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PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION - SOUTHERN SECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE: #14

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2023 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION-FORD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, ON TAP FRIDAY AND SATURDAY; 15 DIVISIONAL TITLES TO BE AWARDED

LOS ALAMITOS, CA – Fifteen divisional winners will be crowned champions this weekend in the 2023 CIF Southern Section-Ford Football Championships, scheduled for sites spanning from the desert to the sea. Championship football competition among CIF-SS member schools dates back to 1914. This will be the 109th edition.

The 16 divisional finals, including the already concluded 8-Person Division 1 Championship, are sponsored by Southern California Ford Dealers, Wilson Sporting Goods Co, The NFHS Network; GoFan; JI Custom Jackets and Patches; Gatorade; Hoag Orthopedic Institute, Los Angeles Chargers; CA Army National Guard, The California Correctional Peace Officers Association; The Marines; Nike; SB Live Sports; Max Preps; and Canyon Catering.

DIVISION 1- Mater Dei vs. St John Bosco, Friday November 24th, at The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, 7:00pm, Bally Sports SoCal/NFHS Network

Two of the top teams in the Southern Section, the state of California and the nation will face off in the Division 1 Final at one of the most historic stadiums in the country, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Mater Dei makes a seventh straight finals appearance, having fallen in the title game last year. The Monarchs are 11-1, the 2nd team out of the Trinity League and the 2nd seed in the bracket. Coach Frank McManus leads a potent offense and tough defense barely allowing 100 points this year. QB Elijah Brown has thrown for over 2500 yards and 33 TDs. RB Jordan Davison has run for over 600 yards and 8 TDs. WR Marcus Brown has over 600 receiving yards and 10 TD catches. On defense the Monarchs have over forty sacks led by Nasir Wyatt with 12 while Jeilani Davis has five interceptions. Mater Dei looks to win its 13th championship.

State top ranked and defending champion St. John Bosco continues its decade of dominance with a return to the championship game. The Braves are the top seed in the bracket, the champions of the Trinity League and hold a 11- 1 record. Coach Jason Negro continues to field a powerful team on both sides of the ball. The Braves have scored over 400 points and not allowed 200. QB Caleb Sanchez has passed for nearly 3000 yards, with nearly 30 passing TDs. RB's Chauncy Sylvester and Cameron Jones both have double digit rushing touchdowns. WR's Daniel Odom and Stacy Dobbins each has more than 5 TD receptions. On defense Kyngstonn Viliamu-asa leads the way with over ninety tackles, while the Braves have over 40 sacks led by Max Amasio and Dutch Horisk. The Braves look to continue their recent run with their fourth title since 2013, and second in a row.

-MORE-



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DIVISION 2- Servite at Mission Viejo, Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, Ballys Sport SoCal/NFHS Network

Two teams with storied pasts will meet in the Division 2 Final.

Servite returns to the finals for the first time since 2021. The Friars are 8-5, were an at-large team out of the Trinity League and beat two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Chris Reinart leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Leo Hannan has passed for over 2000 yards. RB Quaid Carr has run for over 1000 yards and 14 TDs. Isaiah Leilua leads the Friars on defense with over seventy tackles while Toma Cernius has nine and a half of the team's 23 sacks. Servite looks to win the schools sixth championship.

Mission Viejo adds another finals appearance to its storied history. The Diablos are the 4th seed in the bracket, have a 10-3 record and were the runner up of the South Coast League. Coach Chad Johnson leads a well-balanced team on a five-game winning streak. QBs Luke Fahey and Draiden Trudeau each threw for over 1000 yards. RB Hinesward Lilomaiaava has rushed for 12 TDs while WR Vance Spafford has over 1200 receiving yards and 16 TD catches. The defense is led by Jaden Williams with 100 tackles and 15.5 sacks. The Diablos have over twenty interceptions this year. Mission Viejo seeks an eighth championship.

DIVISION 3- Warren vs St. Bonaventure at Ventura College, Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

A high scoring affair could be the story in the Division 3 Final.

