

Coaches Corner

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord and not for human masters. Colossians 3:23

Crean Lutheran (1 - 0) vs. St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy (1 - 0) Friday, August 29

God's richest blessings on you all as we celebrate our second consecutive home game of the year.

The Saints host St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy tonight in the second game of the young season. St. Pius is 1 - 0 after their 36 - 20 road victory over Sierra Vista of Las Vegas last Friday night.

In last week's game, your Saints bounced back from a first-quarter deficit to win going away (30 - 14) against an experienced and physical Mullen Mustang team from Denver, Colorado.

Caden Jones led the offense by completing 20 of 29 passes for 288 yards and three touchdowns. Jones spread the ball around to Bryce Coleman (6 receptions for 94 yards and one touchdown), Dylan Booth (5 receptions for 81 yards and two touchdowns), and Taiga Takada (four receptions for 94 yards). Caleb Bey added an 18-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to help break open a tight game that was tied at halftime, 14 - 14.

The defensive line of Anthony Jones, Ryder Barnes, Tank Carrington, and Allitoa Nansen put constant pressure on the Mustang quarterback all evening long. Barnes recorded two sacks and seven pressures, while Carrington added 11 pressures on the quarterback. The linebacking corps of Ethan Haugslund (eight total tackles), Aaron Nicasio (seven total tackles), and Mateo Muniz (five total tackles) were solid throughout the contest. Evan Mack led the secondary with nine tackles and two passes broken up, while Aidan Smith (seven solos, two assists) and Mark Ricks (seven tackles, two assists) made key plays on defense and on the special team's units.

Eric Miao and Luke Kyser were the stars of the special teams, as they took over for all Orange County kicker, Connor Stephens, who graduated, and held down the kicking chores for the last three years. Miao was good on three of his four points after touchdown (PAT). He connected on a 25-yard field goal to break the 14 - 14 tie in the third quarter, and had two touchbacks on his kickoffs. Kyser averaged 41.3 yards on his punts, including a 50-yard punt that pinned the Mustangs back on their own four-yard line.

Mullen came in with 16 returning starters, so we were pleased with the play and intensity level of many of our players who had never seen varsity action before Friday night. There is plenty of room for improvement, including cutting back on our defensive penalties, but overall, we are excited about this team and our potential.

Next week's game:

vs. Capistrano Valley Cougars

Friday, September 5 – 7:00 p.m. kickoff