THE TRENCH REPORT
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE DECIDES EVERYTHING

VOL. 1 · NO. 1 · WEEK 5
FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026
REPORT 1 OF 3 · THE THREE

POSTGAME — added Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. Everything below this box was written before kickoff and has not been changed. Full ruling: **The Ruling: Week 5**.

Final: Orange 35, Etiwanda 28. Quarters: Etiwanda 7-7-0-14, Orange 7-7-7-14. The computer projected Orange by 7.3; Orange won by 7. Rick had Etiwanda 49–21 and was wrong. Sunday's re-rate: Orange 20.2 → 25.5 (rank 36, now projecting D3 as a 12-seed rather than D4 as a 3-seed); Etiwanda 15.4 → 15.6.

THURSDAY · SOMEBODY GOES ON THE STAND

TIME TO FIND OUT WHO IS REAL

Orange is 4–0, 180–44, and 18th in the county. Etiwanda is 2–2, 11th in the Inland Empire, and has played four ranked teams. The committee's computer likes Orange by a touchdown. Big Rick has seen the schedules.



BY BIG RICK DELGADO · RANCHO CUCAMONGA

THE VERDICT

FRAUD ALERT

Half-real at best.
Real in their weight class.

ETIWANDA (2–2) AT ORANGE (4–0)

Fri 9/18 · 7:00 PM · Fred Kelly Stadium (El Modena HS), Orange · nonleague

GOING PUBLIC.

For a while now the Trench Report has been a thing I wrote for the guys I watch film with, a few coaches who'll never admit they read it, and a group chat that fights about the Baseline League like it's the SEC. Same format every week: three games, the computer's line, my line, and one team that has to prove it's real. Somebody finally said put it where people can see it. So here it is. Every Thursday from now on. Wednesday's the slate, Thursday somebody goes on the stand, Saturday I eat whatever I have to eat.

Two rules I don't break. Every number in here comes from the committee's own scale, MaxPreps, or a newspaper page with a date on it, and I'll tell you which. And my pick is always labeled as mine, next to the computer's, so you can keep score on me. The ledger's at the bottom. It starts at 0–0 tonight.

Every week somebody's 4–0 walks in here in a fresh letterman jacket and I ask one question. Who'd you play? This week it's Orange. Sit down.

THE RÉSUMÉ

RATINGS: COMMITTEE SCALE · PULLED 9/13–9/17

Orange is 4–0. Points: 180 for, 44 against. Average margin 34. Gorgeous. Now let me read you the schedule the way the committee's computer reads it.

DATE	ORANGE OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. REC.	OPP. RATING	PROJ. DIV.
8/21	North Torrance	W 49–14	2–2	-7.7	D10
8/28	at Laguna Beach	W 28–21	1–3	12.1	D5
9/4	Elsinore	W 40–9	2–2	-5.1	D9

DATE	ORANGE OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. REC.	OPP. RATING	PROJ. DIV.
9/10	Locke	W 63–0 *	—	not rated	—
Average opponent rating (three rated)				**-0.2**	

* The Register printed Locke 62–0; MaxPreps says 63–0. Locke has no rating on the committee's scale and no row in the database. Ratings from hsratings.com, pulled 9/13; records per MaxPreps 9/17.

Two of those four opponents carry a *negative* rating. The fourth one doesn't have a rating at all. Either way that game told the computer nothing.

Orange's best win is Laguna Beach, on the road, by seven. Credit where it's due: that's a real road win over a real team. Laguna Beach is 1–3 because the other three teams they've played are a combined 12–0 (Yorba Linda, Westlake, and Orange). But it's one win. The other three are a spa day.

Now Etiwanda.

DATE	ETIWANDA OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. REC.	OPP. RATING	PROJ. DIV.	IE POLL
8/20	at Cajon	W 42–34	2–2	14.3	D4	#12
8/28	Murrieta Mesa	L 25–35	2–2	8.2	D6	#10
9/4	at Alta Loma	W 37–14	3–1	8.2	D6	#17
9/10	Norco	L 26–56	4–0	39.2	D2	#2
Average opponent rating (all four)				**17.5**		

IE poll = IE Varsity Top 20, Eric-Paul Johnson, Press-Enterprise/Daily Bulletin, Sept. 14. Ratings pulled 9/13–9/17.

EVERY TEAM ETIWANDA HAS PLAYED IS RANKED IN THE IE TOP 20. EVERY ONE.

