

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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100 Years of Saints!

St. Augustine High School

VAPALicious Offerings at Saints



By Jonah Villafana ('25)
STAFF WRITER

At Saints, a student can take a seemingly endless number of courses, from fundamental algebra to foreign languages to physical education. But arguably the most exciting and enjoyable classes at Saints can be found in the Visual and Performing Arts Department, namely, band, theater, art, and film production. So, with multiple events around the corner, we're taking the time to focus on and appreciate the arts at our school.

Saints offers a wide range of opportunities when it comes to band. In addition to the regular band, there are also the 32nd Street Jazz Band and the Saints Jazz Combo, all led by Music Director Ms. Au. The primary band class meets two to three times a week at 6:45 in the morning. It is composed of the Concert Band for first-year band students and the Symphonic Band for all returning band members. It is open to anyone, regardless of musical experience, and students are always welcome to join, even in the middle of the year. The Pep Band performs at home football and basketball games, as well as school rallies and other occasions throughout the year.

The 32nd Street Jazz Band is a more advanced option for musicians, requiring more improvisational skills. Jazz Band members have fewer rehearsals than regular band, meeting only once a week, making their performances that much more impressive. Meanwhile,



Saints Pep Band performing at a football game in the fall

Courtesy of Saints Band

Jazz Combo offers a rigorous class for the most experienced Saints musicians. It only meets once a week on Wednesdays after school, but its members must put in extra time and effort outside of rehearsal to strengthen their skills. Unlike the other bands, Jazz Combo requires an audition for entry, ensuring that its membership is of the highest caliber.

The Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Jazz Combo will all perform at the spring pops concert on May 18. The concert will also feature the two guitar classes taught by Ms. Au and a performance by the Acappella Club at the end. There will also be a special “Chicago Project” performance at intermission, where certain students will perform a song by the band Chicago.

In addition to all the concerts they perform, band members also have to learn their repertoire for the upcoming spring musical, where the band performs as a pit orchestra. The band members have put in a lot of extra work as musicals feature very complex scores.

This year's musical features The

SEE ARTS pg. 6

Springing into a New Sports Season



Grayson Boles ('25) swings for the fences

Courtesy of Saints Baseball



By Michael Luzi ('25)
EDITOR

The Saints baseball season is back in full swing this year with a star-studded team, and they have high hopes to make a run at CIF. Under the leadership of Coach da Luz, the team is prepared for a strong effort against the best teams in San Diego. The Saints are currently ranked #1 in the Western League, above teams like Cathedral Catholic and Point Loma.

The baseball team saw a strong start to the season with a 8-3 victory against Christian and a definitive 10-1 stand against San Marcos. Their only loss of the season was a close 2-1 game against Steele Canyon. From then, the team marched past teams like Santana, Granite Hills, and Grossmont. A 10-5 win over Mira Mesa has set the pace for a dominant season.

Senior M.J. Sweeney has stepped up and commanded serious attention with 13 RBI and 9 total runs this season. He

has also hit the only home run of the season so far. The team also has decorated underclassmen, such as sophomores Grayson Boles and Anthony Tompkins. Bowles has the highest earned run average on the team with 1.14, and Tompkins boasts the 6th best batting average in San Diego at a .478. He leads the team with an on base percentage of .571.

The baseball team will face Elk Grove on Wednesday, April 4 and looks to continue their domination with league play beginning in mid-April. The Saints will play teams such as Patrick Henry, Madison, and Cathedral Catholic to get a shot at winning the division and heading to CIF.

The volleyball team returned this season with an experienced and well-rounded team, having lost only one starter from last season. Last season saw the departure of Coach Hecht, who had been with the program for many years, but the program barely missed a beat. Coach Palafox, the former JV coach, brought a fresh perspective to the program, including the addition of new coaches Marty Gorsich and Jack Lonneman to join her and Coach Theilacker.

The team got off to a great start, with strong showings in two preseason

tournaments and major victories over Trabuco Hills and Sage Creek. Led by senior captains Andy Boeh and Patrick O'Leary, they are loaded with young talent, most notably sophomores Oliver Fendley, Noah Heuring, and Luke O'Leary. In fact, Fendley is currently 24th in the nation with 397 assists, while Patrick O'Leary leads the team with 174 kills.

The volleyball team began league play with a solid 3-1 win against La Jolla and followed it up with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mira Mesa. They now sit at 2-0 in the Eastern League and 10-5 overall. On Friday, March 31, they will take on Francis Parker in a non-league match.

The Saints track and field team enters this year's season on the back of a fourth consecutive league championship and is hungry for a fifth. Coach Segura, in his second year as head coach, leads the team alongside event-specific coaches, including Coach Brophy in her first year as head distance coach.

The Saints began another dominant run in the Eastern League, beating Canyon Hills by a score of 82-59 and defeating La Jolla 95-46 to sit at a comfortable 2-0 heading into their bye week. Im-

SEE SPORTS pg. 8

Are Bank Meltdowns Reason to Worry?



By Liam Olds ('26)
STAFF WRITER

A lot of great things came out of 2008: America's first black president was elected, this freshman class of 2026 (shout-out to my fellow freshies!), and oh, that's right, a massive recession! It even got its own fancy name, the Great Financial Crisis (GFC).

Could this year bring a repeat of the 2008 recession? Many fear it might. The recent failures of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank were the second and third largest U.S. bank failures in history, respectively, second only to Washington Mutual in the GFC.

Economists have predicted a recession in 2023 for months, but its scale is still a mystery. It is also unclear how the recent and possible future bank failures play into this scenario.

Surrounding the collapse of SVB, the tech-savvy customers of the institution took to Twitter, hoping to lobby the government

into bailing out the bank. Even before the collapse, figureheads of the tech and investing sector with holdings in the bank were calling for action and asking that the customers of SVB be "made whole." In other words, the customers wanted all of their money back, even the parts of the deposits that were uninsured. The plea was answered, but at what cost?

First, the facts: Three major banks collapsed in the month of March this year, predominantly caused by rising interest rates and poor investment portfolios. European bank Credit Suisse was bought by a competing company, but Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank were essentially bailed out by the Federal Reserve following a bank run.

A bank run is where large amounts of customers pull their money from the bank for fear of losing it. Banks do not have all their money on hand at any given time, as most of it is tied up in investments, loans, and other outlets. In fact, banks are only required to have 10% of their assets reserved; however, instead of trying to keep as much

money on hand as possible, banks diversify their money and put it in places where it can earn interest and appreciate in value. This serves as an incentive of sorts for banks to tread dangerously close to the minimum reserve.

