THE TRENCH REPORT
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE DECIDES EVERYTHING

VOL. 1 · NO. 1 · WEEK 5
FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026
REPORT 3 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: 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

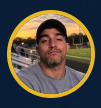
~~NO LINE~~

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.