**Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School Football Rankings; Sept. 29, 2021, #5**

By CHRISTOPHER LAWLOR

NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT

CATHOLIC ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The month of September ended with relative solitude but October will usher in with a whopper of a game.

There are weeks in the Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School football rankings presented by Global Football, that are quiet. No big upsets or it was a business as usual for the most part. Well, that was the last week of September for you and we sensed that going into the last weekend.

We’re played portions of two months and October is usually when the contenders and the pretenders are separated. The playoffs come into focus, the brackets are drawn up and single-elimination tournaments put fans, players and coaches on edge.

And that’s exactly what we’re talking about this weekend. The eyes of the national will shift to Bellflower, California, where the “Game of the Year Part 1.0” will be contested. We’ve hyped this one since the preseason and fingers crossed the No. 1 St. John Bosco (Bellflower) vs. No. 2 Mater Dei (Santa Ana) lives up to the buildup.

Here are a few factoids to keep in mind:

► The all-time series that started in 1966. Mater Dei owns 26-16 lead but St. John Bosco is 14-4 since 2011.

► In that same stretch, Bosco has five Trinity League titles to Mater Dei’s four.

► In five CIF-Southern Section title games, Bosco is 3-2 against their rivals.

► The game will be televised on Bally Sports SoCal at 7:30 p.m. PDT. The game will be shown on tape delay in other markets. So, check your local listings. It is must-see TV for prep high school fans nationwide.

Winner of the blockbuster game still needs to beat No. 5 Servite (Anaheim, Calif.) later this season in Trinity League fixtures. The Friars face Mater Dei on Oct. 23 and St. John Bosco on Oct. 29. Talk about a powerful league.

All wasn’t exactly quiet in the CAC Top 25 as No. 20 Archbishop Spalding (Severn, Md.) joins after a quality win in overtime last weekend. The Cavaliers (5-0) stopped previously-ranked Gonzaga (Washington, D.C.), 20-14, in a statement game.

The Gonzaga Eagles dropped their second consecutive game and out of the CAC 25. However, the Eagles are far from popping back into the rankings with the core of their Washington Catholic Athletic Conference slate in the coming weeks. Games with No. 18 St. John’s College (Washington) and No. 24 DeMatha (Hyattsville, Md.) loom large and the WCAC playoffs are the ultimate determiner for the championship.

The top-18 teams from the CAC 25 (19 total) remain in the previous spots but No. 19 Central Catholic (Pittsburgh, Pa.) is the week’s biggest mover hopping up five slots. The Vikings (4-1) are Western Pennsylvania’s top Class AAAAAA team and playing like it.

Four teams dipped with the No. 23 DePaul Catholic (Wayne, N.J.) falling four spots after a 10-7 loss to No. 6 St. Peter’s Prep (Jersey City, N.J.). The Spartans’ setback isn’t crushing before their schedule quickly keeps them in contention. But there can’t be anymore slipups.

That’s a synopsis of another week in the CAC Top 25 rankings. We’re excited for the weekend ahead.

We shift to the Triple Option section and then a few notes before presenting the latest CAC Top 25 rankings.

**Triple Option**

The Triple Option identifies a student-athlete, coach and the upcoming weekend’s must-see games. First, there’s a senior from the Louisville, Kentucky that steered his team to victory with a punishing running game. In Chicago, two city rivals met with a result that opened eyes and a coach that is a renaissance man for a program that suspended football between 1965 to 2005. Finally, there are eight games of interest from the CAC 25, including one that transcends the prep level.

**Player of the Week:** Quarterback Jack Sivori of St. Xavier (Louisville, Ky.). Big-time players step up in big game and that was Sivori’s modus operandi last weekend in one of the nation’s top rivalry games before 16,000 fans at the University of Louisville’s Cardinal Stadium. We’re talking about “The Vatican Bowl,” or the St. Xavier-Trinity all-Louisville rivalry.

Sivori’s three touchdowns set the pace when the St. X Tigers knocked off their archrival Trinity, 35-28, last Friday. Sivori earned the game’s Most Valuable Player honors for his efforts. The Tigers led 7-0 early in the second quarter when the 5 feet 11, 185-pound signal-caller with fast feet turned on the afterburners scoring on runs of 24 and 2 yards for a 21-0 lead at halftime.

When Trinity, the reigning Class 6A state champions, pulled with 21-20 in the third, the Tigers tallied two TDs in the fourth, the second by Sivori from 8 yards and a commanding 35-20 edge. Sivori carried 27 times for 153 yards, upping his season total to 665 yards and 10 scores. He’s also thrown for nine TDs.

