



## Top High School Programs Meet at the Paradise Coast Sports Complex

Inaugural *Battle At The Beach* features top high school football teams from around the country, battling head-to-head under the lights in Naples, Florida

**(NAPLES)** – The inaugural *Battle At The Beach* series, Presented by Momentum Sports of Naples and Sports Force Parks, will feature prominent high school football teams from around the country facing off under the lights of the new Paradise Coast Sports Complex.

The first-year group of teams, and talent that will be on display, is about as strong as it gets on the high school football scene. The series of games over three weekends will be played at the newly built state-of-the-art Paradise Coast Sports Complex, which seats just under 5,000. Looking ahead to future years, the *Battle At The Beach* could expand to up to ten weekends during the football season.

“This idea for a series of games in Naples came with building the new sports complex,” Steve Quinn said. “Part of our agreement with Collier County is that myself and Erik Richards (National Recruiting Director, All-American Bowl on NBC) will bring in more events for the county.

“We have this incredible new venue, so what better way to use our networks in the football world to put together marquee games like these, in the brand-new stadium, and do it year after year.”

**AUGUST 21, 4:00 P.M. | Life Christian Academy Eagles vs. Godby High School Cougars**

The Cougars of Godby High School (Tallahassee, Fla.) are coming off a strong season where they made the state playoffs before bowing out in a triple overtime loss. Godby has four starters returning on the offensive line, and multiple SEC-caliber recruits across their depth chart.

“This year’s group were freshman and sophomores when I first got the job here,” said Godby Head Football Coach Brandon McCray. “So we’ve been grooming this group for this season. They can be pretty special this year, we’re excited to show people that we were thrown off last year but this year will be much different.”

Godby boasts elite three-star athlete Kajuan Banks, a South Carolina commit, who plays all across the secondary and returns kickoffs. Interior lineman Chancey Kamakea is also a three-star recruit, who is committed to Georgia State. He was the 2020 Tallahassee Quarterback Club Offensive Lineman of the Year. Three-star running back Chase Gillespie makes everything go on offense for the Cougars. He announced his commitment to Vanderbilt in August. Fellow three-star Vanderbilt commit, linebacker Bryce Cowan, is a three-sport athlete that imposes his will on opponents. Godby boasts four state titles in their history, most recently a 2012 5A title.

Life Christian (Chester, Va.) faced a shortened 2020 season due to the pandemic. The Eagles, playing a national schedule last fall, won two games and had losses to national powerhouses like IMG Academy. Life Christian is ranked in the top 150 in preseason rankings.



Life Christian's football program didn't exist before 2018. Head Coach Charles Scott has been at the helm since their inaugural season and has been steadily, consistently building the program year-over-year.

The Eagles offensive line is one of the more talented in the mid-Atlantic region of the country. Trevyon Green, a 6-foot-7, 354-pound mountain with quick feet, is a three-star recruit committed to North Carolina. Deshaun Williams is a fellow three-star lineman, uncommitted, with offers 14 offers including Maryland, West Virginia, South Carolina, Pittsburgh, and Virginia. Joshua Miller, a 6-foot-5, 315-pound 2023 recruit, possesses 13 offers including Florida State, Penn State, Texas A&M, and North Carolina. The Eagles defense boasts three-star Virginia Tech commit D'Andre Martin in the front seven, and three-star uncommitted corner Akim Sledge.

**AUGUST 28, 7:00 P.M.** | Treasure Coast High School Titans vs. American Heritage School Patriots

American Heritage (Plantation, Fla.) snapped a two-year championship drought and brought home the Florida 5A state championship last season. They finished ranked No. 20 nationally and start the 2021 season ranked No. 8.

They look to repeat as state champions with what is a loaded senior class and talented underclassmen. Defensive end Marvin Jones Jr. holds 31 offers and is ranked the No. 15 recruit nationally; Alabama, Florida State, Ohio State, and Oklahoma are at the top of his list. Cornerback Earl Little Jr. has 39 offers including Alabama, Florida, Florida State, and LSU; he's ranked No. 69 nationally. Fellow cornerback Jacoby Spence is a four-star West Virginia commit who runs a 10.8 100-meter. 2023 wide receiver Brandon Inniss is currently the consensus No. 1 wide receiver in his class and holds 36 offers. Inniss was the 2019 FBU Freshman All-American Bowl Most Valuable Player and one of the youngest athletes ever to receive an All-American Bowl on NBC invitation. Heritage's 2023 class also features four-star running back Mark Fletcher (20 offers) and four-star safety Daemon Fagan (19 offers).

Head Football Coach Patrick Surtain Sr. was awarded the 2020 High School Football America National Coach of the Year. Surtain led American Heritage to its third state championship in his five years as the school's head coach, where he's amassed a 59-6 overall record.

"We know what's at stake playing at American Heritage," Head Football Coach and former All-American Bowl on NBC coach Pat Surtain said in a recent interview. "If you don't win a state championship, it's considered a failure. Our players buy into [that mentality]. They look at the guys who came before them and they aim to continue that winning tradition every season."

