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# PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE: #17

RELEASE DATE: November 25, 2025

## **2025 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION-FORD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, ON TAP FRIDAY AND SATURDAY; 16 DIVISIONAL TITLES TO BE AWARDED**

LOS ALAMITOS, CA – Sixteen divisional winners will be crowned champions this weekend in the 2025 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 to 1914. This will be the 109<sup>th</sup> edition.

The 16 divisional finals are sponsored by Southern California Ford Dealers, Wilson Sporting Goods Co, The NFHS Network; Spectrum Networks, GoFan; JL Custom Jackets and Patches; Gatorade; Hoag Orthopedic Institute, Raising Cane's, Los Angeles Chargers; CA Army National Guard, US Air Force, California Community Colleges, Lifestream Blood Bank, US Navy, The California Correctional Peace Officers Association; The Marines; Nike; SB Live Sports and Max Preps

### **DIVISION 1- Centennial/Corona vs. Santa Margarita, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at The Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena CA, 7:00pm, Spectrum News 1/Sportsnet LA/NFHS Network**

Two of the top teams in the Southern Section, and the state of California will face off in the Division 1 Final at the historic Rose Bowl in Pasadena California, the home to the “Granddaddy of them All”, the Rose Bowl Game.

**Centennial/Corona** is back in the championship game for the first time in a decade. The Huskies are 11-1, the champions of the Big West North League and are the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Once again, Coach Matt Logan helms a powerful offense that has scored over 550 points this season. QB Dominick Catalano has thrown for 2187 yards and 19 TDs while adding 7 rushing touchdowns. RB Malaki Davis has rushed for 892 yards and 19 rushing TDs. 8 different Huskies have caught a touchdown led by Keawe Browne with 6 TD catches. Jaden Walk-Greene leads the defense with 102 tackles and ten interceptions. Browne and Jonathan McKinley II have 10.5 of the teams 23.5 sacks. The Huskies defeated Mater Dei twice this season. The Huskies seek an 11<sup>th</sup> title.

**Santa Margarita** is back in the final for the first time in fifteen years. The Eagles are 9-3, the co-champions of the Trinity League and defeated the 4<sup>th</sup> seed in the bracket. In his first year at the helm, Coach Carson Palmer (2002 Heisman Trophy winner) has built a team with a stout defense barely allowing 150 points this year. QB Trace Johnson has thrown for 2142 yards and 14 TDs. RB Trent Mosley has seven rushing touchdowns. Dash Fifita and Leki Holani lead the defense with over 80 tackles. The team has 26 sacks led by Isaia Vandermade with 6. The Eagles look to win a 4<sup>th</sup> CIF-SS title.

This is a rematch of a game in Week 1 won by Santa Margarita 33-27 in overtime.



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**DIVISION 2- Los Alamitos vs. San Clemente, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>, at San Clemente HS, 7:00pm, Spectrum News/Sportsnet LA/NFHS Network**

The ball could fly in the Division 2 final.

**Los Alamitos** is back in the finals for the first time in over 20 years. The Griffins are 11-2, an At-Large team from the Alpha League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Ray Fenton again leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. The offense has scored over 480 points this season. The Griffins are on a three-game winning streak. Los Alamitos looks to claim a fifth title.

**San Clemente** is back in the title game for the first time since its 2016 victory. The Tritons are 9-4, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team out of the Alpha League and the third seed in the bracket. Coach Jaime Ortiz once again leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QBs Eiler King and Preston Beck each have thrown for over 1200 yards. RB Carson Sloan has run for over 1000 yards and 11 TDs. WR Jaxson Rex has 10 TD catches. Patrick Norman leads the defense with 111 tackles. Joshua Kerst has 10.5 of the teams with nearly 30 sacks. The team has thirteen interceptions. The Tritons look to bring home a 2<sup>nd</sup> title.

This is a rematch of a game in Week 9 won by San Clemente 28-9.

**DIVISION 3- Pacifica Oxnard vs. Palos Verdes, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Palos Verdes HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

The winner of the Division 3 Final will make it two straight championships.

