SAINTS

Coaches Corner vs. Loyola - August 21, 2026

God's richest blessings on you all as we celebrate the beginning of another football season. Welcome to *"Friday Night Lights"* as the Saints open the 2026 campaign by taking on the Loyola Cubs from Los Angeles. This game marks the second time that these teams have met in the school's history. Loyola came away with a dramatic 23 - 20 overtime victory in the CIF quarterfinals in 2024.

Quarterback Caden Jones is back and ready to lead what looks to be another explosive offensive attack under the direction of offensive coordinator Russ Oka. Ty Johnson and Damari Hall are returning at two of the receiver positions along with senior tailback, Caleb Bey. Troy Roberts, Mekhi Mitchell, and Braylen Ross round out the receiving corps. The offensive line is led by returners, Adonijah Moenoa, Erick Cruz, and Demetrius Panapa. Ace Herman, Ezra Jordan, and Connor Malone are all seniors that look to solidify the offensive line for the Saints.

Under the direction of defensive coordinator, John Byszewski, the defense is led by three returning linebackers, Mateo Munoz, Aaron Nicasio, and Ethan Haugsland. Ahmeer Williamson takes over the reins at middle linebacker while senior Luke Smith leads a revamped defensive line that includes Yahushua Foster, Eti Taula, Nasi Walker, Leland Anderson, and Pita Tanelu. Safety, Aidan Smith, returns along with cornerback, Evan Mack, as Jordan Terry, Jacob Whitehead, and Kinley Victorian-Young are in a battle for starting positions.

The special teams units, under the direction ofJake Fey, are led by returning kicker and place kicker, Eric Miao. Nate Collins, a versatile junior wide receiver takes over the punting duties for the Saints.

The Loyola Cubs are led by head coach, Drew Casani, a graduate of Loyola who has been running the program since 2019. With a solid tradition and several players returning at key positions, the Cubs are looking at another solid year for their program.

Look for a spirited battle between these two teams as they open the 2026 campaign here at Saints Stadium.

Next week: Away game @ Mira Costa
Friday, August 28
7:00 pm - Mira Costa High School

Whatever the task, work at it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord and not for man. Colossians 3:23