Etiwanda's average opponent on the committee's scale is 17.5. Orange's three opponents you can look up average −0.2. That's not a gap. That's a

different sport.

Yeah, Etiwanda's given up points. Look who to. Norco is a 39 on the committee's scale, projected Division 2, and they hung 56. Cajon's a 14 and Etiwanda beat them on the road. Etiwanda has taken punches from real teams. Orange has been shadowboxing.

THE COMPUTER SAYS

DESK MODEL · METHODOLOGY §4

Here's the part where Orange fans start typing. Fine. Print it. Same division band. Orange nine seats higher. I read it twice too.

THE COMPUTER

Orange by 7.3

Orange wins 69.9% of the time.
20.2 + 2.5 (home) − 15.4 = 7.3 · P = Φ(7.3 ÷ 14)
The committee's ratings, the desk's formula. Not my number.

BIG RICK

Etiwanda 49–21

The computer doesn't watch film. I do.
Strength of schedule, same MaxPreps scale, same week: Etiwanda 39.2, Orange 23.9. One team's been in a fight. One's been in a hot tub.

THE POLLS

IE VARSITY 9/14 · FRYER 9/14 · ALBANO 9/16

The IE's paper has Etiwanda 11th. Eleventh three weeks running, after they'd climbed to eighth off the Cajon win. Four of the teams above them are teams they've already played or are about to. Orange County's papers have Orange 18th and 19th. Different polls, different counties, and I'll say that so nobody has to say it for me. But an 11th-ranked team in the 909 with four ranked opponents on its résumé versus an 18th-ranked team in the 714 whose best win is a 1–3 team? I know which one I'm buying.

And the IE paper didn't even preview this game. Eight games on Johnson's Friday–Saturday card. This wasn't one of them.

THE EYE TEST

SOURCED WHERE IT SAYS SO; OPINION WHERE IT DOESN'T

The computer doesn't watch film. I do.

Brandon Andrade. Senior receiver. Last spring he finished top five in the state in *both* hurdles at the CIF State meet. Three weeks ago he caught five balls for 111 yards and two touchdowns at Alta Loma, and Alta Loma's coach said afterward, out loud, to a reporter: "The speed was hard to adjust to." Alta Loma is 3–1 and ranked. Orange hasn't seen a body like that yet. Not in Torrance, not in Laguna, not in Wildomar, not against Locke.

Landon Congalton: 49-of-78, 656 yards, nine touchdowns, two picks through four games. Jaden Lindsay: 228 yards on the ground. Coach Nick Baiz is back on the sideline after a year away and this is his group.

Orange has a highlight-reel quarterback. I'm not touching the kid; he's good. He's put those highlights up against negative-rated defenses.

Orange is a very good *middle-of-the-section* team. They are not ready for a Baseline League front and Baseline League speed, and Friday is where they find that out.

THE VERDICT

FRAUD ALERT. Half-real at best. Real in their weight class; this isn't their weight class.

The computer says Orange by 7. Big Rick says Etiwanda 49, Orange 21. One of us is going to look dumb Saturday morning. Check the ledger. It's never been me.

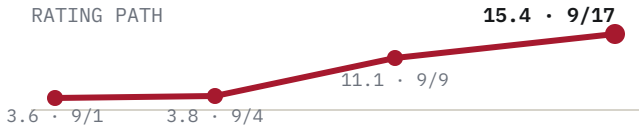
(It's been me. It's on the site.)

ETIWANDA

EAGLES · BASELINE LEAGUE · RANCHO CUCAMONGA

2–2

Committee rating (9/17)	**15.4**
Section rank · projected	**#52 · D4, 12-seed**
MaxPreps rating · SS rank	**60.53 · #42**
Strength of schedule (MP)	**39.2**
MaxPreps CA rank	**#89**
IE Varsity Top 20	**#11 (prev 11)**
PF–PA · avg margin	**130–139 · −2.2**
Opponents combined	**11–5**
Best win	**42–34 at Cajon**
Worst loss	**25–35 Murrieta Mesa**
Head coach	**Nick Baiz (returned 2026)**



PRODUCERS · MAXPREPS 9/15 · 4 GP

PLAYER	LINE
L. Congalton, QB (Sr)	49–78 · 656 yds · 9 TD · 2 INT
J. Lindsay, RB (Sr)	38 car · 228 yds · 1 TD
C. Wakumoto Jr., WR (Sr)	14 rec · 180 yds · 4 TD
B. Andrade, WR (Sr)	9 rec · 142 yds · 2 TD
J. Shepherd, RB/WR (Jr)	9 car · 119 yds · 2 TD

