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PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE: #17

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2024 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION-FORD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, ON TAP FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

LOS ALAMITOS, CA – The 2024 CIF Southern Section-Ford Football Championships will wrap-up at sites spanning from the desert to the sea. Sixteen divisional championship titles will be awarded this year, with fifteen games being played this weekend. Championship football competition among CIF-SS member schools dates back to 1914. This will be the 110th edition.

DIVISION 1- St John Bosco vs. Mater Dei, Friday November 29th, at Veterans Memorial Stadium, 7:00pm, LIVE TELEVISION/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.

St. John Bosco continues its decade of dominance with a return to the championship game. The Braves are the second seed in the bracket, the runners-up of the Trinity League and hold an 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 have not allowed 270. QB Koa Malau'ulu has thrown for 1308 yards and 17 TDs. RB Maliq Allen has rushed for 9 rushing touchdowns. WR Madden Williams has 12 TD catches. The defense has sixteen interceptions led by Isala Wily-Ava with seven. The Braves have twenty sacks. The Braves look to continue their recent run with their fourth title since 2013.

National top ranked and defending champion **Mater Dei** makes an eighth straight finals appearance. The Monarchs are 11-0, the champions of the Trinity League and the top seed in the bracket. In his first year, Coach Raul Lara leads a potent offense and tough defense, barely allowing 150 points this year. QB Dash Beierly has thrown for 1687 yards and 21 TD passes. RB Jordan Davison has run for 875 yards and 13 TDs. WRs Marcus Brown and Kayden Dixon-Watt both have over 500 receiving yards. On defense the Monarchs have nearly forty sacks led by Nasir Wyatt with 7.5 and Shaun Scott with six. The Monarchs have fourteen interceptions. Mater Dei looks to win its 14th championship.

This will be the seventh final since 2016 between St. John Bosco and Mater Dei, with the series tied at 3-3.

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DIVISION 2- Newbury Park vs. Murrieta Valley Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, LIVE TELEVISION/NFHS Network

We could see a high scoring game in the Division 2 final.

Newbury Park is back in the finals after falling short a year ago. The Panthers are 13-0, the 2nd seed in the bracket and won the Conejo Coast League. Coach Joe Smigiel leads a power offense scoring over 500 points and a defense barely allowing 100. QB Brady Smigiel has thrown for 2986 yards and 43 TDs. WR Shane Rosenthal has 1303 receiving yards and 22 TD catches. Carter Taylor leads the Panthers defense with 125 tackles. Taylor and Balen Bethencourt each have seven of the teams 36 sacks. Newbury Park seeks a second title and first since 1993.

Murrieta Valley makes a long awaited first title game appearance. The Nighthawks are the top seed in the bracket, the second team from the Big West North League and have an 11-2 record. Coach George Wilson again runs a potent offense that has scored over 500 points this year. QB Bear Bachmeier has thrown for over 1100 yards. RB Dorian Haize has rushed 1871 yards and 28 TDs. Abelardo Leos leads the way on defense with 94 tackles and the defense has 22 sacks. Murrieta Valley is on a five-game winning streak as they seek their first football championship.

DIVISION 3- Simi Valley vs. Edison, Friday November 29th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Strong offense against strong defense headlines the Division 3 final.

Simi Valley makes a return finals appearance after winning last year. The Pioneers are the top team in the bracket, the co-champions of the Marmonte League and are 12-1. Coach Jim Benkert again leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Tagg Harrison has passed for 2580 yards and 21 TDs. RB Brice Hawkins has run for 1633 yards and 30 TDs. Jayden Graham leads the defense with 138 tackles. Izak Simpson has fifteen of the teams 31 sacks. The Pioneers have won four in a row and look for a second title.

Edison returns to the finals for the first time since its 2016 victory. The Chargers are 9-4, the 2nd team from the Alpha League and the third seed in the bracket. Coach Jeff Grady is in charge of a stingy defense barely allowing 200 points this season. RB Julius Gillick has run for 1862 yards and 26 TDs. Jeremiah Ross and Matt Lopez pace the Chargers defense each with over 120 tackles. Ross also has 6.5 of the teams over twenty sacks. Edison looks to win a seventh CIF-SS title.

DIVISION 4- Pacifica/Oxnard vs. St. Bonaventure, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Defense could tell the story of the Division 4 final.

Pacifica/Oxnard returns to the title game for the first time since its 2019 win. The Tritons are 9-4, the third seed in the bracket and an At-Large team from the Marmonte League. Coach Mike Moon again leads a well-balanced team on a five-game winning streak. QB Dominic Duran has thrown for 2318 yards and 26 TDs. WR Savion Taylor has over 1200 receiving yards and 14 TD catches. Budder Aina leads the way on defense with 155 tackles while Nick Lavizzo, Isaiah Phelps and Anthony Espinoza also have over 100 tackles. Dejuan Colvin has 11.5 of the teams 31 sacks. The Tritons seek a 2nd CIF-SS title.