**Pacifica/Oxnard** makes a 2<sup>nd</sup> straight finals appearance after winning D4 a year ago. The Tritons are 13-0, the champions of the Marmonte League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Mike Moon leads a potent offense scoring over 550 points and a defense only allowing 229. QB Taylor Lee passed for 3345 yards and 47 TDs. WRs Anthony Jacobs Jr and Alijah Royster both have double digit TD catches. RB Angel Sepulveda has 9 rushing touchdowns. On defense Isaiah Phelps and Deville Warner lead the way with over 160 tackles each. The team has recovered eighteen fumbles this season. The Tritons seek a 3<sup>rd</sup> CIF-SS title and a 2<sup>nd</sup> straight.

**Palos Verdes** is back in the finals after winning D5 a year ago. The Sea Kings are 10-3, the second team out of the Bay League and defeated the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Guy Gardner has a stout defense barely allowing 200 points this season. QB Ryan Rakowski has passed for 2045 yards and 24 TDs while adding eight rushing touchdowns. 10 Sea King receivers have a TD catch. Weston Reis leads the way on defense with 94 tackles. The defense has sixteen sacks and fifteen interceptions led by Jalen Flowers with four. Palos Verdes looks to win a fifth championship and a 2<sup>nd</sup> straight.

**DIVISION 4- La Habra vs. San Jacinto, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>, at TBD, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

Defense could tell the story of the Division 4 championship game.

**La Habra** returns to the title game after a decade away. The Highlanders are 10-3, the third team out of the Epsilon League and are the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Frank Mazzotta has a potent offense and a stout defense yet to allow 250 points. QB DJ Mitchell has thrown for over 2500 yards and 30 TDs while adding ten rushing touchdowns. RB Kevika Mata' Utia Martinez has run for over 1000 yards and 10 touchdowns. WR Bryce Vasquez has over 1000 reception yards and 10 TD catches. Noah Barajas leads the defense with over 80 tackles. Barajas and Luke Hedgepeth have combined for 12.5 of the teams nearly 30 sacks. Santi Batista Cuesta has six interceptions. La Habra looks to win an eighth title, all under Mazzotta.



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**San Jacinto** returns to the title game for the first time since its 2022 win. The Tigers are 10-3, the champions of the Mountain Pass League and defeated the top seed in the bracket. Coach Aric Galliano leads a well-balanced team on a six-game winning streak. QB Josue Estrada has passed for over 1600 yards and 17 TDs. RB Jomani Ransom has rushed for over 1400 yards and 14 touchdowns. On defense Damare Coleman leads the way with over ninety tackles and six of the teams sixteen sacks. The Tigers look to bring a 2<sup>nd</sup> title back to campus.

#### **DIVISION 5- Rio Hondo Prep vs. Redondo Union, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>, at Redondo Union HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

Defense could be the name of the game in the Division 5 final.

**Rio Hondo Prep** returns for its 3<sup>rd</sup> straight final in a 3<sup>rd</sup> different division. The Kares are 13-0, the champions of the Gold Coast League and beat the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Mark Carson again leads a potent offense scoring over 530 points and a stout defense yet to allow 200 points. QB Yanick Diaz has 17 TD passes. RB Noah Penunuri has rushed for over 1200 yards and 22 touchdowns. The Kares defense has 18 sacks led by Nathaniel Shine with 4.5. Rio Hondo Prep seeks a third straight championship and seventeenth overall.

**Redondo Union** makes its first finals appearance in over eighty years. The Seahawks are 9-4, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team from the Pioneer League and beat the top team in the bracket. Coach Keith Ellison leads a team with a stingy defense barely allowing 220 points this year. QB Cole Leinart has thrown for over 1500 yards and 13 touchdowns. RB Bo Ausmus has 8 touchdowns on the ground. WR Tyler Harper has seven TD catches. Lincoln Esparza leads the defense with over 70 tackles. Brock Herrera adds 6.5 sacks. The Seahawks look for a long-awaited 4<sup>th</sup> championship.

#### **DIVISION 6- Ventura vs. St Pius X/St Matthias, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>, at St. Pius X/St Matthias HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

Teams with contrasting styles meet in the Division 6 final.

**Ventura** is back in the final for the first time since 2014. The Cougars are the champions of the Channel League, have a 11-2 record and beat the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Tim Garcia leads a potent offense that has nearly scored 500 points this season and has won eight in a row. QB Derek Garcia has thrown for 2885 yards and 33 TDs. RB Tristan Savage has 15 touchdowns on the ground. WR Jack Cunningham has over 1700 receiving yards and 24 TD catches. Tristian Phillips leads the defense with over 90 tackles while Nathan Radwich has 11 of the teams 28 sacks. Ventura looks to bring its 3<sup>rd</sup> title back to campus.

