among the most difficult were: Big VIII (Southern Section), East Bay Athletic League-Mountain (Northern Coast Section), Mission League (Southern Section), Serra League (Southern Section), Sunset Surf League (Southern Section) and West Catholic Athletic League (Central Coast Section).

POLL RANKINGS

CONSISTENT REPRESENTATION IN COUNTY, SECTION, STATE AND NATIONAL POLL RANKINGS

The 2021 fall season saw SMCHS ranked by eight different media outlets by the end of the regular season. These included such respected websites and newspapers: calhisports.com, calpreps.com, OCvarsity.com, High School Football America, *Los Angeles Times*, MaxPreps.com, *Orange County Register* and scorebooklive.com. The Eagles were a consensus pick at the county, section and state levels, even garnering recognition at the national level. Polls not only take on-field team records into consideration but the stiff strength of schedule competition -- creating a huge gauntlet with the Trinity League, Orange County and the CIF-Southern Section. SMCHS begins this season again ranked highly in many preseason and early season polls.



RECENT PLAYER UPDATES

JAXON POTTER #5 - QB | Senior | 6-5 / 185

- Ranked the No. 102 overall and No. 13 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Summer 2022
- Participated in the Nike Elite 11 So Cal Regional Camp in Manhattan Beach in early-June
- Has received an offer from Portland State and attracted interest from Boston College, Auburn and Washington
- Selected as the two-day Most Valuable Player and won the Quarterback Challenge at the 2022 Showcase Ball Academy Challenge and West Regional at Serra High School (Gardena) in late-January

NICHOLAS "NIKO" LOPEZ #6 - WR | Senior | 6-4 / 210

- Ranked the No. 112 overall and No. 17 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Summer 2022
- Has received offers from Nevada, Portland State, Colorado State and Louisville
- Recognized by 247sports.com as an "Offensive Standout" and PrepRedzone.com as a shining star
- Ranked No. 2 wide receiver prospect "riser" in state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Winter 2022
- Ranked the No. 112 overall prospect and No. 17 wide receiver in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Winter 2022

BEN DURHAM #9 - DB | Senior | 6-0 / 205

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Summer 2022
- Offseason training included stops at the Redlands, Utah, Stanford, Sacramento State, San Diego State and Wyoming Summer Camps
- Has been clocked at 4.60 in the 40-yard dash and 11.96 in the 100-meters
- Invited to and participated in the four-day National Prep Collegiate Showcase National Combine at the 2022 NFL Pro Bowl

LEVAR TALLEY #11 - DL | Junior | 6-4 / 210

- Ranked the No. 21 overall and No. 2 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Summer 2022
- No. 64 ranked prospect in state "Hot 100" from Class of 2024 by Ca-Hi Sports
- Has received offers from Louisville, Georgia, Virginia Tech, Florida State, Pittsburgh and USC. Has made unofficial visits to USC, UCLA, Fresno State, Oregon and Colorado
- Recognized by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) as a prospect that "shows a very quick get off, strong hands, excellent foot work, loose hips and great attitude -- dominates the point of attack"

DONOVAN COMESTRO #13 - DB | Senior | 6-0 / 180

- Has received offers from Holy Cross, Fordham, Stetson, Bucknell, Cornell, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, Penn and Army-West Point
- Offseason training included stops at the SMU and TCU Dallas Showcases

CAMERON BURKE #16 - QB | Senior | 6-2 / 170

- Offseason training included stops at the Northwestern, Stanford, Yale, Princeton, Penn and Columbia Camps
- On SMCHS Track & Field team, ran 15.90 in the 110-meter hurdles which is ninth all-time in school history and fifth in the Trinity League in 2022.
- Also ran 41.35 in the 300-meter hurdles which is twelfth all-time in school history and third in the Trinity League for 2022
- Also has been clocked at 4.92 in the 40-yard dash

JOSHUA TUCHEK #21 - WR/DB | Sophomore | 6-1 / 170

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Summer 2022
- Has been clocked at 11.32 in the 100-meters
- Ranked in top 10 list of wide receiver prospects and "Watch List" in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Winter 2022

