



St. Anthony High School Athletic History at a Glance

St. Anthony's athletic program is as old as the school itself. The Saints have fielded athletic teams dating back to 1921. For the first twelve years of the school, St. Anthony participated in local recreational leagues and was recognized as a traditional powerhouse.

1933, St. Anthony was admitted to the CIF minor schools division, becoming a member of the Prep League. Coach Henderson of Franklin Junior High School served as coach of the first official St. Anthony football team. The Saints finished the season with a 3-3 record.

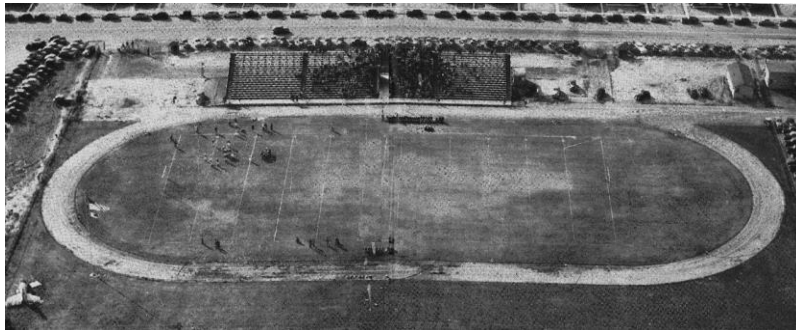
1935, the boys' basketball team was crowned Prep League champions, the first championship in school history.

1938, under the dynamic leadership of Coach Clarence Layden, the Saints easily won their first league football championship while outscoring their Prep League competition 160-0 in 5 games.

1942, the Saints reached their highest athletic peak to that date with a championship in the then, all important, Catholic High School boys' basketball tournament.

1945, the Saints were too powerful for the Prep League and left it to seek status as an independent school after winning four consecutive boys' basketball titles from 1941-1944. The inaugural Girls Catholic High School Basketball Tournament was held in the Armory. The St. Anthony girls' basketball team quickly established themselves by winning their first championship.

1946, a tract of land located at Clark and Del Amo was gifted to the high school for athletics. St.

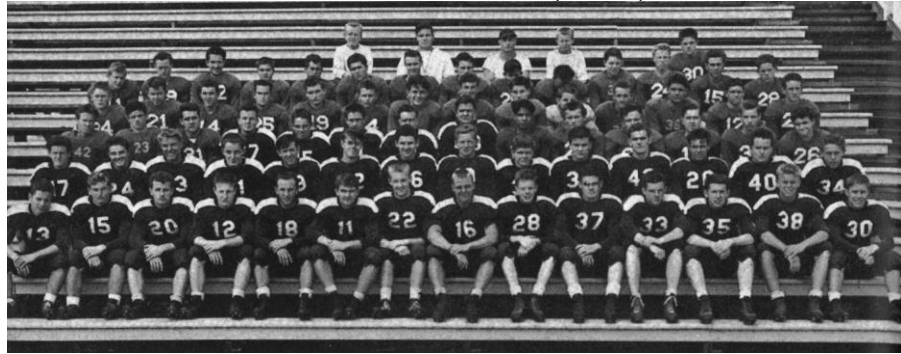


Anthony Memorial Football Stadium, commonly referred to as "Clark Field", became a remote part of the campus, hosting the school's athletic teams to this day. The same year, the St. Anthony Catholic Center and gymnasium was dedicated, becoming the leading sport center of Long Beach. The Saints joined the newly formed Catholic

League and advanced to the major school division in the CIF. 1946 also marked the initial season

of Jacques Grenier as head coach. **1947**, three-sport star Lou Berberet was the first Saint to be selected as Long Beach Athlete of the Year. The Saints tied for the Catholic League football title in 1947 and 1948. Lou Mascola and John Olszewski were the first Saints to gain the honor of All-CIF in 1947. The girls' basketball team, led by Doris Topsy-Elvord, also had an outstanding run, earning league championship honors in 1947 and 1948 in the Girls Catholic High School Athletic League.