In this case, the banks made investments that suffered when interest rates were raised. Upon pulling their investments, SVB alone lost about 1.8 billion dollars. Customers and investors fled the scene, not wanting their money lost. This left the bank heavily in debt, the word 'malpractice' was thrown around, and well, here we are.

The primary controversy surrounding the whole situation is the Fed's involvement in the situation. The usual limit for reimbursement from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) in similar scenarios has been \$250,000. The issue is that most of SVB and Signature Bank's clients had more than \$250,000 in the bank. Approximately 94% of the money at Silicon Valley Bank and about 90% at Signature Bank was uninsured.

SVB had extremely wealthy clients depositing their money in accounts that weren't completely insured. SVB's top ten customers had a total of 13 billion dollars in the bank. This far exceeds the previously stated limit of FDIC-covered insurance. Let's just say that's not the greatest investment strategy (one might wonder if there's a disconnect between tech smarts and financial smarts...). Yet customers at both SVB and Signature have been guaranteed all their money back. This is a short-term solution put in place in hopes of preventing further bank runs and causing a systemic issue, but in the long run, this practice is hardly sustainable.

President Biden has insisted that taxpayers will not be fronting the costs for guaranteeing these uninsured deposits. Nonetheless, as University of Chicago economics professor Anil Kashyap told Fortune Magazine, "Saying that the taxpayer won't pay anything ignores the fact that providing insurance to somebody who didn't pay for insurance is a gift... And that's kind of what happened."

The "Big Four" banks (JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Citibank) are actually benefiting from this situation as some worried customers are taking their money from small regional banks to larger, more stable alternatives. The downside is that if these Big Four prove to become the only viable option, they could afford to treat their customers poorly without worrying about much competition. In true American fashion, the rich are getting richer and benefitting from the losses of the little guy.

I think we can all agree that the world is a bit of a mess right now. Regardless of your political leanings, a devastating war, a rapidly warming climate, and the fact we are all forced to share a school with the hooligans we call sophomores, means we have enough on our plates— and now we've got to deal with a bank crisis and a Cudal quiz? Thanks, but no thanks. I think I'll sit this one out. My money will be safely tucked under my mattress

This Headline Censored Due to Section 230



By Alex Granda ('24)
STAFF WRITER

From Trump's tweets of fraud in the November election to claims from both the political right and left that social media has had a profound effect in the minds of voters across the country, if there's anything politicians can agree on, it's that the internet is becoming a considerable problem when it comes to misinformation and politics.

Section 230 is a defining piece of legislation that has stood the test of time for more than 27 years. Despite numerous calls from senators, congressmen, and presidents to repeal, reform, and altogether remove the law from the US, it has protected companies from holding any liability regarding users' content for years now.

To explain Section 230 simply, the law protects companies from suffering legal consequences due to a user's content. For example, during the war in Afghanistan, terrorist groups such as ISIS uploaded several videos to YouTube featuring mass beheadings of US personnel, mistreatment of prisoners of war, and, in general, extreme brutality from the terrorist regime in Afghanistan. However, due to Section 230, YouTube did not face any legal action for having these videos up on their website as, under their terms, they serve in a gray area between a "platform" and a "publisher."

Under US law, a "platform" is free from legal liability when it comes to illegal user content but also has no discretion in regulating content, unless said content is purely criminal. For example, if a platform deems your content unfit for the public's



eyes, it can immediately remove it without repercussions. A real-world example would be a town square where one is free to speak their mind freely, as long as the First Amendment protects their speech.

The parallel to a platform is a "publisher" who has the right to remove any content they deem unsuitable for their company but can legally be held accountable if a user posts illegal content. A real-life example of this would be a newspaper publication.

Social media companies love Section 230, as they can moderate any content based on their algorithm while facing no

legal repercussions if a user posts something illegal or harmful to the public. However, critics of Section 230 point out that it allows social media to have a considerable sway when it comes to what the public does and does not see, allowing companies with their private interests to influence the spread of information by influencing the public through their algorithms.

This is where politicians get involved. Both President Biden and former President Trump and their respective teams have made numerous claims that social media plays a significant role in spreading misinformation, particularly during the 2020

November election. Former President Trump had proposed legislation to reform Section 230 during his presidency, which was ultimately unsuccessful, while President Biden has made numerous speeches stating that there is a need to change the law to stop the spread of misinformation amongst the public.

For now, legislation to reform Section 230 has hit a roadblock, as the Supreme Court has stepped into the mantle of reviewing Section 230 and, ultimately, maintaining or revising the law. Two cases, *Gonzalez v. Google LLC* and *Twitter, Inc. v. Taamneh*, are currently being reviewed by the United States Supreme Court. Both will fight the legality of Section 230 and its damaging effects on society. Oral arguments for *Gonzalez vs. Google LLC* were held in late February, which were deemed inconclusive. The Supreme Court has now held that it is ultimately up to the fate of the *Twitter, Inc. v. Taamneh* decision on where Section 230 will move from here.

Overall, Section 230 has its benefits and drawbacks. Social media companies have used Section 230 to influence their private interests by blocking certain media personalities and outlets from speaking on their platform. However, one cannot deny that without Section 230, many media personalities wouldn't even have the opportunity to speak on these platforms. Section 230 could lead to massive legal repercussions for media companies on the internet and could ultimately spell doom for freedom of speech on the internet.

Esports: It's in the Game



By Michael Luzi ('25)
EDITOR

Welcome to The Augustinian's Team Spotlight article! This month's sport is Esports. Led by junior Logan Sanford, the Esports team is unique because it allows all types of people to participate, no matter their physical abilities.

The Esports team was created by Alex Escobar ('19) in 2017. Student operators mainly ran the club. Before he graduated, Escobar passed down the club to Joseph Selfani ('21), who gave it to Jason Halabo ('22), who in turn passed the role to Logan Sanford after he noticed how invested he was in the team. Sanford appointed sophomore Noah Heuring as the club's vice president as the team started to grow.

The team continues to be run by students today, with help from Mr. Wehbe, as Sanford schedules games, prepares players for competitions, and reaches out to other schools for tournaments.

At the high school level, Esports is operated by CIF in California, but some tournaments outside CIF can include schools from all over the Pacific area. This includes schools from California, Oregon, Washington, and even Nevada. Because of how new this sport is, it is still being determined if playoffs will happen in the CIF Pacific Division for Esports this season. "High school Esports, and Esports as a whole, is still in its infancy," junior Logan Sanford said.

The Esports team has many subteams that play different video games, including League of Legends and Super Smash Bros Ultimate. The most successful subteam is Rocket League, created by Psonix. In CIF, Rocket League is played online with five matches, and the team winning three matches wins. Each match of Rocket League is one full round played, lasting for five minutes.