Warren makes a long awaited first trip to the championship game. The Bears are 11-2, the champions of the Gateway League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Kevin Pearson's team is well balanced and has won nine in a row. QB Madden lamaleava has passed for over 3200 yards and nearly 40 TDs. RB Kelton Strickland has rushed for over 100 yards. WR Jordan Ross has 17 TD catches and over 1200 reception yards. The Bears are led on defense by Elijah Washington with over 100 tackles while JT Houston has 18 of the teams nearly 30 sacks this year. Warren looks to bring home the program's first title.

St. Bonaventure returns to the final for the first time since its 2008 win. The Seraphs are 10-3, the 2nd team from the Marmonte League and defeated two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Joe Goyeneche leads a well-balanced team that has stood tall in the playoffs. RB Koen Glover has rushed for over 1000 yards and 12 TDs. WR DJ Doss has almost 900 receiving yards and 10 TD catches. Jeremiah Berrios leads the way on defense with over 100 tackles while Matt Perez has nine sacks. The Seraphs looks to claim the 11th title in the school's storied history.

DIVISION 4- Corona Del Mar at La Serna, Friday November 24th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Two teams last in the finals in 2019 will meet in the Division 4 Final.

Corona Del Mar returns to the championship game for the first time since 2019. The Sea Kings are 8-5, were an at-Large team from the Sunset League and are the 4th seed in the bracket. Coach Kevin Hettig is in charge of a well-balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Annett Kaleb has passed for over 2100 yards and 25 TDs. WR Russell Weir and Zach Guiliano each have 8 TD catches. Christian Brooks leads the defense with over 100 tackles while the Sea Kings have nearly 25 sacks. Corona Del Mark looks to claim a 7th CIF-SS title.

La Serna is back in the finals for the first time in four years. The Lancers are 10-3, the champions of the Del Rio League and are the 2nd seed in the bracket. Coach Andy George is in charge of a high-powered offense and stingy defense barely allowing 200 points. QB Aiden Leonardo has passed for 15 TDs while RB Owen Long has run for 1100 yards and 20 TDs. WR Jayden Northrup has 11 TD catches. On defense Adrian Castro leads the way with over 100 tackles. The Lancers have nearly 30 sacks led by Emre Law with 8. La Serna is looking to win title #3.



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DIVISION 5-Orange Vista at Newbury Park Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Offense could be the story of the Division 5 Final.

Orange Vista makes a 2nd finals appearance. The Coyotes are 10-3, the champions of the Ivy League and are the 2nd seed in the bracket. Coach Greg Zomalt leads a balanced team on a nine-game winning streak. QB Khalil Abdul-aziz has passed for over 2700 yards and 25 TDs while RB Sire Gaines has 15 rushing touchdowns. The Coyotes defense has over 30 sacks led by Lese Magalei with 9 and Corey Johnson with 6. Orange Vista looks to win the school's first ever championship.

Newbury Park returns to the championship after a decade away. The Panthers are the top team in the bracket, tied for the title of the Canyon League and are 10-3. Coach Joe Smigiel leads a balanced team that has won five in a row. QB Brady Smigiel has passed for over 4800 yards and 50 TDs. WR Shane Rosenthal has 20 TD catches and over 1700 receiving yards while Landon Bell has 12 TD catches. Rosenthal also has 11 interceptions on defense while Talon Gold leads the defense with over 100 tackles. Newbury Park looks to win a second title.

DIVISION 6- Simi Valley at Mira Costa, Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Two teams with differing styles will meet in the Division 6 Final.

Simi Valley is back in the finals for the first time since 2019. The Pioneers are 8-5, an at-Large team from the Marmonte League and beat the 3rd seed in the bracket. Coach Jim Benkart again leads a potent offense and stingy defense. QB Jesse Serrano has passed for over 2500 yards and 25 TDs. RB Brice Hawkins has rushed for over 1400 yards and 15 TDs. Carlos Ferriero, Jayden Graham, and Alex Villalobos leads the Pioneers defense each with over 100 tackles while Izak Simpson has 11 of the teams nearly 50 sacks. The Pioneers look to bring home their first title.

