

## CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP – Friday, November 20, 2009

2:05 a.m. – No. 3 Southern Cal, Lake City Mustangs (12-1) vs. No. 8 Newman Catholic, Mason City Knights (12-1)

**STATS & INTERVIEWS:** We have a complete stat crew on duty. They will have halftime and final stat summaries for you. **Do not conduct interviews or detain players or coaches on the field at any time.** There is an interview room at the end of the tunnel for that express purpose (This is a request asked for by the media when on the field interviews compromised some outlets.) No media are allowed in the locker rooms. **Since this is a working press box, please observe the professionalism of “No Cheering.”** Team ratings used are the season final Associated Press poll, Oct. 27. Team and individual season statistics are available from the IHSAA's QuikStats.

-- IHSAA --

**ROAD TO THE DOME:** No. 3 Southern Cal has designs on defending its title and claiming the coveted trophy for the fourth time, while Newman Catholic, Mason City seeks gold in their championship debut. Southern Cal comes into the contest 12-1, after dropping its opening game to Class 1A semifinalist Prairie Valley, Gowrie. The Mustangs emerged from a tough northwest Iowa scene knocking off Alta, Akron-Westfield, Gehlen Catholic, Le Mars in post season games before edging perennial contender Madrid in the semifinals. Since the start of the 2004 campaign, Southern Cal has gone 57-12. The school, which combines the communities of Lake City, Lohrville, Yetter and Lanesboro, won titles in 1990, 2000 and 2008. The Mustangs are in their ninth playoff. They are 22-5 in all playoff games. Meanwhile, eighth-ranked Newman Catholic, Mason City (12-1) has been impressive this season but has been sterling in post-season play, where they have defeated three straight rated teams. The Knights, who have bounced between classes 1A and A the last decade, disposed of a solid East Buchanan team, 41-14, shut out eighth-rated Wapsie Valley, 14-0, then in the quarterfinals avenged an earlier 22-21 loss to NUH, Cedar Falls by halting the fourth-ranked Panthers 35-7, before upsetting top-rated North Tama, 28-26 in the semifinals. They are in their ninth playoff trip and they are 9-8 in playoff games.

NEWMAN CATHOLIC KNIGHTS		SOUTHERN CAL MUSTANGS	
Saint Ansgar	23-0	Prairie Valley, Gowrie	13-23
St. Edmond, Fort Dodge	16-13	Roland-Story	43-24
North Butler	42-21	Woodbury Central, Moville	26-16
Rockford	28-0	North Iowa, Buffalo Center	21-0
Northwood-Kensett	21-18	Bishop Garrigan, Algona	21-0
NUH, Cedar Falls	21-22	Clay Central-Everly	21-20
Tripoli	34-7	Rockwell City-Lytton	28-0
Riceville	33-0	Newell-Fonda	42-7
AGWSR, Ackley	24-0	Southeast Webster-Grand	48-0
East Buchanan, Winthrop (substate)	41-14	Alta (substate)	28-14
Wapsie Valley, Fairbank (first round)	14-0	Akron-Westfield (first round)	28-14
NUH, Cedar Falls (quarterfinals)	35-7	Gehlen Catholic, LeMars (quarterfinals)	14-9
North Tama, Traer (semifinals)	28-26	Madrid (semifinals)	21-15
<i>Offense: 360/27.7</i>		<i>Offense: 354/27.2</i>	
<i>Defense: 128/9.8</i>		<i>Defense: 142/10.9</i>	

-- IHSAA --

**THE COACHES:** Bryan Case is the coach of the Mustangs and is in his ninth season. An assistant in his first six years, he has a nine year career mark of 75-21. Case prepped at Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn and earned his degree from Northwestern College. This is the fourth consecutive year he has directed the Mustangs to the playoffs. Southern Cal is 22-5 in all playoff games and Case has a personal 11-2 play off mark. His assistant coaches are Scott Trost, Jeff Boerner and Tanner Lawton. Newman Catholic Coach Mike Dirksen is an Iowa Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee this year (ceremonies are Friday night at the halftime of the 4A championship). A graduate of LeMars High School and Augustana (SD) College, he spent four years as an assistant at Sioux Falls O’Gorman and three seasons as a head coach in Dodge Center, MN before taking over at Newman 26 seasons ago. He has directed the Knights to a 173-81 mark, moving his 29-year career record is 184-97. He has coached all nine of the Knights' playoff teams. Assistant coaches are Mark Bertsch, Jim Kruckenberg, Joe Klatt, George Jessen and Andrew Godfrey.