Brendon Brooker (left) and Luca Liciaga (right) playing a game of Rocket League *Noah Villafana ('23)*

The Saints team has only lost one game out of nine in their CIF standings, losing to the same Pacific school they lost to in their last season during the fall semester. If there will be playoffs in CIF this season, then the Rocket League team will definitely qualify. "It's going to be a great season, and with people like Evan, Brendon, and me, I think that we'll go far, and we will get to the finals for sure," junior Luca Liciaga said.

Last season, the Rocket League team did very well. Before the Esports championships, the team only lost one game because they could not reschedule a game. Unfortunately, they had to forfeit that game, but it did not stop them from making it to the championships. The team triumphed into the finals with the unmatched skills of junior Luca Liciaga,

senior Brendon Brooker, and senior Evan Babich. However, the team did not win the championships, but they did impress everyone with their skills.

As previously mentioned, there are standout players on the Rocket League team, including junior Luca Liciaga and senior Brendon Brooker. However, the most notable player is senior Evan Babich. Babich is ranked SSL in Rocket League, which means "Super Sonic Legend." Only the top one percent of Rocket League players worldwide can get this ranking. "Out of the three players on the Rocket League team, Evan Babich stands out the most. He has the potential to go professional," junior Logan Sanford said.

On the Saints campus, the Esports lab is in Villanova Hall. The Esports team utilizes this facility for practices, games, and

just having fun. The Esports lab is mainly for those on the team who do not have the necessary equipment at their house so that they can still be a part of the team. It is also helpful for teammates to practice and work together to learn how to work as a team in the same room with the same equipment.

Besides playing video games competitively or practicing with each other, the Esports lab is also used for relaxing and team bonding. "It [Esports lab] is mostly just people bonding over video games like Valorant. It's mainly just to go ahead and have fun and not be competitive all the time," sophomore Noah Huering said.

Practices for the Esports team are essential because they show players what they need to work on and how to work

SEE ESPORTS pg. 5

Hooper and Gonzalez: Attorneys-at-Law



Lucas Gonzalez (second from left) and Henry Hooper (second from right) with the Saints Mock Trial team. *Courtesy of Eliza Molk*



By Caden Webster ('23)
STAFF WRITER

This month, The Augustinian will be highlighting two Saints Mock Trial team members who received awards for their performances. The Saints Mock Trial Club participates in a yearly competition against other schools in the county. As the name suggests, the team conducts a simulation of a court trial. Competitions are held in real courtrooms before actual judges at the San Diego County Courthouse.

The club receives a large case packet at the beginning of the school year containing information about all the case facts, including witness testimo-

nies and the charges brought against the defendant. The club members are then split into two smaller teams – one for the prosecution and one for the defense. Each team is composed of a pre-trial attorney, who argues a point of contention in the case packet in front of the judge, three trial attorneys, who conduct direct and cross-examinations of the witnesses, and four witnesses, who deliver the facts of the trial in the courtroom. Each team must also provide a timekeeper or a bailiff who assists the judge in conducting an efficient trial.

Throughout the trial, a group of local practicing attorneys scores the teams based on their ability to speak clearly and effectively communicate their

arguments. Unlike in a typical criminal trial, the judge delivers a verdict of innocence or guilt instead of a jury. However, this verdict does not affect the teams' scores, as the attorney scorers' opinions are the only ones that matter.

This year, two Saints seniors were recognized for their mock trial achievements: Henry Hooper and Lucas Gonzalez.

Henry Hooper has been on the Mock Trial team since he was a freshman, first as a witness, where he received the highest recorded witness score in Saints history. However, his success did not end there. He became a trial attorney in his sophomore year and was promoted to lead trial attorney for his junior and senior years. This year, he was honored with the county-wide award of "Best Prosecution Witness" despite leading the defense trial team as an attorney. He was called into action to fill in for one of the prosecution witnesses towards the last minute, a testament to his mock trial skill and knowledge. Hooper has had a leadership role in the club for the past two years, often helping newer team members refine the details of their arguments.

"I will always be grateful to Hooper for all the help he has given me over the years," junior Griffin Cappiello, a fellow Mock Trial member, said. "The Saints Mock Trial program would not be where it is today without all Henry has done."

Hooper's favorite part of his Mock Trial experience is going to the county courthouse for competitions.

"It was a super cool experience getting to argue the cases in front of actual

judges," he said.

Lucas Gonzalez has also participated in Mock Trial since his freshman year. He started as a regular witness, but for the past three years, he has played the role of the defendant—the person being accused of the crime. It takes a significant amount of talent to memorize all the facts to play this role, and the opposing teams don't make it easy.

The defendant often faces the harshest cross-examinations from the prosecution, but Gonzalez never missed a beat. With years of experience as an actor, he always maintained a natural presence on the witness stand, frequently tripping up the opposing attorneys who were trying to get him to mess up.

"I will never forget when Lucas had his handkerchief with him and pretended to cry on the witness stand. That has to be one of the greatest Saints Mock Trial performances of all time," Cappiello said.

Gonzalez's favorite aspect of Mock Trial is the team members' brotherly bond. "We were able to trust each other enough to give and accept criticism while still being able to lift each other up," he said.

Both encouraged other students to get involved and try participating in Mock Trial in the future.

"If you are interested in law at all, or if you want to learn about debate or acting in any way, it's a great experience and opportunity, and I highly recommend you join," Hooper said.

"I don't care how basic or dull it may seem; just enjoy yourself because it is a genuinely fun and worthwhile experience," Gonzalez said.

XFL: The Newest Football Phenomenon



By Ben Nault ('26)
STAFF WRITER

The XFL. What is this mysterious new sports league owned by the Rock? The Xtra Football League? The Xtreme Football League? Why is this league so special? Why are viewership ratings through the roof on this new take on football? Most importantly, will The Rock's reputation continue to carry another business?

The XFL is actually a new-ish football league that aims to bring both entertainment and innovation to the sport of football with a new way for a fan to experience the game. This league has made many changes to the way the game of football is played. They are implementing rules to try and revive kick-off returns, with kickoffs happening at the 35-yard line as opposed to the 30 in the NFL, and only the kick returner and kicker may move before the ball is caught.

The XFL uses a 25-second play clock, and the clock is continuously running until the last two minutes of each half. A receiver only needs one foot in bounds to record a catch as opposed to the NFL's two-foot requirement, and offensive linemen may move up two yards downfield on a forward pass. There is no kicking point after touchdown attempts, but instead, a one-point PAT from the two-yard line, a two-point PAT from the five-yard line, and a three-point PAT from the 10-yard line.

All touchbacks on punts will be placed at the 35-yard line, and out-of-bounds punts will be placed wherever the ball went out of bounds or at the 35 if closer to the endzone. In overtime, both teams will have



five tries to convert a two-point attempt. If the score remains tied, the teams continue with the conversions until one team scores more points at the end of each round of conversions.

