

Saints alumni, families and boosters,

The 2021 golf team season is complete and it was a very successful one on many fronts:

- Coached by Bill Davis, we had seven players on our Developmental Team. While not ready for regular competition with the varsity and JV teams, these players were able to get together twice each week to work on their games and enjoy golfing with their Saints teammates. Throughout the past 10 years, the Developmental Team has provided the opportunity for players to learn more about golf, have the opportunity to practice, and get ideas for what they can do to improve. We have had many players begin their Saints golf careers on the Developmental Team and progress to not only the JV team but also earn Varsity letters in golf at Saints. The most recent examples would be brothers Rodrigo (Saints 2019) and Diego Bremer (Saints 2020) who started on the Developmental Team and earned varsity letters for multiple years while in the top 6 on the team. On this year's team, junior Bernardo Esparza earned his 2nd varsity letter this spring while beginning on the Developmental Team during his 9th grade year; he listened to advice and worked extensively at Tijuana Country Club, improving to the point that he earned a varsity letter in his 10th and 11th grade years. While not all Developmental Team players will earn a varsity letter, the main goal regardless of their skill level is to get our Saintsmen involved with a sport that they can play with family, friends and business colleagues for the rest of their lives.
- Our Junior Varsity team had a record of 17-6, including multiple close matches against Cathedral (overall record vs Cathedral JV was 5-3). The JV team provides the opportunity to get onto local courses with some competitive rounds. Since we have a golf team 'ladder' players can move up from the JV during the season based on the scores they post. Many Saints varsity players have made the transition from the JV team to the Varsity, both from one year to the next and also within the same year. On this year's varsity team, both Jeff Korn and Henry Hooper earned a varsity letter after getting experience with last year's JV team.
- Our Varsity had an overall record of 10-7 and finished in 2nd place in the strong Western League. Saints was ranked 12th in San Diego during the regular season and finished in 2nd place in the City League Championship at Balboa Golf Course. The highlights of the season include playing and hosting the 10th San Diego Country Club High School Invitational (Saints finished in 5th place) and getting the opportunity to compete in the first Rancho Bernardo Invitational which was a 36 hole event held at Bernardo Heights Country Club. During individual matches this season, the team had some great victories against Steele Canyon High School, Scripps Ranch and Coronado.
- Saints qualified as a team for CIF -San Diego, held on June 8th at St. Marks Golf Club and June 10th at La Costa. Saints golfers made the cut and finished in 10th place overall in San Diego - CIF. With our top 8 players all returning next year, we are looking to build upon the success we had in 2021!

- Note: Jacob Paule finished in 8th place over the 2 rounds of CIF and qualified for CIF Regionals. He played on Tuesday June 15th in the shadow of the Rose Bowl at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena. As the first Saints golfer to reach CIF Regionals in six years, Jacob posted a solid 76 on a tough golf course that features long par 4s and demanding approach shots.

- Varsity letter were awarded to the following team members
 - Joseph Selfani (SR), 1st varsity letter
 - Nolan Steinbuch (SR), 1st
 - Jacob Paule (JR), 3rd
 - Bernardo Esparza (JR), 2nd
 - Carlo Franco (JR), 1st
 - Jeff Korn (SO), 1st
 - Henry Hooper (SO), 1st
 - Billy Davis (FR), 1st
 - Santiago Garza (FR), 1st

- Other individual honors:
 - Santiago Garza earned 2nd Team All-Western League honors for his play throughout the season and at Balboa
 - Jacob Paule and Billy Davis earned 1st Team Western League honors
 - Saints had four individuals (out of the 16 total players) qualify for San Diego City League at Balboa: Carlo Franco, Santiago Garza, Jacob Paule and Billy Davis.
 - Interesting fact: Billy Davis and Santiago Garza were the only two freshmen in the 16 person field!
 - Jacob Paule and Billy Davis each won their first three matches and played each other for the championship. In the all-Saints final, Billy Davis beat Jacob Paule to win the Match Play Championship. It should also be noted that Jacob Paule was the defending Match Play Champion so Saints is again holding the trophy for (at least!!) another year in our gym.

- Saints Golf would like to also acknowledge two seniors who have been an important part of our Saints golf team over the past four years. As they head off to college, the Saints community can be proud of their accomplishments and know that they will be making a positive impact in the future:
 - Nolan Steinbuch is a 4.26 GPA student and has been part of the golf team since beginning in his 9th grade year on the Developmental Team. If you attended Saints football games in the past four years, it is highly likely that this self-motivated, polite, charismatic, energetic young man sold you a raffle ticket for the Saints golf team fundraiser! His motivation and willingness to work meant that over the four years, he earned his own Spirit Pack for the golf team and also sold enough raffle tickets to get himself a foursome into the Mt. Woodson

event. Nolan will be attending UC San Diego this fall to study Aeronautical Engineering.

- Joseph Selfani is a 4.46 GPA student, has served as the Saints Associated Student Body President and has made significant progress in his golf game since starting as a true beginner in his 9th grade year. He has provided leadership to the entire Saints community over the past four years and made a positive impact at the school in many ways. Joseph will be attending UC Berkeley to major in Business starting in the fall.

The 11th Annual Saints Golf Team fundraiser has been set for Sunday September 19th. We are planning on going back to our normal format of having a BBQ from 10:30-11:45am, followed by a shotgun start at noon at Mt. Woodson Golf Club in Ramona. This event has sold out in prior years so go ahead and get your foursome together and send me a note to reserve a foursome! The cost is \$130 per player/\$520 for a foursome. This is our primary method of earning the money necessary to fund the program to the level that all players, including JV and Developmental team members get a \$225 PING Saints golf bag to keep, shirts, hats, and all greens fees paid for during the season. With golf courses being busier than pre-pandemic, our costs went up significantly this year and I don't anticipate them going down in coming years as more courses are closing, limiting available venues for high school golf programs. Our team was also hit this year by the canceling of spectators at Torrey Pines as selling tickets for the PGA event was a major source of team income. While we hope that PGA ticket sales will return for high school teams next year, there is no guarantee that it will. Bottom line: the Mt. Woodson event is a really fun community building event. Team members, alumni, faculty and boosters enjoy the BBQ before the round, a fun four person scramble event, and camaraderie throughout the day. If you haven't joined us before, we hope to see you on September 19th.

This has been a unique year in so many ways. After the cancellation of the 2020 season a few weeks after it began, no one involved with high school sports knew what the 2021 season, if we had one at all, would look like. The reality that played out for us was a phenomenal year for our team, both on the course with good results but, more importantly, a way for our young men to interact with teammates and other schools each day after school. Golf is a great lifelong sport; getting to walk and talk with others in-person can't be simulated in any online setting so the 2021 season was an especially rewarding one given what has occurred in the past year. Saints is full of young men who are truly fun to talk with and our coaching staff enjoys each day as we walk the course together with the team. I would personally like to thank our coaching staff as they make it possible to offer more rounds of golf with more matches than any other school in San Diego: Christian Da Luz, Jess Wilson, Mark Paule and Bill Davis are the best people I could ever hope to work with as they care about the team and the Saints community at-large.

Sincerely
Tom Isaak