St. Bonaventure is back in the title game after winning a year ago. The Seraphs are the top team in the bracket, the third team out of the Marmonte League and have a 9-4 record. Coach Joe Goyeneche leads a well-balanced team on a five-game winning streak. RB Koen Glover paces the offense with nearly 2000 rushing yards and 24 TDs. Philip Wilson III leads the way on defense with over 100 tackles. The defense has nearly thirty sacks this season led by Jaden Few with 9.5 and Matthew Perez with 8.5. The Seraphs seek their 11th championship.



DIVISION 5- La Serna vs. Palos Verdes, Friday November 29th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Scoring could come from many players in the Division 5 final.

La Serna is back in the final after winning a year ago. The Lancers are 10-3, the champions of the Del Rio League and were the fourth seed in the bracket. Coach Andy George again has a potent offense that has won seven in a row. QB Grady Long has thrown for over 1400 yards and nearly 20 TDs. WR Kaimana Tufaga has seven TD catches. Eli Perez leads the way on defense with nearly 100 tackles this season while Chase Pina has four of the team's sixteen sacks. The Lancers look to win a second straight title and fourth overall.

Palos Verdes is back in the finals for the first time since 2018. The Sea Kings are 8-5, the second team out of the Bay League and the second seed in the bracket. Coach Guy Gardner has a well-balanced team on a four-game winning streak. QB Ryan Rakowski has passed for over 2100 yards and 15 TDs while adding six rushing touchdowns. 7 Sea King receivers have a TD catch. Weston Reis leads the way on defense with nearly 100 tackles. The defense has nearly 30 sacks, led by Josh Williams with 7. Palos Verdes looks to win a fourth championship.

DIVISION 6- Murrieta Mesa vs. Glendora at Citrus College, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

The running game could decide the Division 6 final.

Murrieta Mesa makes a first ever finals appearance. The Rams are 9-4, the fourth seed in the bracket and the champions of the Big West South League. Coach Oscar McBride has a balanced team that has won eight in a row. QB Trey Gamble Jr has thrown for 1382 yards. RB Artyon Celestine has run for over 1300 yards and 11 TDs. DeShawn Reid and Isaiah Casillas lead the Rams defense with over ninety tackles. Casillas also has 9.5 of the teams nearly fifty sacks. The Rams also have 25 interceptions on the year. The Rams seek their first CIF-SS trophy.

Glendora returns to the championship game for the first time since 1989. The Tartans are 9-4, the third team out of the Sierra League and beat the second seed in the bracket. Coach Brandon Rohrer leads a well-balanced team on both sides of the ball. RB Austin Coronado has double digit rushing touchdowns. Aidan Yamakazi and Anthony Fiorenza lead the defense with over 100 tackles this year. Coronado also has 13.5 of the teams nearly forty sacks. Glendora seeks a 2nd title.

DIVISION 7-Warren vs. Rio Hondo Prep, Friday November 29th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Contrasting styles highlight the Division 7 final.

Warren is back in the final after falling short a year ago. The Bears are 6-7, the third team out of the Gateway League and are the third team in the bracket. In his first year Coach Adam Leonard leads a well-balanced team on both sides of the ball. RB's Skylar Lendsey and Teralle Watson have combined for sixteen rushing touchdowns. Maurice Stepter and Kalani Tialavea lead the defense both with over 50 tackles. The Bears have nearly twenty sacks this year. Warren looks for its first CIF-SS football title.

Rio Hondo Prep is back after winning the title a year ago. The Kares are 11-1, the champions of the Gold Coast League and beat the top team in the bracket. Coach Mark Carson again has a potent offense and a stingy defense. RB's Nico Penunuri and Nathaniel Curtis each have double digit touchdowns on the ground. Caeden Holcomb leads the defense with over seventy tackles and the Kares have fourteen interceptions. Rio Hondo Prep looks to win a sixteenth title.



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DIVISION 8- Serrano vs. St. Pius/St. Matthias, Friday November 29th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Points could be hard to come by in the Division 8 final.

Serrano returns to the finals for the first time in 3 years. The Diamondbacks are 9-3, the 3rd team from the Mojave River League and were the fourth seed in the bracket. Coach Casey Maholchic has a team that is well balanced on both sides of the ball. QB Issiah Romo has thrown for over 1000 yards and rushed for 10 TDs. RB Trevor Mcsween has rushed for over 1700 yards and 18 TDs. Isaiah Cabral leads the defense with over seventy tackles and Cade Lafever has five interceptions. Serrano looks to win a 3rd championship.