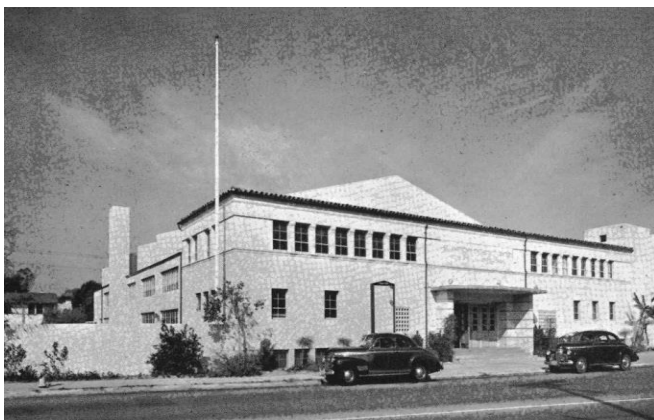
1948, the football season of 1948 was a highlight in St. Anthony's athletic history. The Saints, led by Johnny Olszewski, overcame all obstacles to win the CIF Football Championship before 15,000 fans at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Saints tied Santa Barbara, 7-7, but were named champs because of an advantage in first downs. John Olszewski was named the CIF Player of the Year and All-American gaining 1662 yards in 139 carries for an 11.9 average and 27 touchdowns. Bill Mais and Jack Jarvis were also named All-CIF.



1951, the girls' basketball team won a fourth league championship in their history. This was the start of a streak in the 50's that would include League championships in 1953, 1957, 1958, and 1959.

1952, marked the departure of Jacques Grenier as head Football coach, and the arrival of Ennio Arboit, who commanded the Saints to a league title in 1952 and 1953. The boys' basketball team also dominated their league and came home with their first ever Catholic League championship trophy.

1953, boys' basketball star Bill Bond garnered All-American and CIF State Player of the Year honors. Bond scored 727 points in 34 games for a 22.0 average, including a state and national record of 59 points against Serra. Also in 1953, the baseball team won their first-ever league championship. They also won championships in 1955 and 1958.



1954, early in the 1954 season, Coach Leo Haggerty took over and led the football team to a league co-title before taking them to the CIF Semifinals in 1955. The boys' track & field team also won their first-ever league title and followed it up with additional titles in 1955 and 1957. In 1954, Jack Errion joined the staff of St. Anthony as head boys' basketball coach. In his 22 years at the school, the Saints qualified for the CIF playoffs 14 times and won eleven league championships in 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960,

1961, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1973, and 1975. The 1958 boys' basketball team compiled a perfect 17-0 regular season record before losing in the playoffs. Also in 1954, St. Anthony entered competition in a fifth sport - cross country - and has maintained a position in this sport unmatched by most schools, including boys League Championships in 1960, 1962, 1964, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1994 and girls League Championships in 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 2014.

1960, 1961, and 1966 the girls' basketball team continued their dominance from the 50's by winning the league championship. This year marked the Saints' eighth league football championship. Led by Jack

Snow and Tyrone Price, the Saints raced by the opposition until being upset in the playoffs. 1960 also marked the first- ever league championship for the girls' volleyball team, which they followed up with another title in 1963.

1961, Tom Carrol joined the staff of St. Anthony, succeeding Leo Haggerty as head football coach. The baseball team had an outstanding year and was awarded the league championship.

1968, St. Anthony entered the Angelus League, considered by many one of the toughest leagues in the country.

1969, the boys' track team won their first league championship in 12 years.

1972, the girls' basketball team was league champion with an undefeated season. Also in 1972, the girls' volleyball team won the league title and St. Anthony fielded their first golf team in 20 years. The Saints boys' basketball continued their domination, winning league championships in 1976, 1977, and 1978.

1977, the football team regained their position of power by winning the league championship for the first time since 1960. They followed up this performance with another League crown in 1979.

