



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



2023 VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

<p>2 State Championships 1997 Division II 2011 Division I</p> <p>3 CIF-Southern Section Championships 1996 Division V 1997 Division V 2011 PAC-5</p>	<p>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) & 2022</p> <p>4 League Championships 1996, 1997, 2000 & 2001</p>	<p>35th Varsity Season Overall Record: 242-145-3 (.624) Home: 133-65-3 (.669) Road: 109-80-0 (.577)</p> <p>7 Nationally-Ranked Teams 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2011, 2012 & 2017</p>
<p>Retired Uniform Number Honorees: 2 - Minna 3 - Palmer 4 - Newman / Stanton 54 - Frost 82 - Minardi 2022 Inaugural California High School Football Hall of Fame Inductees: Carson Palmer (Quarterback) & Harry Welch (Coach)</p>		



Santa Margarita Catholic Eagles (1-1) at Liberty Patriots (2-0)

Liberty High School Field (Bakersfield, California)
Friday, September 1, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.



RECAP OF LAST WEEK VS. CENTENNIAL

SMC was presented with a huge challenge last Friday as it hosted the No. 15 ranked school in the land -- Centennial (Corona). But the Eagles stood firm and played toe to toe with perhaps the top public school in the Southland. The Huskies came into the contest cranky as they fell to Mater Dei the week prior. As Centennial took the initial lead, SMC would strike back to take a 14-13 lead at half. Ultimately, the Eagle's offense was unable to break through for much in the second stanza except for a Trent Mosley touchdown. The Huskie's two-pronged offensive approach, aggressively running the ball and passing on the edges, led them to a 34-21 victory.

The SMC offense collected 374 yards of total offense. Continuing to display his versatility, Trent Mosley had another solid game as he registered three receptions for 61 yards and scored two more rushing touchdowns. Despite being the team's leading receiver with 11 catches after two games, the super sophomore now also has four rushing scores on just nine carries this season. Mosley is the main component on offense when SMC employs the "eaglecat." Another sophomore, Skylar Lendsey strong outing as he gained 61 yards rushing.

The hero of the night on defense had to be Logan Hirou. The sophomore notched two interceptions, returning one for a 77 yard score to help put the Eagles ahead early. LeVar Talley (11) and Noah Sulick (10) led the club in tackles. In all, Hirou had 99 return yards. Sulick had his team's lone sack. Safety Luke Anderson continued his hard-nosed play with several solid hits on the opposition.

SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC - PLAYER NOTES, HIGHLIGHTS & STATS

0 Skylar Lendsey | Running Back | Sophomore | 5-10 / 190

- The talented sophomore rushed for a career tying best of 92 yards (also vs. Norco in 2022) on 17 attempts (5.4 average) against West. Also caught one touchdown pass
- Named in the first rankings for the Class of 2026 by PrepRedzone.com - State Overall: 104 | State Position: 4 | National: Watch List
- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Offense
- Lauded by Micheal Huntley in the *Orange County Register* as a key underclass contributor for the Eagles (10/26/22)
- Contributed a game-high 81 yards on four attempts (20.3 average), with a long of 60 yards, in huge win over Servite
- Recognized by PrepRedzone.com and analyst Jake Lemming as one of the Top 7 "Emerging Freshmen Running Backs in the Country." The scouting report:
 - Able to stick his foot in the dirt and generate immediate acceleration

- Can get downhill FAST
- Shows almost no deceleration when working through arm tackles
- Has reliable hands as a receiving threat out of the backfield
- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2026 in Fall 2022
- Rushed for 92 yards in second-career varsity game in big win over Norco in 2022