MATTHEW BAYS #29 - DB | Senior | 6-0 / 170

- Offseason training included a stop at the TCU Showcase

LARUE ZAMORANO #31 - DB | Sophomore | 6-1 / 170

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Summer 2022
- Listed on several PrepRedzone.com lists:
 - Ranked No. 6 prospect in state at defensive back position for Class of 2025 in Winter 2022
 - Ranked No. 5 prospect in Orange County at defensive back position for Class of 2025 in Winter 2022
 - Ranked on overall "Watch List" of state prospects for Class of 2025 in Spring 2022

NICHOLAS JOHNSON #33 - DE | Senior | 6-4 / 195

- Offseason training included stops at the USC, UCLA, Colorado State and Redlands Camps
- Invited to and participated in the Allegiance Athletics Offensive / Defensive Lineman Camp in March, 2022
- Invited to and participated in the Giant Skillz Athletics - (B.O.S.S.) National Lineman Showcase 2022 So Cal Regional in February, 2022.
- Recognized by 247sports.com's Greg Biggins and PrepRedzone.com's Michael Huntley for a "strong showing" at the event



2022 EAGLES FOOTBALL



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

BLAKE WILSON #34 - DB | Senior | 6-0 / 180

- Key member of the ranked SMCHS baseball team. Named Cal-Hi Sports "State Stat Star of the Week" on April 14 -- at the National Classic High School Baseball Tournament he was 3-for-4 with two home runs -- including a grand slam -- to go along with one double and seven RBI in the 7-4 win over La Jolla Country Day (La Jolla). Batting, also had three home runs and 16 runs batted in while pitching he was 2-0 with four saves in eight games for the team. Nominated for the Cal-Hi Sports All-State team
- University of Washington commit for baseball

JACE BROWN #35 - WR | Sophomore | 6-2 / 186

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Summer 2022
- Listed on PrepRedzone.com's "Watch List" of state prospects at wide receiver position for Class of 2025 in Spring 2022

JAKE FOYE #42 - RB | Senior | 5-10 / 195

- Offseason training included stops at the TCU Showcase and UCLA Camps
- Has received an offer from Culver-Stockton College
- Named the No. 3 running back in Orange County by PrepRedzone.com in Spring 2022
- Has been clocked at 4.65 in the 40-yard dash

NOAH SULICK #43 - LB | Junior | 6-0 / 190

- Praised by PrepRedzone.com for performances on the "passing league" circuit
- Father, Uncle and Brother have all played football at SMCHS

JACOB BOWER #44 - LB | Senior | 6-2 / 200

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Summer 2022
- Offseason training included the UCLA and Sacramento State Summer Camps
- Listed on PrepRedzone.com's "Watch List" of state prospects for Class of 2023 in Winter 2022

TAURIAN NASH #47 - RB | Sophomore | 5-11 / 200

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Summer 2022
- Listed high on PrepRedzone.com's "Watch List" of state running back prospects for Class of 2023 in Winter 2022
- Ranked the No. 9 overall prospect in Orange County by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Winter 2022

JAYDEN DOSE #50 - DT | Junior | 5-10 / 225

- Invited to and participated in the Giant Skillz Athletics - (B.O.S.S.) National Lineman Showcase 2022 So Cal Regional in February, 2022

GRANT DEGULIS #52 - OL/DL | Sophomore | 6-1 / 280

- Attended Jesse Sapolu's "Men in the Trenches" (MITT) Linemen Academy in February and March, 2022
- A member of the SMCHS wrestling team

AIDAN CARRISON #66 - OL/DL | Senior | 6-4 / 300

- Invited to and participated in the Giant Skillz Athletics - (B.O.S.S.) National Lineman Showcase 2022 So Cal Regional in February, 2022

ETHAN "E.J." THOMAS #77 - OL | Sophomore

- Invited to and participated in the Giant Skillz Athletics - (B.O.S.S.) National Lineman Showcase 2022 So Cal Regional in February, 2022

JALANI LIVA #62 - OL | Senior | 6-4 / 320

- Ranked the No. 229 overall and No. 26 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2023 in Summer 2022
- Selected to play in the next Polynesian Bowl on Saturday, January 23, 2023 at Kūnuiakea Stadium at the Kamehameha Schools - Kapālama Campus in Honolulu, Hawaii
- Invited to and participated in the Polynesian Bowl Combine / Tryout Camp in March, 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada
- Has received an offer from Arizona Christian