The reason I referred to the XFL as new-ish is that it actually started in 1999 after NBC and the World Wrestling Federation lost the rights to show NFL games to rival CBS. The WWF and NBC were looking for a new football event to bring to the network, which birthed the XFL. It was made to entertain the viewer rather than the quality of play, which was the reason for its popularity and eventual decrease in viewership.

In 2020, the XFL had a chance at a re-opening, but unfortunately, COVID-19 shut down the world's sports leagues, including the XFL. The XFL re-opened in February 2023 under the ownership of Dwayne "The

Rock" Johnson, and the viewership rates have been booming so far. Eight teams divided into two divisions make up the competition, and six weeks have taken place since opening day (at the time of writing). The four teams in the North Division are the D.C. Defenders, Seattle Sea Dragons, St. Louis Battlehawks, and the Vegas Vipers. The four teams in the South Division are the Arlington Renegades, Houston Roughnecks, Orlando Guardians, and San Antonio Brahmas.

The teams will play over a span of ten weeks, with two games played against every other team in your division (one home, one away) and one game being played against the other teams in the opposing division. So far, four of those weeks have been played, with two teams standing out from the competition in their respective divisions. In the North, the D.C. Defenders

are 6-0, with the St. Louis Battlehawks (4-2), the Seattle Sea Dragons (4-2), and the Vegas Vipers (1-5) following suit. In the South, the Houston Roughnecks are 4-2, and the Arlington Renegades (3-3), San Antonio Brahmas (2-4), and the Orlando Guardians (0-6) round out the pack.

Viewership rates have been going through the roof, with an average of 1.19 million viewers in the first week of play in February. The next four weeks took a dip but stayed consistent, averaging 647,000 viewers in the second week, then 571,500 in the third, 502,700 views in the fourth week, and 256,000 in the fifth. Clearly, views are dropping a bit. However, this is expected to even out as the fan base continues to take shape. With March Madness going on, it's a wonder any competing sports maintain viewership.

If you are a baseball fan, there is team and league known as the Savannah Bananas that provide a similar experience to the XFL, prioritizing the fan experience and fans first. The biggest difference is that while the Savannah Bananas are entertaining with many different twists and skits throughout the game, the XFL focuses on base gameplay with fun considered to be shortening the game's time in general. Another difference is ticket prices; they can fluctuate from \$13 to \$220. Come on, Dwayne, you surely don't need that much more money, do you?

The XFL is an up-and-coming sports scene, and while we look on to see what will become of it, we look forward to what the XFL has to offer in the future. In the end, the fans will decide.

A Saintsman's Guide to Walk-up Songs



By Liam Olds ('26)
STAFF WRITER

Two of my favorite things in life are music and sports; what's really special is when they collide. That's right—I'm talking about baseball walk-up songs! The music and energy they bring are vital for stepping a sporting event up to the next level. They can even mark the difference between success and failure for a team. Hype, as our generation more affectionately calls that energy, is instrumental in getting into the right mindset to dominate. The right choice of music can instill fear into opponents and excite fans and teammates to witness the spectacle of a lifetime.

I am hard-pressed to think of a more terrifying situation than hearing Metallica's "Enter Sandman" blast out of the speakers at Yankee Stadium, warning everyone for miles that the great Mariano Rivera had arrived. When "Hell's Bells" started shaking the seats of Qualcomm Stadium, Padre opponents might as well have packed their bags on the spot because they weren't hitting Trevor Hoffman.

It's not just pitchers with intimidating walk-up songs; fans and pitchers could ready themselves for something big when Chipper Jones would walk up to "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne.

The culture of walk-up music isn't limited to the major leagues, though—Saints baseball is lucky enough to have its own walk-up music. Players can choose what song they want to represent their playstyle, musical tastes, and personality.

Saints has allowed its players to have walk-up music for about six years. Players can choose whatever song they like as long as it's appropriate (free of profanity and offensive messages), leading to quite the medley. This playlist is constantly changing, too, as players will change up their walk-up songs if it's not working for them.

I spoke with Saints Baseball Head Coach, Mr. Craig da Luz, about walk-up



songs: the Saints way, and he provided some insight on the program.

Coach da Luz stressed the importance of players feeling comfortable and ready to do what needs to be done at the plate and on the mound. Walk-up songs help to do just that.

I also spoke to a few Saints players, past and present, regarding their walk-up songs, and these Saintsmen delivered. Current player M.J. Sweeney has been rocking "Don't Stop the Party" by Pitbull, undoubtedly providing the hype necessary to get locked in at the plate. The crown, however, goes to former player and now coach, Nick Rhoades, with Salt-n-Pepa's "Shoop" and Redbone's "Come and Get Your Love." Those two songs undoubtedly contributed to Rhodes' successful career.

I'm all for helping players perform, but I think what we all want to see are some

shenanigans. Saints is notorious for its creative cheering showcased by the award-winning Pit and its unique traditions; walk-up music could be the next great showcase of the absurdities brought up by the Brotherhood.

I've preached the competitive upsides of hype music enough at this point, so now it's time to get into the wackier side of the tradition:

Last season, the Los Angeles Angels faced a 13-game losing streak and were desperate to fight out of the slump. So they turned to the most desperate of all measures, finding the holy grail of bad music: Nickelback. That's right, everyone's favorite Canadian rock band that might be the most hated band on the planet. Baseball's very own "unicorn," Shohei Ohtani, was forced to walk out enduring the cringe-worthy, wish-you-were-deaf sounds of

"Photograph," a lyrical masterpiece containing some of the all-time greatest lines such as "And what the hell is on Joey's head?"

As an Angels fan, I wanted them to break the streak just as much as anyone, but I must say, I was rooting against them that game. No regular-season game is worth hearing only Nickelback for the rest of the season, no matter how ugly the losing streak is.

Walk-up songs are an integral part of baseball, and it's incredible that Saints participates in that, but I know I'm not alone when I say that until we see every Saints player walking up to the sweet, sweet sounds of the Biebs, we will not be satisfied!

