

SFV Invitational Tournament History (2005 - 2016)

The **San Fernando Valley Invitational Tournament** made its debut in December of 2005 under the direction of Dick Dornan (Tournament Director) with the assistance from Kevin Kanemura (Head Coach- Kennedy) and Tray Meeks (Head Coach- Alemany). Since then, it has quickly evolved into one of the elite tournaments in all of Southern California.

Over the last **12 years**, there have been **90** different schools that have played in the tournament since its inception, including one each from San Diego, Fresno, Nevada, Utah and as far away as Australia and two from Canada. A total of **55 CIF Southern Section** and **28 CIF LA City Section** schools make up the balance.

20-plus WIN club: **Crespi** has the most tournament wins with **41** followed by **Alemany** with 31, **Crescenta Valley** (29), **Granada Hills** (26), **Knight** (26), **Grant** (22), and **Kennedy** (21). **Hart, Notre Dame** and **LA University** each have won 20.

Crespi .759 (41-13) owns the tournament's best winning percentage (20 or more wins to qualify) followed by **Hart .690** (20-9), **Crescenta Valley .674** (29-14), **Notre Dame .667** (20-10), **Alemany .633** (31-18), **Knight .605** (26-17), and **Granada Hills .531** (26-23).

There have been nine different champions and one multiple winner thus far: **Notre Dame** (2005), **Knight** (2006), **Palisades** (2007), **Reseda** (2008), **Golden Valley** (2009), **Crespi** (2010, 2011, 2013, 2015), **Oak Park** (2012), **Cathedral** (2014), and **Wasatch Academy**, Utah (2016).

Including the upcoming 2017 SFV Tournament, **Kennedy** is the only team to have participated every year since the beginning in 2005.

Yearly summaries:

2005-

The inaugural tournament consisted of 24 schools with 16 teams playing four games and eight teams earning a fifth game. The host schools included **Kennedy, Alemany and Crespi**. The championship "**Final Four**" was held at Crespi and consisted of **Notre Dame, Oak Park, Chatsworth and Moorpark**. Notre Dame won the Kennedy Regional, Oak Park won the Crespi Regional, Chatsworth won the Alemany Regional and Moorpark earned the at-large bid.

In the semi-finals, Notre Dame defeated Moorpark, 71-53, while Oak Park knocked off Chatsworth, 71-55. In a thrilling championship game before a capacity crowd at Crespi, **Notre Dame** narrowly beat Oak Park, 48-47, in the last few seconds. The Knights entered the start of the fourth quarter down 37-33. They trailed by six points with two minutes left

but were able to pull it out in exciting fashion. Notre Dame won the first annual SFV Tournament and continued to have an outstanding season finishing with a record of 18-11.

Notre Dame junior forward **Pierce Brooks** was named the **Most Valuable Player** of the tournament. Brooks had team-highs of 16 points and six rebounds in the final. The Eagles, led by future Princeton standout Kareem Maddox, had a great season as well and finished at 24-6.

In the third place game, Chatsworth (18-5) easily defeated Moorpark (9-18), 85-62. In the consolation championship, **Knight** (10-17) beat Golden League rival, Quartz Hill, 56-54.

Side note- In a blistering display of sharp shooting, senior guard **Robert Valentine** of **Kennedy** set tournament records for the following which still stand today. His records were accomplished over four games, not in the current five game configuration:

Most Points Scored, Individual Game = (46 pts) '05 vs. Notre Dame in an 89-74 loss.

Total Points Scored, Tournament = (142 pts) '05

Highest Tournament Scoring Average = (35.5 ppg) '05

Most 3 Point Baskets Made, Individual Game = (10) '05 vs. Notre Dame

Most 3 Point Baskets Made, Tournament = (24) '05

2006-

The second annual SFV Tournament expanded to a mega 32-team field and welcomed **Crescenta Valley** as the fourth host school. Each team was guaranteed five games and the tourney was divided into four regionals similar to the current NCAA format. The four regional winners would advance to the "Final Four". The championship "**Final Four**" was held at Kennedy and consisted of **Knight, Hart, Chatsworth and Cleveland**. Knight won the Alemany Regional, Hart won the Kennedy Regional, Chatsworth won the Crespi Regional and Cleveland won the Crescenta Valley Regional.

In the semi-finals, Knight defeated Cleveland, 61-47, while Hart beat Chatsworth, 73-67. Knight, SFV consolation champions from the year before, was prepared to take the next step this season. A deep, talented **Knight** team beat a tough, determined Hart squad, 60-45, to claim the title.

