**Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School Preseason Football Rankings; Sept. 8, 2021, #2**

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CATHOLIC ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — If you feel it, touch it then you know the high school football season is gaining momentum and that’s only after three weeks.

Imagine, we’re getting back to normal this year and the first set of Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School football rankings presented by Global Football are ready for presentation. The preseason rankings dropped in August and following a series of national and nonleague games, there is movement.

And that’s to be expected when teams have up to three games under their belts. The first ranking of the regular season seems to have a fresh look annually. The teams dropped will have plenty of time to re-enter the CAC Top 25 but will need to show more consistency and simply win the next game.

So, only three teams did not shift spots in the CAC Top 25 while 18 did and there four debutants.

At the top, California titans St. John Bosco and Mater Dei sit atop the rankings. Moving up at least one spot are 12 teams with No. 12 Cathedral rising four. Six teams dropped with No. 14 St. Thomas Aquinas absorbing the biggest hit at 11 spots after a shock loss. No. 16 St. Frances Academy and No. 20 Archbishop Hoban cratered eight from the preseason rankings.

That leaves four new teams: No. 13 Jesuit (Tampa, Fla.), No. 17 Loyola Academy (Wilmette, Ill.), No. 18 O’Dea (Seattle, Wash.) and No. 21 DePaul Catholic (Wayne, N.J.). All four are well thought of in their respective state rankings and play challenging schedules. DePaul plays in the one of the nation’s best leagues and the schedule is daunting. The Spartans are scheduled to play No. 9 St. Peter’s Prep (Jersey City) on Sept. 24.

Congratulations to the four additions. It’s an achievement to reach the CAC Top 25 but the hard part is staying put.

Last weekend was momentous for Global Football, which hosted the inaugural Catholic Bowl at the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco, Texas. The 12,000 indoor stadium is the Dallas Cowboys’ practice facility and home to local high schools.

The doubleheader paired Catholic high schools, St. Thomas (Houston, Texas)-John Paul II (Plano, Texas) and No. 25 Nolan Catholic (Fort Worth, Texas)- Little Rock (Ark.) Catholic. Both games were entertaining and more than 2,500 attended each game. The event also was featured nationally on Fox News with 1.1 million viewers learning about the event’s mission.

The event represented return of quality high school football across America and a time of renewed faith and friendship. Catholic education continues to be a cornerstone in nearly every community and paid homage to those who contribute daily to the continued educational efforts.

Honorary Chairman and Vietnam War hero Rocky Bleier was the keynote speaker and ideal representative to relate how his own life has revolved around faith, freedom and football. A Notre Dame team captain and member of the 1966 National Championship team, Bleier’s trail to being a Pittsburgh Steeler four-time Super Bowl champion was interrupted by serving in United States Army.

The Catholic Bowl is also meant as a special tribute to Captain Emil Kapaun, a priest who served in World War II and Korea as an Army Captain and chaplain. Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Fr. Kapaun died in Korea and was declared a Servant of God by Pope John Paul II, the first stage to canonization.

On the field, fans were treated two games that went down to the wire. St. Thomas improved to 2-0 with a 38-31 win John Paul II. Nolan Catholic needed three overtimes to edge Little Rock Catholic, 36-34.

Global Football received numerous calls, text messages and emails after the game from interested schools. Though the second edition is in the planning stages, nothing is solidified. Schools need to act fast and contact Global Football at the information provided later in this column.

Now for the weekly Triple Option and final words before presenting the CAC Top 25.

**Triple Option**

The Triple Option identifies a student-athlete, coach and the upcoming weekend’s must-see games. First, there’s a quarterback from Nevada that demonstrated unflappable skills in the Florida heat. In the Seattle suburbs, there’s a coaching staff that faced adversity at the last-minute, cobbled together a game plan and kept the winning tradition alive in the season opener last Friday. Plus, there are games with local and national intrigue that will attract fans in droves this weekend.