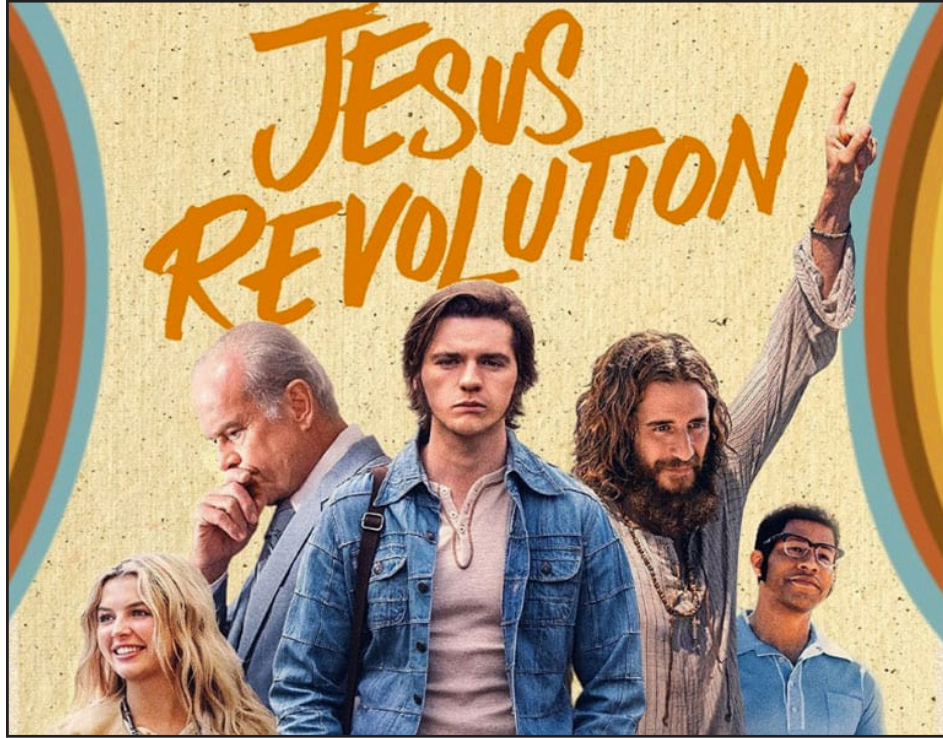
Burrell Bros Review: Jesus Revolution



By **George Burrell ('26)**
STAFF WRITER



By **James Burrell ('26)**
STAFF WRITER



Walking into a local movie theater, I expected to be bombarded with posters for profane, R-rated movies. When I looked up, however, I was greeted by "Jesus Revolution." This must be a feature, a local one-day showing. But I was wrong. "Jesus Revolution" was showing across multiple San Diego theaters, raking in \$45 million in profit.

Checking online, "Jesus Revolution" received a 4.9/5 audience review, the key word being "audience." This movie received a measly 62% Freshness level by critics, and it seemed obvious why. Christians were rating it. They were the only people who would watch a film about Jesus on a Friday night. And no one will say it's a bad movie because of the idea that, I don't know, you'll have a longer time in Purgatory or something?

I found watching a 2-hour movie on Jesus, frankly, long. The only movies I had watched that long were "Avatar" and "Titanic". But this movie wasn't directed by the utterly amazing James Cameron, but by Jon Erwin and Brent McCorkle, who have much experience directing movies on spirituality such as "I Can Only Imagine" and "God Provides". These movies were about real-life events, and "Jesus Revolution" was no exception.

The movie is about a group of Chris-

tian hippies in 1968 led by Lonnie Frisbee (Played by Johnathan Roumie) who ask Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer) to have them come on Sundays to his California church and do their own teachings to get other hippies on board. This grows into such a big phenomenon that it spreads across America, and hippies start to turn away from getting high on drugs to going low in the water! This catches the eye of Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney), a new hippie, and he becomes a big player in the spreading of the Good News. He eventually turns his life around and starts his own church, and everyone is happy...we think.

George: I would consider "Jesus Revolution" the Messiah of all movies. I

found it nice to have a break from all the drama and disaster movies in theaters today. Usually, writing a historical movie requires some sort of miracle (whether or not it is about God). But I would have to say that its directors did a divine job portraying this period in America.

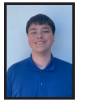
Not only is "Jesus Revolution" unmistakably hilarious, but it is also historically accurate. The characters and their scripts perfectly portray the real Jesus Revolution of the early 1970s. Also, the set and costume design were well-designed and thought out. The actors did an angelic job depicting their characters. Plus, the Jesus character, Lonnie Frisbee, actually looks and acts like Jesus!!

Personally, I think that modern movies about Jesus are boring, sad, and contain way too many Christian Rock songs. But "Jesus Revolution" totally defied my expectations, making it one of my favorite movies overall.

James: "Jesus Revolution" was just okay. It wasn't terrible, but it wasn't exceptional. It was hard to rate this movie on the events that took place because it is a movie "based on a true story". But I can rate how they put the movie together. To start off, Lonnie Frisbee, for the first half of the movie, seemed like the perfect guy. But in the second half, he turns out not to be the most spiritual - he has problems with his wife and complains a lot, and sometimes gets really angry when he isn't leading the congregation. I just wish I could've seen Lonnie's different, darker side earlier in the movie. Also, Greg's girlfriend does a "full-circle" moment with him when he and she break up with each other and then suddenly get married. In ten minutes!! All the guys would know; relationships like that never happen in real life! Altogether, even though this movie was truthful, I found many parts of it to be fictional and bland, and those were the parts I disliked.

Overall, "Jesus Revolution" was, between us, 7.5/10. There were good parts, and there were bad parts, but they turned out into a decent movie. We think this movie could have been improved in some ways, but you can decide for yourself when you watch it yourself. Enjoy!

Time to Change the Time Change



By **Henry Barwick ('26)**
STAFF WRITER

Two main questions are asked when discussing Daylight Savings Time (DST). The first question is, "Should the time change be removed?" The second question is, "If we stop changing our clocks twice a year, should we stay on DST or Standard Time?"

Most bills support removing the time change and instituting year-round Daylight Savings Time. In the United States Senate, there is a bill supporting this, titled the Sunshine Protection Act, introduced by Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), and a matching bill in the House, introduced by Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL). Even in California, the state government has introduced a Daylight Savings Time bill. In 2018, California voters voted on Proposition 7, which would shift California to year-round DST. It won with 59.7% and was later introduced as a bill by Assemblymember Kansen Chu (D-San Jose), which has also stalled in the state government. These three bills, among many others in various states, have been delayed in their respective governments for one key reason: a national law bans Daylight Savings Time from being the year-round standard. Many politicians want to remove this law, but this law exists for a good reason: Daylight Savings Time should never be the year-round standard. It just wouldn't make sense.

I believe that a year-round Standard Time would make the most sense because it was the standard time that was used year-round before Daylight Savings was permanently implemented in the United States in 1966, and it best matches where the sun is in the sky, which is what time was initially based on. If we have year-round DST, people's circadian rhythm, which regulates

functions of the body, such as sleep, is offset by an hour. People like Daylight Savings Time because it is more convenient, which it can be, but if we move to a continual Daylight Savings Time, it will ruin thousands of years of timekeeping tradition dating back to Ancient Egypt in 1500 BC. Even in the United States, there is a precedent to stay on Standard Time year-round instead of DST. Hawaii has remained on Standard Time year-round since 1945, before it even was a state! In addition, the majority of Arizona, only excluding the Navajo Nation, has stayed on Standard Time year-round since 1973.

