

Beckman takes first in Division 2 at Crean Lutheran passing tourney



Crean Lutheran's Anthony Cooper runs away from an Arrowhead Christian defender Saturday. Photo courtesy Ted Rigoni

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Twelve teams, including Beckman, Crean Lutheran and Irvine, competed in Crean Lutheran's Football Skills Challenge on Saturday, July 22.

"It was really a great event," said Crean Lutheran Coach Matt Bowman. "We had 11 teams total (Saddleback Valley Christian split their squad into two so we could have a 12-team tournament). After two games of group play, we split into a one tournament, a two tournament and a three tournament." Beckman took first in the Division 2 tournament defeating Irvine. SVC was the overall winner of the Division 1 tournament, defeating Rancho Christian.

Southlands Christian was the winner of the Division 3 tournament, defeating Los Amigos. Beckman also won the linemen competition. Events included tug of war, sled push, bench press, obstacle course and shuttle drill. Irvine was second and Crean Lutheran third. About 350 athletes took part in the event.

Beckman Coach Marcello Giuliano was pleased with his squad's effort in the lineman competition. "The boys did a particularly good job in the athletic events, winning the sled push, relay, and obstacle courses," he said. "We had a mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors competing, so it was a great team win." After posting a 3-1 record, the coach was also pleased with his squad's effort in the overall competition which he said, "marked a significant improvement over our last passing tournament and shows steady improvement throughout summer practices. "Generally, we have a young team that needs to learn to compete hard and perform consistently, and we learned some good lessons on that over the weekend. Due to the nature of passing league itself (four games in one day), it seems like every player has an opportunity to make a critical play (and many did). "But our team right now is definitely anchored by the play of three important senior returners, Justin Cheng and Justin Galentine on defense and Mikael Mian at wide receiver."