-- IHSAA --

**GAME SNAPSHOT:** The ingredients for an exciting title game are in place. Each team had spine-tingling wins in the semifinals. Both teams have excellent defense and feature an offense that can control the clock. Don't expect either team to back down – not at this point in the season. The game likely could come down to a key break that so often produce game changing plays and champions. The Knights rushing attack features three backs with 667 yards or more. Junior workhorse Ben Buffington leads the stable with 356 carries for 1,466 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also has a pass reception for a score. Senior Andrew Burgmeier has 10 end zone visits on 167 carries for 938 yards and junior Robert Quintero has rushed 85 times for 667 yards and seven scores on 80 carries. He also has four pass receptions for

touchdowns and a kick-off return for a score. Quarterback Josh Luecht has 55 completions in 107 pass attempts for 976 yards and 10 TDs. The Knights defense gives up yards grudgingly, holding 13 opponents to only 128 points. Senior linebackers Will Martin and Thomas Potthoff lead a pesky group of gang-tacklers. Martin has been in on 125 stops while Potthoff has 123. Clint Brown has 106 while Quintero has helped dust off 89 followed by Carter Kruckenberg (78), and Dan Behr (72). The Knights' defensive clan has 25 take-a-ways. Meanwhile Southern Cal's offense also has three balanced running backs that have each knifed their way for 875 yards or more. Matt Schleisman has 1,032 yards on 172 carries and 10 touchdowns with two more scores coming on pass receptions. He has also returned a two punts and a pass interception for scores. Fullback Chase Willett has 196 carries for 971 yards and eight touchdowns while sophomore Austin Blair has darted for 10 touchdowns and 875 yards on 137 rushes. He has two more touchdowns on pass receptions. Quarterback Greg Meyer, whose two point conversion run last year in overtime was the game-winner in the championship, has passed for 863 yards and eight touchdowns, completing 57 of 118 passes. He has scored eight rushing TDs and has a kickoff return for a touchdown. Brian Green has 25 receptions for 429 yards and four scores in the ball control offense, where four receivers have caught scoring strikes. The defense has 14 fumble recoveries and 13 interceptions for 27 take-a-ways. Schleisman and Willett lead the D-corps having been in on 155 and 116 tackles respectively.

-- IHSA --

**PROBABLE STARTERS**

NEWMAN CATHOLIC OFFENSE						SOUTHERN CAL DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt
QB	11	Josh Luecht	12	5-11	185	DB	5	Austin Blair	10	5-11	160
TE	19	Carter Kruckenberg	12	6-0	160	DE	8	Justin Schultz	11	6-2	160
HB	23	Andrew Burgmeier	12	5-11	185	DB	10	Greg Meyer	12	5-10	183
FB	24	Ben Buffington	11	6-0	160	FS	23	Brian Green	11	6-2	160
HB	31	Robert Quintero	11	5-7	145	LB	28	Matthew Schleisman	12	5-10	168
SE	34	Drew Verstegen	11	6-2	180	LB	44	Kirby Vogel	10	6-2	167
OG	74/4	William Martin	12	6-1	200	FS	46	Brett Monahan	10	5-11	137
OG	51/5	Alan Julius	12	6-1	195	LB	49	Chase Willett	12	6-1	200
or	75	John Bodeen	12	5-9	175	T	64	Logan Lounsbury	12	6-1	225
OG	62	Blake Louscher	11	6-3	170	DE	65	Cole Blair	11	6-0	214
C	76	Todd Dummett	12	5-10	170	T	78	Keith Holm	11	6-3	240
OT	78	Dan Behr	12	6-2	225						
P	78	Dan Behr	12	6-2	225						
PK	46	Dillon Stradt	11	5-9	155	KO	49	Chase Willett	12	6-1	180
or	2	Gabe Dunn	10	5-7	135						

SOUTHERN CAL OFFENSE						NEWMAN CATHOLIC DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt
RB	5	Austin Blair	10	5-11	160	LB	4	Thomas Potthoff	12	6-1	175
QB	10	Greg Meyer	12	5-10	183	CB	6	Hunter King	11	5-10	160
FB	49	Chase Willett	12	6-1	180	SS	19	Carter Kruckenberg	12	6-0	160
RB	28	Matthew Schleisman	12	5-10	168	CB	23	Andrew Burgmeier	12	5-11	185
TE	31	Alex Rossmannith	11	6-1	200	LB	72/2	Clint Brown	12	6-1	170
SE	23	Brian Green	11	6-2	160	LB	31	Robert Quintero	11	5-7	145
G	60	Cody Dick	12	5-11	208	LB	74/4	William Martin	12	6-1	200
C	61	John Rasty	12	5-10	192	DG	75	John Bodeen	12	5-9	175
T	64	Logan Lounsbury	12	6-1	225	DE	76	Todd Dummett	12	5-10	170
G	65	Cole Blair	11	6-0	214	DG	78	Dan Behr	12	6-2	225
T	78	Keith Holm	11	6-3	240	DE	51/5	Alan Julius	12	6-1	195
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