Even though I sometimes like shifting an hour ahead in spring and an hour back in autumn, we should stay on Standard Time year-round. If we stay with our current system, we should find the positives in changing the clocks. These two events provide a small break from the monotonous routine. Even though school will continue unchanged, there is that one Sunday in March that's 23 hours long and that one Sunday in November that's 25 hours long. At least for me, it provides an event to look forward to, and I appreciate that, especially in March, when there aren't any important holidays or events except St. Patrick's Day. This, however, is an unusual opinion, as most people think of changing their clocks as another tedious thing to do that wastes their time. Therefore, we should turn this mundane task into something to look forward to!

One thing that can get annoying if we institute year-round Standard Time is winter sunsets at 5:00 pm, which I dislike. This seems very early, and I dislike nighttime beginning when, during summer, sunset wouldn't be for another two or three hours. Yet it is totally normal, as the sun is supposed

to set very early during winter. The beginning of winter is the time of the year when the days are the shortest, so this is natural and has been this way since time has existed. In addition, if you think 5 pm is an early sunset, try living in Seattle, Washington, where the earliest sunset in 2022 was 4:17 pm, or even Anchorage, Alaska, where it was at 3:40 pm.

To conclude, I think that bills that want to make Daylight Savings Time year-round are a step in the wrong direction and should not pass in their respective legislatures. In addition, I think that changing our clocks twice a year can sometimes be a hassle, but can provide a break in the monotony of life, but my overall opinion on this matter is that we should have a system of year-round Standard Time. There is a reason why Standard Time is called Standard Time: it is the standard time, and it wouldn't make sense for the standard time to be Daylight Savings Time. Therefore, Standard Time should be implemented year-round.

ESPORTS

continued from page 3

as a team. Logan Sanford, the manager, schedules most practices. The players from the subteams will then play with randomly generated opponents to observe different playing styles that other teams may use. Each player also works on improving their skills, and they help improve the skills of their teammates so that they can use their abilities to the fullest. Finally, they continue to play until they feel ready for their next tournament or competition.

Esports' primary mission is to allow everyone to play together in an environment encouraging growth.

"My main goal as president of the club is to bridge the gap between those who just play video games casually and bring them over to the competitive side of video games. It's an extracurricular that anyone can enjoy if they put effort into it." Sanford said.

With the uniqueness of Esports and how it is accessible to everyone, it can allow all types of people to connect in the many bonding opportunities that the team offers.

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The Saints Time Machine

80-minute classes coming soon?

By Manuel Garcia
FORMER STAFF WRITER

The Saints Time Machine will take a look at past articles published in The Augustinian. The following is a re-printing of an article from the March issue of The Augustinian in 2003.

Many of you probably have heard that Saints is considering changing our class schedule to a block rotation similar to that of OLP. For those of you who are not familiar with the OLP block schedule, let me explain. At OLP, they have “A” days and “B” days. Each day they take three of their six subjects, with each class lasting 80 minutes. On the following day, they switch off, taking the other three subjects. For example, on “A” day, they might have English, Math, and Biology, while on “B” day they would take Religion, Foreign Language, and PE. Then the following day goes back to “A,” and so on. On Fridays they still have their 80 minute classes even though they are dismissed at 12:45 (if you’re wondering how, it’s because they take shorter breaks). Though the OLP block schedule has a few minor advantages, I must oppose any tendency to implement such a schedule at Saints.

Because of the longer duration of class periods, teachers would be able to cover more material each day. In some of our classes this need for coverage is obvious, especially when the bell rings while the teacher is in mid-paragraph. But is this advantage really beneficial? Some teachers would not be affected by a change in schedule, they would continue teaching as they usually would. The majority of other teachers would be forced to rethink their teaching methods in order to maintain their grasp on our attention.

To some students, school is a prison sentence, while to others it is “fun” (who they are I do not know). Most students would fall closer to the prison sentence side of the spectrum, while the students on the “fun” side being a miniscule minority. It is because of this and many other reasons (such as students staying up late, the day being a Monday, or the teacher and/or the subject is very dry) that many of us have a hard time concentrating in class. Adding another half an hour to our class time is not going to help students to pay more attention. Longer classes have other destructive factors as well. Because teachers can include more material in a class period, the potential for more homework exists. Yes, there is the benefit that it would not be due the next day and that you will have at least two days notice before



a test, but the truth is many students will not use the “extra” time and make good use of it. And still the horror continues. Under our current system, most tests take up the majority of a class, so teachers have a harder time squeezing in a lesson, and thus we benefit by not having homework assigned. However, with a change to the block schedule, the teachers would most definitely have the time to include lessons and the ability to afflict us with homework. Finally, the block schedule would end something we all hold dear, the shorter classes of Wednesdays and Fridays. On

these days, there is little to be done. With a change to the block schedule we would still have 80 minute classes, and with that thoroughly nuking our happy way of life.

Don’t ask me how OLP manages. Maybe girls can concentrate better than boys, I don’t know. I do know that there are others at Saints who also oppose the switch to the block schedule. From what I have heard, it seems all of our objections are futile, The OLP-type block schedule approaches as an unstoppable behemoth – slowly it comes to the destruction of all.

ARTS

continued from page 1

Drowsy Chaperone, led by Director Travis Blumer. This show celebrates the Broadway productions of the 1920s through a parody of the musicals of that time period. The show runs on April 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 in the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts.

The musical will feature fourteen cast members from Saints and OLP and a special faculty surprise guest each evening in a minor role. After their stunning performance in Clue last fall, Chaperone will give the players a new opportunity to stun the public with their talents.

Those were the performing arts, and now to the visual ones. Excluding the popular Ceramics class, taught by Mr. Shimazaki (AKA “Kouta”), there

are three visual art courses offered at Saints, all taught by VAPA’s chair, Mrs. Drummy: Art I: Drawing, Art II: Painting, and AP Studio Art.

Drawing is an introductory art class in which students use the essential elements of art— space, texture, and color—to create artwork. Painting is a next-level art class in which students learn how to use watercolors and acrylics and are encouraged to develop a sense of individuality in their work.

AP Studio Art is the course for the most serious artists. There they must create a new piece of art every two weeks, thus developing their personal style. Their art is later compiled into a portfolio which they eventually turn in instead of an AP exam.

Art from every class and level will be showcased in the upcoming art show which will take place in the St.

Augustine Commons from Wednesday, April 26, to Friday, April 28.