Mira Costa returns to the finals for the first time since 2009. The Mustangs are 6-7, an at-Large team from the Bay League and defeated two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Don Morrow leads a balanced team on a six-game winning streak. QB Nico De La Cruz has passed for over 2700 yards and 20 TDs. WR Reese Leonard has over 1200 reception yards and 10 TD catches. Jackson Reach leads the defense with over 100 tackles and the Mustangs have nearly 20 sacks. Mira Costa seeks a 4th CIF-SS title.

DIVISION 7-Mayfair at El Dorado, Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Two teams looking for their 3rd championship will meet in the Division 7 Final.

Mayfair arrives at the school's 4th title game. The Monsoons are 10-3, the 3rd team from the Gateway League and beat the top seed in the bracket. Coach Derek Bedell oversees a balanced team on a 4-game winning streak. QB Jeremiah Calvin has thrown for over 2600 yards and nearly 30 TDs. RB Louis Johnson has rushed for 14 TDs. WR Chaz Gilbreath has 1100 receiving yards and 11 TD catches. On defense Marcell Kemp and Miles Mitchell leads the way on defense both with over 70 tackles. Mayfair looks to bring home the program's 3rd title.

El Dorado returns to the finals for the first time since its back-to-back wins in 2006-2007. The Golden Hawks are 8-5, the 2nd team from the North Hills League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Zack LaMonda leads a balanced team that has stood tall in these playoffs. QB Nate Bento has passed for over 2200 yards and 20 TDs. RB JP Murray has rushed for 1000 yards and 13 TDs. Mac Wolf leads the defense with nearly 100 tackles. El Dorado looks to bring home a third championship.



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DIVISION 8- Charter Oak at Jurupa Hills, Friday November 24th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

The ball could be flying in the air in the Division 8 Final.

Charter Oak is back in the finals for the first time since 2015. The Chargers are 5-8, an at-Large team from the Mountain West League and have stood tall when needed in the playoffs. Coach Dom Farrar has taken over for his father Lou and continued the Chargers storied tradition. QB Corin Berry has thrown for over 1400 yards. WR Legend Lyons has six TD catches. JD Sanchez leads the Chargers defense with over 100 tackles while LaVar Arrington has 11 of the teams 24 sacks. Charter Oak looks to bring home the school's sixth title.

Jurupa Hills is back in the finals for the first time in a decade. The Spartans are 7-6, were an at-Large team from the Sunkist League and defeated the 2nd seed in the bracket. Coach Citos Martinez has a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Caleb Ruiz has passed for over 2000 yards and 20 TDs while adding 11 rushing touchdowns. Daniel MacCharles leads the Spartans defense with nearly 100 tackles. Jurupa Hills looks to bring home a 2nd title.

DIVISION 9- Rio Hondo Prep at Santa Monica, Friday November 24th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Two teams with many titles will look to add another in the Division 9 Final.

Rio Hondo Prep returns to the finals after a decade away. The Kares are the top seed in the bracket, the 2nd team from the Gold Coast League and are 12-1. Coach Mark Carson oversees a potent offense and stout defense barely allowing 200 points. RB's Caden Holcumb, Nate Curtis and Noah Penunini each have rushed for double digit touchdowns. The Kares defense has twenty-five sacks on the year. Rio Hondo Prep looks to win a 15th CIF-SS title.

Santa Monica returns to the finals for the first time in twenty years. The Vikings are 9-4, were an at-Large team from the Bay League and are the 3rd seed in the bracket. Coach Carter Paysinger runs a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Wyatt Brown has passed for over 2700 yards and 20 TDs. RB Caden MacCallum has rushed for over 1200 yards and 20 TDs. MacCallum also has over ninety tackles to lead the defense while the Vikings have 16 interceptions. Santa Monica looks to bring home title #10.

DIVISION 10- Torrance at West Covina Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Two teams with different histories will meet in the Division 10 Final.

Torrance makes a long awaited first title game. The Tartars are the top team in the bracket, tied for 2nd in the Pioneer League and are 9-4. Coach Raymand Carter is in charge if a team that is balanced on both sides of the ball. The Tartans have won five games in a row. Torrance looks to win its first CIF-SS title.