**St. Pius X/St. Matthias** is back after winning D9 a year ago. The Warriors are 7-6, an At-Large team from the Angelus League and beat the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Devah Thomas again has a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Jassi Williams has passed nearly 1300 yards. WR Demari Nunley has 6 TD receptions. Gregory Taylor has four interceptions. The team has won four games in a row. The Warriors look to win a 2<sup>nd</sup> title overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> straight.

#### **DIVISION 7- Barstow vs. Apple Valley, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Apple Valley HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

Points could be hard to come by in the Division 7 final.

**Barstow** is back in the title game for the first time since 2008. The Aztecs are 9-3, the champions of the Desert Sky League and beat the top team in the bracket. Coach Clayton Leleimene leads a team on a nine-game winning streak and led by a defense not allowing 160 points.



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QB Jarvis Applewhite has thrown for over 1500 yards. RB Nicholas Gaoa has rushed for over 1800 yards and 28 TDs. Iosefa Lealofi and Elijah Leleimenee each have over 100 tackles. Quentin Hunter has seven of the teams' 30 sacks. The Aztecs seek the school's second title.

**Apple Valley** makes its 2<sup>nd</sup> finals appearance. The Sun Devils are 9-4, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team from the Mojave River League and the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Robert Meras leads a stingy defense that has yet to allow 200 points this season. QB Brent Lanning has thrown for over 1400 yards WR Jaden Foster has 10 TD catches. Ricardo Segura leads the defense with six picks. The Sun Devils have won six in a row. Apple Valley looks to claim its first ever football title.

**DIVISION 8- Beckman vs. Brea Olinda, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Brea Olinda HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

Teams who mirror each other will meet in the Division 8 title game.

**Beckman** returns to the championship game for the first time in 14 years. The Patriots are 10-3, the champions of the Lambda League and defeated two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Marcello Giuliano leads a balanced team that has won nine games in a row. QB Noah Nam has thrown for over 2100 yards and 22 TDs. RB Makhi Czaykowski has rushed for 1571 yards and 17 TDs. Nathan Garcia leads the defense with over 100 tackles. Xavier Mussleman-Cano has seven interceptions. Beckman looks to win its first football title.

**Brea Olinda** is back in the finals for the first time since 2018. The Wildcats are 10-3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team out of the Kappa League and defeated two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Justin Villasenor has a balanced team on both sides of the ball. The Wildcats have won four games in a row. QB Gavyn Nicholson has passed for nearly 1200 yards and rushed for 14 touchdowns. RB Kolotolu Liti has 14 rushing touchdowns. Nolan Santana leads the defense with over 100 tackles and 11 sacks. The Wildcats look to bring a 6<sup>th</sup> title back to campus.

**DIVISION 9- Ramona vs. Valley Christian/Cerritos, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>, at Valley Christian HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

A 4<sup>th</sup> championship awaits the winner of the Division 9 final.

**Ramona** returns to the final for the first time since its 2023 win. The Rams are 11-2, the 3<sup>rd</sup> team from the River Valley League and beat the top team in the bracket. Coach Ken Mushinskie has a potent offense that has scored 481 points and a stout defense yet to allow 200 points. QB Jesus Gonzalez has thrown for over 1690 yards and 19 TDs. RB Lorenzo Sims has rushed for over 1800 yards and 26 TDs. WR Issac Mata has 9 TD catches. Luis Mena IV and Aki Arteaga each have over 100 tackles to lead the defense. Mena and Moises Mendoza have combined for 15 of the teams nearly 30 sacks. Michael White has 5 interceptions. The Rams seek a 4<sup>th</sup> title.

**Valley Christian/Cerritos** returns to the title game for the first time since 2016. The Defenders are 10-3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team out of the Ironwood League and beat the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Brendan Chambers oversees a balanced team that has won six in a row. QB Graham Lunzer has thrown for over 2000 yards and 23 TDs. He also has 14 TDs on the ground. WR Oliver Boateng has 14 TD catches. Cole Hefner has over 100 tackles to lead the defense. The Defenders look to claim a 4<sup>th</sup> CIF-SS title.



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## DIVISION 10- Tahquitz vs. Hillcrest, Saturday November 29th, at Norte Vista HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Two teams making their title game debuts meet for the Division 10 championship.