Film production emerged at Saints when the pandemic hit a few years ago. Without access to traditional stage productions, students sought alternative means of acting and performing without access to conventional stage productions. Ever since, film production has only grown.

Headlining the film production is the upcoming production of The Office. This will be the third episode produced here at Saints, all led by Mr. Manley. He brings his ten years of experience in film production to Saints and teaches a film class for Intersession.

The Office is also possible because of the hard work of many students. The work and commitment of director Riley Scanlan, director of photography junior Oliver Rivera, along with associ-

ate producers junior Griffin Cappiello and OLP junior Abigail Arnold are the driving force behind the entire production.

The opportunity to work on film production at Saints allows students to work in a professional film environment while maintaining an aura of fun. The countless hours of work on The Office comes to fruition when it screens on Wednesday, May 17, in the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts. Open to the public, this screening allows anyone and everyone to see what Saints film production is all about.

All the arts at Saints will be showcased at the Visual and Performing Arts assembly on April 27, giving the whole Saints community a chance to see what the creative minds of Saintsmen can make.

Chaplain's Corner

Your Chance to be an Actor This Holy Week



Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA
COLUMNIST

As we near the end of our Lenten journey, we find that Holy Week is upon us. This most sacred time of the year is an invitation to us to not only intensify our Lenten practices but to immerse ourselves more fully into following Christ’s journey through the events of the week.

The week allows us also to appreciate the distinction between play-acting and liturgical re-presentation of the sacred. The Church is not an acting troupe. While acting is a vital portion of the performing arts – the language of ritual action is different from this.

I have often reminded you at our Wednesday Mass that you are not an audience. You are not in the gym to spectate as if you were at a rally or a game. You gather in the gym because you form an integral and necessary part of the ritual action of the Mass. You have “actions” through posture and movement, and you have lines that only you, as the gathered assembly,

can perform. As priest, I cannot say your “lines” within the ritual action – I have my own role to perform.

This means that Holy Week is not mere acting as we re-present Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His betrayal by Judas, His Last Supper in which He washes the feet of His disciples, and ultimately His Passion and crucifixion. It is a ritual action not performed for entertainment value or for the sake of art but rather performed to allow the members of the Church to more fully unite themselves to Christ. The soul of the Church more deeply enmeshes itself into the heart of Christ.

This is why we do not gather for something as ordinary as school during these days. It is also why you are not being dismissed to “enjoy some time off”. Rather you are being encouraged to be with your family and your parish or faith community to journey with Christ together in this holiest of times. There, through sacred ritual re-enactment, it is hoped and prayed that you truly encounter Christ – as you follow Him on His journey.

Big Trouble *By Alex Watson ('24)*





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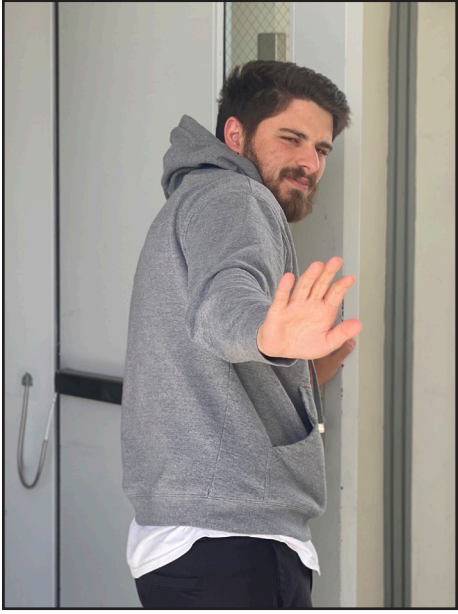
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Mr. Wehbe: Orphan Hater???



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As we all know, the teachers and faculty of St. Augustine High School all have their own little quirks. From Coacher and Chief's nicknames, to Mr. Bachynsky box jumping onto desks, to Mr. Cudal's glorious mustache – Saints teachers are pretty special. But what if I told you that there is one teacher in particular who takes his uniqueness too far? He bans students from office hours. He criticizes our almighty overlords, the College Board. He even goes so far as to throw precious copies of *The Augustinian* on the floor (*gasp*). Which one teacher is so resentful that he even hates innocent little orphans? There is only one answer: Mr. Wehbe.

I have risked life and limb to investigate the horrors of Room 231 and provide a transcription of what really goes on behind those barred doors. The following is a list of entirely accurate quotes taken directly from Mr. Wehbe's classroom, paired with my analysis of the true evils that occur when Mr. Wehbe begins "teaching." Reader discretion is advised. Mr. Wehbe might hurt your feelings.

"Conditional love means that love exists only upon a condition being met. Like I only love you if you get a 5 on the AP exam." I know what you're thinking. "Aw, Mr.

Wehbe is so sweet! He set up a clear goal for students to gain his approval while encouraging them to do their best in his class!" No. Only 14.8% of students got a 5 on the AP Statistics exam last year. There are 13 students in the AP Statistics class at Saints. If those results hold true, then Mr. Wehbe will only love 1.92 students in his class. How do you only love 0.92 of a person!? That is completely and utterly ridiculous. Nice try, Mr. Wehbe.

"I don't hate the orphans, I just might be resentful." What kind of monster resents orphans? Only the most despicable, vile, and truly villainous of men could possibly feel such bitter emotions toward poor, innocent children. The same type of person to laugh and jeer while torturing young men by holding them captive and forcing them to solve algebraic equations. Oh, wait...

"Money laundering is pretty clutch." Mr. Wehbe's wrongdoings also extend outside the classroom. He engages in various irresponsible money-spending habits. He illegally launders money (probably stealing it from orphans) to fund his gambling addiction. He might make it to the World Series of Poker someday, but at what cost?

"I hate the arts. Art is for suckers." Everyone knows that math teachers envy VAPA teachers because they get to teach the fun classes, and Mr. Wehbe is no exception. Personally, he's probably just jealous that there isn't a cool musical adaptation of Fermat's Last Theorem. I think I speak for everyone when I say that I don't want to see Lin-Manuel Miranda rapping about numbers for two hours.

"You are banned from office hours." Mr. Wehbe personally took it upon himself to interfere with the education of one of his students. By banning him from office hours, Mr. Wehbe puts him at a disadvantage. What if he doesn't get into college? Mr. Wehbe doesn't care. He just wants to keep all his students captive for all eternity. That truly is the mark of an evil

man – an eternity in AP Statistics is something even Satan himself couldn't dream up.

"If you do weed, you will end up in a Russian penal colony."

While the sentiment is nice, the underlying meaning certainly is not. Mr. Wehbe is implying that he personally will escort you to, and lock you up in, a Russian penal colony. Mr. Wehbe does not believe in the premise of "innocent until proven guilty." He is judge, jury, and executioner. And he certainly enjoys executing. Or, I suppose, in this case, imprisoning. Close enough.