Led by senior point guard and tournament **MVP Robert Brown** and current Indiana Pacer Paul George, Knight jumped out to a 17-4 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back in the convincing win over Hart. Brown finished with a team-high 17 points on

8 of 9 shooting to lead the way. The Hawks finished the season with an outstanding 24-4 record. The Indians had a solid season and finished 21-7.

In the third place game, Cleveland (13-13) defeated West Valley League arch-rival Chatsworth (20-8), 54-37. In the consolation championship, **Grant** (17-10) beat LA University, 73-46.

2007-

The third annual SFV Tournament brought in **Granada Hills** as the fourth host after Crescenta Valley stepped aside to continue their own tournament. The championship “**Final Four**” was held at Alemany and consisted of **Palisades, Beverly Hills, Monroe and Hart**. Palisades won the Granada Hills Regional, Beverly Hills won the Crespi Regional, Monroe won the Alemany Regional and Hart won the Kennedy Regional.

In the semi-finals, Palisades defeated Hart, 64-47, while surprising Beverly Hills knocked off dark horse Monroe, 67-55. **Palisades**, one of the top teams in the LA City, won the championship by beating Beverly Hills, 56-44. Palisades’ senior forward **Irvin Kintaudi** had a great tournament and garnered the **MVP** award. In the championship game, Kintaudi had game-highs of 16 points and nine rebounds. The Dolphins finished with an overall record of 24-7 on the season. The Normans struggled in at 11-16.

In the third place game, Hart (19-9) defeated Monroe (12-14), 41-36. In the consolation championship, **Birmingham** (11-12) beat Chaminade, 54-49.

2008-

The fourth annual SFV Tournament came down to the wire in the championship game at Crespi. The championship “**Final Four**” consisted of **Reseda, Hart, Golden Valley and Canyon** (the latter three hailing from the tough Foothill league). Reseda won the Crespi Regional, Hart won the Granada Hills Regional, Golden Valley won the Alemany Regional and Canyon won the Kennedy Regional. Hart was making its third consecutive appearance in the “Final Four”.

In the semi-finals, Reseda defeated a valiant Canyon squad, 68-54, while Hart beat league-rival Golden Valley, 63-60. It was the first of four meetings on the season between the two teams. They split 2-2. Hart advanced to its second SFV championship appearance in three years.

As fate would have it, Reseda and Hart played another classic championship game at Crespi with **Reseda** winning the title at the buzzer, 69-68. Trailing 68-67 with four seconds left, Reseda inbounded the ball under the Hart basket and scored on a layup as time ran out.

The Regents parlayed their victory into a successful 24-7 season. The Indians finished their stellar season at 21-9.

Reseda senior point guard **Randall Harris** was the unanimous choice as **Tournament MVP**. His floor leadership and uncanny ability to distribute the ball to open teammates earned him the honor. Against Hart, Harris scored only three points but his game-high 10 assists were timely and monumental. Hart captured their second runner-up trophy ('06, '08) in addition to a third place finish in 2007.

In the third place game, Golden Valley (27-4) defeated league-foe Canyon (8-19), 70-65. In the consolation championship, **Chaminade** (20-13) beat Burroughs of Burbank, 48-39.

2009-

The fifth annual SFV Tournament presented four talented teams that made their way to the "Final Four" at Kennedy. The championship "**Final Four**" consisted of **Golden Valley, Burbank, Notre Dame and LA Jordan**. Golden Valley won the Granada Hills Regional to reach back to back "Final Fours", Burbank won the Alemany Regional, Notre Dame won the Kennedy Regional and LA Jordan won the Crespi Regional. Burbank denied Hart of a fourth consecutive "Final Four" appearance with a convincing 61-33 win in the regional final.

In the semi-finals, Golden Valley defeated LA Jordan, 75-60, while Burbank beat Notre Dame, 62-55. In a high scoring affair, **Golden Valley** prevailed as champions of the tournament with an inspirational 80-70 victory over Burbank. The Grizzlies were playing with heavy hearts as their teammate, Eric Gould, was recuperating from a serious car crash.

Trailing by eight points early in the game and 34-33 at the half, Golden Valley dominated the second half en route to the title behind the strong play of 6' 8" senior forward **Trevor Wiseman**. All he did was score a game-high 21 points, grab seven rebounds and hand out five assists. His accolades earned him the Tournament's **Most Valuable Player**.

The Grizzlies had a phenomenal season as they finished 24-6. Golden Valley took third place in 2008 and now a championship in 2009. Their two year run netted them a startling 51-10 overall record. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs had their best season in 43 years by completing a highly successful 23-9 campaign.

