

Saints JV Boys Nab 2nd Tourney Title

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The **St. Augustine junior varsity** boys soccer team is off to a good start this season as they captured their second tournament title by defeating **Westview HS** in penalty kicks in the finals of the inaugural **Westview-Del Norte Classic** on Dec. 23.

“This squad has the potential to have a very memorable year and that they can accomplish anything they put their minds to combined with continuous hard work and a team based sharpened focus,” Head Coach **Rob Wojtach** said. “They are a pure joy to coach and very exciting to watch.”

The Saints advanced to the finals after battling **La Costa Canyon**, another strong program from North County. However, LCC was no match for the creative and focused Saints team and the Saints won 3-0.



The Saints JV boys are off to a stellar season.

In the finals a tough Westview team showed why they were playing for the title. After two full 40-minute scoreless halves the game went straight to penalty kicks. The Saints very strong and agile keeper **Aaron Martinez** blocked three consecutive Westview PK attempts and then sealed the deal by taking and making the third PK to clinch the win for the Saints.

This was the second pre-season tournament championship for the Saints, who are now holding a 12-0 record. The first tournament title was in the **Montgomery Barons Tournament** where they played Poway, another strong North County team, in the finals and won in overtime.

The Saints captured the Barons title on a brilliant show of determination and skill when sophomore **Connor Keefe** dribbled through a mass of defenders and then managed to get off a bullet of a shot to the upper right inside of the goal.

Compared to most of the opponents the Saints have faced whose rosters number close to 22-plus players, the Saints only have 15 spots on the bench. They are a hard working group and they appear to have a great camaraderie both on and off the field.

The strength of the Saints is well balanced across the field. Their defense is anchored by Martinez, who in the first 12 matches allowed only five goals. In front of Martinez is a very strong back line with sophomores **Daniel “DJ” Johnson, Dominic Padua, Jason Nunez** and **Ryan Muir**. Freshman **Joseph “Joey” Saad** keeps it balanced at stopper.

The midfield is full of talent with sophomores **Alex Galan** and Keefe as the center mids with **Fidel Cesares** and **Julian Garcia** as the left-wingers and sophomore **Alex Miyai** and junior **Austin McCalley** as the right outside mids. The final piece of the puzzle is the work of forwards **Jaime Charles, Anthony Tancredi** and freshman **Dominic Chavez**, who leads the attack for Saints.

The Saints will open league play on January 20, 2010, when they host **Kearney HS** at their home field in North Park.