"I like to cheat." Only a person of the lowest moral character would openly admit to cheating. Mr. Wehbe



clearly had no academic integrity when he went to Saints, so Mr. O'Beirne probably wrote about 3 million referrals for his dishonesty. Mr. Wehbe probably even hides an ace up his sleeve every time he plays poker because he doesn't have the strategy or the skill to win of his own merit.

"I'm excluding women." Wow. Just wow. He said this during Women's History Month, too. I'm disappointed.

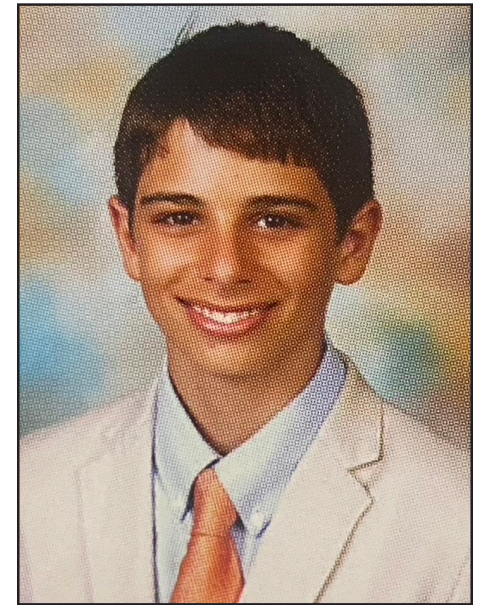
"My life is really hard." Mr. Wehbe takes everything he has for granted. He works at the best school in the world, with the best students in the world (such as myself). Ok, we might talk a lot and get on his nerves every

now and then. And sure, we may not always pay attention in his class. Oh, and he does teach freshmen how to do algebra. Ok, on second thought, maybe his life is pretty hard...

"Everything I say is objectively correct." I'm fairly certain that this one might actually be a heresy. You know, claiming to be incapable of making an error kind of seems like you might be comparing yourself so a higher power... In any case, this one is definitely wrong anyway, which is pretty ironic. I've lost count of the number of times I've had to start a problem over from the beginning because Mr. Wehbe messed something up from the very start.

"This class is neither fair nor honest." Thanks, Mr. Wehbe. Glad to hear you're really looking out for us students. I mean, come on, what else do you want me to say? The guy openly admits to rigging his class and I'm just supposed to shrug it off like it's nothing? Now that I think about it, I'm mad at myself that I didn't catch onto this one sooner. This probably explains why Mr. Wehbe was grading all those Scantrons by hand.

"In conclusion, I hate you all." This feels like the perfect quote to end on. Mr. Wehbe's hatred for all the students of St. Augustine High School, wrapped up nice and neat with a little bow.



SPORTS

continued from page 1

pressive performances in sprint races by team captain senior Chris Valderrama and sprints captain junior Cole Lambeth, as well as long-distance domination by team captain senior Jimmy Markowicz and distance captain senior Nate Wilson, led to these significant score gaps in favor of the Saints.

The team was supposed to compete in a tri-meet against Mission Bay and San Diego, but Mission Bay was unable to host the meet, citing damage on their track due to inclement weather. A closer look at the circumstances would reveal that many of Mission Bay's top runners were injured, and Saints would be their most difficult opponent all season.

The meet against Mission Bay will most likely not be rescheduled. Provided the team wins their next meet against Hoover and Morse, the Saints will win the Eastern League for the fifth consecutive year.

With a fresh season ahead of them, the Saints lacrosse team has picked up the pace and started off the new season strong. Looking to bounce back from last year, the team was ranked #6 in San Diego behind powerhouse teams such as Torrey Pines, Bishop's School, and Ca-

thedral Catholic.

On opening day, the team played at home against Granite Hills and won handedly 19-9. The Saintsmen then went on to beat San Dieguito Academy and Sanata before falling to La Costa Canyon. After another tough loss against Torrey Pines, the team roared back to life and dominated against Eastlake and Grossmont, which they won 16-2 and 19-9, respectively.

The team recently lost to Santa Margarita, who is going 9-1 this season. After a 16-11 victory over Lewis-Palmer, however, they look to build on their momentum in the following games. Going 6-3 overall so far, the lacrosse team has shown everyone their true potential out on the field.

Senior Captain Jack Elgas leads the team for a second year in a row, and he is accompanied by veteran seniors such as Daniel White and Anthony Ivanjack. Sophomore Griffith Manse stands out among the rising talent for this young team.

Saints lacrosse is looking forward to a rematch from last year with the highly ranked La Jolla Country Dei team, and they only have three games to play until league matchups begin with competitive teams such as Coronado and Scripps Ranch in late April.

The Saints swim team has been going swimmingly since the start of the season. Currently, the swim team is undefeated, going 3-0 so far in the league. In the first game, which was held at BBMAC in Coronado, Saints dominated against La Jolla Country Day. Then they put Coronado to shame at their own house. And most recently, the team won once again against Foothills Christian High School.

With the help of skilled swimmers, Saints has been able to be undefeated. Royce Acosido is the team captain for the swim team, and he is known for being one of the fastest swimmers on the team. Andrew Bier has an insanely fast breaststroke and is highly skilled in the 200 meter free relay. Joseph Nguyen is undoubtedly the best swimmer in the individual medley event. Max Martinez has the fastest 500 meter free relay and the fastest in the butterfly relay.

The Saints tennis team enters this season looking to win back-to-back Western League titles and continue their reign of dominance in San Diego. Despite losing some great players last season, both the singles and doubles lineups have been rolling through the competition. The singles team is led by junior Sebastian Careaga, who plays the number one spot, while the dou-

bles team features junior captain Luke Abrom and sophomore Javier Guillot as the top pair.

Currently, Saints is undefeated, with an 8-0 record in league play and a 13-0 record overall. They have already beaten a talented La Jolla team 11-7, as well as securing a 12-6 win over La Jolla. With league play wrapping up shortly and CIF playoffs to begin soon, Saints has high hopes for a promising run at an open division title.

Despite significant losses from last year's team, the Saints golf team has done very well this season, holding their own in a pool of stiff San Diego competition. Sophomore Lucas Younes and junior Jack Dougenis lead the team as the one and two seeds, while freshman Austin Lambeth has shown incredible potential, moving his way up into the varsity team very quickly. Seniors Henry Hooper and Jeff Korn provide the experience and leadership the team needs, returning for their fourth years. are returning for our fourth year on the team.

Saints recently played in the San Diego Country Club Invitational tournament, and the Ramona High Tournament and looks forward to the CIF rounds and the San Diego City League Tournament in May as well.