

Santa Ana HS 1967 Football Team

The 1967 Saints football team, led by Santa Ana Hall of Fame Coach Tom Baldwin, was ranked #1 nationally with their 10-0 regular season record carrying them into the CIF playoffs. The last two matchups of the regular season saw the team rolling on all cylinders, first with a decisive 42-14 win over Huntington Beach, highlighted by Isaac Curtis's rushing attack and an 85 yard opening game kick-off return by Marc Whitaker, followed by the "Sunset League Game of the Year" against Valley; a punishing 55-21 victory that saw the Saints gain 501 total yards with three interceptions that had the team fired up and ready for playoff action.

The first round of the playoffs proved to be a tough one as Santa Ana edged powerhouse Bishop Amat by a score of 7-6. An 80-yard touchdown run from Curtis and a missed Bishop Amat PAT was enough to seal the deal for the Saints who moved on to face Pacific in the 2nd round. While Pacific was considered among the powerhouse teams of the time, Santa Ana left no doubt who the true power was, running up a 29-7 victory, pushing them into the semis against Servite and their "All CIF" player, Brad Wekall. The Saints offense responded, racking up 21 points, while Marc Whitaker again showed his quickness and skill by scoring a 76-yard touchdown on a fumble recovery. The Saints went on to beat Servite 28-21, leading them to face off in a rematch against Anaheim in the AAAA Championship game at Anaheim Stadium on December 15, 1967.

When Anaheim and Santa Ana played for the Southern Section Major Division championship, it was considered the "high water mark for the old Sunset League." It also was the first time two Orange County teams had played for a title. This championship game showcased two strong squads with the spirit, toughness, and drive it takes to be champions, but Anaheim was driven to come back from their earlier loss to Santa Ana, defeating the Saints for the AAAA CIF title. Santa Ana took the runner up position out of 355 teams.

Being named to the 1967 All- Southern Section CIF "AAAA" Division Football Team were:

First Team All-CIF

Back	Jack Meier	Santa Ana	6-1	215	Senior
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Second Team All-CIF

End	John Conover	Santa Ana	6-5	210	Senior
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Back	Marc Whitaker	Santa Ana	6-0	182	Senior
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Back	Isaac Curtis	Santa Ana	6-1	175	Junior
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While we recognize the exemplary achievements of these four individuals, we also recognize the entire team for their remarkable and memorable year in what is considered to be one of the best, if not the best, teams in Santa Ana High School history!

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1967 Team Roster:

Gilbert Anaya
Bill Blackwell
Jim Blower
Bill Brockett
Larry Brumsey
Tim Bynon
John Conover
Isaac Curtis
Mike Daly
Rick Deckert
Bob Dischner
Tony DuBois
Chris Duncan
Rinaldo Felix
John Fioretto
Jack Gilson

Mark Hartman
Steve Hill
Randy Howard
Gary Jensen
Jeff Jiles
Dan Johnson
Rod Koral
Terry Leonard
Mike Lloyd
Efren Lozano
David Martinez
Chris Mears
Bob Michel
Dr. Jack Meier
Ruben Montana
Tim Moore

Frank Moraga
Don Mott
Chris Patton
Jim Pierson
Charlie Proctor
David Rios
Byron Ryono
Gary Sannes
Brooks Smith
Andy Solis
Paul Swanson
Mike Vaca
Ken Wahlberg
Marc Whitaker
Gary Woodsmall