St. Pius/St. Matthias makes its third finals appearance since 2019. The Warriors are 4-9, an At-Large team from the Angelus League and defeated the 2nd seed in the bracket. Coach Devah Thomas leads a team that is on a three-game winning streak. Geremya Hood leads the defense with over 90 tackles while Gregory Taylor has five interceptions this year. The Warriors look to win their first championship.

DIVISION 9- Wilson/Long Beach vs. Highland, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Teams with differing styles meet in the Division 9 final.

Wilson/Long Beach makes a long-awaited championship appearance after nearly ninety years. The Bruins are 9-4, the 3rd seed in the bracket and were an At-Large team out of the Moore League. Coach Travis Clark leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Mack Cooper has thrown for over 1700 yards and 15 TDs. WR Maxwell Barbee has 10 TD catches. Jalen Nelson leads the defense with over 80 tackles. The Bruins defense has recorded a dozen sacks and a dozen interceptions. The Bruins look to bring home their first ever football championship.

Highland returns to the finals for the first time since their 2019 win. The Bulldogs are the top team in the bracket, the 2nd team out of the Golden League and have a 9-4 record. Coach Justin Wyatt leads a power offense that has scored over 450 points this year. QB Justin Wyatt Jr has thrown for 1975 yards and over 30 TDs while adding six rushing touchdowns. WR Andrew Garner has twelve of those TD receptions. Jayden Carillo and Jayden Page lead the defense each with over 100 tackles. Jamareih Hector has eleven of the teams nearly forty sacks. The Bulldogs seek a 2nd title.

DIVISION 10- Silverado vs. St. Anthony, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Points could be aplenty in the Division 10 final.

Silverado returns to the final for the first time since 2016. The Hawks are 8-5, were an At-Large team from the Desert Sky League and defeated the third seed in the bracket. Coach Keron Jones leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Jace Weiss has thrown for 2759 yards and 33 TDs. Weiss also has 18 touchdowns on the ground. Sire Foster has 13 TD catches. Nheeko White leads the defense with over 80 tackles. Silverado looks to bring home its first CIF-SS title.

St. Anthony returns to the finals for the first time since 2016. The Saints are the top team in the bracket, the 2nd team out of the Del Rey League and have an 8-6 record. Coach Jeff Magdaleno has a balanced squad on a five-game winning streak. The Saints have scored nearly 300 points this year. The Saints seek a third title.



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DIVISION 11- El Rancho vs. Portola, Friday November 29th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Points could be hard to come by in the Division 11 final.

El Rancho is back in the final for the first time since 1988. The Dons are 9-4, an At-Large team out of the Del Rio League and defeated the third seed in the bracket. Coach Adrian Medrano has a well-balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Ryan Dominguez has thrown for 1906 yards and 21 TDs. WR Andrew Guerrero has 8 TD catches. Javier Hernandez leads the way on defense with over 110 tackles and six sacks. El Rancho looks to bring a fourth title back to campus.

Portola arrives at its first ever final. The Bulldogs are 7-6, the 2nd team out of the Omicron League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Peter Abe leads a stout defense, barely allowing 200 points this year. QB Nash Luper has thrown for over 1000 yards. RB Timothy Grettenberg has rushed for 10 TDs. Maxwell Mapstone leads the defense with over 100 tackles this year and the defense has over twenty sacks. Portola looks to win its first title.

DIVISION 12- Palmdale vs. Carter, Friday November 29th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

One team will win its first ever title in the Division 12 final.

Palmdale is back at the title game for the first time since 2007. The Falcons are 8-5, the fourth seed in the bracket and were an At-Large team out of the Golden League. Coach Anthony Coleman leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB's Joshua Suarez and Joseph Mason have combined to throw over 2700 yards and 40 TD passes. WR's Christian Connolly, Zason Walker and Paul Turner each have double digit TD catches. Walker also has four interceptions on defense while Ny'Jol Williams has five sacks. Palmdale is looking for its first ever title.

Carter is making its first ever trip to the championship game. The Lions are 9-3, the 2nd team out of the Skyline League and defeated the 3rd seed in the bracket. Coach Felipe Salas has an offense that has scored over 450 points on the year. QB Ryder Carson has thrown for over 1800 yards and over 20 TDs. RB Jordan Mckinney has rushed for over 1100 yards and 15 TDs. WR Joey Martinez has 10 TD catches. Christopher Martinez leads the defense with nearly 100 tackles while Noah Esquivel has five interceptions. Carter looks to bring home its first football title.

DIVISION 13- Gahr vs. Pasadena, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Teams with contrasting styles will highlight the Division 12 final.