**Player of the Week:** Quarterback Micah Alejado of No. 7 Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, Nev.). It is often said that out of adversity comes opportunity and ultimately leads to success. Enter Alejado, a sophomore signal-caller, facing a deficit in the fourth quarter against national powerhouse Central (Miami, Fla.) on Saturday night in Naples, Fla.

Trailing 20-14 in the final period, Alejado came of age. He drove the Gaels (2-0) 80 yards in four plays, capped by a 37-yard touchdown pass to Zachariah Branch with 4:02 left for the winning score during a 21-20 triumph over the Central Rockets. But the Gaels weren’t out of the woods as Central advanced into field goal range, only to see a 35-yard attempt smash off the crossbar as time expired. Okay, time to exhale!

Alejado’s memorable night was fueled by a near perfect 14-of-16 accuracy for 202 yards and two TDs and sped 21 yards for another that gave his team a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Branch was by far his favorite target with six receptions for 121 and two scores. What’s even more impressive was Alejado’s efficiency. The Gaels ran 28 less plays than Central and were outgained (363 to 246) in total yards.

**Coaches of the Week:** Dominic Daste and the Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, Wash.) staff. Often a head coach is only as good as the people that surround him. That means players, support staff and assistant coaches that pull together as a band of brothers. You win together and lose together, but ultimately the head coach accepts the latter saying, “that loss is on me.” Well, Daste and his staff faced daunting odds last Friday but still managed to prevail.

Less than 24 hours before the Crusaders faced Kennedy Catholic (Burien, Wash.) in the season opener, positive COVID tests within the EC program led to 24 players, including 10 starters, being left off the roster for the game. Regardless, the Crusaders won 23-8 with the entire staff pitching in to pull off an all-for-one and one-for-all win at home.

Marcus Ungaro, the defensive coordinator, made the calls via video chat to the coaches in the booth and the Crusaders were in good hands.

“It was a team effort. We played as a team tonight. I cannot say enough about our coaching staff. For us to play well with adversity in our face, I couldn’t be happier,” Daste told the *Seattle Times*.

The Crusaders (1-0) ended the game without three starting linebackers but still managed a defensive effort that stymied Kennedy’s prolific passing attack and forced five turnovers. Eastside Catholic, which was ranked No. 4 in Class 3A by the *Associated Press*, had won the last two Washington 3A state titles in 2018 and 2019. There were no state championships held in 2020 due to the pandemic.

**Games of the Week (All times are local and subject to change):** It’s good to get back into the swing of things and this weekend there are five games with CAC Top 25 teams meeting formidable opponents. From the Nevada desert where South Pacific ethnicity is celebrated to suburban Philadelphia, it’s a great weekend of schoolboy football.

**2021 Polynesian Football Classic, Friday-Saturday, Las Vegas, Nev.:** Three games over two days will be played at Bishop Gorman High School’s Fertitta Field. Friday’s marquee game is No. 2 Mater Dei (Santa Ana, Calif.) vs. Liberty (Henderson, Nev.), 7:30 p.m. Liberty is the defending Nevada 4A state champions (from 2019). Nevada cancelled the 2020 season. Saturday’s game is No. 7 Bishop Gorman (2-0) hosting Lone Peak (Highland, Utah) at 7 p.m. Lone Peak (2-0) advanced to last year’s Utah Class 6A state title game. Here’s the [ticket](https://www.highschoolclassics.com/polynesian-classic/tickets) information.

**Milton (Alpharetta, Ga.) at No. 3 St. Joseph’s Prep (Philadelphia, Pa.), Saturday, 12 p.m.:** Milton (2-1) suffered a 40-21 loss to North Cobb (Kennesaw, Ga.) on Aug. 27 but rebounded last weekend for win. Milton, No. 5 in Georgia’s Class 7A (largest classification), relies on QB Devin Farrell and WR Debron Gatling. The Hawks (1-0) won 40-0 over St. Mary’s Ryken (Leonardtown, Md.) on Saturday. The game will be played at Cardinal O’Hara High School in Springfield, Pa.