BAIN EISEMAN #81 - WR | Junior | 5-11 / 175

- Ranked the No. 147 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Summer 2022
 - On SMCHS Track & Field team, ran 10.98 in the 100-meters which is tied for sixth all-time in school history. Also has been clocked at 4.42 in the 40-yard dash and 23.01 in the 200-meters
- Ranked the No. 147 overall prospect and No. 20 wide receiver in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022

KYLE BRODY #88 - TE | Junior | 6-5 / 235

- Ranked the No. 145 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Summer 2022
- Offseason training included stops at the UCLA, Redlands and San Diego State Camps
- Invited to and participated in the National Prep Collegiate Showcase in April, 2022
- Ranked the No. 147 overall prospect and No. 2 tight end in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022

**MASON SCHUSTER #95** - Kicker | Senior | 5-11 / 175

- Offseason training included the Auburn Specialist Camp
- Invited to and participated in several kicking specialty camps during the offseason, including: Kohl's Arizona Kicking Camp held in Arizona, Chris Sailer's Kicking Camp held in Nevada and Kohl's Texas Showcase Camp

GAGE BURNETT #1 - LB / DE | Junior | 6-1 / 228

- Ranked the No. 71 overall and No. 10 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Summer 2022
- Has received offers from Arizona and Massachusetts

EMMETT MOSLEY #10 - WR/CB | Junior | 6-1 / 175

- Ranked the No. 13 overall and No. 2 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Summer 2022
- No. 12 ranked prospect in state "Hot 100" from Class of 2024 by Cal-Hi Sports
- Selected by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) as a National Recruit and All-American from the Class of 2024 for photo shoot in Westwood, California (UCLA) in April, 2022

SIMEON MAIAVA #75 - OL/DL | Senior | 6-1 / 280

- Offseason training included stops at the Nevada-Las Vegas and Redlands Camps
- Has received an offer from the University of San Diego
- Invited to and participated in the Allegiance Athletics Offensive / Defensive Lineman Camp in March, 2022
- Featured guest on the "Ike and Rome Show" on the No Line No Shine Network (April 5, 2022)
- Participated in ongoing training at PTP Sports and Team Elite Sports Academy - Team Elite 91 (T.E.S.A.) during offseason
- Invited to and participated in the National Prep Collegiate Showcase in April and June, 2022
- Fall 2021 All-CIF-Southern Section Division 11 Football selection at Vista del Lago (Moreno Valley)

BEKKEM KRITZA #1 - QB | Sophomore | 6-6 / 190

- Has received offers from Colorado, Colorado State, Kansas, Texas State and Texas A&M. Has also received interest from USC, Texas and Alabama
 - Transferred from Fairview High School (Boulder, Colorado) in July, 2022
 - Participated in the Nike Elite 11 So Cal Regional Camp in Manhattan Beach in early-June
 - Invited to the ESPN 300 Elite Underclassmen Camp in Las Vegas, Nevada
 - Passed for 3,192 yards and 22 touchdowns as a freshman in 10 games in 2021. Also connected on 64.9 percent of his passes
- According to MaxPreps.com, ranked No. 3 in the nation for passing yards by a freshmen in 2021

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TYLER PARKER #99 - DL | Sophomore | 6-0 / 295

- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Summer 2022
- Has received offers from Portland State, Mississippi, Texas A&M, Arizona and Incarnate Word. Attracted interest from Tennessee, Colorado and Oregon
- Mid-Summer workout video and photos went viral worldwide as Parker stunned viewers who awed at his hulking physique
- Offseason training included stop at USC Camp
- Invited to and participated in the 2022 PPI Recruits DreamChasers Tour
- Invited to and participated in the Allegiance Athletics Camp in Huntington Beach in May, 2022 and was named the Most Valuable Player - Defensive Line. Impressed staff who described the 14-year-old as "crazy strong!"
- Invited to the ESPN 300 Elite Underclassmen Camp in Las Vegas, Nevada
- Invited to and participated in the National Prep Collegiate Showcase in April, 2022
- Ranked in top five list of defensive line prospects in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2025 in Winter 2022