**Tahquitz** makes its inaugural finals appearance. The Titans are 10-3, the runners-up in the Mountain Pass League and beat the 4<sup>th</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Stephon Pace leads a balanced team that has won six in a row. RB Terrell Strong has run for over 1600 yards and 21 touchdowns. WR Jacob Arbuckle has 6 TD catches. Arbuckle also has four interceptions on defense while Dionn Neal has five interceptions. The defense has 16 total picks. Tahquitz seeks its first ever title.

**Hillcrest** makes a trip to its first championship game. The Trojans are 8-5, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team from the Sunbelt League and beat two seeded teams in the bracket. Coach Travis Carter has a potent offense that has scored over 420 points this season. QB Matthew Ramos has thrown for 1497 yards and 21 TDs, eight of which have been caught by WR Zyren Jones. Ramos also has nine rushing touchdowns. RB Reytez Ortiz has run for 1521 yards and 19 TDs. Nicholas Bernal leads the defense with 113 tackles. Robert Lozano and Devine Eddy each have over a hundred tackles as well. Dylan Bailey and Issah Noor each have four interceptions. The Trojans look to claim their first CIF-SS title.

## DIVISION 11- Baldwin Park vs. Valley View, Saturday November 29th, at Valley View HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Opposing styles tell the story of the Division 11 title game.

**Baldwin Park** is back in the finals for the first time since 1991. The Braves are 8-5, were an At-Large team from the Valle Vista League and beat the 4<sup>th</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Robert Maxie has a potent offense scoring 436 points this season. QB Valentino May has thrown for 3139 yards and 37 TDs. RB Jacory Coleman has rushed for 1086 yards and 13 TDs. WR's Donovan St Cyr and Elijah Davis each has 11 TD catches. Francisco Navarro leads the defense with 94 tackles. Navarro, Julian Quintero and Gregory Holland have combined for 15 of the team's 23 sacks. Baldwin Park looks to bring home the school's 3<sup>rd</sup> CIF-SS title.

**Valley View** makes its return to the title game for the first time since 2016. The Eagles are 8-5, the 3<sup>rd</sup> team out of the Sunbelt League and beat the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Eric Martinez leads a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Jesse Vegas has passed for 1488 yards and 16 TDs. Vega also has seventeen rushing touchdowns. Bronson Pulu leads the defense with eighty tackles. The Eagles have ten interceptions. Valley View seeks its 2<sup>nd</sup> title.

## DIVISION 12- Santa Paula vs. Grace, Friday November 28th, at California Lutheran University, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

The ball could fly in the Division 12 final.

**Santa Paula** makes a long-awaited return to the title game. The Cardinals are 8-5, were an At-Large team out of the Tri-County League and beat the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Myke Montoya oversees a team that is well balanced on both sides of the ball. QB Rene Vega has passed for over 1200 yards. RB Sebastian Alcantar has rushed for over 1000 yards and 11 touchdowns. On defense Gael Flores leads the team with 102 tackles and 10 sacks. Santa Paula looks to bring home a long-awaited 3<sup>rd</sup> title.



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**Grace** returns to the 11-man football finals for the first time since 2019. The Lancers are 10-3, the champions of the Citrus Coast League and beat the top team in the bracket. Coach Tim Coate leads a team that has won eight in a row. QB Riley Williams has thrown for 3092 yards and 40 TDs. RB Jake Williams has rushed for 1801 yards and 18 TDs. WR Landon Cooper has 1300 receiving yards and 18 TD catches. Cooper and Grayer Guiliani-Gibbons each have over 110 tackles to lead the defense. TJ Moore has 11 sacks. Grace seeks a fifth overall football title.

#### **DIVISION 13- Woodbridge vs. Montebello, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Montebello HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

A long-awaited title goes to the winner of the Division 13 final.

**Woodbridge** returns to the final for the first time since 1998. The Warriors are 5-8, the 3<sup>rd</sup> team out of the Omicron League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Connor McBride leads a team on a 3-game winning streak. QB Waylon Stone has over 1700 passing yards. Stone and Kayjahn Pitts have combined for fifteen rushing touchdowns. The defense has stood tall during the playoffs. The Warriors look to bring a 3<sup>rd</sup> title back home.

**Montebello** makes a return to the final for the first time in 90 years. The Oilers are 7-6, the third team from the Almont League and beat the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Pete Gonzalez leads a team that has won four in a row. QB Joe Curiel has thrown for over 1200 yards. RB Donovan Murrillo has 9 rushing touchdowns. The defense is led by Armando Bonilla with over 120 tackles. Giovanni Solorzano has six of the teams 20 sacks. The Oilers seek their first ever title.

