

# Opening of football season 2021 -2022

falling all over themselves. The Dragons are 3-0, playing inspired ball with a host of superb athletes, some generating scholarship attention at top universities. The Dragons are ranked No. 11 by The Bee, heading in a Capital Athletic League opener on Saturday against No. 12 Christian Brothers.

"We have a lot to play for," Reber said. "We want people to see it and to have a seat."

9/12/21

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# PREP FOOTBALL

plays terrific defense and has offensive balance. This would rank as the biggest home nonleague win for Lincoln in many years.

**Bee picks:** JoeD: EG 21-20; Patrick: Lincoln 28-14; Salerno: EG 28-17

**No. 12 Christian Brothers (2-1) at No. 11 Sacramento (3-0)**

**When:** Saturday, 1 p.m.

**Outlook:** Which CB team will show up, the one that shut out a talented Sheldon team in the second half or the one that got boat raced 44-0 to

Jesuit? A healthy D.J. Crowther at RB will help CB as the senior star has been slowed by a bad ankle. The Dragons are balanced, athletic and superbly coached, and they entertain their lawn-chair packing fans with good football.

**Bee picks:** JoeD: Sac 35-31; Patrick: Sac 35-28; Salerno: Sac 35-21

**No. 17 Antelope (3-0) at No. 16 Yuba City (2-1)**

**When:** Friday, 7:15 p.m.

**Outlook:** The deep Capital Valley Conference features these contenders

9/16/21

# Sacramento High powers past Christian Brothers

BY NADIA SABBAGHIAN  
Special to The Bee

Sacramento High improved to 4-0 Saturday afternoon, taking a 39-34 win over rival Christian Brothers in an intense, see-saw battle that should lift the Dragons in The Bee's Top 25 rankings.

Lamar Radcliffe led the ground attack for Sacramento, rushing for 356 yards and three touchdowns.

"My linemen were blocking good," Radcliffe said. "I'm just looking through the holes, reading the field."

There were plenty of holes for the Dragons to choose from. No. 2 running back Keimari Benjamin also had a pair running touchdowns as the one-two punch accounted for almost all of Sacramento's offense.

But it was Christian Brothers that scored first, on the first possession of the game. Quarterback Jake Elorduy threw over 50 yards to 6-foot-1 receiver Jayden Nero, who hauled in the opening score.

The Dragons responded on their next drive, with Radcliffe running for a 20-yard touchdown. He was just getting warmed up. Per usual.

"We come out slow typically every game, we got to learn to practice better so hopefully that will make us come out fast," Sacramento coach Justin Reber said. "Our kids play better when they are behind. We try to be balanced, but we knew that we had an edge on the running game. We knew that our two running backs, Lamar and Keimari were a little too much of a load for them for four quarters."

The Dragons have started the season on a tear, beating small-

SEE DRAGONS, 4B



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# DRAGONS

er schools in the Stockton area to go to 3-0 before facing Christian Brothers. The Dragons allowed just five touchdowns in the first three games of the year as Sacramento continues to be a very dangerous team on defense.

Sacramento led the state in interceptions this past spring season, and the Dragons are among the best again this fall. They had six interceptions enter-

ing Saturday afternoon's game, with five different players picking off passes.

And the Dragons are doing it with youth. The top running back, Radcliffe, is only a sophomore. The only defender with two interceptions, Damarion Taylor, is also a sophomore. Quarterback Naaman Branyan is a relative old man as a junior; he's averaging over 200 yards a game passing. Amarion

Sanders is the lone senior to lead the Dragons in a statistical category, with three sacks entering Saturday's game.

Christian Brothers struggled a bit entering Saturday's game. The Falcons offense lost most of its punch with star running back D.J. Crowther missing the past two games because of an injury. Christian Brothers faces a stern test this week against Capital Christian before the schedule softens up a bit as Capital Athletic League play goes into full swing.