



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



2023 VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

2 State Championships

1997 Division II
2011 Division I

3 CIF-Southern Section Championships

1996 Division V
1997 Division V
2011 PAC-5

26 CIF-Southern Section Playoff Appearances

1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017 2019, 2021 (Fall) & 2022

4 League Championships

1996, 1997, 2000 & 2001

35th Varsity Season

Overall Record: 245-146-3 (.627)
Home: 134-66-3 (.667)
Road: 110-80-0 (.579)

7 Nationally-Ranked Teams

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

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)



Orange Lutheran Lancers (3-3) at Santa Margarita Catholic Eagles (4-2)

Saddleback College (Mission Viejo, California)
Friday, October 6, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.



RECAP OF LAST GAME VS. ST. JOHN BOSCO

Santa Margarita Catholic opened 2023 Trinity League action by hosting nationally-ranked St. John Bosco (Bellflower) at Saddleback College. The Braves came to Mission Viejo in a cranky mood as they dropped their first nonleague game the previous game at Kahuku (Hawaii). It was their first nonleague defeat since 2017.

From the beginning, SJB was relentless and were able to thwart any threat offered by the young Eagles as they prevailed, 42-7. Sean Embree was a bright spot for the offense as nabbed five receptions including one for SMC's only score. It was the junior's third game with five-or-more receptions and has a total of 23 for the season (17.5 average). John Gazzaniga now has seven touchdown passes and has only thrown one interception.

On defense, sophomore Mason Reyes led the club with eight tackles. Fellow sophomore Trey Brown collected the first interception of his high school career. Senior linebackers Gage Burnett and Noah Sulick had seven tackles apiece. Both average better than eight tackles per contest.

Next for SMC is their final regular season home game and Homecoming as they play host to Orange Lutheran. After that, they take to the road for three games to close out the regular season.

Ceremonial Coin Toss

Richard Schaaf

Mr. Schaaf was the first Athletic Director in the history of Santa Margarita Catholic High School when it opened in 1987. He went on to serve in that role for 30 years. Schaaf also coached the SMC's girls basketball team for several seasons, leading the team to success, including a CIF-Southern Section championship in the 2004-05 season. Schaaf retired from his roles at SMC in 2017.

SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC - PLAYER NOTES, HIGHLIGHTS & STATS

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

- Registered 106 all-purpose yards, besting the triple-digit threshold for the second time this season in win at Bishop Amat
- 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

1 John Gazzaniga | Quarterback | Junior | 6-7 / 238

- Passed for two touchdowns and rushed for another in win over Leuzinger
- Spotlights in online highlight feature by MaxPreps.com: "6'7" Quarterback John Gazzaniga Looks to Make Noise with Santa Margarita Catholic"
- Spotlights in feature article in the *Orange County Register* by prep football writer Steve Fryer (09/14/23)
- Spotlights in feature article on 247sports.com by prep football recruiting guru Greg Biggins (09/14/23)
- SBLive/scorebooklive.com: "Southern California High School Athlete of the Week" nominee: Led them to a 51-point outing and win over Bishop Amat on Thursday. Completed 20-of-30 passes for 377 yards and four touchdowns
- SBLive/scorebooklive.com: Southern California – "Top Stars, Best Performances and Passing Performances" in Week 3
- *The Los Angeles Times*: Selected a "Southland Top Performer" for Week 3
- Cal-Hi Sports: Southern California - "State Stat Star of the Week" selection (with teammate Trent Mosley)
- Had the best passing debut of any quarterback in SMC history: 20-of-30 (66.7%), 377 yards and four touchdown passes. Overall, this tied for the twelfth-best single game in school all-time

Most Passing Yards in First Career Game SMC All-Time				
Quarterback	Yards	Opponent	Date	Class
John Gazzaniga *	377	@ Bishop Amat	September 7, 2023	Junior
Peter Costelli	325	Downey	August 16, 2018	Sophomore
Jaxon Potter	294	San Juan Hills	August 20, 2021	Junior
K.J. Costello	243	@ Bishop Amat	August 30, 2013	Sophomore
Josiah Norwood	243	@ Downey	August 25, 2017	Senior

