



Central Catholic preps young team for big journey.

BY JESUS MIGUEL GARCIA

Central Catholic High School kicked off the 2019-20 football season under the lights at Alamo Stadium against the Edison Bears on Friday August 23rd. The two young teams are working to establish their presence after losing a slew of seniors this past season. Notably, Central Catholic lost Safety, Hilario Gomez, who now plays for the Incarnate Word Cardinals.



After a short rain delay, Central and Edison went live in a twelve-minute scrimmage. The Central Catholic offense stifled the Edison defense with two touchdowns. On the other side of the ball Central Head Coach, Mike Santiago got a first look at his team's defense, who held the Bears to minimal gains.

During the 20-minute rain delay, the energy from both teams could be felt in each of their respective locker rooms. Edison's, Coach Monreal and Coach Santiago from Central Catholic both shared laughs, showing their competitive spirit.



The two coaches have met with their teams for the past three seasons in scrimmages. "Coach Monreal has been great to me," said Santiago.



"He's been there a while, [at Edison HS] and he does a great job with them. He's always positive, and he's just fun to be around."

Watching his players practice on Monday afternoon in three-digit temperatures, Coach Santiago said that his young team is exciting and that they work hard and want to be coached.

Coach Santiago, now in his third year at Central Catholic, said the most important thing about the season is having fun, and growing the guys not only as football players but as young men.



Santiago said he thinks his young players may not know how good they can be, but neither does anybody else, so he thinks they have a chance to surprise some people this season.

"For these young men to give me the opportunity to coach them, I'm just happy to be here," said Santiago.

After being away for three years and contemplating retiring, Santiago said that having the chance to come back to be able to coach and mentor his team, gave him relevancy again.

Central Catholic hopes to continue their rich tradition of successful football in their home opener at Benson Field against San Antonio Christian.



Coach Santiago said that the environment against San Antonio Christian would be like a college atmosphere with tailgating and all the fanfare that comes with it.

“When I first came here, I was shocked when I came out and saw it all,” said Coach Santiago.

“When you look at the background of this stadium, you’ve got this beautiful skyline on a Friday night, with the buildings lit up and everything, it’s a great high school environment.”



Pictured above: On August 17, Central Catholic high school made news introducing their new 40,000-square-foot Kahlig-Cowie Convocation Center, a state-of-the-art multi-use facility that includes a basketball court, prayer garden, and a new weight room.



Central Catholic will start their 2019-20 football season on Friday, August 30 at 7:30 pm.