1 Gage Burnett | Outside Linebacker / Long Snapper | Senior | 6-0 / 223

- Made the game-saving play when he burst into the backfield to tackle the runner and thwart a 2-point conversion attempt in win over West
- Ranked No. 85 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2023
- Named one of the top players on the team by the *Orange County Register* for Fall 2023
- Ranked the No. 159 overall and No. 19 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall, 2023
- Praised by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for impressive showing at the "Battle if the Beach"
- Cited by Greg Biggins of 247sports.com and Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com as one of the Top Performers at the Allegiance Athletics Linemen Showcase in Spring
- Invited to and participated the prestigious 2023 Rivals Camp Series held in mid-March at Warren HS (Downey)
- Ranked the No. 31 prospect in the nation and No. 4 in the state by collegefootballnow.org in Winter, 2023 at his position for the Class of 2024
- Offseason training included workouts, camps and showcases with Giant Skillz and Under The Radar
- Selected as the Gauntlet Award winner -- given to the junior who will carry the torch for leadership next season
- 2022 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Defense
- In his first game in an SMC uniform, after transfer, logged five tackles (1 for loss) and one sack in loss to Orange Lutheran
- Ranked the No. 107 overall and No. 14 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall 2022
- Ranked No. 73 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2022
- Ranked the No. 71 overall and No. 10 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Summer 2022
- Named by *Orange County Register* as a 2022 Spring Football "Top Impact Transfer in Orange County"
- Cited by PrepRedzone.com (Michael Huntley - April 11, 2022) as being part of the most improved team in the Trinity League for Fall 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
- Transferred to SMC during the winter semester from Servite
- Ranked the No. 71 overall prospect and No. 10 at linebacker in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022
- ★★★ recruit with 4 Division 1 offers from Army-West point, Arizona, Fordham and Massachusetts
- Played in all 13 games for Servite in Fall 2021 and registered 38 tackles, two sacks and recovered two fumbles

5 Trent Mosley | Wide Receiver | Sophomore | 5-11 / 155

- Scored two additional rushing touchdowns in loss to Centennial. Has four scores on the ground this season -- had three receiving scores in 2022
- Was a dynamic presence in win over West as he gained just six yards on four attempts but scored twice, also hauled in eight receptions for 75 yards and gained 54 yards on kick-off returns -- a total of 135 all-purpose yards. The five reception were a new career-high
- Ranked No. 30 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2023
- Named one of the top players on the team by the *Orange County Register* for Fall 2023
- Named the No. 6 wide receiver/tight end in Orange County for the 2023 season by journalist Dan Albano
- Selected as an Underclass All-American by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) for 2023 season
- Cal-Hi Sports 2023 Preseason All-Orange County Second-Team - Multi-Purpose
- Ranked the No. 11 prospect in the nation and No. 3 in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2026 in Spring, 2023
- Praised by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for impressive showing at the "Battle if the Beach"
- Praised by Dan Albano of the *Orange County Register* as "Showing His Burst" two long touchdowns at the "Battle of he Beach" in July

- Ranked the No. 26 prospect in the nation and No. 7 in the state by collegefootballnow.org in Winter, 2023 at his position for the Class of 2026
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Frosh Watch List
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Offense
- 2022 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Offense
- Logged 94 yards on five receptions (18.8 average) in CIF-SS Division 1 loss to JSerra Catholic -- a career-high. Also scored one touchdown (71 yards). Cited as a "Top Performer" by prepredzone.com
- Registered second career touchdown versus St. John Bosco in regular season finale
- Lauded by Micheal Huntley in the *Orange County Register* as a key underclass contributor for the Eagles (10/26/22)
- Along with brother Emmett, scored a touchdown in defeat to Los Alamitos in 2022. In doing so, they became the first set of brothers at SMC to achieve this since Brad and Brian Finneran did so, four times, in 1992
- Along with teammates Bain Eiseman and Emmett Mosley (brother), notched over 100 receiving yards in loss at Los Alamitos
- Selected as a "Watch List" candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2026 in Fall 2022
- After the Summer "Battle at the Beach," the *Orange County Register* boasted that receiver 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, USC, San Diego State, Stanford and Notre Dame

8 Luke Anderson | Defensive Back | Junior | 6-0 / 170

- Led the team with nine tackles in win versus West
- Coach Rouz cited Anderson as being an impact player for the team in 2023 after his performance at the "Battle of the Beach"
- In first varsity start, registered three assisted tackles in win at San Juan Hills in 2022
- Saw action in two varsity games in 2021. In 42-21 win over Los Alamitos, had one kickoff return for six yards and notched four total tackles
- In a freshman game versus Los Alamitos, scored a long rushing touchdown, made a key block for a teammate that led to a score and played solid defense in a 53-0 victory