**No. 21 DePaul Catholic (Wayne, N.J.) at St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, N.J.), Saturday, 1 p.m.:** DePaul (1-0) debuts this week in the CAC Top 25 after a 40-19 win over Cardinal Hayes (Bronx, N.Y.). SJR is 1-1. Both teams are Top-10 ranked in New Jersey but this one could determine the North Jersey Super Football Conference United White Division winner. They could meet again in the postseason.

**St. Rita (Chicago, Ill.) at No. 17 Loyola Academy (Wilmette, Ill.), Saturday, 1:30 p.m.:** Two of the top Chicagoland team from the Chicago Catholic League meet in an early season showdown. Loyola is 2-0. St. Rita is 1-1 after an opening night loss to Mount Carmel (Chicago), 16-9.

**No. 11 St. Edward (Lakewood, Ohio) at Elder (Cincinnati, Ohio), Saturday, 4 p.m.:** It’s a Cleveland vs. Cincinnati matchup at The Pit or Elder’s home field in the Price Hill neighborhood in the Queen City. St. Edward (3-0) is rolling offensively at 44 points per game. The Elder Panthers (2-1) have lost three-straight in the series but did knock off the Eagles, 15-9, at The Pit in 2016. The teams could meet in the Ohio Division I playoffs.

Hope you are able to attend one of these games but if you can’t get out and support your local high schools.

That’s it for another eventful week in the Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 rankings but here’s a subtle reminder from Global Football for an international football event in 2022.

In the feature game, Northwestern plays Nebraska as part of the Aer Lingus College Football Series on Aug. 27, 2022, at Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland. In conjunction with the 2022 Northwestern-Nebraska college football game, the fifth ***High School Football Showcase*** is organized by Global Football.

Here’s the rub: High school football athletic directors and coaches are invited to travel overseas with their teams for a competitive game against an American opponent. Schools are encouraged to bring their high school bands, cheerleaders and teams from other sports such as field hockey, rugby and lacrosse. It will be memorable trip and cultural experience.

For more information contact Patrick Steenberge (817) 219-7274 or email him Patrick@globalfootball.com. Also visit this site for additional details, [2022 Kildare High School Showcase PPT](http://www.globalfootball.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2022-Kildare-High-School-Showcase-PPT.pdf).

It’s never too early to plan for the future.

We encourage fans, players, parents and coaches to follow the CAC Top 25 through social media at [www.Facebook.com/CACTop25](http://www.Facebook.com/CACTop25) and on Twitter @CACTop25. If there is a team, coach, player or story idea that we may have overlooked, we need to hear from you. Our readers are our greatest resource. Thank you.

It’s good to be back fulltime for another season. As mentioned, we’re scheduled to go weekly until mid-December and then reveal the CAC Top 25 final rankings in early January. Along the way we’ll bring the very best of Catholic high school football.

Before we signoff, we have three mentions.

First, we wish our Jewish brethren a Good New Year with the celebration of Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 6-8). Or as they say in Hebrew, “L’Shanah tovah.” In Yiddish, it’s “gut yontif” or have a good holiday. If you are counting it is the 5282nd year on the Jewish calendar which began at sundown on Monday. The first Christians and consequently Roman Catholics were Jews. That’s my history lesson for September.

Second, Hurricane Ida inflicted some serious damage and parts of Louisiana took the brunt of the wrath and fury. The hurricane’s path cut a swath up to the East Coast, where at least 27 lives were lost in New Jersey alone. If you can help in relief efforts donate at the [Red Cross.](https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-ida-donations.html/)

Finally, this Saturday marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11 or the September 11, 2001, attacks in New York City at the World Trade Towers and The Pentagon in Arlington, Va. (American Airlines Flight 73), and then in Shanksville, Pa., where United Airlines Flight 93 crash landed with heroic passengers saving immeasurable lives. More than 3,000 people lost their lives that infamous day and the residual deaths continue to haunt lower Manhattan, where first responders have been stricken with disease, mental health issues and death.