Gahr makes a first ever championship game appearance. The Gladiators are the top team in the bracket, have an 8-5 record and defeated the fourth seed in the bracket. Coach Greg Marshall leads a well-balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Roman Acosta has thrown for over 1100 yards. RB Markell Slaughter has rushed for nine touchdowns on the ground. Evan Lucena leads the defense with over 70 tackles. The Gladiators look for their first ever title.

Pasadena makes a long-awaited return to the finals. The Bulldogs are 7-6, the third seed out of the Pacific League and defeated two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Ron Jones leads a team that has won three games in a row. Pasadena looks for its fourth championship.

DIVISION 14 San Gabriel vs Pioneer, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

The ball could be moving in the Division 14 final.

San Gabriel returns to the finals after winning it all in 2022. The Matadors are 7-6, the third team out of the Almont League and beat the fourth seed in the bracket. Coach Marcus Galen leads a team that is well balanced on both sides of the ball. The offense has scored over 300 points, and the defense has been stout all year. The Matadors are on a six-game winning streak. San Gabriel looks for its second championship and 2nd in 3 years.



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DIVISION 14 San Gabriel vs Pioneer, Saturday November 30th, 7:00pm, NFHS Network (continued)

Pioneer makes a long awaited first finals appearance. The Titans are 8-5, the 2nd seed in the bracket, and were an At-Large team out of the 605 League. Coach Ramon Juarez leads a balanced team on a four-game winning streak. QB/RB Amiri Resendiz has thrown for over 1500 yards and rushed for 15 touchdowns on the ground. RB Adrian Lopez has 11 rushing touchdowns. WR Jose Rojas has 10 TD catches. Eduardo Gonzalez leads the defense with over ninety tackles while Rojas adds nine interceptions. Pioneer looks to win its first CIF-SS title.

8-Person Football Division 1

California School for the Deaf has won the 8 Person Football Division 1 Title. The Cubs were the 2nd seed in the bracket, finished 10-0 and were a Freelance At-Large team. The Cubs made their 4th straight finals appearance. Coach Keith Adams again led a powerful offense scoring over 600 points and a defense that barely allowed 200. QB Kaden Adams threw for 1735 yards and 33 TDs. Adams also has 13 rushing touchdowns. RB's Gio Visco and Matthew Silvay also have double digit rushing touchdowns. Visco also has 14 receiving touchdowns. Silvay and Darius Zarembka each had six of the team's total sacks. CSDR won its 3rd title.

8-Person Football Division 2

Lancaster Baptist vs Avalon, Saturday November 30th, NFHS Network

One team will claim a 2nd title in the 8-Person Football Division 2 Final.

Lancaster Baptist makes its fifth finals appearance since 2015. The Eagles are 9-3, an At-Large team from the Heritage League and beat the third seed in the bracket. Coach John Alvarez Jr leads a potent offense that has scored over 530 points this season. 8 Eagles have rushed for a touchdown led by Peyton Langley with 7. WR Ethan Cox has 9 TD catches. Marcus De Paul La Rosa and Austin Yarborough lead the defense both with over 60 tackles. The Eagles have won six games in a row. Lancaster Baptist looks to bring home a 2nd CIF-SS title.

Avalon is back in the finals for the first time since 2022. The Lancers are the top team in the bracket, have a 6-5 record and were an At-Large Freelance team. Coach Nicholas Morones has a well-balanced team on both sides of the ball. The Lancers have won three games in a row. Avalon looks to win a 2nd title.

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EVERY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TO BE BROADCAST VIA LIVE TELEVISION AND/OR THE NFHS NETWORK

The NFHS Network will broadcast every CIF Southern Section-Ford Football Championship game LIVE via either over-the-air broadcast or the Internet. The schedule will be as follows:

Television Channels: SPECTRUM 320, COX (Orange County) 1064, (Santa Barbara) 1037 (Las Vegas) 1049, (Palos Verdes) 1053, DIRECT TV-692

DIVISION 1 LIVE TV/NFHS Network	DIVISION 5 LNFHS Network	DIVISION 9 LNFHS Network	DIVISION 13 LNFHS Network
DIVISION 2 LIVE TV/NFHS Network	DIVISION 6 NFHS Network	DIVISION 10 NFHS Network	DIVISION 14 NFHS Network
DIVISION 3 NFHS Network	DIVISION 7 NFHS Network	DIVISION 11 NFHS Network	DIVISION 2 (8) NFHS Network
DIVISION 4 NFHS Network	DIVISION 8 NFHS Network	DIVISION 12 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, 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 2024. 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. If interested in doing a live, audio only broadcast please contact CIF-SS Communications Coordinator Taylor Martinez (taylorm@cifss.org).

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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 PRESS RELEASE-



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