

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

IRVINE COACHES CORNER: What you need to know about high school football teams

By [TIM BURT](#)

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Matt Bowman, Crean Lutheran

Last week's game (41-24 victory over Saddleback Valley Christian):

I was very pleased with the Saints' effort. We hit some adversity early as our offense took a few drives to get going. Our game plan was to run the football and wear down their defense over the course of the game. We started having a lot of success in the run game in the second quarter.

Anthony Cooper and Zach Macadam did a great job running the ball. Anthony had 23 carries for 236 yards rushing and Zach had 13 carries for 152. Both had three touchdowns each. As a team we ran for 409. I don't think we called a pass in the second half. Defensively, we knew we had to contain the quarterback. We put some things in place to get a good pass rush and keep him in the pocket. He's a great player, so we knew we couldn't let him escape and make plays with his legs. Our pass rush had a great night. We sacked the quarterback 10 times. Robert Briones broke the school record with five sacks in the game. Overall, I was very pleased with how we played. We truly gave a 3:23 effort. SVC ended our season the last two years in the playoffs, so our boys were excited for this game.

Players of the week: Offensive, Anthony Cooper, 236 yards rushing, three touchdowns. Defensive: Robert Briones, seven tackles, five sacks, three hurries. Special teams: Aaron Fink, one special teams tackle and a

41-yard kickoff return.

This week (Friday at 7 p.m. at Aquinas in San Bernardino): We have a big test this week. Aquinas is a very good team and they have some good athletes. Their running back is an all-CIF caliber player. Our defensive front will need to control the line of scrimmage to have success stopping the run. Offensively, we have to execute. We took a few drives before we got on track last week, and we can't afford that this week. Aquinas is a very good team and it will be a good test for us to see where we're at as a team. It should be a good game.

Mark Cunningham, University

Last week's game (7-6 victory over Laguna Hills): Last week's game was a remarkable victory. Laguna Hills returned eight players on defense and five players on offense coming off of an 8-4 record (and a trip) to the quarterfinals of the CIF playoffs. It was difficult for the coaching staff to determine the defensive player of the game as our entire defense was outstanding.

Some of the highlights were six sacks in one game, a school record, and holding one of the best receivers in Orange County to one catch and denying him from scoring at the end of the game. The offense moved the ball when we had to, and our special teams were outstanding. Our players played hard and with a lot of confidence. Now the key is to build on this great victory.

Players of the week: Special teams player of game: Darrius Outland, who had a blocked extra point and was a key factor in winning the game vs. Laguna Hills. Defense, Jalen Robertson had five solo tackles, two assists and two pass break-ups. Offense, Julian Pourdaneh graded out over 95 percent as an offensive lineman with one pancake (block) and one fumble recovery.

This week's game (tonight, 7 p.m. at Pioneer): Pioneer is big and has very quick perimeter athletes. Their record is not a reflection of the how good this team is. We are going to need to play better than last week to beat Pioneer.

Erik Terry, Irvine

Last week's game (22-15 loss to Esperanza): We are very happy with the way our team came out and played with great effort from the opening kickoff until the final whistle. With several new varsity starters we were not sure how they would react, but all in all it was a very good first game from an effort and discipline standpoint. We will build on this game as we move forward.

Players of the week: Defense, Zeke Alleman; Offense, Harold King (five carries for 25 yards; three catches for 53 yards, one touchdown). Special teams, Jacob Yi.

This week's game (Friday at 7 p.m. at Western): Western has some good size combined with athletic, skilled position players. They will test our defense with the passing game more than this past week. On offense we must protect the football and get more production from our running game.

Phil Roh, Northwood

Last week's game (48-10 loss to Kennedy): We played a tough, physical, well-coached Kennedy football team in our first away game of the season. For the second consecutive week, turnovers dictated a shift in momentum that we couldn't fully recover from. We started exactly the way we wanted with a long offensive drive that resulted in points, but we're still working to find our way collectively to become the complete team we need to be heading into league.

Players of the week: Offense, Moses Shin; defense, Ramal Silva; special teams, Takeru Eguchi.

This week's game (Friday, 7 p.m. vs. Laguna Hills at Portola High School): We need to play as clean a game as possible to compete with Laguna Hills. Eliminate turnovers on offense and control pace. Coach (Mike) Maceranka has a group of student athletes who play with great competitive spirit and drive. But at the same time, we're not looking for a supernatural effort from our team. We just need to trust the process and execute what we've been working on in practice.

Rick Gibson, Woodbridge

Last week's game (36-25 loss to El Modena): The team improved from the zero week game in all facets. We just did not execute in the final four minutes.

Players of the week: Defense, Connor McBride and Sam Tipple; offense, Chase Bradley and Nick Nash; special teams, Nash, with a 68-yard punt return.

This week's game (Friday at 7 p.m. vs. Garden Grove at University): Garden Grove is the best team we have faced so far and we will have to put it all together to succeed.

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