

# SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

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## Saints rally to win opener

By Steve Brand  
SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

CHULA VISTA — St. Augustine junior quarterback Evan Crower this week accepted a football scholarship offer from Stanford for 2011.

St. Augustine

15

Carlsbad

14

Then, the 6-foot-5 lefty led the Saints on a 44-yard touchdown drive late in the fourth quarter last night to help deliver a 15-14 win over Carlsbad to open the season at Mater Dei Catholic High.

Asked which meant more, Crower didn't hesitate.

"This," he said, pointing to the field, "this is better. Everyone stepped up, but credit the defense. We don't win without the defense."

After trailing 14-6 at halftime,

Paul Hundley's third field goal, a booming 40-yarder, got the Saints to within 14-9. Then the defense got the ball back to Crower (16-for-23, 156 yards) with 5:46 to play.

Crower marched his team to the Carlsbad 4-yard line, where he hit Sam Macias out of the backfield for the go-ahead score with 2:54 remaining.

Carlsbad had one last drive, rolling to the Saints' 11 behind RB Michael Tael, whose 31-yard pass was mixed with 51 yards rushing. Tael finished with 218 yards on 24 carries.

The Lancers, who had never lost to St. Augustine in six meetings, tried a 28-yard field goal, but a poor center snap was recovered by the Saints.

Asked about not owning a win over Carlsbad, first-year head coach Richard Sanchez shouted, "We did it today. We did it today."