The Tigers (4-1) are back at it this weekend at Ryle (Union) in a District 3 showdown and with Sivori at the controls, the Class 6A are just over a month away. St. X will be a tough out.

**Coach of the Week:** Matt Miller of St. Ignatius College Prep (Chicago, Ill.). Last Friday, the Wolfpack ended a long losing streak to a Chicago Catholic League rival. It was 93 years ago, or 1928 to be exact, the Jesuit school located in the Near West Side neighborhood knocked off Mount Carmel (Chicago), an Illinois powerhouse with 13 state championships and No. 1 in Class 7A by the *Associated Press*.

Miller’s boys were on cue in taking down a giant in a shock 27-0 victory over the Caravan. Heading into the game, the Wolfpack (5-0) were not in the Chicagoland rankings and Mount Carmel checked in at No. 2.

‘‘A win like this changes the mindset of everyone around you,’’ Miller said. ‘‘We keep making the playoffs and then taking some lumps. This was a really big one for us to take a step forward,” Miller told the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

St. Ignatius used its triple-option offense to churn out 335 rushing yards against a team that was previously undefeated. Miller has transformed a team that usually had eight two-way players into essentially a two platoon program. Fresher legs have translated into wins and a solid seed in the upcoming Class 6A playoffs.

Under Miller’s direction, the Wolfpack close out the regular with De La Salle (Chicago), Saint Viator (Arlington Heights), DePaul College Prep (Chicago) and Fenwick (Oak Park) and a chance to win the Chicago Catholic League/East Suburban Catholic Conference division title.

**Games of the Week (All times are local and subject to change):** This weekend eight games were named outstanding matchups with two from California that are CAC Top 25 head to head going at it. There are games from the Motor City to the Charm City to the shores of Lake Erie to the Guld Coast. New Jersey and Pennsylvania have key games that will reshape the CAC 25. We knew this weekend would produce the big games and hopefully they deliver the excitement.

**Calvert Hall College (Baltimore, Md.) at No. 20 Archbishop Spalding (Severn, Md.), Friday, 7 p.m.:** The top two teams from the MIAA A Conference square off this weekend in suburban Baltimore. Spalding (5-0) entered the Elite 25 this week after a win over a nationally-ranked team. The Cardinals (4-0) have allowed 21 points with two shutouts in four games but it’s a huge step up in competition.

**De La Salle Collegiate (Warren, Mich.) at Detroit Catholic Central (Novi, Mich.), Friday, 7 p.m.:** The top two teams in the Detroit Catholic League Central Division meet in Detroit. Last weekend (4-1) beat league rivals St. Mary’s Prep (Orchard lake, Mich.), 49-25. The game will be contested on the campus of Wayne State University on Tom Adams Field.

**Delbarton (Morristown, N.J.) at No. 23 DePaul Catholic (Wayne, N.J.), Friday, 7 p.m.:** Essentially the result will determine the New Jersey Super Football Conference United White title at Alumni Field. Both teams are 3-1.

**No. 14 St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, Md.) at No. 16 De La Salle (Concord, Calif.), Friday, 7 p.m.:** Since SFA (2-1) went independent, it will play games anywhere or anytime. This year they are scheduled to play teams from seven different states and one from Canada. DLS (3-1) is averaging nearly 50 points per game but allow 19. The game can be streamed for a fee on the NFHS Network.

**No. 2 Mater Dei (Santa Ana, Calif.) at No. 1 St. John Bosco (Bellflower, Ca.), Friday, 7:30 p.m.:** So, it’s No. 1 vs. 2 Enough said. You can watch it on Bally Sports SoCal because Panish Family Stadium is sold out. It took only four minutes.

**La Salle College (Wyndmoor, Pa.) at No. 7 St. Joseph’s Prep (Philadelphia, Pa.), Saturday, 3 p.m.:** Finally, the Philadelphia Catholic League Red title will likely be decided Saturday afternoon at historical Franklin Field on the campus of University of Pennsylvania. La Salle is 5-0 and the Prep checks in at 2-1, including last weekend’s resounding 35-3 win over Gonzaga (Washington, D.C.) on Sept. 17. A second meeting could occur in the Class AAAAAA District 12 playoffs in November.

**St. Ignatius (Cleveland, Ohio) at No. 8 St. Edward (Lakewood, Ohio), Saturday, 7 p.m.:** One of the nation’s top Catholic schoolboy rivalries is renewed in a Saturday Night Special at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. The Eagles are 6-0 and Ohio’s No. 2 ranked team in Division I. Their rivals have won four-straight, including last week’s 24-12 triumph at River Rouge (Mich.). The Wildcats lead the all-time series 32-27-1.