COLLINS ACHEAMPONG #98 - DE/TE | Senior | 6-9 / 250

- Selected to and participated in the Under Armour Next Future 50 Camp at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida
- No. 26 ranked prospect in state "Hot 100" from Class of 2024 by Cal-Hi Sports
- Has committed to play at Michigan. Also received offers from Miami (Florida), Arizona, Brigham Young, California, Colorado, Florida, LSU, Oregon, San Diego State, San Jose State, Miami (Florida), Florida A&M, Texas, UCLA, USC, Vanderbilt, Utah and Washington
- Has not played football since his freshman year when he racked up 51 tackles (15 for loss) and nine sacks
- Comes into the season rated the nation's No. 17 athlete and No. 298 overall prospect by one outlet

TRENT MOSLEY #14 - WR | Freshman | 5-10 / 160

- After the Summer "Battle at the Beach," the Orange County Register boasted that receiver Trent Mosley flashed skills beyond his years and was arguably the top freshman in Orange County this season
- Has received offers from Oregon, Michigan State, Texas A&M and Notre Dame

JOSEPH LOPEZ #64 - OL | Freshman | 6-5 / 315

- Has received offers from North Carolina-Charlotte University and Jacksonville State
- Invited to and participated in the Under Armour Next Camp Series for then 8th grade players held in Los Angeles, California in March, 2022



QUICK FACTS

RETURNING HONOREES

JAXON POTTER - QB

Trinity League Second-Team - Offense
Cal-Hi Sports All-State Junior Team - Offense

NIKO LOPEZ - WR

Trinity League First-Team - Offense
Orange County Register Third-Team - Offense

DONOVAN COMESTRO - DB

Trinity League First-Team - Defense

BLAKE WILSON - DB

Trinity League First-Team - Defense
Orange County Register Second-Team - Defense
Cal-Hi Sports All-State Junior Team - Defense

JALANI LIVA - OL

Trinity League Second-Team - Offense

JAKE BOWER - LB

Trinity League Second-Team - Defense

LEVAR TALLEY - DE

Trinity League Second-Team - Defense
Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee

SMCHS HOME FIELD

Saddleback College Sports Complex & Stadium

Location: Mission Viejo
Seating Capacity: 8,000
Field Type: Synthetic Turf
Game Times: 7:00 p.m.

25TH ANNIVERSARY - 1997 UNDEFEATED TEAM

SMCHS finished the 1997 season with a perfect 14-0 record, capturing the championships of the Sea View League, CIF-Southern Section Division V and State Division II. The Eagles also finished the season ranked No. 2 in Orange County, No. 20 in the nation in the Associated Press National Prep Poll and No. 22 by USA Today. This is the only undefeated and untied varsity football team in

HOMECOMING GAME

Friday, October 7 | 7:00 p.m.

vs. JSerra Catholic
@ Saddleback College

OFFSEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Impressive Rankings in Local, State and National Polls

Going into 2022, the Eagles have been recognized by the respected ranking bodies on the local, state and national levels. These include: CalPreps.com, Cal-Hi Sports, masseyratings.com, MaxPreps.com and the Los Angeles Times

Named Most Improved Team in the Trinity League

by Michael Huntley of prepedzone.com

Third-Best Team in the Trinity League

by Mark Tennis of Cal-Hi Sports (calhisports.com)

SPRING / SUMMER EVENT PARTICIPATION

- Individuals: Invited to and participated in over 55 camps, showcases and events throughout the Western region
- Team: Played in nine 7-on-7 tournaments and scrimmages
- Conducted annual College Showcase Football Camp:
Attended by 15 Division 1 coaches
- Hosted Annual Spring Game (Intersquad)
- Directed Summer Camp for over 60 returning and incoming players
- 2023 Polynesian Bowl game selection -- Jalani Liva

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPOSURE

- Tyler Parker's worldwide viral workout video on TikTok
- Feature report on SMCHS College Showcase by "Jonquall" on youtube.com
- PrepRedzone.com
- Other local and state media outlets -- print and digital
- Twitter: Scouts, camp and showcase promoters

SMCHS ALUMNI NCAA & NFL AWARD WINNERS

- 21 National Football League Athletes
- 1 Heisman Trophy Winner
- 1 Outland Trophy Winner
- 1 Johnny Unitas Award Winner
- 1 Walter Payton NFL "Man of the Year" Award Winner



