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Boys basketball preview 2016-17: Top 5 players to watch

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By STEVE FRYER
STAFF WRITER

OCVarsity's top five players to watch this season:

Spencer Freedman, Mater Dei

He was All-Orange County first team last season as a sophomore and was named to the All-CIF Southern Section Open Division team. A 6-foot-1 left-hander, Freedman scoots up the court quickly and rarely misses an open teammate.

Sebastian Much, JSerra

He was All-O.C second team last season as a junior when he averaged 19 points and 10 rebounds a game. Much, a 6-8 senior, signed with Princeton. He will be one of the county's more versatile scorers this season.

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

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Kezie Okpala, Esperanza

He was All-Orange County first team last season when he averaged 23 points and eight rebounds a game. His long arms and scoring skills make him one of the more difficult matchups for any defender. Okpala signed with Stanford.

Trey Smith, Saddleback Valley Christian

He was among Orange County's scoring leaders last season with 26 points a game. Smith, a 6-3 senior, was San Joaquin League MVP in 2015-16. He is a pure scorer with limitless shooting range.

Justice Sueing, Mater Dei

He was All-Trinity League first team last season as a junior. The left-handed Sueing (6-6, 205) can slash to the basket with the best of them, and can pull up and sink a jumper when that is the superior option. He would have a higher points-per-game average if he was on a team that did not have as many offensive options as they have at Mater Dei.

Contact the writer: sfryer@scng.com



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, CINDY YAMANAKA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Saddleback Valley Christian's Trey Smith averaged 26 points a game and was the San Joaquin League MVP in 2015-16.

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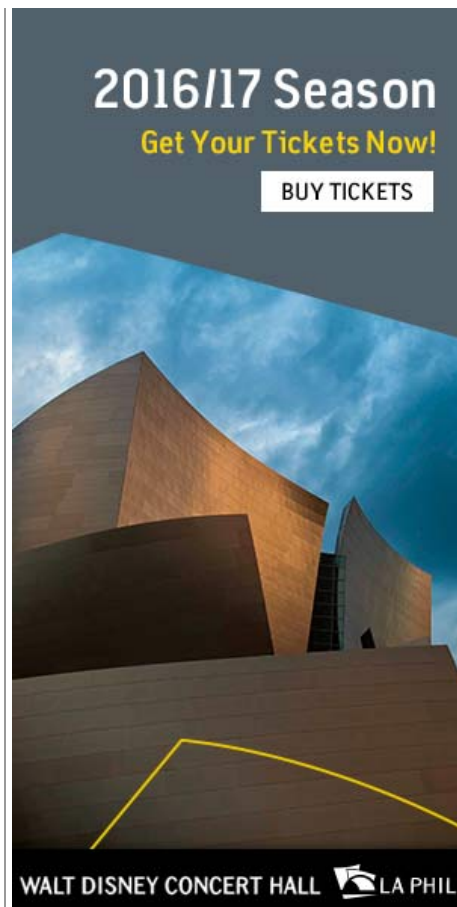
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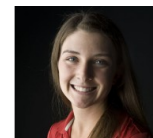
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