**Archbishop Shaw (New Orleans, La.) at Archbishop Rummel (Metairie, La.), Saturday, 7 p.m.:** It’s Homecoming at Joe Yenni Stadium in Metairie. The New Orleans Catholic League or District 9-5A got a late start in September following Hurricane Ida. Shaw is 2-1 while Rummel is 2-0, but both teams have won two straight contests.

Here’s some news from America’s Dairyland regarding a talented player in the trenches.

Offensive lineman Billy Schrauth of St. Mary’s Springs Academy (Fond du Lac, Wis.) was officially honored last week as a 2022 All-American during a virtual jersey presentation as part of the second episode of the *Road to the Dome* digital series. Schrauth will play in the All-American Bowl, a prestigious senior all-star game, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas in January.

The *Road to the Dome* Tour honors all 100 All-Americans with virtual jersey presentations during a 15-episode series that will be released weekly through various digital and social platforms across NBC Sports.

Listed at 6-5, 285 pounds, Schrauth has plenty of offers but Notre Dame, Ohio State and Wisconsin appear to be the leaders. According to recruiting website 247sports.com, he is the 161st overall prospect from the Class of 2022, the No. 8 interior linemen and third overall player in Wisconsin.

We wish Billy all the best moving forward.

Okay, it’s another week in the books for the Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 rankings but here’s a weekly nudge from Global Football for an international football event in 2022.

Ever been to Ireland?

Here’s your chance next summer.

In the showcase 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 Big Ten Conference opening game is the fifth ***High School Football Showcase*** is organized by Global Football.

Listen up. 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 and some already have.

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.

The CAC Top 25 rankings will return on Oct. 6. Don’t forget it’s the Feast of Saint Francis on Oct. 4. Many people bring their pets to local churches to be blessed on or about that date. Saint Francis was well known for his love for animals as expressed in his Canticle of Creatures.

Until next week, God Bless. — *Christopher Lawlor*

**Catholic Athletes for Christ Top 25 High School Football Rankings, Sept. 29, 2021**

**1. St. John Bosco, Bellflower, Calif. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** 1.

**In the Huddle:** Idle. The Braves host the granddaddy of all game this weekend when archrival No. 2 Mater Dei (Santa Ana) pays a visit in a Trinity League showdown.

**2. Mater Dei, Santa Ana, Calif. (3-0)**

**Previous rank:** 2.

**In the Huddle:** The Monarchs returned from the bye week downing La Mirada, 58-7. It was 24-7 at halftime before the Monarchs poured it on in the third quarter with 28 points. RB Raleek Brown ran for scores of 6 and 82 yards and Ajon Bryant returned the second-half kickoff 90 yards to the house and 31-7 lead. Coach Bruce Rollinson’s squad heads into this weekend’s showdown with their Trinity League blood rivals, No. 1 St. John Bosco (Bellflower), unbeaten having allowed only 17 points in three games.

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

**Previous rank:** 3.

**In the Huddle:** Shut out Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey), 17-0. RB Ryan Butler, a Princeton commit, tallied TD runs and 3 and 1 yards in the first and fourth quarters, respectively. The Crusaders led 10-0 late when Butler punched in his second score to cap a 97-yard drive with 5:10 remaining and the road win over their archrivals. The action returns to Crusader Stadium at jack McGovern Field with Pope John XXIII (Sparta) Saturday.

**4. St. Xavier, Cincinnati, Ohio (6-0)**

**Previous rank:** 4.

**In the Huddle:** The Bombers inches closer to a Greater Catholic League South title in defeating Elder (Cincinnati), 52-14. Leading 24-14 at halftime, the Bombers exploded for 21 points in the third quarter for a commanding 45-14 edge. QB Brogan McCaughey completed 13-of-19 passes for 214 yards and three TDs. RB Charles Kellom carried 22 times for 164 yards and scored on a pair of 1-yard runs. WR Terrell McFarlin caught five balls for 100 yards and two TDs. The Bombers host Trinity (Louisville, Ky.) Friday.

**5. Servite, Anaheim, Calif. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** 5.

**In the Huddle:** The Friars completed their nonleague schedule, dusting Helix (La Mesa), 42-7. The Friars scored all their points before halftime and coasted the rest of the way. Arizona-bound QB Noah Fifita threw for four TDs and ran for another. WR Tetairoa McMillan had seven receptions for 185 yards and three scores all in the first quarter. Coach Troy Thomas’s team plays Orange Lutheran Thursday in the Trinity League opener.