PRESEASON POLL RANKINGS

**CalPreps.com**

Nation: 12 County: 3
 Section: 6 League: 4
 Computer algorithm

**CalHiSports.com**

State: 9
 Mark Tennis

**MaxPreps.com**

Section: 7
 State: 8
 Nation: 57
 Computer algorithm

**MasseyRatings.com**

Nation: 26 County: 4
 Section: 6 League: 5
 State: 6
 Computer algorithm

**latimes.com**

CIF-SS D1: 7
 Eric Sondheimer

Coming Soon

PrepRedzone.com
 Orange County Register

"EAGLES 360 WITH NATALIE MILLER"

A new addition to SMCHS Eagles football this season is the advent of a groundbreaking social media series entitled "Eagles 360 with Natalie Miller." The program, broken out into different brand types, will be hosted by SMCHS senior journalist Natalie Miller. The series primarily utilizes a newly created youtube.com channel for fans to enjoy all the content. Here is an introduction to her programming:

Hello, I'm Natalie Miller and I am starting a new interview show for SMCHS Eagles Football this year. A little about myself: I am a current senior at Santa Margarita and love all things film and sports. This year I would like to introduce my new show, "Eagles 360 with Natalie Miller." The show will be comprised of three different types of content. First being "The Extra Point," a fun Q&A profile style interview with the players. "The Extra Point" will air every Wednesday for the duration of the season on both my YouTube channel and Instagram (linked below). The second type of content you'll see is the "Postgame Report" every Monday following a game. This will be a short interview with some of the standout players and coaches right after the game is concluded. Lastly, you can look forward to occasional content for the newsletter with interviews with the football support staff and Eagles Football Alumni in the segment "End Zone Insight." Some up and coming players you can look forward to interviews from include Jaxon Potter, Jalani Liva, Niko Lopez, Donovan Comestro, Jake Bower, LeVar Talley, Emmett Mosley and so many more! Make sure to tune in on Mondays and Wednesdays to "Eagles 360" once the season begins to take a look at some of these great interviews!



"Eagles 360 with Natalie Miller"
 on



YouTube: Natalie Miller Sports
Instagram: @nataliemillersports
Twitter: @NatalieMSports



TRINITY LEAGUE RACE



www.trinityleagueathletics.org

MATER DEI SANTA ANA

What can be said about Mater Dei that hasn't already been written or spoken? The good news is that the Monarchs lost some top players. The bad news is that all those who are "next in line" are just as talented. Leading the way, on offense, returning junior quarterback Elijah Brown. Brown completed 74 percent of his passes for 2,581 yards with 30 touchdowns and just six interceptions last season and is 17-0 in his high school career. Ajon Bryant and super sophomore Jordon Davison will be the two running backs. Spencer Shannon returns as a 6-foot-6 tight end along with Jack Ressler and Jordan Onovughe on the outside. The offensive line is loaded with Division 1 beef with returners B.J. Tolo, DeAndre Carter, Brandon Baker, Sione Tohi and Lipe Moala. Defensively, Tanner Williams returns as the primary pass rusher. Leviticus Su'a leads the linebackers and the secondary is patrolled by Zabien Brown and Daryus Dixon. Mater Dei will start the fall as the No. 1 team in the state and in many national polls.

KEY PLAYERS:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| B.J. Tolo | OL Senior 6-1 / 310 | Elijah Brown | QB Junior 6-2 / 180 |
| Leviticus Su'a | LB Senior 6-1 / 210 | Jack Ressler | WR Junior 5-11 / 185 |
| Ajon Bryant | RB Junior 5-7 / 160 | Zabien Brown | DB Junior 6-1 / 170 |
| DeAndre Carter | OL Junior 6-5 / 350 | Jordon Davison | RB Sophomore 6-0 / 205 |

ST. JOHN BOSCO BELLFLOWER

St. John Bosco is stacked with talent, as usual. A look at one of the top-rated prospect sites indicates that the Braves currently have 30 Division 1 prospects in their program. That is currently even more than Mater Dei. The defensive secondary seems to be the prime position with three of the best defensive backs in California's 2024 class. That goes along with three of the best from the class of 2023. Quarterback Pierce Clarkson, who split time evenly last season with another talented player, returns to run the show himself. He will have receiver Jahlil McClain and running back Chauncey Sylvester to compliment him on the offensive side of the ball. Several transfers enroll, the best being DeAndre Moore, Jr. Last season at Los Alamitos, he was selected the Sunset League's All-Purpose Player of the Year after helping the Griffins (9-2) win the league title and reach the CIF-SS Division 1 playoffs.