REMAINING SCHEDULE

9/25	Barstow	1.7 · D7
10/2	Upland (Baseline)	−5.7
10/8	at Damien (Baseline)	20.9 · D4
10/16	Rancho Cucamonga (Baseline)	33.8 · D2
10/23	at Chino Hills (Baseline)	11.4 · D5

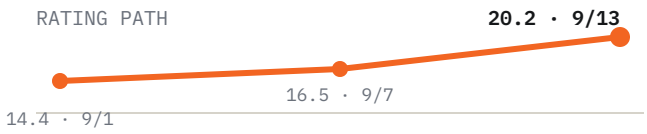
Two losses to teams rated 39.2 and 8.2; two road wins over ranked IE teams. The rating has quadrupled since Sept. 1 and the schedule ahead is the Baseline League. Whatever they are, they've been hit.

ORANGE

PANTHERS · FOXTROT LEAGUE · ORANGE

4–0

Committee rating (9/13)	**20.2**
Section rank · projected	**#43 · D4, 3-seed**
MaxPreps rating · SS rank	**58.88 · #45**
Strength of schedule (MP)	**23.9**
MaxPreps CA rank	**#95**
OC polls · Fryer / Albano	**#19 / #18**
PF–PA · avg margin	**180–44 · +34.0**
Opponents combined (3 rated)	**5–7 + Locke**
Best win	**28–21 at Laguna Beach**
Worst loss	**—**



PRODUCERS · MAXPREPS 9/17 · 4 GP

PLAYER	LINE
K. Woodbury, WR (Jr)	20 rec · 504 yds · 4 TD
D. Stone, WR (Jr)	14 rec · 321 yds · 4 TD
J. Dunklin, RB (Fr)	34 car · 267 yds · 2 TD
K. Hardiman, WR (Fr)	8 rec · 179 yds
I. Harrison, S (Sr)	26 tkl · 3 GP
A. Gourdine, S (Sr)	25 tkl · 1 INT

Undefeated, prolific, and untested: three rated opponents average below zero. The one road test (Laguna Beach) went about how the computer expected. Friday is the first game on the schedule the computer can't call a formality.

WHERE THE WRITERS HAVE THEM

THREE PAPERS, THREE POLLS, ONE FRIDAY

IE VARSITY TOP 20

Eric-Paul Johnson · Press-Enterprise / Daily Bulletin · Mon 9/14

Centennial (1–2)	1
Norco (4–0)	2
Murrieta Mesa (2–2)	10
Etiwanda (2–2) · prev 11	11
Cajon (2–2)	12
Alta Loma (3–1)	17

ALBANO TOP 35

Dan Albano · OC Register · Wed 9/16

Santa Margarita	1
Mater Dei	2
Yorba Linda (4–0)	11
Orange (4–0) · prev 19	18
Laguna Beach (1–3)	19

FRYER TOP 25

Steve Fryer · OC Register · Mon 9/14

Yorba Linda (4–0)	11
Orange (4–0) · second straight week	19
Laguna Beach (1–3)	20T

READING THE NUMBERS

THE KEY TO EVERY FIGURE IN THIS REPORT · SAME RULES EVERY WEEK

COMMITTEE RATING ("THE COMMITTEE'S SCALE")

The margin-based power rating from hsratings.com, formerly CalPreps. Roughly −90 to +105; zero is an average California team. This is the scale CIF-SS uses to sort playoff divisions, which is why it's the first number printed for every team. Every value carries its pull date, because it re-rates Sunday nights.

SECTION RANK · PROJECTED DIVISION

All 379 Southern Section teams sorted by committee rating. D1 is ranks 1–8, then 16 per division: D2 9–24, D3 25–40, D4 41–56, D5 57–72, and so on. "D4, 3-seed" means rank 43, third seat in the D4 band. Divisions aren't set until the regular season ends and only qualifiers get

sorted, so this is the shape of the bracket, not the bracket.

MAXPREPS RATING · SOS

MaxPreps' own power rating (about 25–105) and its strength-of-schedule figure. Heavily schedule-weighted, which is why a 0–3 team can sit high on it. The public scale. Always labeled MP, never mixed with the committee's.

THE COMPUTER'S LINE

Expected margin = home rating + 2.5 − away rating. Win probability = Φ(margin ÷ 14), where 14 points is the observed spread of high school results around the projection. A projection, never a prediction of the final score. Rick's line is Rick's.

