

SPORTS > HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS • News

St. Pius X-St. Matthias boys basketball joins an already challenging Del Rey League

The league's nightly battles will only get tougher with St. Pius X-St. Matthias joining the group



Del Rey League boys basketball players unite for a group photo at the league's media day on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, at St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy in South Gate. (Photo by Freshman, Contributing Photographer)





By **DAMIAN CALHOUN** | dcalhoun@scng.com | Daily Breeze

PUBLISHED: November 13, 2023 at 1:18 p.m. | UPDATED: November 14, 2023 at 10:48 a.m.

DOWNEY — There's no such thing as an easy night in the Del Rey League.

That will be especially true this season with St. Pius X-St. Matthias' boys basketball team joining the league this season. That's 30-win, CIF-Southern Section Division 3-AA champion St. Pius, led by CIF Player of the Year Tyrone Riley.

The coaches in the league know what they're in for.

"It's competitive every night," St. Paul assistant coach Will Alexander said during the league's recent media day event.

"It's always exciting, competition is great, the intensity is great and the atmosphere makes it fun to coach," Bishop Montgomery coach Doug Mitchell said.

"This league just got tougher with Pius coming in," St. Bernard assistant coach Donte Bowie said.

Last season, two Del Rey League teams (St. Bernard and Bishop Montgomery) made the Open Division of the CIF-SS playoffs. The Vikings and Knights finished tied for the league title. St. Anthony was third (4-4), St. Paul was fourth (2-6) and Serra went winless (0-8).

This year, St. Pius and St. Bernard are ranked in the Top 15 of Frank Burlison's Top 30 teams in the Southern Section. The same two teams are in the Top 15 of Cal-Hi Sports' preseason rankings.

In the ever-evolving world of high school basketball, Serra might be the team to watch in a league full of teams to watch.

Transfers Maximo Adams (Narbonne High) and Jeremiah Wilson (Pacifica Christian Santa Monica High) have arrived, joining sophomore guard Kayleb Kearse. Adams, who was a second-team all-area performer last season, will be sidelined early due to a hand injury.

"We're looking forward to improving," Serra coach Bernard McCrumby said. "We're excited to have Maximo join our family. He's a fantastic addition, coachable and he's a hard-worker.

"We graduated six seniors, lost three to transfers, but we're able to add Maximo, Elijah Baba, Jeremiah Wilson, David Shelia, and I think that's the depth that we need. We got beat up every night (last season), so adding some size and some toughness will be important."

St. Bernard lost key pieces to graduation, including Tyler Rolison and James McCallum. The Vikings return a strong core that includes sophomore Tajh Ariza, senior Kendyl Sanders and juniors Caleb Versher and Josh Palmer.

"We lost some players that were a big part of what we were," Bowie said. "We're trying to find out who we are as a group and hope these guys can step up and be the leaders they can be."

Another team looking to answer some questions is Bishop Montgomery. After graduating a senior class that had seemingly been together forever, the Knights have some uncertainty with a roster that features five freshmen.

"I think we're going to be good, I just don't know when," Bishop Montgomery's Doug Mitchell said.

Mitchell does have another set of brothers to watch in freshmen twins Terron and Tarron Williams.

"We had the same core for three years," Mitchell said. "Now, with this young group, you're always teaching and I have to be careful not to be too fast with them. We have good leadership. Our three juniors (Christian Hall, Cameron Brewer and Denis Woods) are good leaders and I really enjoy coaching this group."