9 James Johnson | Quarterback | Junior | 6-1 / 175



INJURED

- Was 4-of-5 for 57 yards in his first start as an Eagle. Suffered an injury on the final play of the first quarter versus West (Salt Lake City)
- Ranked No. 90 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2023
- Named one of the top players on the team by the *Orange County Register* for Fall 2023
- Praised by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for impressive showing at the "Battle if the Beach"
- Transferred to SMC at start of Spring semester after attending Servite as a sophomore and Mater Dei as a freshman
- Played in a handful of games in 2022 at Servite. Highlight moment was a 77-yard touchdown pass to Tyler McCown, but the Friars fell to Helix (La Mesa), 38-31
- Saw action in five games at Mater Dei in freshman seaosn (2021) where he was 5-of-10 for 49 yards

10 Emmett Mosley | Wide Receiver / Cornerback | Senior | 6-2 / 195



INJURED ★★★★★ +

- Ranked the No. 28 overall and No. 2 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall, 2023
- Named the No. 16 senior recruit in the state by Cal-Hi Sports in their fall 2023 "Hot 100" list
- Despite injury, selected as a Preseason All-American by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) for 2023 season
- Cal-Hi Sports 2023 Preseason All-Orange County Third-Team
- Selected as a Senior All-American by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) for 2023 season
- Has committed to play in the annual All-American Bowl at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas -- nationally televised live on NBC and Peacock -- features the nation's top 100 high school football players
- Committed to Stanford
- Ranked the No. 16 overall and No. 2 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Spring, 2023
- Electric highlights of 2022 season posted on MaxPreps.com at

www.maxpreps.com/ca/rancho-santa-margarita/santa-margarita-eagles/football/media/videos/?videoid=38e0e113-7725-4da2-b509-7a4b851380c0&ftag=MPM-04-10aaa1h

- Ranked the No. 2 overall and No. 13 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter, 2023
- 2022 Prep Redzone All-Southern California Junior Team - Offense
- Ranked the No. 28 prospect in the nation and No. 12 in the state by collegefootballnow.org in Winter, 2023 at his position for the Class of 2024
- Represented by Cannon Sports USA / ELITE Sports Media Group Company -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zguG2NyPpU
- Named the No. 3 in California and No. 24 recruit in the nation at wide receiver by QB Hit List for the Class of 2024 in January, 2023 (★★★★)
- Selected to the Division 1 CIF All-Southern Section Team
- Selected as an Underclass All-American by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) in January, 2023
- 2022 All-Orange County (by *Orange County Register*) First-Team - Offense
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Offense
- 2022 All-Trinity League First-Team - Offense
- Selected SMC Offensive Most Valuable Player
- Registered 78 pass receptions for the season -- second-most in school history and most by a junior

Most Pass Receptions - Single Season - SMC - All-Time		
Receiver	Receptions	Season
Kyle Sweet	89	2014
Emmett Mosley	78	2022
Brian Finneran	74	1992
John Minardi	70	1997
Conner Bianchini	68	2014
Brian Finneran	67	1993
Niko Lopez	65	2021

- Gained 127 yards receiving with six receptions (21.2 average) and one touchdown in lopsided win over Servite in 2022. Cited as a "Top Performer" by prepredzone.com
- Hauled in 14 pass receptions for 156 yards and one touchdown in win over JSerra Catholic on 2022 Homecoming. The 14 catches are tied for second-most in a single game in school history. Cited as an "Other Top Performer" by PrepRedzone.com along with teammate Niko Lopez

Most Pass Receptions - Single Game - SMC All-Time			
Receiver	Receptions	Opponent	Season
Kyle Sweet	15	Dorsey (Los Angeles)	2014
Kyle Sweet	15	Orange Lutheran	2014
Emmett Mosley	14	JSerra Catholic	2022
Brian Finneran	14	@ Damien (La Verne) - CIF	1993
Grant Calcaterra	14	Loyola	2016