- Earned All-Orange County Third-Team honors in basketball in 2022-23
- Spent two seasons on the varsity team for the Lancers
- As a freshman, was 20-of-54 passing (37.0%) for 237 yards and threw touchdowns
- As a sophomore, didn't see any time at quarterback but had two rush attempts for four yards and one score
- Has Division 1 offers from Arizona, Massachusetts and Akron
- With size at 6-7 and 238 pounds, was a key player on the basketball team
- Has been clocked at 4.60 in the 40-yard-dash
- PrepRedzone.com ranks - State-Overall: No. 147 / State-Position: No. 22

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

- Continued strong defensive presence with eight tackles (2 for loss) and one sack in big win at Bishop Amat
- 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
- ★★☆☆ recruit with 4 Division 1 offers from Army-West Point, Arizona, Fordham and Massachusetts

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

- Describer as a “one-man wrecking crew” by Eric Sondheimer of the *Los Angeles Times* in his mid-season review (09/24) -- the best wide receiver (and wildcat quarterback, etc.)
- September 21: Cited by Steve Fryer of the *Orange County Register* as one of four probable frontrunners for the Orange County “Offensive Player of the Year”
- Ranked the No. 19 overall prospect in the state for the Class of 2025 by PrepRedzone.com in Fall, 2023
- Led the offensive attack once again with six pass receptions for 94 yards (15.7 average) and a touchdown and also rushed for one in win over Leuzinger. Recognized by PrepRedzone.com in its Southern California “Top Receiving Performances” selection
- Added a rushing and receiving touchdown to give him 16 total scores for the season. Dating back to the final three games of last season, Mosley now has scored at least one touchdown in eight-consecutive games. The SMC record for most consecutive games with a touchdown scored is an amazing 17 contests, held by John Ireland in the 1989-90 seasons. The most touchdowns for a single season is 28, shared by Bryant Wolfsberger (1997) and Ryan Wolpin (2011)

Most Touchdowns Scored California High School - 2023			
Player	School	Touchdowns	Games
Hunter Babb	Caruthers (California)	17	4
Andrew Gartcia	Boron	15	4
Trent Mosley	Santa Margarita Catholic	14	4

- Followed up memorable performance with another spectacular, record breaking game @ Bishop Amat: Rushing: 6 carries for 33 yards (5.5 average) and three touchdowns / Receiving: 9 receptions for 144 yards (16.0 average) and 3 touchdowns
 - Tied school record for most touchdowns scored in a single game with six (Also Ryan Wolpin in 2012 vs. Carson)
 - Tied school record for most touchdowns accounted for in a single game with six (with 5 others)
 - Tied school record for most 2-point conversions accounted for in a single game with two (Also Ryan Maxwell in 2005 @ Kealakehe (Hawaii))
 - Tied school record for most receiving touchdowns in a single game with three. Held by many and achieved in several instances
 - Mosley and teammate Sean Embree each broke the 100-yard threshold fro receiving yards in a game for the second-consecutive week

Most Touchdowns Scored - Single Game SMC All-Time			
Player	Touchdowns	Opponent	Date
Trent Mosley	6	@ Bishop Amat	September 7, 2023
Ryan Wolpin	6	Carson	September 14, 2012

Most Touchdowns Accounted For - Single Game SMC All-Time				
Player	Touchdowns Accounted	Opponent	Touchdown Types	Date
Trent Mosley	6	@ Bishop Amat	3 rec & 3 rush	September 7, 2023
Jaxon Potter	6	@ Los Alamitos	5 pass & 1 rush	September 15, 2022
K.J. Costello	6	Orange Lutheran	4 pass & 2 rush	October 17, 2014
Ryan Wolpin	6	Carson	6 rush	September 14, 2012
Johnny Stanton	6	Bellarmine (San Jose) *	4 pass & 2 rush	December 16, 2023
Carson Palmer	6	Tustin **	5 pass & 1 rush	December 13, 1997