In the third place game, Notre Dame (18-15) defeated LA Jordan (18-10), 64-43. In the consolation championship, **Lancaster** (16-12) beat Palisades, 73-67. Lancaster lost their opening first round game, 72-71, to eventual champion Golden Valley but bounced back to win four straight games.

2010-

The sixth annual SFV Tournament featured 15 teams who reached the quarterfinals or farther of their respective playoffs in 2010, including three section champions. It also included eight schools that reached the quarterfinals or farther in the 2011 post-season, including two CIF champions and one LA CITY runner-up.

The “**Final Four**” was highlighted by four teams that went on to win a combined 85 games this season, including a CIF Champion (**Sierra Canyon**), two CIF semi-finalists (**Crespi and Alemany**) and **Corona Santiago**. Two host schools, Crespi and Alemany, won their respective regionals while Sierra Canyon won the Kennedy Regional and Corona Santiago won the Granada Hills Regional.

In the semi-finals, Crespi played a near-perfect game in defeating Sierra Canyon, 71-41, while Alemany knocked off Corona Santiago, 74-64, to set-up an all-Mission League final. It was the first championship game appearance for the Celts and Warriors. In a very exciting first 16 minutes of action, Crespi led 34-30 at halftime on the Warriors home floor.

But **Crespi** imposed its will in the second half outscoring Alemany 21-11 in the third quarter and 23-12 in the fourth quarter to win their first-ever SFV Championship, 78-53. The Celts had an amazing five-game run in the tournament outscoring its opposition by an average margin of victory of 33.6 ppg and scoring 74.8 per outing.

It was the most dominating performance by a team in the six years of the tournament. Crespi went on to have a very successful season at 24-9 while league-foe Alemany finished with a great year as well at 20-11. The two teams split their meetings during Mission League play.

Tournament Most Valuable Player, Matt Mounier, scored 24 points in the championship game on 12 of 12 free throw shooting. He also contributed six rebounds, three assists and three steals. For the tournament, he averaged 18.6 ppg including 23 ppg in the “Final Four”.

In the third place game, Corona Santiago (14-14) prevailed by upsetting Sierra Canyon in a thrilling finish, 49-48. The Trailblazers (27-6) had a chance for the win but a 10-foot jumper at the buzzer narrowly missed. In the consolation championship, **Orange Lutheran** (27-7) bounced back from being upset in the first round to defeat Antelope Valley, 68-54. The Lancers went on to win their first-ever CIF Championship in March.

2011-

The 2011 SFV Tournament might have been the deepest field of teams yet. By the conclusion of the 2012 season, eight of the teams were league champions (Alemany, Crenshaw, Grant, Kennedy, Milken, Oak Park, Panorama, West Ranch). Alemany went on to

claim CIF, So Cal and State championships en route to the school's greatest season ever. Terry Fox was crowned champions of the Division III provincial in Vancouver, Canada.

Grant (City runner-up), Oak Park (CIF runner-up), Ribet Academy (CIF runner-up), Crenshaw (City semifinals), Crespi (CIF semifinals), Chatsworth (CITY quarterfinals), Granada Hills (CITY semifinals), Crescenta Valley (CIF semifinals), West Ranch (CIF quarterfinals) and Kennedy (CITY quarterfinals) all had outstanding seasons.

The "**Final Four**" consisted of **Crespi** (Crespi Region champion), **Alemany** (Alemany Region champion), **Morningside** (Kennedy Region champion) and **Ribet Academy** (Granada Hills Region champion).

Crespi became the first team to repeat as champions by virtue of its 64-59 victory over Alemany in a finals rematch of a year ago between the Mission League rivals. It marked the Celts 11th consecutive win spanning the last three SFV Tournaments.

Tournament MVP London Perrantes (Virginia-commit) scored 17 points to lead Crespi to its second consecutive SFV Tournament title. All-Tournament Michael Avery (18 points) connected on a perfect 11-for-11 free throw shooting for the Celts, including eight in a row in the fourth quarter.

Trailing 24-21 at the half, Crespi rallied behind a 19-point third quarter to take a 40-35 lead against the Warriors into the final period. The Celts opened a 49-42 advantage when Carter Gallo (12 points) nailed a three-pointer to extend the lead to 52-42 with 4:22 remaining. Alemany closed to within three at 58-55 with 36 seconds left, but Avery converted six free throws down the stretch to seal the win for Crespi.

Alemany received 20 points from Nevada-commit and all-tournament selection Marqueze Coleman and 13 from Jerico Richardson.

