

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Four coaches look back on last week's victories

By [TIM BURT](#)

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### Erik Terry, Irvine

**Last week's game (21-17 victory over Estancia):** Our game against Estancia this past week was an epic tale of two halves. Estancia came out strong and really played well in the first half. They moved the ball at will on offense and their defense was stifling our offense. They also made some big plays on special teams that gave them an early 17-0 lead. Our players really rose to the challenge in the second half and we were able to capitalize on their mistakes.

**Players of the week:** The two standouts from our game on defense were Omar Elkady and Isaac Huemmer. Omar was a force on the defensive line shutting down holes in the run game and applying pressure

on the quarterback when he dropped back to pass. Isaac came up with two huge pass break-ups on Estancia's final drive to help seal the game.

Offensively our offensive line bounced back from a tough night last Friday and really did a great job creating holes in the running game and doing a solid job in pass protection.

**Irvine (1-1-1) plays at Laguna Hills (2-1) Friday night at Laguna Hills:** We face a tough Laguna Hills squad who has played three of our league and city rivals. Coach (Mike) Macarenka brought in some new offensive and defensive schemes in his first year, but the passion, toughness and effort that is signature Hawk football remains. Our goal is to play with more consistency from start to finish.

### Matt Bowman, Crean Lutheran

**Last week's game (56-21 victory over Savanna):** The Saints showed tremendous effort this week. They faced a physical Savanna team and battled for four quarters. I was pleased that we were able to move the ball on offense. The defense stepped it up to shut up Savanna in the second half. Gavin Folsom set a school record with five TD passes. Patrick Mc Nerney caught three touchdowns and Jack Johnson rushed for over 200 yards and had two touchdowns of his own. Zach Macadam had 14 tackles to lead the defense.

**Players of the game:** Offense, Gavin Folsom, 218 yards and five touchdowns and Jack Johnson, 206 rushing yards and two touchdowns; defense, Zach Macadam 14 tackles, 2.5 tackles for a loss; special teams, Andy Richardson, 8 for 8 on PATs and one special teams tackle.

**Crean Lutheran (3-1) hosts Bolsa Grande (1-3) Friday night at 7 at Irvine Stadium:** They're feeling good after beating Century and I'm sure they will show up ready to play and looking to build on their win last week. We'll need to control the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. We need to continue to protect the quarterback and get the ball out quick. On defense we need to focus on tackling better. Special teams need to cover better. We gave up a kick return for a touchdown right before the half last week and we can't allow big plays like that in the kicking game. It's homecoming this week so it should be a fun week, but that also means there are more distractions that we'll have to manage.

### Mark Cunningham, University

**Last week (35-21 victory over Calvary Chapel):** I was grateful for the win, but we made too many mistakes and Calvary ran close to 80 offensive plays, which is unacceptable. Offensively we were not consistent and in the PCL we have to be consistent. We did have big plays on both sides of the ball. Jalen Robertson broke a

school record with a 98-yard interception return for a touchdown. Alex Pourdanesh had an exceptional night rushing three times for 100 yards and returning an interception for a touchdown. Thomas Keeling has his best outing as a quarterback, and our secondary had four interceptions on the night. Our defense also had two fumble recoveries.

**Players of the week:** Offense, Thomas Keeling, 9-of-16 passing, 131 yards and two touchdowns; defense, Alex Pourdanesh, eight solo total tackles and an interception returned for a touchdown; special teams, Ethan Bell.

**This week:** University (3-0) hosts Estancia (1-2) Friday night at 7 at University.

### **Marcello Giuliano, Beckman**

**Last week (Beckman defeated Marquez, 41-13):** Last week was a good team win where all three phases of the game gave great contributions. After two early miscues, one on offense and one on defense, in the first quarter, we were able to pull away in the second. Defense and special teams gave the offense consistently good field position, and we were able to capitalize.

**Players of the week:** The offense was led on the ground by I'Jon Akahi and his three rushing touchdowns, all in the first half. The defensive line continued to improve, especially senior defensive end Jonathon Colindres. The defensive line really controlled the line of scrimmage and made it difficult for their offense to establish any rhythm. Both of our kickers continued to play a significant role. This week, punter Eduardo De La Torre pinned the ball inside the 5, which led to an offensive score and significantly changed the complexion of the game.

**Beckman (2-1) plays Tustin (3-1) Friday night at 7 at Tustin. Beckman is the home team:** Tustin comes in at 3-1. They play very sound on defense, and control the ball with a heavily run-oriented offense. As in every game, it is vital that we execute properly and consistently in all phases of the game.

### **Rick Gibson, Woodbridge**

**Last week (28-27 loss to Laguna Hills):** We did not play a very good first half of football on Friday. We scored 28 points in the second half offensively so I felt we were coming around. Defensively we gave up three big plays and we gave them the ball on our 10-yard line. Other than that I thought our defense played well.

**Players of the week:** Offense, Connor McBride and Karstn Graves for his relentless blocking at fullback. Defensively Francisco Chavez had eight tackles, four for a loss.

**This week:** Woodbridge (1-3) plays at Rim of the World (2-0-1) Friday at 7 p.m.

### **Phil Roh, Northwood**

#### **Last week's game (Santa Ana Valley 35, Northwood 21):**

We faced another tough non-league opponent in Santa Ana Valley and unfortunately fell short due to the return of the turnover bug that plagued us earlier on in our first two games. We got a solid performance from senior Isaiah Easton, who has emerged as one of our most reliable running backs, but we're going to have to be more consistent in all three facets of the game to get to where we believe we can be.

**Players of the week:** Easton: offense; Alex Aviles: defense; Nic Sanner: special teams.

**Northwood (0-4) plays at Segerstrom (4-0) Thursday at 7 p.m.:** We finish the preseason with yet another difficult test. Segerstrom comes into the game undefeated with impressive victories over some tough opponents. The coaching staff there has done an incredible job teaching and instilling assignment football to their players, especially along the offensive line. But we've shown flashes of the type of high-quality team we can be. The time has come for us to put it together.

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