KEY PLAYERS:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Deven Bryant | LB Senior 6-1 / 210 | DeAndre Moore, Jr. | WR Senior 6-0 / 190 |
| Jahlil McClain | WR Senior 5-10 / 180 | Sua Lefotu | DL Senior 6-5 / 300 |
| Matayo Uigalelei | DL/TE Senior 6-5 / 265 | Marcelles Williams | DB Junior 5-11 / 170 |
| Pierce Clarkson | QB Senior 6-1 / 190 | | |

ORANGE LUTHERAN ORANGE

As they finished in the lower tier of the league last fall, Orange Lutheran was relegated to the CIF-SS Division 2 playoffs. There, they made a magnificent run, and with four wins, took the championship. It was a remarkable coaching effort engineered by first-year Head Coach Rod Sherman. However, the Lancers have lost a ton of talent, especially at the wide receiver position. The quarterback reins look to be in the hands of sophomore T.J. Lateef who had two pass attempts last season as a freshman. Jojo Edwards and Gabe Morin are two returnees on defense which are anchors.

KEY PLAYERS:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Gabe Morin | LB Senior 5-10 / 220 | Noah Rodriguez | WR/DB Senior 5-9 / 165 |
| "Jojo" Edwards | LB Sophomore 6-0 / 190 | T.J. Lateef | QB Sophomore 6-2 / 185 |



JSERRA CATHOLIC SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

JSerra Catholic has fallen on tough times the past few seasons. The primary root of the problem has been the consistent exodus of key players. However, with just three wins overall and zero in the league, the Lions were selected to participate in the CIF-Southern Section playoffs in Division 2. Overall, JSerra couldn't hang its hat on much, as it struggled on both sides of the ball. One experienced quarterback returns - Zander Singh (Junior) who split time at the helm last season, as the Lions look to rebuild.

KEY PLAYERS:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| David Tuliau | DL Senior 6-1 / 270 | Jeighlyn Filo | OL Junior 6-2 / 290 |
| Jose Frutos | TE/DE Senior 6-0 / 187 | Clarence Chaney | LB Junior 5-11 / 230 |
| Zander Singh | QB Junior 5-10 / 180 | Kamar Gabourel | RB DB Junior 5-11 / 165 |
| Jared Referente | RB/ DB Junior 5-9 / 170 | Jake Flores | OL Sophomore 6-6 / 250 |

SERVITE ANAHEIM

Head Coach Troy Thomas' rebuilding effort at Servite, in his second tenure at the school, reached its peak last fall with a run at the upper tier of the league. However, the bad news is that the Friars lost just about every key contributor to that club, mostly via graduation and some via transfer. Servite's postseason run culminated with the CIF-SS Division 1 championship game versus rival Mater Dei. It looks as if Coach Thomas will have to reload or even rebuild to bring his school back to last year's level.

KEY PLAYERS:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tyler McCown | RB Senior 5-8 / 165 | Oskar Madrigal | OL Senior 6-1 / 275 |
| Kitione Talavou | DL Senior 6-3 / 220 | Brayden Kim | LB/RB Sophomore 5-11 / 175 |
| Matthew Toilolo | OL Senior 6-3 / 310 | Ethan Naudin | WR/CB Sophomore 6-1 / 175 |