- Online feature on gridironfootballusa.com -- "Top 300: Emmett Mosley" (By Lucas Berger -- September 26, 2022)
- In loss to Orange Lutheran, registered his second-consecutive game with three touchdown receptions. That is good for second-place, all alone, in program history. Cited as an "Other Top Performer" by PrepRedzone.com

Most Receiving Touchdowns - SMC - Single Game All-Time		
Receiver	Rec TDs	Times Achieved
John Minardi	3	5
Emmett Mosley	3	2
Six-Tied	3	1

- Ranked as the No. 91 overall recruit prospect in the nation for the Class of 2024 by Tom Lemming, a top prep recruiting analyst in Fall 2022 (★★★★ +)

- Along with brother Trent, scored a touchdown in defeat to Los Alamitos. In doing so, they became the first set of brothers at SMC to achieve this since Brad and Brian Finneran did so, four times, in 1992

Brothers Scoring Touchdowns - SMC - Same Game All-Time		
Players	Opponent	Season
Emmett Mosley	@ Los Alamitos	2022
Trent Mosley		
Brad Finneran	@ Newport Harbor	1992
Brian Finneran		
Brad Finneran	@ Tustin	1992
Brian Finneran		
Brad Finneran	Buena Park	1992
Brian Finneran		
Brad Finneran	St. John Bosco	1992
Brian Finneran		

- Along with teammates Bain Eiseman and Niko Lopez, notched over 100 receiving yards in loss at Los Alamitos in 2022 (146). Tied a school record with three touchdown receptions in a single game. Named a "Top So Cal Star" by scorebooklive.com and nominated for So Cal Sports Athlete of the Week plus cited as an "Other Top Performer" by PrepRedzone.com
- Ranked as a one of the premier underclass wide receiver recruit prospects in the West by Tom Lemming, a top prep recruiting analyst in Summer 2022
- With nine eight catches versus Norco (2022), had second-consecutive game with eight-or-more receptions to start SMC career
- Had a solid performance in his first game in an SMC uniform at San Juan Hills (Week 0 in 2022) -- 9 receptions for 94 yards and one touchdown. Cited by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for "Honorable Mention" performance
- Cal-Hi Sports 2022 Preseason All-State Third-Team - Defense (DB)
- Ranked the No. 13 overall and No. 2 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall 2022
- Ranked No. 10 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2022
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2022 Preseason All-Orange County First-Team - Defense selection
- Ranked the No. 3 wide receiver in the County by the *Orange County Register* for 2022, while teammate Niko Lopez was the No. 5 selection
- 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
- Cited as a "Top Offensive Performer" at the Mission Viejo Passing Tournament by PrepRedzone.com and has improved his speed greatly this offseason
- Named by *Orange County Register* as a 2022 Spring Football "Top Impact Transfer in Orange County"
- Received an invitation to attend the Annual Blue-Gold Game (Notre Dame Football Spring Scrimmage) in South Bend, Indiana on April 23 -- Reserved for top Class of 2024 recruits (Reported by Tom Loy - 247sports.com)
- 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
- Ranked the No. 13 overall prospect and No. 2 athlete position in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022
- Ranked No. 40 overall and No. 26 by position prospect in the nation and No. 3 prospect in state by QB Hit List (qbhitlist.com) for Class of 2024
- Transferred to SMC during the winter semester from Servite
- Ranked the No. 13 overall prospect and No. 2 at athlete position in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022
- Highly-recruited player was sidelined much of the Fall 2021 season by injury
- Received offers from Alabama, Arizona, Arizona State, Georgia, Colorado, LSU, Oregon, Penn State, USC, Clemson, Iowa, Texas, Utah, Texas A&M, Washington, Massachusetts, Michigan State, California, UCLA, Miami (Florida), Stanford and Notre Dame
- Has been clocked at 11.47 in the 100-meters (2021 @ Servite)
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2021 Preseason All-Orange County Second-Team - Defense (DB)
- Selected as a preseason MaxPreps.com Sophomore All-American in Fall 2021