OPP. RATING · AVERAGE OPPONENT

Each opponent's current committee rating, and the plain average across the rated ones. Teams with no rating (Locke) are excluded and said so. This is the cheapest honest measure of who you've actually played.

IE VARSITY TOP 20 · FRYER · ALBANO

Newspaper polls, printed with the writer and date. The IE poll covers Inland Empire teams; Fryer's and Albano's cover Orange County. They never rank the same teams, so a cross-poll comparison is a talking point, not a measurement.

RATING PATH

The team's committee rating at each pull this season. A jump means the team beat the computer's expectation that week; a flat line after a blowout means the computer expected the blowout.

THE LEDGER · RICK VS. THE COMPUTER · 2026

DATE	GAME	COMPUTER	RICK	FINAL	WHO WAS RIGHT
9/18	Etiwanda at Orange	Orange by 7.3 (69.9%)	Etiwanda 49–21	—	Saturday
9/18	Orange Lutheran at Sierra Canyon	Sierra Canyon by 16.8 (88.5%)	Sierra Canyon 34–21	—	Saturday
9/18	Mater Dei vs Bishop Gorman (NV), Santa Ana Stadium	no line — Gorman isn't on the committee's scale	Mater Dei 24–16	—	Saturday

Season: Rick 0–0 · Computer 0–0

Sources. Ratings: hsratings.com (committee scale), pulled 9/13 (Orange, Laguna Beach, North Torrance, Elsinore, Alta Loma) and 9/17 (Etiwanda, Norco, Cajon, Murrieta Mesa, Damien, Rancho Cucamonga, Chino Hills, Upland, Barstow). Section ordering and division lines: desk build, 9/17. MaxPreps ratings, SOS, records, player statistics: MaxPreps boards last updated 9/17; Etiwanda player stats 9/15; Orange player stats stamp Sep 13, re-read 9/17. Schedules and sites: MaxPreps team schedules (Etiwanda updated 9/15; Laguna Beach 9/12), CIF-SS schedule pages. Polls: IE Varsity Top 20 (Johnson, dailybulletin.com, 9/14, 8/31, 8/24); Fryer Top 25 (9/14); Albano Top 35 (9/16). Game reporting: Johnson 8/21 (Etiwanda–Cajon), Puente 8/28 (Murrieta Mesa–Etiwanda), Marshall 9/5 (Etiwanda–Alta Loma), all SCNG. Quotes are the newspaper's, attributed. Model: desk methodology v1.0, home field 2.5, σ = 14. Locke 62–0 (Register) vs 63–0 (MaxPreps): both printed. Norco–Etiwanda: 56–26 per the IE Varsity scoreboard, rankings, MaxPreps and CIF-SS; one IE Varsity roundup printed 56–36. Rick's picks are Rick's. School marks belong to their schools and appear here for identification in commentary.

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VOL. 1 · NO. 1 · WEEK 5
FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026
REPORT 2 OF 3 · THE THREE

POSTGAME — added Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. Everything below this box was written before kickoff and has not been changed. Full ruling: **The Ruling: Week 5**.

Final: Sierra Canyon 28, Orange Lutheran 10. Computer 16.8, actual margin 18, Rick 13. Right winner, short margin. Re-rate: Sierra Canyon 76.8 → 79.8 (rank 2); Orange Lutheran 62.5 → 63.3 (rank 6).

ORANGE LUTHERAN

LANCERS · TRINITY LEAGUE · ORANGE

62.5

COMMITTEE RATING · PULLED 9/13 · SECTION #6

3–1

FRI 9/18
7:00 PM

AT

CHATSWORTH
MISSION LEAGUE VS TRINITY LEAGUE

SIERRA CANYON

TRAILBLAZERS · MISSION LEAGUE · CHATSWORTH

76.8

COMMITTEE RATING · PULLED 9/13 · SECTION #3

3–0

WEDNESDAY · THE THREE · GAME 2

THE NATIONAL STAGE HAS A DOOR CHARGE

Orange Lutheran is 3rd in Orange County and 9th in California. Sierra Canyon is ranked 9th in the country and just put 52 on a Hawaii team. The computer says two touchdowns. Rick says the Lancers are auditioning for a room the Trailblazers already live in.



