

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 Saints (4 - 0) vs. La Serna Lancers (2 - 2) Friday, Sept. 19, 2025

God's blessings to all as the Saints return to Saints Stadium in this final non-league game versus La Serna of Whittier in preparation for the Epsilon League season.

In last week's game, the Saints' defense and special teams dominated the action in shutting out El Modena, 34 - 0. Co-defensive player of the game, Aidan Smith, was all over the field from his safety position as he delivered several bone-jarring tackles in the contest. The other Co-defensive player of the game was Junior linebacker Aaron Nicasio (6 solos, 1 sack), led the linebacking corps with another solid game. The defensive front of Tank Carrington, Toa Nansen, Ryder Barnes, and Anthony Jones was relentless against the run and pass against the Vanguard. Defensive backs, Evan Mack and Bryce Coleman added interceptions to frustrate El Modena further.

Co-Special teams' players of the game, Luke Kyser and Taiga Takada, shone on the special teams units. Kyser averaged 44.5 yards on his four punts and put two inside the 20-yard line, with his longest being a 55-yarder at a key point in the game. Takada was dazzling again on his punt returns (3 returns, 86 yards) and had a 55-yard return that put the offense in excellent field position at the 11-yard line.

Despite having multiple penalties that stalled offensive drives, the Saints offense racked up 426 yards in total offense. For the second week in a row, a big running play gave the offense the spark it needed to get untracked. This week, it was Cole Ocana's 51-yard tackle-breaking burst that began the Saints scoring. Ocana was awarded the overall player of the game for his efforts. Caden Jones continued his pinpoint passing (27 of 35, 303 yards) and his ability to spread the ball around to several receivers. Jones had touchdown passes to Mateo Muniz, Takada (6 receptions, 73 yards), and to the offensive player of the game, Dillon Booth (9 receptions, 143 yards). Booth made a miraculous catch before breaking several tackles on his way to a 36-yard touchdown. He added a one-yard touchdown run from his Wildcat position in the second quarter.

La Serna, led by head coach Andy George, comes into tonight's game with a 2-2 record after suffering a tough 28 - 23 loss to Northview in last week's action. The Lancers offense is led by Junior quarterback Grady Long (#1), who has completed 75% of his passes. Landon Armenta (#10) is Long's number one target, while a stable of running backs leads the wing T rushing attack. Junior linebacker Jordan Bonilla (#2), who also plays running back, leads the Lancer defense in total tackles.

Next game: Epsilon League opener

Foothill Knights – at Tustin High School

***Saturday, October 4 – 7:00 p.m. kickoff**