- Celebrated his best moment of Fall 2021 season as he debuted versus Mater Dei and blocked a punt that a teammate returned for a score

11 LeVar Talley | Defensive End / Linebacker | Senior | 6-3 / 210

- Collected his eleventh career sack in the victory against West
- Named by Eric Sondheimer of the *Los Angeles Times* as a Linebacker to Watch this Fall in Southland Football
- Ranked No. 69 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2023
- Named one of the top players on the team by the *Orange County Register* for Fall 2023
- Ranked the No. 77 overall and No. 11 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall, 2023
- Named the No. 68 senior recruit in the state by Cal-Hi Sports in their fall 2023 "Hot 100" list
- Selected as a Preseason All-American by Lemming Prep Football Report (Tom Lemming) for 2023 season
- ★★★ + recruit who has committed to Nevada and also had offers from Louisville, Colorado, Georgia, Virginia Tech, Florida State, Pittsburgh, Nevada-Las Vegas and USC. Has made unofficial visits to USC, UCLA, Fresno State, Washington and Oregon
- Cal-Hi Sports 2023 Preseason All-Orange County Second-Team - Defense
- Praised by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for impressive showing at the "Battle if the Beach"
- Invited to and participated in the Under Armour Next Camp showcase in April
- Solidified by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com as one of the top uncommitted recruits in Southern California in Winter, 2023
- Ranked the No. 3 overall and No. 26 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter, 2023
- Ranked the No. 51 prospect in the nation and No. 6 in the state by collegefootballnow.org in Winter, 2023 at his position for the Class of 2024
- Represented by Cannon Sports USA / ELITE Sports Media Group Company -- www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCSMF70ySQc
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Defense
- 2022 All-Trinity League First-Team - Defense
- Selected as team captain for the season -- only junior class player
- Collected one sack in CIF-SS Division 1 loss to JSerra Catholic last season, bringing season total to 5 1/2 which led club. Also contributed 6 1/2 tackles for loss
- Logged five tackles (2 1/2 for loss) and 1 1/2 sacks, bringing his career total to 9 for SMC, in the 2022 loss to Mater Dei
- Cited as a "Top Performer" by prepredzone.com for effort in win over Servite in 2022
- Registered one sack in win over JSerra Catholic on 2022 Homecoming
- Ranked as a one of the premier underclass linebacker recruit prospects in the West by Tom Lemming, a top prep recruiting analyst
- scorebooklive.com (SBLive) 2022 Preseason All-State Third-Team - Defense selection
- scorebooklive.com (SBLive) 2022 Preseason All-Southern Section Second-Team - Defense selection
- Ranked the No. 26 overall and No. 3 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall 2022
- Ranked No. 62 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2022
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2022 Preseason All-Orange County First-Team - Defense selection
- 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 Cal-Hi Sports
- Ranked the No. 11 Top Defensive Line prospect in Southern California by Cannon Sports USA / ELITE Sports Media Group Company
- Received recognition from Cal Preps - Rivals
 - No. 9 ranked (For all classes) defensive lineman in the nation at Camp Series
 - No. 14 ranked weak side defensive end in the nation for Class of 2024
- 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" in May, 2022
- Cited by PrepRedzone.com (Michael Huntley - April 11, 2022) as being part of the most improved team in the Trinity League for Fall 2022
- Invited to and participated in the Under Armour Next Camp Series at Mission Viejo High School in March. Also named a Top Defensive Performer by PrepRedzone.com. Also noted as a player to watch by Greg Biggins of 247sports.com

- Invited to and participated in the first stop in the 2022 Cal Preps - Rivals Camp Series held at East Los Angeles College. Named the positional Most Valuable Player - Defensive Line in February. Also named a Top Defensive Performer by PrepRedzone.com
- Invited to and participated in the Giant Skillz Athletics - (B.O.S.S.) National Lineman Showcase 2022 So Cal Regional in February. Recognized by 247sports.com's Greg Biggins for a "strong showing" at the event
- Ranked the No. 1 defensive line prospect "riser" in state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022
- Ranked the No. 21 overall prospect and No. 2 defensive lineman in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Winter 2022
- Fall 2021 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Defense
- Fall 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Defense
- In Fall 2021, was second on the team in sacks (4.5) and tackles for loss (10)
- Enjoyed an outstanding game on defense in loss at Mater Dei -- logged five tackles (4 for loss) and three quarterback sacks
- Had one quarterback sack in win over Nolan Catholic in 2021. Recognized by the *Orange County Register's* with "Huntley's Hits" for Week 4