* = CIF-State Division 1 Championship @ Carson

** = CIF-Southern Section Division V Championship @ Cal-State Fullerton

Most 2-Pont Conversions - Single Game SMC All-Time			
Player	2-Points Conversions	Opponent	Date
Trent Mosley	2	@ Bishop Amat	September 7, 2023
Ryan Maxwell	2	@ Kealakehe (Hawaii)	August 26, 2005

Most Receiving Touchdowns - Single Game SMC All-Time		
Receiver	Rec TDs	Times Achieved
John Minardi	3	5
Emmett Mosley	3	2
Brad Finneran, Mike O'Garman, Kyle Sweet, Grant Calcaterra Chase Nenad, Reymello Murphy & Trent Mosley	3	1

- SBLive/scorebooklive.com: Southern California "Top Stars & Best Performances" selection
- SBLive/scorebooklive.com: Nominated as "National Athlete of the Week"
- SBLive/scorebooklive.com: "Southern California Top Weekly Receiving Performances"
- Cal-Hi Sports: Southern California - "State Stat Star of the Week" selection (with teammate John Gazzaniga)
- PrepRedzone.com: Southern California "Top Receiving Performances" selection
- Nominated as the PrepRedzone.com "National Athlete of the Week"
- *The Los Angeles Times*: Selected as a "Southland Top Performer" for Week 3
- Spotlited in feature article on 247sports.com by prep football recruiting guru Greg Biggins (09/11/23)

- Along with teammate Sean Embree, enjoyed the second game in a row where both attained 100-or-more receiving yards. The 411 combined versus Liberty (Bakersfield) was a school record for a duo -- Mosley (187) and Embree (124)

Single Game - Two Players with 100-plus Receiving Yards SMC 2023 Season				
Players	Opponent	Individual Yards	Combined Yards	Notes
Trent Mosley	@ Liberty (Bakersfield)	187	411	No. 1 combined yardage all-time in school history
Sean Embree		124		
Trent Mosley	@ Bishop Amat	144	288	No. 3 combined yardage all-time in school history
Sean Embree		144		
<i>In total, achieved 15 times in SMC history</i>				

- Had best game of young career thus far in win at Liberty (Bakersfield) -- three carries for 40 yards (13.3 average) and two touchdowns and nine receptions for 187 yards (20.8 average) and two touchdowns. Received numerous honors and awards
 - SBLive/scorebooklive.com: Southern California "Top Stars & Best Performances" selection
 - *Orange County Register*: "Weekly MVP Swag Chain" selection
 - Cal-Hi Sports: Southern California - "Multi-Purpose/Special Teams Player of the Week"
 - PrepRedzone.com: Southern California "Top Receiving Performances" selection
 - Nominated as the PrepRedzone.com "National Athlete of the Week"
- Scored two additional rushing touchdowns in loss to Centennial. Now 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
- 2023 Cal-Hi Sports 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
- 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"

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"
- 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
- 2023 Cal-Hi Sports 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 recptions 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
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports 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
- 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
- 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

- Logged one sack in huge win at Bishop Amat
- Contributed on defense as SMC defeated Liberty (Bakersfield) -- two tackles for loss and one sack. Cited as a "Top Performer" by PrepRedzone.com
- 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"
- 2022 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Defense
- 2022 All-Trinity League First-Team - Defense
- Selected as team captain for both junior and senior seasons

- scorebooklive.com (SBLive) 2022 Preseason All-State Third-Team - Defense selection
- scorebooklive.com (SBLive) 2022 Preseason All-Southern Section Second-Team - Defense selection
- Cal-Hi Sports Fall 2022 Preseason All-Orange County First-Team - Defense selection
- Fall 2021 Cal-Hi Sports All-State Nominee - Defense
- Fall 2021 All-Trinity League Second-Team - Defense