**6. St. Peter’s Prep, Jersey City, N.J. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** 6.

**In the Huddle:** The Marauders used a late defensive stand to register their fifth victory, holding off No. ghghgh DePaul Catholic (Wayne), 10-7. C.J. Wesley scooped a blocked field goal and sped 97 yards for a score in the second quarter for a 7-0 lead. Nico Duarte’s 25-yard field goal with 10 minutes left proved to be the decisive points. The defense also recovered two fumbles in the fourth. Another rivalry game is on tap this weekend at Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey) on Friday night.

**7. St. Joseph’s Prep, Philadelphia (2-1)**

**Previous rank:** 7.

**In the Huddle:** Idle. The Hawks collide with league rival La Salle College High (Wyndmoor, Pa.) Saturday afternoon at historic Franklin Field on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania.

**8. St. Edward, Lakewood, Ohio (6-0)**

**Previous rank:** 8.

**In the Huddle:** The Eagles crushed Beacon Hill (Richmond, Va.), 58-0. RB Danny Enovitch rushed for two scores in the first quarter. Coach Tom Lombardo’s team led by 44 points at halftime. It’s a rivalry game with St. Ignatius (Cleveland) on Saturday.

**9. Catholic, Baton Rouge, La. (4-0)**

**Previous rank:** 9.

**In the Huddle:** RB Corey Singleton rushed for 157 yards and three TDs on six carries as the Bears stopped Warren Easton (New Orleans), 39-14. Singleton’s scoring runs were from 48, 74 and 33 yards and QB Daniel Beale completed 11-of-17 for 168 yards. The Bears are back at it this weekend against Lafayette (La.) Christian Academy.

**10. Cathedral, Indianapolis, Ind. (6-0)**

**Previous rank:** 10.

**In the Huddle:** The Fighting Irish racked up 23 points in the first quarter to pound Morton (Hammond), 51-0. Sophomore QB Danny O’Neil completed TD passes to Jaron Tibbs (13 yards) and Michel page (1 yard) to make quick work of the team’s sixth win of the term. The Irish have a tricky road game at La Salle (Cincinnati, Ohio) on Friday.

**11. Loyola Academy, Wilmette, Ill. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** 11.

**In the Huddle**: The Ramblers survived a scare to stop Fenwick (Oak Park), 27-24. Sophomore Michael Baker nailed a 41-yard field goal into the wind as time expired for the thrilling win. LB Holden Quinn’s 35-yard pick-six gave LA a 24-10 lead in the third. RB Mike Regan carried 32 times for 172 yards and scored from 1 yard. The Ramblers host Marist on Saturday afternoon.

**12. Jesuit, Tampa, Fla. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** 12.

**In the Huddle:** The Tigers reached the midway point of the regular season after beating Plant City, 35-13. The Tigers led 22-13 at halftime and powered by their running game. RB Joquez Smith scored on runs of 1, 1, 1, and 2 yards for the Tigers, who head into their bye week before facing a big rival Central Catholic (Clearwater) on Oct. 8.

**13. St. Thomas Aquinas, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (4-1)**

**Previous rank:** 13.

**In the Huddle:** Defeated Western (Davie), 31-21. The Raiders were up 17-7 at halftime and the improved to 15-0 all-time versus their Broward County rivals. QB Zion Turner fired a TD pass to Pittsburgh-bound WR Camden Brown to break open the game. The Raiders host Cooper City on Friday.

**14. St Frances Academy, Baltimore, Md. (2-1)**

**Previous rank:** 14.

**In the Huddle:** Idle. The Panthers travel to No. 16 De La Salle (Concord, Calif.) on Friday.

**15. St. Francis, Mountain View, Calif. (3-0)**

**Previous rank:** 15.

**In the Huddle:** The Lancers blanked St. Ignatius College Prep (San Francisco), 33-0, for the defense’s second shutout of the campaign. Next is Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep (San Francisco) Friday.

**16. De La Salle, Concord, Calif. (3-1)**

**Previous rank:** 16.

**In the Huddle:** Idle. The Spartans meet No. 14 St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, Md.) on Friday.

**17. Brother Martin, New Orleans, La. (2-0)**

**Previous rank:** 17.

**In the Huddle:** Outlasted Jesuit (New Orleans), 20-14, in triple overtime. The game was knotted at 7 through regulation. QB Garrett Mmahat scored on a 5-yard run in the first OT to tie it again at 14. In the third extra session, the Crusaders’ Jahron Manning intercepted a pass setting up RB Torey Lambert’s game-winning 7-yard TD run. Lambert finished with 116 yards on 31 carries and threw for score and ran for one. The Crusaders host St. Augustine (New Orleans) Saturday.