Crespi finished a fantastic season at 24-8 while Alemany ran the table to its first ever CIF and State championships and a 33-4 overall record. Crespi and Alemany split their two league meetings. The Warriors would end up sharing the Mission League title.

Morningside (12-17) took third place with a 75-49 win against Ribet Academy (21-11). In the consolation championship, **Westlake** (19-11) claimed the title with a 65-44 win against Terry Fox of Vancouver, Canada.

2012-

The eighth annual SFV Invitational Tournament welcomed a new champion to the roost as well as two new contenders to the Final Four. Three of the Final Four teams advanced to the semifinals or farther in their respective postseasons. Once again, the SFV Tournament

proved to be a competitive field of basketball teams with many of the participants having excellent seasons.

There were six league champions that came out of the tournament including two that reached a postseason final (Kennedy- City Div. II, LA Poly- City Div. III), four others that made the semifinals (Oak Park, Crescenta Valley, Crespi, Chatsworth) and three to the quarterfinals (Granada Hills, Grant, Camarillo).

The “**Final Four**” consisted of **Aleman**y, who was making its third consecutive appearance in the tournament’s semifinals, **Oak Park** (making its first appearance since the inaugural 2005 tourney), and newcomers **Crescenta Valley**, and City upstart **Kennedy**.

Oak Park knocked off Aleman, 63-60, in the first semifinal. The Warriors were searching for their first SFV title after succumbing to rival Crespi the previous two years in the championship game. In the second semifinal, Crescenta Valley defeated Kennedy, 70-56, to earn its first spot in the finale.

In one of the most exciting SFV title games in the eight-year history, **Oak Park** prevailed, 55-53, over Crescenta Valley in a back-and-forth thriller. **Tournament MVP Ron Lee** of Oak Park scored 26 points against the Falcons to lead his team to the tournament championship. The day before saw Lee score 24 points in the victory versus Aleman.

It was a shooting clinic at Crespi as both Oak Park and Crescenta Valley combined to make 10 three-pointers. All-Tournament selection Cole Currie led CV with 23 points.

Aleman won the third place game with a 62-37 win against Kennedy. **Notre Dame** was deemed consolation champions after their 75-66 win over Camarillo.

Kennedy (27-8) had an outstanding season as the Cougars won their third consecutive Valley Mission League title en route to the City Division II championship game where they lost in the finals. Oak Park (27-4) and Crescenta Valley (23-9) each reached the CIF semifinals of their respective divisions.

2013-

The ninth annual San Fernando Valley Invitational Tournament featured Mission League rivals **Crespi** and **Aleman**y squaring off for a third time in the championship final. The Celts prevailed again to win their third SFV championship in four years with a 70-58 victory over the Warriors.

The “**Final Four**” was a treat to watch for the fans that made the short trip to John F. Kennedy High School. In the first of two amazing semifinals, **Crespi** defeated **Crescenta Valley**, 65-63, while **Aleman**y outlasted **Canyon** in overtime, 82-80, in two thrilling games.

Sophomore **Max Heidegger** of Crespi scored 22 of his 34 points in the first half of the championship tilt as he lit up the Kennedy gym with rain-dropping swishes. Heidegger's unconscious shooting staked Crespi to a 14-point halftime lead, 40-26. Alemany rallied behind Gary Chivichyan who scored 18 points but the Celts defense prevailed down the stretch. Heidegger was named the tournament's **Most Valuable Player**. D.J. Ursery ended with 14 points and De'Anthony Melton added 12 points for the Celts.

In the third place game, **Canyon** held off Crescenta Valley, 62-60, in another classic contest.

The 2013-14 season saw Final Four participants Crespi finish 19-11 overall, Alemany 21-10, Canyon 24-7, and Crescenta Valley (league champion) at 20-9. In addition, Westlake (league champion) reached the CIF Division 2AA finals; Canyon the 2AA semifinals; Granada Hills the City Division 2 semifinals and Grant the City Division 3 semifinals. Camarillo and Quartz Hill were also league champions.

2014-

The **10th annual SFV Invitational Tournament** (*10 Years of Basketball Excellence!*) welcomed 20 teams with a deep playing field. Four elite private Catholic schools made the Final Four, three of which hail from the powerful Mission League (**Crespi, Alemany, Chaminade**) with **Cathedral** being the fourth school out of the strong Del Rey League.

In the semifinals, Chaminade ended Crespi's chance of another SFV title with a 64-53 victory. Meanwhile, Cathedral broke open a close game en route to a 77-67 win against host Alemany. UCLA-commit Kobe Paras scored 30 points to lead the Phantoms into the finals.