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

- On varsity team as a freshman, collected 4 receptions for 59 yards and one touchdown

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

- Notched his first career interception versus nationally-ranked St. John Bosco in the Trinity League opening game
- Ranked the No. 95 overall prospect in the state for the Class of 2025 by PrepRedzone.com in Fall, 2023

16 Jack Junker | Wide Receiver | Freshman | 5-8 / 163

- Freshman enjoyed the best game of his early career with five receptions for 89 yards (17.8 average)

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

- Saw first action of varsity career in win at Liberty (Bakersfield) in Week 2 and was 1-of-2 passing
- 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

- Cited by Michael Huntley of PrepRedzone.com for “Honorable Mention” performance versus Liberty (Bakersfield) -- 17-of-25 (68.0%) for 316 yards and three touchdowns
- 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

20 Elijah “Eli” Robinson | Running Back | Freshman | 5-7 / 170

- Caught a 38-yard touchdown reception versus Leuzinger -- the first score of his varsity career

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

- ★★★□recruit
- SBLive/scorebooklive.com: “Southern California Top Weekly Receiving Performances”
- In huge win at Bishop Amat, had eight receptions for 144 yards (18.0 average) and one touchdown -- a 77-yard bomb from quarterback John Gazzaniga
- Had breakout game in win at Liberty (Bakersfield), setting career highs with six catches for 124 yards (20.7 average). Also scored one touchdown
- 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

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

- In win over Leuzinger, notched his fourth interception of the season and returned it for a score (31 yards) -- his second this season
- Registered at least one interception for the second week in a row with a pick in big win at Liberty (Bakersfield). Cited as a “Top Performer” by PrepRedzone.com
- 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 and awarded a “Helmet Sticker” from Michael Huntley of the *Orange County Register*

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

- Attended the National Preps Combine at NFL Pro Bowl in February, 2023 in Las Vegas

26 Mason Reyes | Strong Safety | Sophomore | 5-10 / 190

- Had the best game of his young prep career in the Trinity League opening game versus nationally-ranked St. John Bosco as he led the team with eight tackles
- On the Watch List of overall prospects in the state for the Class of 2025 by PrepRedzone.com in Fall, 2023

- Has seen action in each game for the Eagles on defense and special teams. Has logged 17 tackles, two passes defended and returned four kicks

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

- Ranked the No. 137 overall prospect in the state for the Class of 2025 by PrepRedzone.com in Fall, 2023
- Invited to and participated in the Gladiator 7on7 Series in Spring. Noted by Michael Huntley of 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

35 Daniel Romano | Defensive Back | Junior | 6-0 / 175

- Notched first career interception in stunning victory at Bishop Amat

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

- A real dynamo, had perhaps his best game as an Eagle as he led the club with nine tackles and one forced fumble in win over Leuzinger
- Collected nine tackles (1 for loss) in huge win at Bishop Amat
- 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

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
- 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

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

- Ranked the No. 116 overall prospect in the state for the Class of 2025 by PrepRedzone.com in Fall, 2023
- Named the "Top Offensive Performer" at "The Arrival Camp" in So Cal in early-February
- Has received offers from North Carolina-Charlotte University, Houston Christian and Jacksonville State

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

- 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

- Leads team with 13 deceleaters.

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

- 2022 All-Trinity League Honorable Mention - Offense

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
- 2023 Cal-Hi Sports 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

86 Ryan Gass | Junior | Kicker

- Versus Leuzinger, was perfect on PAT conversion tries -- 6-for-6 -- and is now 16-for-17 (94.1%) for the season
- Was a perfect 4-for-4 in PATs in varsity debut versus West

89 Troy Kuta | Punter | Senior |

- Member of the SMC soccer team

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

- 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 defended

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

- 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: ORANGE LUTHERAN



SMCHS Season Game No. 7 / Trinity League Game No. 2

Game Day / Date: Friday, October 6, 2023 @ Saddleback College (Mission Viejo), 7:00 p.m.