West Covina returns to the finals for the first time since its back-to-back titles in 2010-11. The Bulldogs are 11-2, the 2nd team from the San Antonio League and are on a four-game winning streak. Coach Mike Maggiore runs a team led by a stout defense yet to allow 200 points this year. RB Zander Requena has rushed for over 1400 yards and nearly 20 TDs. Isaiah Ruiz leads the Bulldogs defense with over 100 tackles while Daniel Carillo Jr. has 11.5 of the teams 24 sacks. West Covina seeks a fifth championship.





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DIVISION 11- Ramona at Riverside/Poly, Friday November 24th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Defense could tell the story of the Division 11 Final.

Ramona is back in the finals for the first time since 2019. The Rams are 8-5, were an at-Large team from the River Valley League and defeated two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Ken Mushinskie has a team well balanced on both sides of the ball. QB Jeremiah Acosta has thrown for over 1800 yards and 19 TDs, 11 of which have been caught by WR Jake Valenzuela. RB Sincere Tolbert has run for over 1300 yards and 15 TDs. Peter Meza, Michael Perez, and Troy Long each have over 100 tackles to lead the defense. The Rams look to win a fifth title.

Riverside Poly returns to the finals after a decade away. The Bears are 7-6, an at-Large team from the Sunbelt League and defeated the 3rd seed in the bracket. Coach Jarron Gilbert is in charge of a balanced team on a six-game winning streak. 6 Bears have recorded over 100 tackles lead by Jeremiah Luna with over 180. Riverside Poly seeks a 4th title.

DIVISION 12- Yucca Valley at Cerritos, Saturday November 25th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Points could be aplenty in the Division 12 Final.

Cerritos makes its first ever championship appearance. The Dons are 8-5, the champions of the 605 League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Demel Franklin's team is balanced on both sides of the ball and is on a six-game winning streak. RB Josh Park has ten rushing touchdowns. Nathaniel Crawford leads the defense with nearly 100 tackles. Cerritos seeks the school's first title.

Yucca Valley is back in the finals for the first time since 1996. The Trojans are the 2nd seed in the bracket, the champions of the Desert Valley League and are 10-3. Coach Jeremy Johnson's squad has won 9 in a row and has scored over 500 points. RB Myles Harper has rushed for over 1500 yards and 25 TDs. Harper also has over 130 tackles to lead the defense. Javin Hudson also has 5 interceptions. Yucca Valley looks to win a 2nd title.

DIVISION 13- St. Monica Prep at Walnut Friday November 24th, 7pm, NFHS Network

A 2nd championship for one school will be decided in the Division 13 Final.

St. Monica Prep returns to the finals for the first time since 1997. The Mariners are 10-3, the 3rd team out of the Camino Real League and are the 3rd seed in the bracket. Coach Thomas Barnes runs a potent offense that has scored over 400 points this year. QB Bradley Cassier has passed for over 1700 yards and 25 TDs, ten of which have been caught by WR Joshua Barnes. RB Elijah Wilson has rushed for over 1300 yards and 13 TDs. Dequan Carter leads the defense with over 90 tackles while Luke Griffin has 7 interceptions. The Mariners look to claim a 2nd title.

Walnut is back in the finals after winning a year ago. The Mustangs are 7-6, are the 2nd team out of the Hacienda League and have won four games in a row. Coach Eric Peralta again leads a balanced team into the final. RB Demetrius Stampley has rushed for ten touchdowns. Nathan Chung leads the Mustangs defense with over 100 tackles. Walnut looks to bring home a second championship.



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DIVISION 14 Lynwood at Bell Gardens, Friday November 24th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Defense could be the name of the game in the Division 14 Final.

Lynwood returns to the championship after falling short a year ago. The Knights are 8-5, were an at-Large team from the Mid-Cities League and defeated two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coaches DeAndre Pryor and Levar Castillo lead a stingy defense barely allowing 200 points this year. Zacariah Winters leads the way on defense with over 130 tackles this year. Lynwood looks to win a 2nd CIF-SS title.

