

LANCERS #9



PREDICTING THE FUTURE

Julian Sayin is already writing his name
on the CHS Wall of Fame.

Written by Wendy Hinman

'BAMA BOUND

Predicting the future. That's what makes being a quarterback difficult. It's the difference between a capable QB and a great one. You have to see what hasn't happened yet. Even if it's only seconds ahead, you have to read the future and then create that future based on what you see. Carlsbad High School's Julian Sayin is the top five-star quarterback of the national 2024 class. If Arch Manning was last year's by pedigree, Sayin is this year's by intuition. Some may quibble if he is number one, but we who are loyal Lancers are predicting his future. He is poised to be the biggest recruit to ever come out of Carlsbad High.

Sayin has already committed to Alabama, wisely choosing an SEC team as the Pac 12 unravels and the Big 10 has run out of fingers to count on. But before he Rolls Tide, Sayin has one last year in purple to enjoy. He goes into his senior year after earning MVP of the Elite 11. That is a competition of high school quarterbacks from across the nation whose winners read like a Who's Who of college and NFL QBs.

"Obviously, the goal is to win a championship," Sayin says of his last year. "I also want to leave a positive impact as a leader in my community this upcoming season."

"Players trust and follow Julian because of his example on and off the field," CHS Head Coach Thadd MacNeal says. "He has a tremendous work ethic outside of our facility." The first layer of community Sayin leads is the CHS offense and it's a boom year. When Sayin was a junior he began the season with only five starters. This year Carlsbad has 14 returning starters from a class that has dominated in stats since its freshman year. "On offense it starts with his guys up front," MacNeal says and rattles off the O-line: "Andrew Langer, Jake Johnston, Ryder Cole, Andy McKissick, R.J. Shelly, Kai Jacobowitz and Remington Budiwarman." They create a power pocket, giving Sayin time to read the future.

"He has a capable group of tight ends," MacNeal adds, "starting with Stanford-bound Luke Ferrelli, Alex Airey, Johnny Stewart and Colton Thomas. All-League running back Mason Walsh and Ben Redfield will handle carrying the ball," he says of the ground war. For air support, "Julian's wide receiver core is very deep. Griffin Rosenbloom, Jalen St. Paul, Josh Ball, Noah Carey, Connor Hawk, Nathen Nicholson and Jacob Prchal all hope to make contributions to the passing game."

Seeing the future for Sayin's parents, Dan Sayin and Karen Brandenburg, is easier by looking at Aidan Sayin's past and present. Aidan (CHS Varsity QB 2020-21) is quarterbacking at Penn. "We



Julian Sayin makes his case to be number one in the nation at the Elite 11 (photo courtesy of the Sayin family).

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Sayin commits to Alabama on signing day (photo courtesy of the Sayin family).



love to watch Aidan's games from our couch," Dan Sayin says. "I even have a small religious-type shrine to Penn football next to our TV with hats, shirts, tickets and foam fingers. It's a blast to fly out in person. Karen and I both have a ton of family in the area and we usually make it out to two or three games. One game each year we hold a tailgate and get 40 to 50 friends and family there." Sayin adds, of course, "When we go out in Carlsbad to watch a game we usually go to That Pizza Place at halftime." (Penn games almost always start at 10 a.m. Pacific.) Now they'll have to be a two-shrine family.

"Julian has just loved Carlsbad," Brandenburg says. "It's hometown football with his friends on a Friday night. He got to play with his brother for two years. But D-1 football is hard." She says of Aidan playing in the Ivy League (a D-1 program), "If Aidan throws a pick they give him a hug on the sideline. If Julian ends up throwing a pick in the SEC..." That's a future best left unanticipated. "Julian is very self-driven," she says. "We didn't push, he pushed himself. When it comes to football, Julian is all business, all the time."

MacNeal's read on this team with Sayin calling the plays? "Our expectations are always very high. We want to go undefeated, win the league, win CIF and State. Carlsbad is 37-5 over the last four years, and we are working hard to build on that record. Our players understand, though, that what we have accomplished in the past stays in the past. They have to go out and earn everything that is in front of them." They have to see their future and then create it. Go Lancers!

Sayin committed to Alabama because he wants "to be coached hard." Here he is in Tuscaloosa with Nick "The Godfather" Saban (photo courtesy of the Sayin family).



Sayin is savoring his last Lancer year (photo courtesy of the Sayin family).

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

VARSITY SCHEDULES

CARLSBAD HIGH

Sept. 1: @ San Pasqual
Sept. 8: vs. Casteel
Sept. 15: vs. Ramona
Sept. 22: Bye Week
Sept. 29: @ Mission Hills
Oct. 6: vs. Poway
Oct. 13: @ Torrey Pines
Oct. 20: vs. La Costa Canyon
Oct. 27: vs. El Camino

LA COSTA CANYON HIGH

Sept. 1: @ San Clemente
Sept. 8: @ Mira Mesa
Sept. 15: @ Fallbrook
Sept. 22: Bye Week
Sept. 29: vs. Poway
Oct. 6: vs. El Camino
Oct. 13: @ Mission Hills
Oct. 20: @ Carlsbad
Oct. 27: vs. Torrey Pines

ARMY-NAVY ACADEMY

Sept. 9: vs. Temecula Prep
Sept. 15: vs. Francis Parker
Sept. 22: @ La Jolla Country Day
Sept. 30: @ Classical Academy
Oct. 6: vs. Santa Fe Christian
Oct. 14: @ Bishop's
Oct. 20: vs. Escondido Charter

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