School Location: Orange

Nickname: Lancers

Head Coach: Rod Sherman

2022 Season: Overall: 7-5 | Trinity League: 2-3 (Tied 3rd) | CIF-SS Division 1: 1-1

2023 Record: 3-3

Last Week: Lost @ JSerra Catholic, 24-14

All-Time Series: Orange Lutheran leads 10-9

2022 Game: Orange Lutheran won 28-26 (@ Orange Coast College)

Last SMCHS Win: 35-28 @ Saddleback College - 2021

Players to Watch:

- A.J. Ia | Tight End / Linebacker | Junior
 - Auma Jennings | Defensive Lineman | Sophomore
 - Benjamin Alefaio | Cornerback / Wide Receiver | Junior
 - Christian Wallace-Filemu | Linebacker | Junior
 - Jireh Moe | Defensive Lineman | Junior
 - JoJo Edwards | Linebacker | Junior
 - Samuele Utu | Offensive Lineman | Sophomore
 - T.J. Lateef | Quarterback | Junior
 - Talanoa Ili | Linebacker | Sophomore
-
- Christian Panapa | Linebacker | Sophomore (Transfer from Servite)
 - Marcellous Ryan | Defensive Back | Sophomore

- Samuel Fonua | Linebacker | Senior (Transfer from Mater Dei)
- Steve Chavez | Running Back | Junior (Transfer from Damien-La Verne)
- William Taylor V | Running back | Sophomore (Transfer from Bellflower)

2023 In Brief:

As Orange Lutheran's football program took the field for the 2023 season, it has focused on building upon their success over the past two seasons under head coach Rod Sherman. The Lancers started the campaign with a No. 2 ranking in Orange County (*OC Register*) and a No. 10 ranking in the state (MaxPreps.com) as they set out to tackle the fifth-toughest game schedule in the country. Nonleague opponents included Serra (Gardena), De La Salle (Concord) and Sierra Canyon (Chatsworth), as well as the always tough Trinity League matchups. Out of the ten regular season games OLu scheduled this fall, eight teams were ranked in the national Top 100 to start 2023. Sherman looked at the challenging schedule as an opportunity for growth.

There is excitement surrounding the team's defensive linebackers, a core group of returners that includes All-County honorees junior Jireh Moe and sophomores Talanoa Ili and Auma Jennings and Wallace Filemu. An area where Sherman sees the most improvement is in the offensive line. Linebacker looks especially deep with the arrival of transfers Samuel Fonua from Mater Dei and Christian Panapa from Servite. The secondary will include emerging junior Benjamin Alefaio and Serra transfer Marcellous Ryan among others. First-Team All-League quarterback T.J. Lateef returns to lead the offense. The Lancers graduated their top three wide receivers but big tight end A.J. Ia is back as a prime target. Also keep an eye on transfer running backs Steve Chavez from Damien and William Taylor IV from Bellflower.

HOMECOMING 2023

Short History of Homecoming in the United States

Homecoming is a long-standing tradition at most universities, colleges and high schools throughout the United States. It usually includes activities for students and alumni, such as a sporting event, parade through the streets of the city or town and class reunions. Several different colleges take credit for initiating the concept of "Homecoming." The following five schools have the strongest claims to being the "first."