BY BIG RICK DELGADO · RANCHO CUCAMONGA

COMPUTER: SIERRA CANYON BY 16.8 · 88.5% **RICK:** SIERRA CANYON 34–21 **SC LAST THREE:**

I respect the Trinity League. I say it every week so the OC people can't say I don't. Orange Lutheran is a top-ten team in this section and top-ten in the state, and I'll say that out loud. Now here's the thing about Friday. There's a difference between being a very good team and being the kind of team that plays on a Friday night in September and the whole country is watching. Sierra Canyon is the second thing. Orange Lutheran is trying to become it.

THE RÉSUMÉ

RATINGS: COMMITTEE SCALE · PULLED 9/13

Sierra Canyon's three games, in order, on the committee's scale:

DATE	SIERRA CANYON OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. REC.	OPP. RATING	NOTE
8/21	at JSerra	W 42–21	3–1	52.0	#9 in the section, projected D2 top seed; #5 in OC

DATE	SIERRA CANYON OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. REC.	OPP. RATING	NOTE
8/27	at Chaminade-Madonna (FL)	W 24–7	—	not on scale	out of state
9/10	Saint Louis (HI)	W 52–0	—	not on scale	out of state
PF–PA · avg margin					**118–28 · +30.0**

Schedule and sites per MaxPreps (page updated Sep 13). Two of three opponents are out of state and carry no committee rating; that's the cost of playing a national schedule and the desk prints it as a gap, not a guess.

Read that first line again. Sierra Canyon walked into JSerra's building in Week 0 and beat a Trinity League team by three touchdowns. JSerra is a 52 on the committee's scale. That win alone is a better line on a résumé than anything Orange Lutheran has done.

DATE	ORANGE LUTHERAN OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. RATING	NOTE
8/21	Central	L 22–23	—	one-point loss; opponent not on the section scale
8/28	Cathedral Catholic	W 38–24	—	San Diego Section
9/4	Basha (AZ)	W 23–17	—	out of state
9/11	Serra	W 35–0	30.7	#25 in the section, top of the D3 band · best win
PF–PA · avg margin				**118–64 · +13.5**

Results per MaxPreps/desk database, 9/17. Sites for these four games are not verified by the desk and are not printed. Serra's rating pulled 9/17.

SAME POINTS SCORED. HALF THE MARGIN. ONE OF THESE TEAMS HAS BEEN CLOSING.

Both teams have scored 118 points. Sierra Canyon has given up 28. Orange Lutheran has given up 64. The Lancers lost their opener by a point to Central and needed a touchdown to get past Basha. The Trailblazers have not played a one-score game. That's the whole story of the ratings gap: 76.8 to 62.5 isn't a talent gap, it's a finishing gap.

THE COMPUTER SAYS

DESK MODEL · METHODOLOGY §4

THE COMPUTER

Sierra Canyon by 16.8

Sierra Canyon wins 88.5% of the time.
76.8 + 2.5 (home) − 62.5 = 16.8 · P = Φ(16.8 ÷ 14)
Both ratings pulled 9/13.

BIG RICK

Sierra Canyon 34–21

Right winner, wrong margin. The computer wants 16.8 and I'm almost four short of it. Orange Lutheran is a top-ten team in this state and top-ten teams don't get run off the field in September. Sierra Canyon wins; Sierra Canyon doesn't cover.

Strength of schedule, MaxPreps, same week: Sierra Canyon 51.5, Orange Lutheran 51.8. Dead even. So don't come at me with "who have they played." They've played the same weight. One of them is 3–0 with a 30-point margin and one of them is 3–1 with a 13-point margin.

THE POLLS

FRYER 9/14 · ALBANO 9/16 · MAXPREPS CA 9/17 · ON3 9/17

Orange County has the Lancers 3rd in both papers, behind Santa Margarita and Mater Dei. The state board has them 9th and Sierra Canyon 5th. On3 has Sierra Canyon 9th in the country and made this one of its national games of the week, with a note that the Lancers hired Ray Fenton away from Los Alamitos to run this thing. New coach, national opponent, on the road. That's the audition.

THE EYE TEST

OPINION, LABELED

I've watched enough of both to know what Friday is. Sierra Canyon plays like a program that expects to be on TV. They score early and their defense has given up 28 points in three games including a shutout. Orange Lutheran is talented at every skill spot and has played tight games because it plays tight; the one-point loss to Central is the tell. You can't play tight in Chatsworth.

The Lancers are good. They are not on the national stage yet. Friday is the door charge.