There will be tens of thousands of civic ceremonies worldwide this weekend, prayer services and moments of silence at American high school football games nationwide. We ask that you take a moment to remember all those who perished on that day of infamy and the families they left behind. Say a prayer for the firefighters, police officers, clergy, volunteers and first responders who raced to the World Trade Towers in lower Manhattan without a regard for their lives and then paid ultimate price.

It’s powerful stuff but we can never forget.

Prayers are always appreciated for those less fortunate.

Until next week, Our Lord Jesus Christ’s blessings. — *Christopher Lawlor*

**Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School Football Rankings, Sept. 8, 2021**

**1. St. John Bosco, Bellflower, Calif. (3-0)**

**Previous rank:** 1.

**In the Huddle:** The Braves have won twice against southern California rivals and once in a nationally-charged game. Last week, they stopped Bishop Amat (La Puente), 47-7. RBs Tayvion Banks and Jabari Bates scored two TDs apiece. It was 26-0 at halftime before the Braves tacked on 21 points in the third quarter. Also beat Alemany (Mission Hills), 24-3. Junior signal-caller Pierce Clarkson fired a pair of TD passes and Central (Miami, Fla.), 35-12. Bates scored three TDs. This weekend the Braves host powerhouse East St. Louis (Ill.).

**2. Mater Dei, Santa Ana, Calif. (1-0)**

**Previous rank:** 2.

**In the Huddle:** Only one game to their slate but the Monarchs crushed Wiped out nationally ranked Duncanville (Texas), 45-3. QB Elijah Brown completed on 18 of 23 passes for 269 yards and three scores. The Monarchs made it 31-3 at the intermission and then tacked on 14 points in the third quarter to cap a perfect road trip to the Dallas Metroplex. Friday’s a neutral site with Liberty (Henderson, Nev.).

**3. St. Joseph’s Prep, Philadelphia (1-0)**

**Previous rank:** 4.

**In the Huddle:** Shut out St. Mary’s Ryken (Leonardtown, Md.), 40-0. Sophomore RB Kahseim Phillips rushed for two TDs. The Hawks face one of the nation’s top teams in a true test Saturday versus Milton (Alpharetta, Ga.).

**4. Bergen Catholic, Oradell, N.J. (2-0)**

**Previous rank:** 5.

**In the Huddle:** QB Steve Angeli, a Notre Dame recruit, has the hot hand in two quality wins, throwing for seven TDs. Last weekend, the Crusaders trounced Smyrna (Del.), 52-6. Angeli’s five-TD passing performance was highlighted by sharing the wealth connecting with five different receivers. Coach Vito Campanile’s squad enters the bye week and then starts league play. They also pummeled then-No. 12 Archbishop Hoban (Akron, Ohio), 42-7, as Ryan Butler rushed for two scores. The team is off until Sept. 18 when Delbarton (Morristown) pays a visit.

**5. St. Xavier, Cincinnati, Ohio (3-0)**

**Previous rank:** 7.

**In the Huddle:** In three games against in-state competition, the Bombers are averaging nearly 41 points. Last weekend, they blanked Olentangy (Ohio) Liberty, 49-0. QB Brogan McCaughey threw three TD passes, including two to Terrell McFarlin and another one to Duke-bound TE Max Klare, and hit on 13 of 14 attempts for 236 yards. The defense also produced a pair of TDs. Also thrashed Colerain (Cincinnati), 42-7. McCaughey hit on 12 of 14 passes for 222 yards and three TDs and RB Charles Kellom ran for scores of 3 and 6 yards. In the opener, Kellom rushed for 101 yards and two scores during a 31-14 win over Lakota West (West Chester, Ohio), 31-14. This weekend it’s a trip to Penn (Mishawaka, Ind.).

**6. De La Salle, Concord, Calif. (2-0)**

**Previous rank:** 8.

**In the Huddle:** Last weekend, the Spartans overwhelmed Monterrey Trail (Elk Grove), 68-6. The Spartans led 28-0 after one quarter and cruised to their second straight win to open the season. The offense is averaging 60 points per contest. Opened the season with a 52-16 blowout of St. Mary’s (Stockton).