- **Northern Illinois University** (1903): The first alumni football game was played on October 10, 1903 and began NIU's homecoming tradition.
- **Southwestern University** (Texas) (1909): This college held their first homecoming on record on April 21, 1909 in San Gabriel Park. Former students raised funds, prepared and served a barbecue supper and decorated the town buildings.
- **Baylor University** (1909): In November, 1909 "Good Will Week" was born with a parade, reunion parties, concerts, a fromal dance and an afternoon football game. This all started a tradition that continues to this day. There was a gap between 1910 and 1915 when there was no homecoming event, however there has been continuity since 1915.
- **University of Illinois** (1910): Two Illini seniors began planning an event centered around the annual Illinois versus University of Chicago rivalry. For the previous seven years, Illinois had lost. The school hoped to reverse this losing streak by planning an event that bolstered school spirit. Support took hold among the student body, faculty and local businesses. It turned out to be an event bigger than anyone had anticipated and homecomings have been held on campus ever since.
- **University of Missouri** (1911): The Tigers faced rival Kansas University and the festivities centered on a parade and a football game during which alumni were encouraged to attend. Along with the football game and parade, the celebration included a spirit rally with a bonfire. Nearly 10,000 alumni "came home" to take part in the celebration.
- **University of Southern California** (1924): The first celebration of Homecoming on the West Coast is claimed by USC. Trojan Nation got a later start than those in the Midwest. It wasn't until 1924 rolled around -- more than 40 years after the first class graduated -- the university was ready to welcome alumni with fanfare. Festivities included a parade complete with decorated horse-drawn floats, surreys and the occasional early automobile. And, of course, there was football. USC won the matchup was against the Orange of Syracuse University by a score of 16-0 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: JSERRA CATHOLIC



SMCHS Season Game No. 8 / Trinity League Game No. 3

Game Day / Date: Friday, October 13, 2023 @ JSerra Catholic Field (Campus), 7:00 p.m.

School Location: San Juan Capistrano

Nickname: Lions

Head Coach: Victor Santa Cruz - First season at school

2022 Season: Overall: 6-6 | Trinity League: 2-3 (Tied 3rd) | CIF-SS Division 1: 1-1

2023 Record: 4-2

Last Week: Won versus Orange Lutheran, 24-14

This Week: @ Mater Dei

All-Time Series: SMC leads 11-7 - Including postseason (.611)

2022 Games / Last SMCHS Win:

October 7 - Regular Season: Santa Margarita Catholic 29, JSerra Catholic 28 (@ Saddleback College)

November 4 - CIF-Southern Section Division 1 Playoff: JSerra Catholic 27, Santa Margarita Catholic 20 (@ Saddleback College)

Players to Watch:

Luke Webb | Defensive End | Junior

Madden Faraimo | Linebacker | Junior

Michael Tollefson | Quarterback | Junior

Clarence Chaney | Linebacker | Senior

Jake Flores | Offensive Lineman | Junior

George Perez | Running Back | Junior

Logan Christensen | Wide Receiver / Defensive Back | Junior

Eagles-Lions Rewind: 2022 Regular Season Contest

After a devastating loss at Orange Lutheran to open the Trinity League schedule, where they won the statistical battle, Santa Margarita Catholic found themselves in the same boat when hosting JSerra Catholic. The Eagles amassed 341 yards of offense in the first half, but after a big first quarter and quite second, the two teams were knotted at 21-21 at half.

After surrendering a touchdown in the third and falling behind 28-21, SMC manufactured the eventual game-winning drive three minutes in the fourth quarter. Taurian Nash pushed through the line on a one-yard dive for the score. Eagles Coach Anthony Rouzier had a decision to make. With two PAT attempts blocked in the previous game and one already on this night, he chose to go for two. The gutsy call paid off as quarterback Jaxon Potter threaded the needle and completed a strike to Kyle Brody to give the Eagles a 29-28 lead and ultimately the victory.

Potter was 37-of-44 (84.1%) for 416 yards and two touchdowns. He broke his own school record for completions in a game and registered his third career 400-plus yard effort. Receiver Emmett Mosley hauled in 14 receptions for 155 yards - a career high and one touchdown. The 14 catches is tied for second in school history. The pair each enjoyed one of the best statistical games in school history.

The defense was able to make plays and hold upstart JSerra down for the triumph on Homecoming Night. They stood with linebacker Jacob Bower collecting 15 tackles (2 for loss) and an interception. LeVar Talley notched a sack, while defensive backs Donovan Comestro and Blake Wilson each had 11 tackles. Ben Durham had multiple tackles for a loss.