The third place game pitted rivals Crespi and Alemany who played one another for the fourth time in five years in the SFV Tournament. The previous three meetings were in the SFV Finals won by Crespi ('10, '11, '13). **Alemany** prevailed in a close contest, 63-52.

Cathedral and **Chaminade** met for the SFV Championship and it became an instant classic. Before a fantastic and enthusiastic crowd, the Phantoms won the title, 65-63, when guard Milan Acquah (17 points) drilled a three-pointer from the top of the key with two seconds left in dramatic style.

Despite the heroics of Tournament **Most Valuable Player Michael Oguine** of Chaminade, the Eagles fell just short of their first SFV tournament title. Oguine scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Eagles who trailed 42-26 early in the third quarter.

Chaminade responded with a remarkable 31-6 run to take a 57-48 lead with less than five minutes to play. The Eagles led 63-58 with a little more than two minutes remaining before Cathedral mounted its championship comeback outscoring Chaminade, 7-0, to close out the game.

Oguine averaged 29.2 ppg during the tournament, the third best mark ever. He scored 45 points in a thrilling 77-74 win against Village Christian.

USC-commit Bennie Boatwright led Village Christian to a fifth place finish with a 72-56 win over Crescenta Valley.

Boatwright set two tournament records: most points in a game (50 vs. Saugus) and total points in the tournament (167- five games) breaking the marks of Robert Valentine (Kennedy) who had scored 46 points and 142 total points (four games) back in 2005. Boatwright averaged 33.4 ppg, second best ever. Valentine's 35.5 ppg is still a tournament record.

2015-

The **11th annual SFV Invitational Tournament** witnessed **Crespi** become a four-time champion as they rolled to another championship. The Celts defeated **Village Christian** in the final, 69-61, and in the process went 5-0 winning by an average margin of 28.2 points per game. Crespi won its fourth title in the past six years of the tournament and improved to 41-13 overall during the 11-year history of the tournament.

Tournament MVP and USC-commit **De' Anthony Melton** put on a show on both ends of the court with his tremendous athletic ability, defensive prowess and court intelligence.

Crespi led 61-57 before Melton (23 points) converted a pair of free throws with 3:02 left in the fourth quarter. Mitch Mykhaylov (19 points) added a layup and Melton pushed the lead back to 10 with a face-up jumper. The Celts cemented the victory with a late 8-1 run.

Village Christian rallied from a 17-point fourth quarter deficit led by Issac Etter who scored 11 of his game-high 25 points in the final stanza.

The semifinals featured a showdown with Crespi and surprise up-start Trinity Classical Academy who gave the Celts all they could handle in a 69-55 loss. Meanwhile, the Crusaders held off a determined **Saugus** squad in a tight 74-65 victory.

Trinity Classical Academy pulled off the shocker of the tournament by taking third place with a thrilling 55-54 win over Saugus.

Crespi's tournament championship was a preview to come as the Celts posted the greatest season in program history winning a CIF State Division I title and its second consecutive State title (Division IV in 2015).

The Celts won a program-record 33 games and only suffered four defeats during their magical season. **Crespi** finished ranked #3 in the State behind #1 Chino Hills and #2 Bishop Montgomery.

2016-

The **12th annual** SFV tournament was renamed the **Ed Baker San Fernando Valley Invitational Tournament** in honor of the late Ed Baker who passed away earlier in the year. Ed was an official for more than 30 years as well as the Unit Assigner for the San Fernando Valley. More importantly, he was a friend to us all and a huge supporter of this tournament since its inception in 2005.

The tournament crowned its ninth different champion as **Wasatch Academy** of Mt. Pleasant, Utah, won the 2016 championship with a 68-54 victory over **Village Christian**. **Tournament MVP Josip Vrankic** scored 18 points to lead four Tigers who scored in double figures. Wasatch Academy led 32-20 at halftime before the Crusaders mounted a comeback cutting the deficit to six points in the third quarter.

An 8-0 run extended the Tigers' lead where they regained control of the contest and never let up. Eight three-pointers helped Wasatch Academy to the 14-point triumph. Emmanuel Akot scored 17 points to join Vrankic on the All-Tournament team.

Village Christian was led by All-Tournament selections Jalen Riley with 21 points and Elijah Scranton who added 15 points.

In the third-place game, **Crescenta Valley** defeated Viewpoint, 60-51. Trey Ballard was named to the all-tournament team for the Falcons.

2017-