

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Crean Lutheran boys basketball team looks for long playoff run

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It's looking like it could be quite a run for Crean Lutheran's boys basketball team, which is the No. 2 seed in the 3AA playoffs. Don't be surprised to see this team in the finals.

Josh Beaty's team, which won the Academy League title, will take a 12-0 record into Friday's opener at 7 p.m. at Crean Lutheran. The Saints had a bye in the opening round and will meet Laguna Beach Friday.

"Every game will be difficult, but we celebrated getting a bye as an accomplishment as the program has never experienced that," Beaty said.

"Winning our third league title in a row was great, the second game against St. Margaret's at their place was a fun environment to clinch the title."

Beaty promises a great environment for Friday's playoff game. If you have never been to a home game at Crean Lutheran, it's quite an experience.

Let's just say the gymnasium is rather compact.

Saddleback Valley Christian is the top seed in the division. Crean Lutheran advanced to the semifinals of the 4A division last year, losing to Viewpoint, 63-52.

### Quite a week of basketball

It's tough to ever remember a more exciting final week of basketball involving Irvine boys basketball teams.

On Feb. 7, Jacob Huynh provided the thrills in Northwood's last second victory over Corona del Mar with a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

But that was only the beginning.

Two nights later, Beckman upset Northwood to end the Timberwolves' hopes for a league title.

And on the same night, Woodbridge rallied from 17 points down to defeat University, forcing a three-way tie for third place.

Then on Friday, Beckman defeated University before falling to Woodbridge in a game which determined third place.

There was also a pretty exciting girls game on Feb. 9 as Woodbridge defeated University and earned the PCL title.

Now, it's on to the CIF playoffs.

### Promising future for Beckman basketball

Beckman's boys basketball team fell a bit short in its bid for the CIF playoffs. But the future appears bright for the Patriots, who have some talented players returning including their leading scorer, sophomore Dylan Thoerner.

"That's a young team, and they're going to be scary good next year," Woodbridge coach John Halagan said after Friday's victory over Beckman in the third place tie-breaker game.

### Girls basketball teams headed to playoffs

Four Irvine teams from the Pacific Coast League – Woodbridge, University, Irvine and Beckman – open the CIF playoffs tonight. Crean Lutheran and Tarbut V' Torah teams are also representing Irvine in the CIF