THE PICK

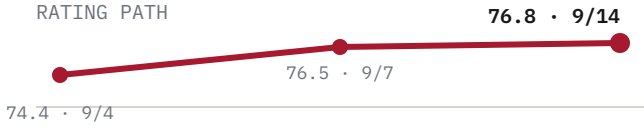
Sierra Canyon 34–21. Same winner as the computer, thirteen instead of seventeen. The Lancers are good enough to make it a game into the third quarter and not good enough to win it. If they cover, the computer read this better than I did, and I'll say that Saturday.

SIERRA CANYON

TRAILBLAZERS · MISSION LEAGUE · CHATSWORTH

3–0

Committee rating (9/13)	**76.8**
Section rank · projected	**#3 · D1, 3-seed**
MaxPreps rating · SS rank	**95.95 · #5**
Strength of schedule (MP)	**51.5**
MaxPreps CA rank	**#5**
National (On3, 9/17)	**#9**
PF–PA · avg margin	**118–28 · +30.0**
Best win	**42–21 at JSerra**
Worst loss	**—**



REMAINING SCHEDULE · MAXPREPS 9/13

9/25	Pacifica	home
10/2	Loyola (Mission)	17.9 · D4
10/9	at Serra (Mission)	30.7 · D3
10/16	at Chaminade (Mission)	—
10/23	at Notre Dame SO (Mission)	—
10/30	Bishop Amat (Mission)	—

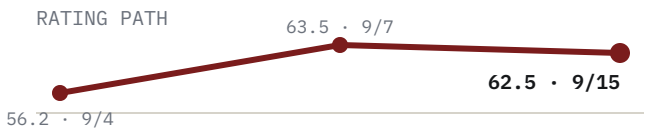
A national schedule with one section win that happens to be over a top-ten section team. Undefeated, unthreatened, and the rating barely moves because the computer expected all of it.

ORANGE LUTHERAN

LANCERS · TRINITY LEAGUE · ORANGE

3–1

Committee rating (9/13)	**62.5**
Section rank · projected	**#6 · D1, 6-seed**
MaxPreps rating · SS rank	**89.20 · #7**
Strength of schedule (MP)	**51.8**
MaxPreps CA rank	**#9**
OC polls · Fryer / Albano	**#3 / #3**
PF–PA · avg margin	**118–64 · +13.5**
Best win	**35–0 Serra**
Worst loss	**22–23 Central**
Head coach	**Ray Fenton (from Los Alamitos)**



TRINITY LEAGUE CONTEXT · COMMITTEE SCALE

Santa Margarita	82.8 · #1
Mater Dei	78.3 · #2
St. John Bosco	72.9 · #4
Orange Lutheran	**62.5 · #6**
Servite	53.8 · #8
JSerra	52.0 · #9

Fourth in the best league in the state, which would win most leagues anywhere. The rating dipped a point after the Serra shutout because the computer expected more. That's the finishing gap in one number.

THE LEDGER · RICK VS. THE COMPUTER · 2026

DATE	GAME	COMPUTER	RICK	FINAL	WHO WAS RIGHT
9/18	Etiwanda at Orange	Orange by 7.3 (69.9%)	Etiwanda 49–21	—	Saturday
9/18	Orange Lutheran at Sierra Canyon	Sierra Canyon by 16.8 (88.5%)	Sierra Canyon 34–21	—	Saturday
9/18	Mater Dei vs Bishop Gorman (NV), Santa Ana Stadium	no line — Gorman isn't on the committee's scale	Mater Dei 24–16	—	Saturday
Season: Rick 0–0 · Computer 0–0					

Sources. Committee ratings: hsratings.com, Sierra Canyon and Orange Lutheran pulled 9/13; Serra, Loyola 9/17; section ordering 9/17. MaxPreps ratings, SOS, CA board 9/17. Schedules: MaxPreps Sierra Canyon schedule (updated Sep 13, 2026); Orange Lutheran results per desk database 9/17 (sites unverified, not printed). National ranking and coaching note: On3 games of the week, Sept. 17, 2026. Polls: Fryer Top 25 (9/14), Albano Top 35 (9/16). Model: desk methodology v1.0, home field 2.5, σ = 14. Rick's pick is Rick's. School marks belong to their schools and appear here for identification in commentary. **Reading the numbers:** the full key is in Report 1.

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POSTGAME — added Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. Everything below this box was written before kickoff and has not been changed. Full ruling: **The Ruling: Week 5**.