13 Izley Manutai | Wide Receiver / Defensive Back | Sophomore | 5-10 / 160



INJURED

- Transferred from Desert Pines (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- On varsity team as a freshman, collected 4 receptions for 59 yards and one touchdown

15 Lennie "Trey" Brown | Safety | Sophomore | 5-9 / 157

- Registered first career sack in loss to Orange Lutheran in 2022

17 Hayes Cloutier | Quarterback | Freshman | 6-1 / 170

- Was a standout and award winner at the two-day "Football University" camp held in FBU Las Vegas – Impressed coaches and was named to the All-Camp Team

19 Hunter Melton | Quarterback | Senior | 6-0 / 185

- Was 7-of-10 for 78 yards and one touchdown versus West (Salt Lake City) when called upon at the start of the second quarter for injured quarterback James Johnson. It was his first varsity action as he sat out last season as a result of an injury

21 Sean Embree | Tight End | Junior | 6-4 / 170

- ★★★ recruit
- Scored a special teams touchdown when he pounced on a blocked punt in the end zone in win versus West
- Praised by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for impressive showing at the "Battle if the Beach"
- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Offense
- In first-ever game in a SMC uniform, registered two receptions for 30 yards, including one touchdown on the opening drive in win over Norco in 2022

22 Logan Hirou | Defensive Back | Sophomore | 6-1

- In just second varsity game, notched two interceptions, returning one 76 yards for a touchdown, in loss to Centennial. Cited by the *Los Angeles Times* (Eric Sondheimer) as one of the Top High School Performers for Week 1

24 Brock deFries | Defensive Back | Junior | 5-9 / 170

- National Preps Combine at NFL Pro Bowl in February, 2023 in Las Vegas
- Collected first career interception versus St. John Bosco in final game of regular season
- Blocked a punt in his first varsity game action versus Mullen (Colorado) in 2022

33 Aisa Taeleifi | Linebacker | Sophomore | 6-1 / 220

- Invited to and participated in the Gladiator 7on7 Series in Spring. Noted by Michael Huntley or PrepRedzone.com as one of the top Class of 2024 Newcomers in Orange County
- Named in the first rankings for the Class of 2026 by PrepRedzone.com - State Overall: 95 | State Position: 9 | National: Watch List
- Invited and participated in the National Preps Champion Showcase Series held in May
- Invited and participated in the Gladiator 7on7 Series! In late March

43 Noah Sulick | Linebacker | Senior | 6-0 / 205

- Ranked No. 115 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2023
- Named one of the top players on the team by the *Orange County Register* for Fall 2023 -- "Mr. Steady"
- Cited by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com as a top performer on the SMC defense in the "Battle of the Beach"
- During the offseason, visited Hawaii
- Selected by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com as a "great fit" to play in the 2024 Orange County North-South All-Star Classic
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Defense
- 2022 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Defense
- Finished third on team with 70 tackles. Also registered four sacks
- Tied career-high for tackles in a game with 12 in CIF-SS Division 1 loss to JSerra Catholic last season
- Logged a team-leading 12 tackles in 2022 regular season finale versus St. John Bosco
- Had the best game of his career, thus far, as he registered five tackles (3 for loss), 2 /12 sacks and one quarterback hurry in victory over Mullen (Colorado) in 2022. Lauded by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com as one of the Southern Section's top defensive performers of the week
- Contributed a solid performance in the season-opening win at San Juan Hills with 10 total tackles (4 for loss) and one-and-a-half quarterback sacks. Praised by Mitch Stephens of scorebooklive.com and Michael Huntley of the *Orange County Register* - "Fear the "D", SMC's defense looked in midseason form"
- Noah is the third Sulick family member to wear the number 43, going along with uncle Tim '93 and brother Drew '21 -- graduates from SMC. His father, also an SMC alumni, played football and wore number 72
- Named as a "top player" on SMC roster by scorebooklive.com in season preview
- Praised by PrepRedzone.com for performances on the "passing league" circuit
- One of the leaders that emerged on defense, notched 42 total tackles (7th) with nine for loss (2nd) for the 2021 Fall season
- Registered first career interception in the win over Orange Lutheran in the 2021 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.