American Heritage has five state titles - 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2020. Notable alumni include Patrick Surtain Jr. (Denver Broncos, No. 9 overall, 2021 NFL Draft), Brian Burns (Carolina Panthers, No. 16 overall pick, 2020 NFL Draft), Tyson Campbell (Jacksonville Jaguars, No. 33 overall pick, 2021 NFL Draft), Sony Michel (FBU, FBU Top Gun, FBU All-American, Super Bowl LIII), and Isaiah McKenzie (Buffalo Bills).



The Treasure Coast Titans (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) are coming off an historic 9-1 season where they finished in the top 50 of MaxPreps' Florida postseason rankings. They ran the table up until an overtime loss in the second round of the state championship.

Treasure Coast is led on offense by do-it-all athlete Eden James, son of Pro Football Hall of Fame running back and Immokalee/Collier County legend Edgerrin James. The younger James boasts nine offers, including Miami and Indiana. He was recently listed in the Super 11 list of the Treasure Coast's top football prospects. Class of 2022 running back Cephus Roberts Jr. is one of the offensive playmakers to keep an eye on in this matchup, as he was recently named to the ESPN West Palm Top 63.

**SEPTEMBER 4, 7:00 P.M.** | Bishop Gorman High School Gaels vs. Miami Central High School Rockets

MaxPreps ranks this primetime matchup as one of the top ten must-watch games of the high school football season.

Miami Central (Miami, Fla.) are the reigning Class 6A champs, with a 46-0 victory in the title game last December which marks back-to-back championships and the program's seventh title in the last eleven seasons. This year's Rockets program is loaded defensively, and they have the talent and staff to compete with any team nationally. They enter 2021 as the No. 15 overall program in MaxPreps' preseason rankings.

Four-star recruit Wesley Bissainthe is an elite outside linebacker ranked No. 121 overall, with 28 offers including Miami, Florida State, Penn State, Alabama, Florida, LSU, and USC. Anthony Rose is a three-star South Carolina commit who stands 6-foot-4. Three-star recruit Jaylin Marshall possesses 32 Division-1 offers and can play safety or corner. Another talented three-star, defensive back Edric Weldon, is a top-50 recruit in the state of Florida and can play anywhere in the secondary. On offense, tackle Daughtry Richardson is a 6-foot-3, 285-pound Florida State commit. In the 2023 class, defensive lineman Reuben Bain boasts 16 offers including Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Miami, and Texas. Fellow 2023 recruit Lamar Seymore is a three-star Miami commit at wide receiver.

"We always try to get the team battle-tested throughout the season, so we play a daunting schedule year-in year-out," said head coach Roland Smith. "[We're] ready to show what South Florida football is about and what Miami Central Football is about. We're a marquee name on the schedule for everybody because of what we've done in the past ... that's a testament to these kids and what they're trying to accomplish."

Notable Miami Central football alumni include Willis McGahee, Dalvin Cook, Devonta Freeman, and Amari Daniels (FBU Freshman All-American, FBU National Championship Team South Florida).

Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, Nev.) has 17 Nevada state championships, and a three-peat of National Championships between 2014-2016. The Gaels only played two games in 2020 (during the spring) due to the pandemic.



Their most recent season, 2019, saw them finish 11-2 with a loss in the state title. Bishop Gorman is the preseason No. 12 team in the nation. They are seeking their 12th state title since 2007.

Head Football Coach Brent Browner will get his first full season under his belt after leading Gorman during their two games this spring. He coached the defensive backs during Gorman's two most recent state championships. Browner is a longtime Football University Coach, and has been part of All-American Bowl on NBC and FBU Freshman All-American Bowl coaching staffs.

"[I'm] gratefully excited about the opportunity to put my own stamp on this program," Browner said of being named Gorman's head coach. "We didn't get as much time as we wanted [in the spring] because we only played two games, but we're glad to have gotten what we did. We learned a lot about our young players, so we can see what the future might hold for them.

"We're really looking forward to this season getting started."

Gorman's talent is noteworthy - some are calling this the most talented Gorman team in years. Defensive end Cyrus Moss is the No. 25 recruit nationally with offers from 29 programs. Defensive back Zion Branch is ranked No. 49 nationally and possesses 43 Division-1 offers. Four-star Fabian Ross is a top-150 recruit nationally and is committed to USC. The offense features a pair of Division-1 running backs Jaydn Ott (Cal) and Cam Barfield (Coston College). Offensive tackle Jake Taylor is a four-star ranked No. 15 at his position, committed to play for Oklahoma. The talent in 2023 is just as notable. Wide receiver Zachariah Branch is a speedy 2023 four-star with 20 offers who ran a 10.3 100-meter this spring. Defensive back Justyn Rhett is a 2023 four-star with 17 offers including Alabama, Georgia, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, and USC.

Each game will be streamed live through our national broadcast affiliate, FloSports. Tickets are open to the public.

For more information visit: [sportsforceparksnaples.com/clubhouse/battle-at-the-beach](https://sportsforceparksnaples.com/clubhouse/battle-at-the-beach), or contact [squinn@footballuniversity.org](mailto:squinn@footballuniversity.org) or [erichards@footballuniversity.org](mailto:erichards@footballuniversity.org).