**7. Bishop Gorman, Las Vegas (2-0)**

**Previous rank:** 9.

**In the Huddle:** In one of the top national games of the early campaign, the Gaels edged nationally ranked Central (Miami, Fla.), 21-20, at the Battle at the Beach in Naples, Fla. Sophomore QB Micah Alejado was the hero, firing a 37-yard TD pass to junior WR Zachariah Branch with 3:48 left in the game to rally from a six-point hole (20-14). In the opener, the Gaels crushed then-No. 24 Saint Louis (Honolulu, Hawaii), 42-21. This Saturday they will host Lone Peak (Highland, Utah) in the Polynesian Football Classic.

**8. Servite, Anaheim, Calif. (2-0)**

**Previous rank:** 10.

**In the Huddle:** Following a bye week, the Friars are back at it with Bishop Amat (La Puente) Thursday. In wins over Mission Viejo (44-7) and Edison of Huntington Beach (54-14), Arizona-bound QB Noah Fifita has seven TD passes. Remember they still have league games with the CAC 25’s top two teams St. John Bosco and Mater Dei.

**9. St. Peter’s Prep, Jersey City, N.J. (2-0)**

**Previous rank:** 11.

**In the Huddle:** The Rich Hansen III era opened with two lopsided victories. The senior backfield of Paul Lefkowitz and Sam Slade rushed for two TDs apiece and QB Champ Long tossed a pair of scoring passes in the opening quarter when the Marauders held a 14-0 lead en route to a 49-8 decision over West Orange. The Marauders opened with a league win over Paramus Catholic, 61-0. The action continues at Northeast (Philadelphia, Pa.) Friday.

**10. Gonzaga, Washington, D.C. (2-0)**

Previous rank: 13.

**In the Huddle:** The defense has keyed two wins by allowing only seven points with an opening night blanking of Friendship Collegiate Academy (Washington). Last weekend, the Eagles topped McDonogh School (Owings Mill, Md.), 23-7. Brendan Lee caught a scoring pass from junior QB Carson Pettibon for a 10-7 lead in in the second quarter. Petitbon tossed his second TD for a 16-7 edge and RB JoJo Hammond added the final TD on a nifty run. The Eagles host league rival St. Mary’s Ryken (Leonardtown, Md.) Friday.

**11. St. Edward, Lakewood, Ohio (3-0)**

Previous rank: 14.

**In the Huddle:** The Northeast Ohio’s top-ranked team made it look easy last weekend with a surprise 47-7 drilling of Mentor. QB Christian Ramos scored three TDs in the first half for a commanding 27-7 lead. He also completed 16 of 20 passes for 249, including a 39-yard scoring strike to Connor Goodall in the second quarter. Coach Tom Lombardo’s team also beat Central Catholic (Toledo), 33-10, and Rock Creek Christian (Upper Marlboro, Md.), 56-18. The Eagles travel to Elder (Cincinnati) Saturday afternoon as the schedule intensifies.

**12. Cathedral, Indianapolis, Ind. (3-0)**

**Previous rank:** 16.

**In the Huddle:** Sophomore QB Danny O’Neill is a natural under center for the Fighting Irish, Indiana’s top-ranked Class 5A team. The Indianapolis school picked a third win after thumping Penn (Mishawaka), 37-0. O’Neill hit on 20 of 22 passes for 236 yards and three scores. He also carried 8 yards for another TD on the opening drive. WR Jaron Gibbs had nine receptions for 148 yards and found the end zone twice. Heading into Friday’s rivalry game with Chatard (Indianapolis), coach Bill Peebles’s team has allowed seven points and two shutouts this term.

**13. Jesuit, Tampa, Fla. (2-0)**

Previous rank: Not ranked.