50 Jayden Dose | Defensive Tackle | Senior | 5-10 / 229

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

52 Grant Degulis | Offensive Lineman | Junior | 6-1 / 285

- Attended the Redlands Summer Camp Series in June, 2023 with more than 15 Division 1 scouts in attendance
- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Offense
- Invited to attend the 2022 U.S. Army Bowl National Combine in Frisco, Texas in mid-December
- Attended Jesse Sapolu's "Men in the Trenches" (MITT) Linemen Academy in February and March, 2022
- A member of the SMC wrestling team

56 Zander "Tank" Benitez | Offensive Lineman | Senior | 6-1 / 260

- Invited to and participated in the Recruit My Lineman National Showcase in mid-March held in Westerville, Ohio
- 2023 offseason training included workouts, camps and showcases with Giant Skillz at the "Mecca" (5-on-5) in Atlanta and Utah
- 2022 offseason training included workouts, camps and showcases with Giant Skillz at the "Mecca" (5-on-5)

57 Judah Moenoa | Defensive Lineman / Offensive Lineman | Senior | 6-1 / 250

- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Defense
- In first varsity game action, registered five tackles (2 for loss) and one sack in loss to Orange Lutheran

64 Joseph "Joey" Lopez | Offensive Lineman | Sophomore | 6-5 / 315

- Attended the Redlands Summer Camp Series with more than 15 Division 1 scouts in attendance. Also mad estops at the San Diego State Skills Camp, San Jose State Football Camp and California (UC Berkeley) Camp
- Invited to and participated in Under the Radar Turn Up Maaan Lineman Camp in mid-March held in Downey
- Named the "Top Offensive Performer" at "The Arrival Camp" in So Cal in early-February
- Has received an offer from Houston Christian
- Finished season four "pancake blocks"

- Selected as a “Watch List” candidate by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2026 in Fall 2022
- 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
- Originally from San Jacinto, California

72 Ivan Pena | Offensive Tackle | Sophomore | 6-6 / 290

- Transfer from Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- Comes to SMC as one of the top rated players at his position by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2026 in Nevada: No. 12 prospect overall and No. 2 prospect at position

75 Jacob Maiava | Offensive Lineman / Defensive Lineman | Junior | 6-2 / 290

- Transferred to SMC in July from Liberty High School (Henderson, Nevada)

77 Ethan “E.J.” Thomas | Offensive Lineman | Junior | 6-4 / 298

- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Offense
- Led team in “pancake blocks” with six, despite missing one contest in 2022
- Invited to and participated in the Giant Skillz Athletics - (B.O.S.S.) National Lineman Showcase 2022 So Cal Regional in February, 2022

88 Kyle Brody | Tight End | Senior | 6-4 / 235

- Ranked No. 126 by *Orange County Register* of Hot 150 Top Impact Players for Fall 2023
- Ranked the No. 204 overall and No. 9 position prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall, 2023
- Cal-Hi Sports 2023 Preseason All-Orange County Third-Team
- Has committed to play at the United States Air Force Academy
- Noted as one of the possible breakout stars of the upcoming 2023 season by Eric Sondheimer of the *Los Angeles Times*
- Named the No. 3 in California and No. 62 recruit in the nation at tight end by QB Hit List for the Class of 2024 in January, 2023 (★★★)
- Has received offers from Nevada-Las Vegas, San Jose State, Sacramento State and Pitt
- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Offense
- Ranked the No. 213 overall prospect in the state by PrepRedzone.com for Class of 2024 in Fall 2022
- 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
- Registered 12 pass receptions for 81 yards (6.8 average) and one touchdown in Fall 2021