#### **DIVISION 14- South El Monte vs. Pioneer, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Pioneer HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network**

Similar styles meet in the Division 14 title game.

**South El Monte** arrives at its first ever title game. The Eagles are the top seed in the bracket, are the 3<sup>rd</sup> team out of the Mission Valley League and have a 9-4 record. Coach Frank Gallardo has a balanced team on both sides of the ball. QB Michael Maldonado has thrown for over 1300 yards. WR Gabriel Canchola has 5 TD catches. Ivan Lopez has seven of the teams, nearly 30 sacks. The defense has barely allowed 200 points this season. The Eagles look to bring their first title back to campus.

**Pioneer** makes its 2<sup>nd</sup> straight championship appearance after winning a year ago. The Titans are the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team out of the 605 League and have a 7-6 record. Coach Ramon Jaurez again has a well-balanced team that has won four games in a row. QB Noah Anderson has thrown for nearly 1400 yards and 13 touchdowns. RB Steven Roman has seven touchdowns on the ground. Jose Rojas leads the defense with over 120 tackles. The Titans have won four games in a row. Pioneer looks to go back-to-back and win its 2<sup>nd</sup> title.



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## 8 Person Football Division 1

### Flintridge Prep vs. Cornerstone Christian/Wildomar, Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Murrieta Mesa HS, 7:00pm, NFHS Network

Contrasting styles meet in the Division 1 championship game.

**Flintridge Prep** is back in the final after falling short last year. The Wolves are 9-0, the top seed in the bracket and the champions of the Tri-Valley League. Coach Russell White again has a stout defense barely allowing 100 points this season. QB Asher Jones has thrown for over 1500 yards and 18 TDs. RB/WR Owen Willingham has six rushing touchdowns and 11 TD catches. On defense Mac Peutet has four sacks for the Wolves. The team has 14 interceptions. Flintridge Prep looks to bring home a 4<sup>th</sup> championship.

**Cornerstone Christian/Wildomar** makes its first ever title game appearance. The Crusaders are 11-0, the champions of the Majestic League and are the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket. Coach Jarrad Chavez leads a powerful offense scoring over 500 points and a stout defense barely allowing 100. QB Dylan Kelly has passed for over 1200 yards and 25 touchdowns. Kelly has also run for 19 touchdowns and over 1300 yards. RB Matthew Huffman has rushed for over 1200 yards and 11 TDs. WR Cooper Lewin has 16 TD catches. Kelly also leads the defense with over 100 tackles. Mason Sanchez has nearly 100 tackles and 27 sacks. Caleb Davis and Joshua Aderhold each have 17 sacks. The Crusaders seek the school's first championship.

## 8 Person Football Division 2

### Lancaster Baptist vs Cate, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>, at Cate HS, 1:00pm, NFHS Network

A 2<sup>nd</sup> trophy awaits the winner of the Division 2 final.

**Lancaster Baptist** continues its ten-year run of success with another title game appearance having fallen in the game a year ago. The Eagles are the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the bracket, have a 9-3 record and were an At-Large team out of the Heritage League. Coach John Alvarez Jr. leads a well-balanced team that has won five games in a row. QB Camden Mordh has passed for 13 touchdowns. RB Peyton Langley has rushed for 13 touchdowns on the ground. Langley also has six touchdown catches. Langley is also a star on defense with over sixty tackles and two interceptions. Jude Atherton has three sacks. The Eagles look to claim the school's 2<sup>nd</sup> CIF-SS title.

**Cate** is back in the final for the first time since 2021. The Rams are 5-7, are an At-Large team from the Tri-Valley League and beat two seeded teams in the playoffs. Coach Benjamin Soto leads a team that has won three games in a row. The Rams defense has stood tall in the playoffs allowing barely 30 points combined in the three games. Cate looks to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> trophy to its collection.

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**EVERY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TO BE BROADCAST VIA SPECTRUM AND THE NFHS NETWORK**  
Spectrum and 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:

**DIVISION 1  
NFHS Network**

**DIVISION 8  
NFHS Network**

**DIVISION 2  
NFHS Network**

**DIVISION 9  
NFHS Network**

**DIVISION 2  
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**DIVISION 2  
NFHS Network**

**DIVISION 9  
NFHS Network**

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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.

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