Bell Gardens returns to the finals for the first time since 1997. The Lancers are 8-5, the 3rd team from the Almont League and defeated two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Hector Novoa leads a balanced team on a four-game winning streak. Bell Gardens looks to bring home the school's first CIF-SS title.

8 Man Football Division 1

Chadwick has won the 8 Man Football Division 1 Title. The Dolphins were the top team in the bracket, the champions of the Prep League and finished 11-0. Coach Jordan Ellos oversees a potent offense that scored over 400 points this year. QB Thomas Rosso threw for over 2000 yards and 35 TDs. WR Max Polin and Joshua Goodman each caught double digit TD receptions. Chet Major and Michael Schnabel led the defense with over 100 tackles each and the Dolphins had over 25 sacks this year. Chadwick won the school's 2nd CIF-SS title.

Valley Christian Academy/Santa Maria Lions were the 2nd seed in the bracket and were an at-Large team from the Coast Valley League. Coach Pete Fortier led a team that scored over 400 points this year and a stingy defense. The Lions won their second CIF-SS title.

8 Man Football Division 2

Faith Baptist at California School For The Deaf/Riverside, Saturday November 25th, 5pm, NFHS Network

The ball will be moving in the 8-Man Football Division 2 Final

Faith Baptist continues their storied tradition with another final's appearance. The Contenders are 9-3, an at-Large team from the Heritage League and were the 2nd seed in the bracket. Coach Rob Davidson again leads a powerful offense scoring over 560 points this year. The Contenders are on a six-game winning streak. Faith Baptist looks to win their 10th CIF-SS title.

California School for the Deaf makes a 3rd straight finals appearance looking to repeat its win last year. The Cubs are the top seed in the bracket, have a 9-3 record, and were an at-Large Freelance team. Coach Keith Adams again leads a powerful offense, scoring nearly 500 points this year. QB Kaden Adams has thrown for over 1000 yards and 16 TDs while also rushing for 11 TDs. RB Gio Visco also has 11 rushing TDs. Daris Zarembka has over seventy tackles. The Cubs seek their 2nd CIF-SS title.



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BALLY SPORTS/NFHS NETWORK TO BROADCAST EVERY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Bally Sport SoCal and the NFHS Network will combine to broadcast every CIF Southern Section-Ford Football Championship game LIVE via either over-the-air broadcast (Bally Sport West/SoCal) or via the Internet. The schedule will be as follows:

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| DIVISION 1
Bally Sports SoCal/NFHS Network | DIVISION 9
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 2
Bally Sports SoCal/NFHS Network | DIVISION 10
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 3
NFHS Network | DIVISION 11
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 4
NFHS Network | DIVISION 12
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 5
NFHS Network | DIVISION 13
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 6
NFHS Network | DIVISION 14
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 7
NFHS Network | DIVISION 2 (8)
NFHS Network |
| DIVISION 8
NFHS Network | |

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BROADCAST RIGHTS REMINDER

A reminder to all radio, television or Internet outlet interested in doing any CIF Southern Section-Ford Football Championship Playoff broadcasts. All CIF-SS championship football contests are the exclusive property of the CIF Southern Section, Bally Sports So Cal and the NFHS Network. No broadcast entity may do any video based terrestrial, cable, satellite, or Internet broadcast in any form of the CIF Southern Section football championships in any division in 2023. Terrestrial radio is available via approved rights granted by the CIF Southern Section Communications Office. Schools involved in these contests have no authority to grant or deny broadcasts without expressed, written consent of the CIF-SS.

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TITLING FOR CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFF EVENTS

Sponsors of CIF Southern Section Championship events have invested a great amount of effort and funding in the support of high school athletics in our state and section. Please keep in mind that CIF Southern Section Championship events section-wide are CONTRACTUALLY titled the **CIF Southern Section-Ford Championships**. The CIF Southern Section commends the media outlets within its geographical area that have supported high school athletics for many years. It is hoped these organizations will continue their outstanding contribution to the betterment of our state’s high school athletics programs by utilizing the correct titling for CIF Southern Section events at least once whenever possible – in previews, playoff-pairings lists, results, etc. Your continued support is appreciated.

-END OF RELEASE-



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