RECENT ALUMNI UPDATES

RIVER CRACRAFT '13 MIAMI DOLPHINS | WIDE RECEIVER

Cracraft played football, baseball and ran track and field while at SMCHS and earned numerous league and section awards. He was a big contributor to the Eagles team that won the 2011 Division I State Championship. His 134 receptions were second in school history behind former NFL receiver Brian Finneran. Cracraft also finished third in school history with 2,043 receiving yards. He then played four seasons for Washington State. As a true freshman, he was named All-Pac-12 Conference Honorable Mention and All-Freshman Honorable Mention. During his junior season, one of Cracraft's highlights was the game where he notched a career-high 172 yards and three touchdowns on 11 receptions in a 60-59 loss to California in which WSU quarterback Connor Halliday passed for an NCAA record 734 yards. The following game Cracraft set a school record with 14 receptions. After missing most of his junior season, he was again named All-Pac-12 Conference Honorable Mention. In all, Cracraft recorded 218 receptions (No. 2 in school history), 2,701 receiving yards (6th) and 20 touchdowns (6th). After college, Cracraft has been with several NFL organizations. Cracraft saw NFL game experience with the Denver Broncos in 2019. It was there that he snagged his first career reception for 44-yards. In 2020, Cracraft saw action in nine games for the San Francisco 49ers, catching six passes.



**JOHNNY STANTON '13** CLEVELAND BROWNS | H-BACK

At SMCHS, Stanton earned a host of awards and honors. In his junior year, he led the Eagles to the Division 1 State Championship crown with a dramatic last-minute drive to defeat Bellarmine. Stanton began his collegiate career at Nebraska and then transferred to Saddleback College. In his only season with the Gauchos, he passed for 3,471 yards and 27 touchdowns. He also led the team in rushing with 747 yards and 12 touchdowns. Stanton then headed to Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) for his final two seasons of eligibility where he was the Swiss Army knife for the Rebels -- playing fullback, quarterback, as well as defense and special teams. Stanton spent time with the Minnesota Vikings through the end of 2019. In 2020, he signed with the Cleveland Browns and was elevated to the active roster on November 21, 2020 for the team's week 11 game against the Philadelphia Eagles but did not accumulate any statistics. On October 12, 2021, in Week 7 against the Denver Broncos, as he scored the first touchdown of his NFL career on a one-yard pass from Case Keenum in the Browns' 17-14 win.

**JEREMY MCNICHOLS '14** ATLANTA FALCONS | RUNNING BACK

During his career with the Eagles, he rushed for 798 yards (including four 100-plus yard games) with 10 total touchdowns. He then enrolled at Boise State in 2014 where he rushed for 159 yards on 17 carries with a rushing touchdown and had 15 receptions for 155 yards and a touchdown. As a sophomore in 2015, he improved to 1,337 yards rushing on 240 carries with 20 touchdowns. He also had 460 receiving yards and six touchdowns on 51 receptions. McNichols still holds many game, season and career records for the Bronco's program. His professional career started with his being included on the offseason and/or practice squads of several NFL teams. McNichols finally received his break with the Tennessee Titans in early 2020 when he was elevated to the active roster. In the Week 6 versus the Houston Texans, McNichols accounted for more than 50 rushing yards and finished the season playing in all 16 games and recording 47 carries for 204 yards and one touchdown along with 12 receptions for 55 yards.

**KYLE SWEET '14** BARCELONA DRAGONS [EFL] | WIDE RECEIVER

Receiver Kyle Sweet finds his way to Barcelona for the 2022 spring season. The SMCHS alum arrived in Spain following a productive career at Washington State University. Playing alongside NFL draft picks Gardener Minshew, Andre Dillard and Luke Falk, Sweet was highly successful in the Cougars air raid offense putting up 1,454 yards and five touchdowns on 139 catches during his career. Showing his versatility, the quick slot receiver also started at punter his sophomore and junior seasons averaging 38 yards a punt. Following his collegiate career, the former Cougar attended a rookie minicamp with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams but was released shortly thereafter. Sweet originally signed to play in Europe in 2020, agreeing to terms with the Kirchdorf Wildcats of the German Football League, but the Covid 19 pandemic canceled the season. The versatile wide out joins returning quarterback Zach Edwards and former CFL pass-catcher Benjamin Plu in what projects to be an exciting pass game.