In the Huddle: In one of the program’s all-time signature wins, the Tigers upended Defeated then-No. ghghgh St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale), 24-21. Trailing 21-17 in the fourth quarter, QB Luke Knight hit Jaydn Girard from 9 yards for the winning score with :09 left. The game was only arranged two days in advance of last Friday. The Tigers are back at it Friday entertaining Bloomingdale (Valrico).

**14. St. Thomas Aquinas, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (1-1)**

**Previous rank:** 3.

**In the Huddle:** The defending Florida Class 7A champions were upset at Jesuit (Tampa), 24-21. However, they beat then-No. 6 St. Frances Academy (Baltimore), 38-23. QB Zion Thomas threw for 298 yards and accounted for three scores (two passing, one running).

**15. Catholic, Baton Rouge, La. (1-0)**

**Previous rank:** 17.

**In the Huddle:** The Bears left Louisiana for a nationally themed game in the Md-Atlantic and crushed Good Counsel (Olney, Md.), 38-10. RB Corey Singleton, Jr. ran for two scores against the WCAC foe. This weekend it’s a matchup with the state’s top-ranked Class 5A team Acadiana (Lafayette) Friday.

**16. St Frances Academy, Baltimore, Md. (0-1)**

**Previous rank:** 6.

**In the Huddle:** Lost to No. ghghgh St. Thomas Aquinas(Fort Lauderdale, Fla.). 38-23. Also had one game cancelled over COVID-19 issues.

**17. Loyola Academy, Wilmette, Ill. (2-0)**

Previous rank: Not ranked.

In the Huddle: The Jesuit school enters the CAC 25 rankings as Chicagoland’s top-ranked team. Last weekend, the Ramblers crushed Rochester (Ill.), 56-7. QB Jake Stearney threw for 225 yards and four scores and RB Marco Maldonado carried 5 times for 103 yards and two TDs and caught three balls for 113 yards and another score. This weekend the Chicago Catholic League/East Suburban Catholic Conference revs up at home with St. Rita (Chicago) in one of the top games in the Midwest.

**18. O’Dea, Seattle, Wash. (1-0)**

Previous rank: Not ranked.

In the Huddle: Opened with a 35-17 victory over Union (Vancouver). The Fighting Irish led 21-17 after three quarters and tallied two TDs to put it away. Washington’s second-ranked Class 4A team hosts Kennedy Catholic (Burien) Friday.

**19. Brother Martin, New Orleans, La. (0-0)**

Previous rank: 20.

**In the Huddle:** Game with St. Thomas More (Lafayette) was cancelled by Hurricane Ida. Next scheduled game is on the road at West Monroe Friday.

**20. Archbishop Hoban, Akron, Ohio (2-1)**

Previous rank: 12.

**In the Huddle:** It’s been an interesting three weeks for the defending Ohio Division II champions. After splitting the first two contests, the Knights got back on track with a 35-34 double-overtime win over rival Walsh Jesuit (Cuyahoga Falls). Leading 35-28 in the second OT, Walsh scored to make it 35-34 and opted for the win but were denied on the two-point conversion. QB Jayvian Crable’s 17-yard TD pass to David Vincent snapped a 28-all tie. The Knights opened the campaign with an easy 38-0 shellacking of Bishop Sycamore (Columbus) but lost to No. 4 Bergen Catholic (Oradell, N.J.), 42-7. This weekend it’s tough road battle at Archbishop Alter (Kettering).

**21. DePaul Catholic, Wayne, N.J. (1-0)**

**Previous rank:** Not ranked.

**In the Huddle:** RB Anthony Almeida scored three TDs and Tyer Brown found the end zone twice as the Spartans hammered Cardinal Hayes (Bronx, N.Y.), 40-19, at the Rumble on the Raritan event in Wayne. The North Jersey school debuts in CAC 25 rankings. Coach Nick Campanile inherited a program that had great success under John McKenna. DB A’khoury Lyde is one of the nation’s top defenders and is headed to Wisconsin and Syracuse-bound edge rusher Q’yaeir Price (6-1, 245) brings the heat. S/WR Eddie Conoran is headed to Central Michigan. The Spartans travel to league rival St. Joseph Regional (Montvale) Saturday afternoon in what might be the first of two meetings this term.