1978, the girls' volleyball team won another league championship. This title would set the stage for a run in the 80's that included league titles in 1982, 1983, 1987, 1988, and 1989.

1980, the girls' track & field team also dominated their competitors in the 80's, following up their first-ever league championship in 1980 with titles in 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1989. The boys' track & field team also came out strong with league championships in 1985, 1988, and 1989. Tracey Johnson won the school's first-ever individual CIF Championship by winning the girls 100 meters in 1983.

1981, and 1982, the baseball team went back-to-back with championships each year.

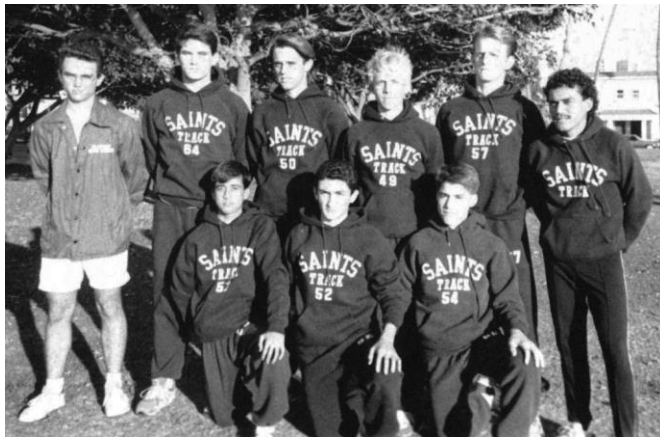
1982, the boys' basketball team was the Camino Real League Champion and played in the CIF Final Four. They followed up this success with another league crown in 1985.

1984, a new baseball diamond was constructed at Clark Field. The boys' cross country team and girls' track & field team won league championships, which was followed up by another boys' league championship in track in 1985.

1987, the football team was on top of the league again, claiming the Camino Real League Championship.

1988, was another strong year for St. Anthony athletics. The girls' volleyball team, led by CIF Player of the Year Annett Buckner, won their first-ever CIF Championship. The boys' cross country, boys' basketball, and boys' track & field teams also won league championships. Also in 1988, Darrick Martin was selected as the CIF Player of the Year and named to the Parade and McDonald's All American teams as one of the top basketball players in the nation.





1989, the boys' cross country team compiled a perfect season and won their first-ever CIF Championship. The boys' track & field team also won their league championship, highlighted by individual CIF Championships for George Garcia in the High Jump and Allen Sii in the Shotput. The Lady Saints also had an impressive year with the cross country, volleyball, and track & field teams taking the Camino Real League Championship. Latima Jones won three individual CIF Championships in the 100 meters in 1989 and the 200 meters & 400 meters in 1990. Annett Buckner was named the

CIF Player of the Year for the 2nd year in a row in girls' volleyball, while also leading the Lady Saints to return trips to the CIF Finals in 1989 and 1990.

1990, St. Anthony athletics started out the decade strong by winning the Long Beach Rotary Club's Centennial Trophy as the top high school athletic program in the city of Long Beach. The boys and girls Track & Field and girls Volleyball teams all won League Championships.



1991, the Lady Saints volleyball team, led by Player of the Year Maureen Cox, capped several years of supremacy by bringing home the first ever California State Championship trophy. League championships were also captured in football, boys' and girls' cross country, girls' volleyball, girls' track & field and the first- ever softball title. The Gymnasium was dedicated as the "Jack Errion Memorial Gymnasium" in memory of Coach Errion's tremendous accomplishments.

1992, 1993 and 1994, the girls' cross country team won their league championship. The 1993 team was

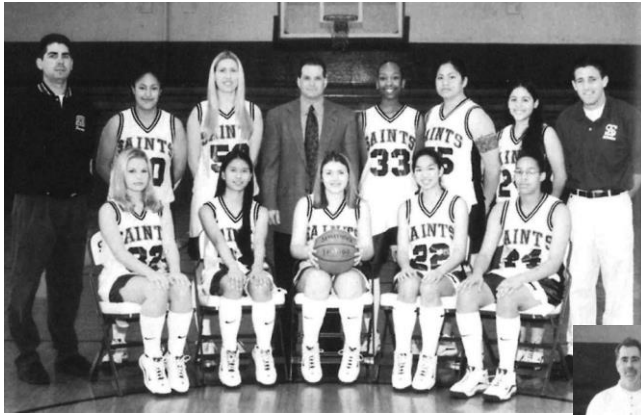
the first girls' cross country team ever to qualify for the State Finals.