**K.J. COSTELLO '16 PHILADELPHIA STARS [USFL] | QUARTERBACK**

SMCHS alum K.J. Costello was a late-season acquisition when he signed with the Philadelphia Stars of the United States Football League (USFL) on May 27, 2022. Costello was acquired as a solid backup to starter Case Cookus. The Stars made it to the league championship game and faced the Birmingham Stallions. Late in the first half, Cookus broke his leg and was carted off the field. The second half fell into Costello's lap and he nearly led his team to a remarkable comeback. Costello was able to rally the club, throwing a 12-yard touchdown pass to Chris Rowland with 1:43 left in the game. That marked 20 points for the Stars in a span of 3:09 of the final quarter. Overall, there were 28 points scored in the game's final quarter. The Stars opted for the "make it/take it onside option" and had a fourth-down-and-12 to try and keep the football after the touchdown. Costello's pass was incomplete and Birmingham had the ball and a chance to burn the rest of the clock but was unable to get a first down. The Stallions punted to Philadelphia and the ball went into the end zone for a touchback. Still with time on the clock, on the second play, Costello could not find an open receiver and threw an interception and 0:16 seconds later the Stallions were USFL champions, 33-30.

**KEKOA CRAWFORD '16 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS | WIDE RECEIVER**

Crawford combined for 159 receptions, 2,761 yards receiving, and 30 touchdown catches during three varsity prep seasons -- playing his final two at SMCHS after suiting up for St. Francis (La Canada). He hauled in 51 catches for 822 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior while catching 44 receptions for 1,006 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior. Crawford was selected for the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Bowl and was a consensus four-star prospect. In 45 career collegiate games, he had 96 catches for 1,307 yards with six touchdowns. This was with 18 game as a freshman sophomore at Michigan, before sitting out 2018 and then transferring to Cal. In two seasons there, Crawford had 75 receptions for 1,017 yards and four touchdowns. He earned Cal's Ken Harvey Award for his academic commitment and improvement. In 2022, Crawford signed as a post NFL Draft free agent with the Indianapolis Colts.

**BRETT NEILON '17 USC | OFFENSIVE LINE**

By the time he graduated from SMCHS in 2017, Neilon had earned just about every league, county, section, region, state and national level honor. He also lettered in basketball and track and field for the Eagles. He was selected "Athlete of the Year" and the Academic Scholar Award. In 2019, Neilon showed well while starting at center in all 11 games. In the 2020 season, he incurred some nagging injuries that limited his time but was still selected to the All-Pac-12 Conference Honorable Mention team. The 2021 campaign was big for Neilon as he was again 2021 All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention and a Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 First-Team selection. He also won USC's Co-John McKay Award. For the 2022 season, Neilon, a should once again be a figure in the Trojan trenches as a starter at center where he has appeared in 34 games (starting 29) in his career. He has already earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and is now working on a master's in entrepreneurship and innovation with a 3.2 GPA.



**GRANT CALCATERRA '17** PHILADELPHIA EAGLES | TIGHT END

At SMCHS, Calcaterra was a four-star recruit and earned a multitude of awards. In his junior and senior years, Calcaterra caught a total of 105 passes for 1,884 yards and 17 touchdowns. In his freshman season at Oklahoma, he earned All-Big 12 Honorable Mention. The 2018 season was huge as Calcaterra as he registered 26 catches for 396 yards and six touchdowns. With this, he was chosen All-Big 12 First-Team. After a year away from the game, Calcaterra played his senior season at Southern Methodist. In the Mustang's high-octane offense, he thrived by catching 38 passes for 465 yards and four touchdowns and earning a bevy of league and national recognition. Calcaterra was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in Round 6, No. 198.

**JOSIAH NORWOOD '18** UCLA | WIDE RECEIVER

In his senior year, Norwood completed 168-of-250 passes for 2,231 yards and 19 touchdowns. A dual-threat, Norwood also rushed 88 times for 697 yards and nine touchdowns. He was selected All-Trinity League First-Team. Lists his biggest athletic thrill to date as completing a fourth quarter comeback win against rival JSerra Catholic on their field in 2017. It was a game the Eagles won 36-35 on a gutsy 2-point conversion call. Currently a redshirt junior, Norwood has worked his way to be one of the Bruins top slot receivers. In 2021, he appeared in 10 games with one start and had a season-high two catches versus Hawaii. Also had one catch in games against both Stanford and Washington. An Economics major, Norwood earned a spot on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll in Winter 2021, Spring 2020, Winter 2020 and Fall 2019 quarters.

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