

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Crean Lutheran basketball enters season with high hopes, two decisive wins

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Crean Lutheran's boys basketball team enters the season with all the starters returning from last year's team that was 24-4 overall and took first in the Academy League.

"We are returning all starters and key bench players," Coach Josh Beaty said. "We're looking to repeat as league champions and make a deeper run in the playoffs. The team finished in the quarter-finals of Division 4A playoffs. We are playing a much tougher nonconference schedule this season.

"We have a lot of size and can shoot the ball well."

The returning players include 6-foot-3 seniors Tom Scriven and Even Kittelsen, 6-4 senior Bret Kittelsen, 5-10 senior Armin Sirossian, 6-6 junior Michael Bagatourian and 6-5 junior Tim Ghita.

Even Kittelsen, Brett Kittelsen, Bagatourian and Ghita were all-league selections last year.

Other players to watch for the Saints include 6-3 junior Alec Campos, 6-2 junior Ryan Poirot, 5-9 senior Alex Choi, 6-2 junior Tommy Knott, 5-9 senior Jeff Jun, 5-6 freshman Max Bo and 5-10 freshman Chris Swardstrom.

The Saints are hosting their own Chick-fil-A Classic this week and won their first two games, including a 86-43 victory over Fairmont Prep on Tuesday.

Bagatourian had 24 points and Even Kittelsen 19 points to lead the Saints.

Crean Lutheran won by the same score, 86-43, on Monday, defeating Lutheran of Chula Vista.

Bagatourian scored 21 points to lead the way in that game.

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