**18. St. John’s College, Washington, D.C. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** 18.

**In the Huddle:** The Cadets traveled to north and crushed Archbishop Wood (Warminster, Pa.), 38-0. Next is Stellar Prep (Hayward, Calif.) on Saturday afternoon.

**19. Central Catholic, Pittsburgh, Pa. (4-1)**

**Previous rank:** 24.

**In the Huddle:** RB Gannon Carothers carried the load for the Vikings in a key 24-7 win over North Allegheny (Wexford) in a rematch of last year’s WPIAL Class AAAAAA final. Carothers rushed for 164 yards and two scores on 33 carries. It was CC’s first regular season win over their rivals since 2017. Next is Seneca Valley (Harmony) Friday.

**20. Archbishop Spalding, Severn, Md. (5-0)**

**Previous rank:** Not ranked.

**In the Huddle:** The Cavaliers crack the CAC 25 rankings after taking down then-No. 22 Gonzaga (Washington, D.C.), 20-13, in overtime. Nick Gutierrez scored three TDs. In five games, coach Kyle Schmitt’s club has outscored the opposition, 195-39. Next is a league rivalry game with Calvert Hall College (Baltimore) Friday.

**21. Chaminade-Madonna College Prep, Hollywood, Fla. (3-1)**

**Previous rank:** 20.

**In the Huddle:** Idle. The Lions meet Seminole (Sanford) Friday.

**22. Bishop Gorman, Las Vegas (4-1)**

**Previous rank:** 21.

**In the Huddle:** Blanked Arbor View (Las Vegas), 45-0. After a disappointing loss in Arizona the previous week, the Gaels bounce back with their first shutout of the campaign. It was 17-0 after one quarter and 38-0 at the intermission. Quincy Davis returned a punt 50 yards for a score in the first quarter and sophomore QB Micah Alejado tossed a TD pass to favorite target WR Zachariah Branch from 29 yards in the second quarter. Four others rushed for TDs. The Gaels entertain Canyon Springs (North Las Vegas) Friday.

**23. DePaul Catholic, Wayne, N.J. (3-1)**

**Previous rank:** 19.

**In the Huddle:** No need to drop the Spartans from the CAC 25 after a tough 10-7 loss to No. 6 St. Peter’s Prep (Jersey City). The Spartans trailed 10-0 before QB A.J. Rodriguez tossed a 10-yard scoring strike to Anthony Almeida. This weekend it’s a home game with Delbarton (Morristown).

**24. DeMatha Catholic, Hyattsville, Md. (3-1)**

**Previous rank:** 23.

**In the Huddle:** Idle. Coach Bill McGregor’s squad had the weekend off in preparation for Life Christian Academy (Chester, Va.) Friday.

**25. O’Dea, Seattle, Wash. (2-1)**

**Previous rank:** 25.

**In the Huddle:** Last week’s game with Rainier Beach (Seattle) was cancelled. The Irish face Seattle Prep Friday.

**Dropped out:** No. 22 Gonzaga (Washington, D.C.).

**Special Consideration:** Cardinal Gibbons (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.); La Salle College (Wyndmoor, Pa); La Salle (Cincinnati, Ohio); St. Ignatius (Cleveland, Ohio); Central Catholic (Portland, Ore.); Cathedral Prep (Erie, Pa.); Gonzaga Prep (Spokane, Wash.); Brother Rice (Chicago, Ill.); Central Catholic (Grand Rapids, Mich.); Joliet (Ill.) Catholic; St. John’s Prep (Danvers, Mass.); Iona Prep (New Rochelle, N.Y.).; Canisius (Buffalo, N.Y.); St. Xavier (Louisville, Ky.); Archbishop Hoban (Akron, Ohio); Cathedral Catholic (San Diego, Calif.); De La Salle Collegiate (Warren, Mich.); Roncalli (Indianapolis, Ind.); Saint Louis School (Honolulu, Hawaii); Santa Margarita (Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.); Serra (San Mateo, Calif.); Catholic Memorial (Waukesha, Wis.); Gonzaga (Washington, D.C.); Good Counsel (Olney, Md.); Holy Spirit (Absecon, N.J.).; Marist (Atlanta, Ga.); St. Augustine Prep (Richland, N.J.); Seton Hall Prep (West Orange, N.J.); Nolan Catholic (Fort Worth, Texas); St. Joseph (Trumbull, Conn.) and Catholic Memorial (West Roxbury, 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.

**-30-**