Final: Bishop Gorman 25, Mater Dei 8, at Mater Dei. No computer line was issued and Rick picked Mater Dei. He was wrong. Re-rate: Mater Dei 78.3 → 75.5 (rank 3). Gorman is still not on the committee's scale.

THE COMPUTER'S LINE FOR MATER DEI VS. BISHOP GORMAN

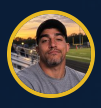
~~NO LINE~~

Bishop Gorman plays in Nevada. It isn't on the CIF Southern Section committee's scale, so the desk model has nothing to multiply. I could convert a MaxPreps number and call it a line. I don't make up numbers. This one's on me alone.

WEDNESDAY · THE THREE · GAME 3 · SANTA ANA STADIUM

TOO MUCH UP FRONT

Gorman came to California in August and beat St. John Bosco. Mater Dei went to Vegas last September and won by three. Now it's at Santa Ana Stadium, the computer is silent, and Rick is going with the biggest front in the state.



BY BIG RICK DELGADO · RANCHO CUCAMONGA

Mater Dei FRI 9/18 · 7:00 PM **Bishop Gorman (NV)**

4–0	RECORD	3–1
78.3 · #2 SS	COMMITTEE SCALE	*not on the scale*
101.69 · #2 CA	MAXPREPS	*out of state*
10–9 Centennial	BEST WIN	38–28 St. John Bosco
W 27–24	LAST YEAR, AT GORMAN	L 24–27

Every other game I write about, the computer gets the first word and I get the last one. Not this one. Bishop Gorman is a Nevada school, the committee's scale is a Southern Section scale, and there's no honest way to put the two on the same number. So this is the one game a week where you get me with nothing to hide behind. Good. This is a line-of-scrimmage game and that's the only thing I've ever claimed to know.

THE RÉSUMÉ

RATINGS: COMMITTEE SCALE WHERE IT EXISTS · PULLED 9/13–9/17

DATE	MATER DEI OPPONENT	RESULT	OPP. RATING	NOTE
8/21	American Fork (UT)	W 31–11	—	out of state
8/29	Orem (UT)	W 32–26	—	out of state · one-score
9/4	Valor Christian (CO)	W 38–22	—	out of state
9/11	Centennial (Corona), Santa Ana Stadium	W 10–9	71.9	#5 in the section · #1 in the IE · Huskies held to 140 yards (IE Varsity)
PF–PA · avg margin				**111–68 · +10.8**

Results per desk database 9/17; Centennial's rating pulled 9/17; the 140-yard figure and the Santa Ana Stadium site per IE Varsity (Johnson, 9/17 and 9/12). Sites for the three out-of-state games are not verified and not printed.

DATE	BISHOP GORMAN OPPONENT	RESULT	NOTE
8/14	Somerset Academy Losee	W 41–0	home
8/21	St. John Bosco	W 38–28	home · Bosco is #4 in the section (72.9) and #1 on the MaxPreps California board
8/29	at Columbus (FL)	L 28–33	road
9/4	at Lone Peak (UT)	W 38–14	road

Per MaxPreps Bishop Gorman schedule, page updated Sep 18, 2026. No committee rating exists for any Nevada team; none is estimated here.

Here's what you can actually compare. Both teams have one win over a top-five Southern Section team. Gorman's is 38–28 over Bosco, in Vegas, in August. Mater Dei's is 10–9 over Centennial, at Santa Ana Stadium, last Friday, in a game where the Monarchs held the number one team in the Inland Empire to 140 yards. One of those wins was a shootout. One of them was a fistfight. I know which one tells me more about a September night in Santa Ana.

GORMAN ALREADY GOT ONE TRINITY LEAGUE TEAM THIS YEAR. THEY'RE NOT GETTING THE MONARCHS' FRONT TOO.

THE COMPUTER SAYS

DESK MODEL · METHODOLOGY §4

THE COMPUTER

~~Mater Dei by —~~

No rating for Bishop Gorman on the committee's scale. No line. The desk does not convert a MaxPreps figure and print it as one; an estimate labeled as an estimate is still a number I'd be hiding behind.

BIG RICK

Mater Dei 24–16

Too much up front. Eight points, because Gorman scores and the Monarchs haven’t given up 28 to anybody. No line to hide behind on this one — the whole pick is mine.

THE HISTORY

SOURCED

Sept. 19, 2025, at Bishop Gorman: Mater Dei 27, Bishop Gorman 24. The Monarchs won it on a fourth-quarter drive and then held on a turnover on downs with about a minute left. That was in Las Vegas. This one's in Santa Ana. If anybody in this building is playing for revenge, it's the team in the visiting locker room.