86 Ryan Gass | Junior | Kicker

- Was a perfect 4-for-4 in PATs in varsity debut versus West

90 Cameron Brickle II | Defensive Tackle | Sophomore | 6-3 / 275

- Transfer from Malvern Prep (Malvern, Pennsylvania)
- Ranked a 5-star prospect by Rivals.com
- Has received 12 Division 1 offers: Boston College, Connecticut, Maryland, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Syracuse, Temple, Tennessee, USC, West Virginia and Wisconsin
- 2022 season stats: 29 total tackles, 3 tackles for a loss and 3 passes defensed

92 Bobby Ortiz | Defensive End | Junior | 6-0 / 257

- Transfer from St. Bonaventure (Ventura)
- Saw limited action with the Seraphs on the varsity club during the 2021 and 2022 seasons

97 J.J. Hanne | Defensive Lineman | Junior

- Registered eight tackles with 1 1/2 sacks in win over West

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: LIBERTY



SMCHS Season Game No. 3 / Nonleague Game No. 3

Game Logistics: Friday, September 1, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. (Stadium - Campus)

School Location: Bakersfield, California

Nickname: Patriots

Head Coach: Bryan Nixon -- 11th Season at School / Record: 95-27-0 (.779)

* According to Cal-Hi Sports Nixon has 197 overall career wins

2022 Record: 13-2 Overall | 4-0 Southwest Yosemite - River League (1st) | 5-0 CIF-CS, Region & State Bowl Playoffs -- State 1-AA Champions

2023 Record: 2-0

Last Week's Game: Won @ Ridgeview (Bakersfield), 49-14

All-Time Series: First meeting

Players to Watch:

- Tre Fulton | Safety | Senior
- Jace Nixon | Quarterback / Tight End | Senior
- Cole O'Brien | Quarterback | Senior
- Drew Underwood | Linebacker | Senior
- Tyler Lewis | Linebacker | Senior

Team Snapshot:

Coach Bryan Nixon and the Patriots have it rolling. Coming off a state Division 1-A championship following a 48-20 win over Pittsburg -- and a state runner-up finish in 2021 in 2-AA, Liberty looks again like the top team out of the Central Section. The Patriots lost some big, physical, athletic contributors to graduation, but return 10 starters and plenty of reinforcements off an undefeated junior varsity team. Tre Fulton, who had six interceptions last season, is a Division I prospect. He leads a defense that also returns leading tackler Drew Underwood (98 tackles) and Tyler Lewis (78). It will be interesting to see if Nixon goes with a two-quarterback set like last season when O'Brien (83-of-130, .638, 1,366 yards and 18 touchdowns) and his son Jace Nixon (43-of-70, .614, 924 yards and 8 touchdowns) traded snaps. O'Brien was injured for the state championship contest and the younger Nixon led the way. Coach Nixon and the Patriots are not backing down from any challenges this season. Their non-league schedule features six teams who made the playoffs in their section last year, including Santa Margarita Catholic from the Trinity League, and a rematch of the Division I semifinal opponent Buchanan (Clovis).

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: @ BISHOP AMAT



SMCHS Season Game No. 3 / Nonleague Game No. 3

Game Logistics: Thursday, September 7, 2023 @ Kiefer Stadium (Campus), 7:00 p.m.

School Location: La Puente, California

Nickname: Lancers

Head Coach: Steve Hagerty -- 16th Season at School / 2008-Current -- Record: 113-48-1 (.701)

2022 Record: 9-4 Overall | 3-2 Mission League (4th) | 2-1 CIF-SS Division 2 Playoffs

2023 Record: 1-1

Last Week's Game: vs. St. Paul (Santa Fe Springs)

All-Time Series: SMC leads 6-3

Last Game / SMC Win: 26-21 on Friday, August 29, 2014 @ Saddleback College

Players to Watch:

- Richie Munoz | Quarterback | Senior
- Ryan Salcedo | Running Back | Sophomore
- Stacy Bey | Running Back | Senior
- Noah Faapito | Defensive Lineman | Senior
- Brandyn Wetherspoon | Cornerback | Senior