1995, the baseball team earned its first trip to the CIF Finals.

1996, the boys' and girls' soccer teams won their first-ever league championships. Football and softball teams also had a strong year, taking home the league Title. Boys' track & field, anchored by 100 meter CIF Champion Eric Reese, won another league championship.

1997, the girls' volleyball team again fielded a strong cast of players winning their third league championship in the 90's.

1998, the boys' volleyball team won their first-ever league championship. They followed up this outstanding performance with another league championship in 1999. The baseball team also had an excellent year winning a league title for the first time in 16 years.



1999, the football team won their second league championship in four years.

2000, was the year of basketball at St. Anthony with both the boys' and girls' teams garnering CIF Championships. Andrea Opfer was named girls CIF Player of the Year, while Pearson Smith earned the same honor on the boy's side. The baseball team also had a successful season

and won league for the second time in three years.

2004-2007, the boys' basketball teams made four consecutive appearances in the CIF final four and won the 2007 league championship for the first time in 17 years. This was followed by years of league superiority with Championships in 2010, 2012, and 2013.



2009 and 2010, the baseball team again dominated the diamond, winning league championships in both years. 2009, 2010, and 2011, St. Anthony's lone diver, Nykola Bodnar, earned CIF Individual Championships in boys' diving.



2010, under the leadership of Coach James Anderson, the girls' basketball team won the CIF Championship, CIF Southern California Regional Title, and made their way to the State Championship game.

2011, the girls' basketball team won their second consecutive CIF Championship in a row, while Kendall Cooper was awarded CIF Player of the Year

honors.

2013, continued to raise the bar for future St. Anthony athletic teams with league championships in boys' basketball, baseball, and boys' track & field. The girls' basketball team won their first league championship since 1972, and the Lady Saints volleyball won their first league title in sixteen years before advancing to the CIF Final Four. Kendall Cooper became the second basketball player, and first girl, selected as a McDonald's All-American.



2014, the boys' basketball, girls' basketball, and boys' track teams all repeated as league champions, while girls' soccer earned their first title in eighteen years. Following their first league championship in sixteen years, football advanced to the CIF Semifinals for the first time since 1955. The girls' cross country team recorded their first league title in twenty years

2015, the St. Anthony Athletic program was awarded the Rotary Club's Centennial Trophy as the top high school sports program in the city of Long Beach. This resurgence was highlighted by a number of programs winning league championships for the first time in a number of years. Boys' Soccer (19 years), softball (19 years), and girls' track (24 years) all took home crowns while the girls' basketball team was selected to participate in the CIF Open Division for the first time. The baseball team made a miraculous run to the CIF Finals for the first time since 1995. The girls' soccer team won their second consecutive league



title before advancing to the CIF Championship game and the CIF State Playoffs.

2016, for the second consecutive year the St. Anthony Athletic program was awarded the Rotary Club's Centennial Trophy as the top high school sports program in the city of Long Beach. League championships were won by girls' volleyball, girls' soccer, boys' basketball, softball and boys' track.. The girls' soccer team advanced to the CIF Semifinals while the girls' basketball team won the CIF Championship, led by CIF Player of the Year Tayler Bennett.

(Several sources were utilized to construct this history of St. Anthony sports excellence including: yearbooks, championship banners, trophies and newspaper articles. We apologize for any omissions or errors. It is important that we continue to strive to reconstruct an accurate history of St. Anthony athletics. If you have information that would enhance this history, please e-mail: brian.walsh@longbeachsaints.org.)