**22. Cathedral Catholic, San Diego, Calif. (2-1)**

**Previous rank:** 21.

**In the Huddle:** The best way to see if a team sticks around the CAC 25 rankings is how they respond to a loss. In the case of the Dons, it was an emphatic 50-17 victory last Friday over Chaminade (West Hills). It was a tight 21-10 lead at the break before the Dons cranked out 22 unanswered points in the third quarter. The nonleague slate rolls on this weekend with Helix (La Mesa).

**23. DeMatha Catholic, Hyattsville, Md. (1-1)**

**Previous rank:** 15.

**In the Huddle:** The Stags defense has allowed only 21 points in two out-of-state games. Last weekend it was gut-wrenching 14-10 loss at Pennsylvania’s top-ranked Class AAAAA team Imhotep Charter (Philadelphia). In the opener, they crushed Holy Spirit (Absecon, N.J.), 28-7. Friday the Stags host Episcopal (Alexandria, Va.). The WCAC portion of the schedule doesn’t kick in until early October.

**24. Central Catholic, Pittsburgh, Pa. (1-1)**

**Previous rank:** 22.

**In the Huddle:** After an opening day 12-6 loss to Philadelphia powerhouse Imhotep Charter, the Vikings beat Penn Hills (Pittsburgh), 48-7. Sophomore QB Payton Wehner hit on 13 of 15 passes for 139 yards and totaled three scores. The Vikings visit Pine-Richland (Gibsonia) Friday.

**25. Nolan Catholic, Fort Worth, Texas (1-1)**

**Previous rank:** 25.

**In the Huddle:** RB Kewan Lacy carried 20 times for 244 yards and two TDs during a thrilling 36-34 triple-overtime victory over Little Rock (Ark.) Catholic in the inaugural Catholic Bowl at the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco, Texas. In the third extra session, T.J. Williams scored on a PAT run from the 3 to win it. The teams combined for 1,001 yards in an offensive showdown. The Vikings play Santa Margarita (Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.) Saturday in a game to be played at St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, Calif.

**Dropped out:** No. 18 Iona Prep (New Rochelle, N.Y.); No. 19 La Salle (Cincinnati, Ohio); No. 23 St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, N.J.) and No. 24 St. Rita (Chicago, Ill.).

**Special Consideration:** Archbishop Alter (Kettering, Ohio); Marist (Atlanta, Ga.); Brother Rice (Chicago, Ill.); Central Catholic (Grand Rapids, Mich.); Central Catholic (Portland, Ore.); Chaminade-Madonna College Prep (Hollywood, Fla.); St. Pius X Catholic (Atlanta, Ga.); Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, Wash.); Good Counsel (Olney, Md.); De La Salle Collegiate (Warren, Mich.); Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey, N.J.); Dowling Catholic (West Des Moines, Iowa); Roncalli (Indianapolis, Ind.); St. John’s College (Washington, D.C.); Saint Louis School (Honolulu, Hawaii); St. Thomas More (Lafayette, La.); Santa Margarita (Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.); St. Thomas (Houston, Texas); Serra (San Mateo, Calif.); La Salle College (Wyndmoor, Pa.); St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, N.J.); Holy Spirit (Absecon, N.J.).; and Central Catholic (Lawrence, Mass.).

**About:** The Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School Football Rankings, presented by Global Football are released on Wednesdays from late August until the conclusion of the high school season in January. Criteria include the quality of the team and its players, strength of schedule, tradition, and quality of the team’s league, conference, region or district. The rankings are compiled by Christopher Lawlor, who consults with Patrick Steenberge of Global Football in Granbury, Texas to coordinate the CAC Top 25. All Catholic high schools from the United States that feature only four-year players on 11-man teams are eligible for consideration. Fans are encouraged to follow the CAC Top 25 at [www.Facebook.com/CACTop25](http://www.Facebook.com/CACTop25) and on Twitter @CACTop25.

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