

state titles.

- Brea Olinda senior **Austin Tamagno** belongs on the Mt. Rushmore of county distance runners. He won everything he tried to win.
- **Amanda Gehrich** of Tesoro was just as good her senior year as she was her junior year. She was state champion both years in the 1,600 meters.
- The best high school girls pole vaulter in county history and in the nation is **Rachel Baxter** of Canyon. And she's just a junior.
- **Bronson Osborn** of Esperanza dominated the county and the state in the shot put and discus. And he's just a junior.
- Sage Hill's baseball team will take a 27-game win streak into the 2017 season. That's a county record. Sage Hill does not play Trinity, South Coast or Sunset League types of teams, but it beat teams of its ilk and there is nothing wrong with that.
- Who is the county's top football recruit next season? San Clemente quarterback **Jack Sears** probably is No. 1.
- The best returning baseball player for the 2017 season will be JSerra third baseman **Royce Lewis**. He is a polished talent already.
- A super-early boys basketball preseason top 10: 1. Mater Dei; 2. Santa Margarita; 3. Villa Park; 4. Edison; 5. Orange Lutheran; 6. Esperanza; 7. Capistrano Valley; 8. El Toro; 9. Canyon; 10. JSerra. That's right, the email address is at the end of this.
- Mater Dei has a great many quality returnees, including All-County first-team point guard **Spencer Freedman**, who will be a junior this coming school year. The best Monarch this coming season might be 6-foot-7 senior-to-be **Justice Sueing**. He is a scorer.
- A semi-reliable preview of the basketball season is provided this weekend in the Mater Dei Tournament at Misty May-Treanor Sports Center in Irvine. Among the teams in the Friday-Sunday event are Canyon, Capistrano Valley, Corona del Mar, Edison, El Toro, Esperanza, Mater Dei, Orange Lutheran, Santa Margarita, Sonora and Servite.
- Brea Olinda's girls basketball team won a state championship with only one senior starter. That was a heck of a senior starter, county player of the year **Reili Richardson**. The Ladycats will miss her, but they might have started another sequence of championship years.
- The county's larger private schools have outstanding athletic programs, but athletes don't have to go to one of them to get recruited. One of many examples: Girls soccer star **Carly Malatskey** of little Tarbut V'Torah got a scholarship to Stanford.
- One of the all-time great people in county athletics died Wednesday. **Larry Arason** was an athlete, coach, athletic director, football official, track and field starter and a member of just about every youth sports board around here.
- Arason's decades of outstanding contributions to county athletics in general, and to Santa Ana and Santa Ana Valley high schools in particular, have inspired many to be better ... including me. That's the plan here when we get back to doing this in a couple of months.

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#### Poll

#### OCVARSITY.COM POLL

What do you like most about this time of the year?

- ☐ Baseball season. Great teams, great games.
- ☐ Softball season. Great games every day.
- ☐ Track season. Great meets every week.
- ☐ All of the spring sports. Great to be back outdoors.
- ☐ Spring break. (I need the sleep.)
- ☐ We're getting closer to summer!!
- ☐ Spring football.
- ☐ I hate this time of the year. I already miss basketball.

Vote!

#### Live Latest Fan Scores

- Volleyball:** Cathedral Catholic 1, Corona del Mar 3 - 4th Set - **Completed**
- Baseball:** Cypress 1, El Dorado 1 - 6th Inns - **Completed**
- Baseball:** Huntington Beach 5, Santiago/Corona 2 - 7th Inns - **Completed**
- Baseball:** Temple City 0, Capistrano Valley Christian 1 - 7th Inns - **Completed**
- Softball:** Dana Hills 3, Simi Valley 2 - 7th Inns - **Completed**
- Softball:** San Clemente 15, West Valley 3 - 5th Inns - **Completed**
- Volleyball:** San Clemente 3, Westlake 0 - 3rd Set - **Completed**
- Volleyball:** Santa Margarita 1, San Clemente 3 - 4th Set - **Completed**
- Volleyball:** Alemany 1, Beckman 3 - 4th Set - **Completed**
- Volleyball:** Los Alamitos 2, Notre Dame/Sherman Oaks 3 - 5th Set - **Completed**

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