THE EYE TEST

OPINION, LABELED

I don't have a roster with heights and weights in front of me, so I'm not going to give you fake ones. What I have is the tape and the scoreboard. Mater Dei has played four games and the only one that got loose was Orem, 32–26, in August. Since then the Monarchs have gotten tighter every week, and last Friday they held a 71.9 to nine points and 140 yards. That's a front that's arrived. Gorman scores; they put 38 on Bosco and 38 on Lone Peak. But they also gave up 33 to Columbus and lost, and 28 to Bosco in a game they won. The Monarchs' defense hasn't given up 28 to anybody.

Mater Dei's quarterback is better. That's my read, not a stat line; I'm not printing either kid's numbers because I didn't pull them this week and I'm not going to pretend I did.

THE PICK

Mater Dei 24–16. Too much up front. Ledger’s on me for this one, all of it.

MATER DEI 4–0

MONARCHS · TRINITY LEAGUE · SANTA ANA

Committee rating (9/13)	**78.3**
Section rank · projected	**#2 · D1, 2-seed**
MaxPreps rating · SS rank	**101.69 · #2**
Strength of schedule (MP)	**55.6**
MaxPreps CA rank	**#2 (tied on rating with Santa Margarita)**
OC polls · Fryer / Albano	**#2 / #2**
National (On3, 9/17)	**#10**
PF–PA · avg margin	**111–68 · +10.8**
Best win	**10–9 Centennial**
Worst loss	**—**



THE TOP OF THE SECTION · COMMITTEE SCALE 9/17

1 · Santa Margarita	82.8
2 · Mater Dei	**78.3**
3 · Sierra Canyon	76.8
4 · St. John Bosco	72.9
5 · Centennial (Corona)	71.9

A 6.9-point jump in one week (71.4 to 78.3) came from beating a 71.9 by one point. The computer doesn't care about the score; it cares that they beat a team that good.

BISHOP GORMAN

GAELS · 5A SOUTHERN (NV) · LAS VEGAS

3–1

Committee rating	**not on the scale**
Section rank · projected	**n/a · Nevada**
MaxPreps CA rank	**n/a**
National (On3, 9/17)	**#11**
League	**1–0 · 5A Southern**
PF–PA	**145–75**
Best win	**38–28 St. John Bosco**

Only loss	**28–33 at Columbus (FL)**
vs. Mater Dei, 2025	**L 24–27 (home)**

WHAT THE DESK CAN'T MEASURE

No committee rating, no section rank, no model line, no MaxPreps California figure. Everything printed for Gorman is a score from its own schedule page or last year's result. That's the whole card, and Rick is playing it with no help.

THE LEDGER · RICK VS. THE COMPUTER · 2026

DATE	GAME	COMPUTER	RICK	FINAL	WHO WAS RIGHT
9/18	Etiwanda at Orange	Orange by 7.3 (69.9%)	Etiwanda 49–21	—	Saturday
9/18	Orange Lutheran at Sierra Canyon	Sierra Canyon by 16.8 (88.5%)	Sierra Canyon 34–21	—	Saturday
9/18	Mater Dei vs Bishop Gorman (NV), Santa Ana Stadium	no line	Mater Dei 24–16	—	Saturday
Season: Rick 0–0 · Computer 0–0					

Sources. Committee ratings: hsratings.com, Mater Dei pulled 9/13 (path 9/4–9/15), Centennial and St. John Bosco 9/17, section ordering 9/17. MaxPreps ratings, SOS and CA board 9/17. Mater Dei results per desk database 9/17. Bishop Gorman results and record per MaxPreps Bishop Gorman schedule, page updated Sep 18, 2026. Centennial held to 140 yards and the Santa Ana Stadium site per IE Varsity (Eric-Paul Johnson, Press-Enterprise, Sept. 17 previews and Sept. 12 wrap-up). 2025 result (Mater Dei 27, Bishop Gorman 24, Sept. 19, 2025, Las Vegas) per Yahoo Sports/SBLive recap. National rankings and game selection per On3 games of the week, Sept. 17, 2026. Polls: Fryer Top 25 (9/14), Albano Top 35 (9/16). No model line is printed because no committee-scale rating exists for Bishop Gorman; the desk does not publish converted estimates as lines. Rick's pick is Rick's. School marks belong to their schools and appear here for identification in commentary. **Reading the numbers:** the full key is in Report 1.