

Cream of the Crop

Prep talent pool made cut to Top 20 quite difficult

► PREPS, from Sports 1

he can run and he's not afraid to hit."

Van Muijen was asked to walk on at USC, the premier football program in the land — with apologies to Florida and Ohio State. He is compared to Justin Medlock (Mission San Jose High), the All-Pac-10 kicker from UCLA who was the Crop's 13th-ranked player in 2002. But the Crop wasn't as deep that year.

Borel caught the eye of a lot of coaches recruiting the East Bay.

"Very intriguing athlete," said a Pac-10 assistant. "He does some things, but I don't know where you'd play him. Wide receiver?"

Borel has committed to Utah State, which he said will try him at quarterback. But he hasn't ruled out San Jose State.

There are more players who were tough to cut, more players who would have made the top 20 in a normal year. They include Fremont fullback Dwayne Jones, De La Salle linebacker Albert Rosette and McClymonds running back Ishman Anderson.

This is a balanced class — 10 players on offense, 10 on defense. Every position was represented except kicker and tight end.

Three schools are being represented for the first time — San Lorenzo (WR Mike Calvin), Wilson Prep (CB DeAndre West) and Irvington (CB Robert Turbin).

Best is the first Cream of the Crop selection from Salesian since Madison Burfict in 1992. Burfict, a wide receiver, also went to Cal, but his career was cut short by injury.

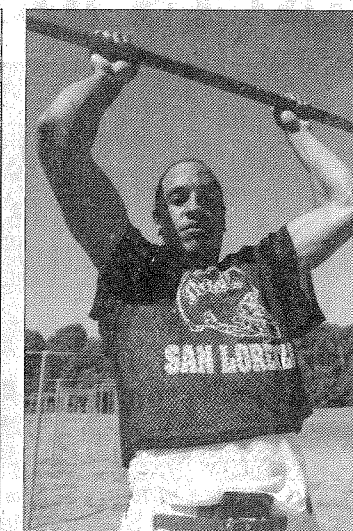
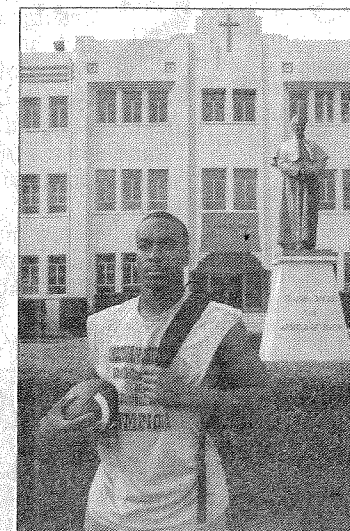
In another interesting twist, Salesian coach Chad Nightingale was a Cream of the Crop member in 1985 from Moreau Catholic. He was No. 19 and went to Cal.

And what would a silver anniversary story be without a few

TOP JUNIORS

These juniors are candidates for next year's Cream of the Crop:

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
Drew McAllister	Monte Vista	QB	6-2	190
Devin Saxon	Moreau Catholic	QB	6-0	185
Nick Spalliero	California	QB	6-2	218
Rob Andrews	Foothill	RB/LB	6-4	220
Monte Davis	Pittsburg	RB	6-0	200
Austin Day	Foothill	RB/DB	5-10	175
Jordan Ferguson	Wilson Prep	RB	5-10	185
Jordan Foley	Skyline	RB	5-10	180
Casey Guillory	Amador Valley	RB	5-9	190
Marcus Harrison	Bishop O'Dowd	RB	5-11	175
Andre Island	McClymonds	RB	5-8	165
Deante Purvis	Pinole Valley	RB	5-11	180
Chris Reece	Mt. Diablo	RB/SS	5-10	180
Jamar Smith	Berkeley	RB/CB	5-10	170
Tim Thomas	Antioch	RB	5-10	175
Jalil Turner	Mt. Diablo	RB	6-1	200
Brandon Williams	Livermore	RB	5-10	175
Brooks Baker	Acalanes	WR/CB	6-4	185
Jayson Coleman	Oakland Tech	WR/DB	5-9	165
Marcus Denhams	Moreau Catholic	WR	6-1	165
Joseph Gray	McClymonds	WR/DB	6-0	185
Chris Inman	Northgate	WR/DB	6-1	190
Jermaine Jennings	Hayward	WR	6-2	180
Jordan Norris	Skyline	WR/DB	5-10	170
Jeremy Troupe-Massey	American	WR	5-11	180
Nick Vuoto	Amador Valley	WR/DB	6-3	190
Lance White	Freedom	WR/DB	6-0	175
Jacob Andresen	Mission San Jose	TE/DE	6-4	225
Sean Brown	Albany	TE	6-3	210
Kevin Galindo	Concord	TE	6-6	230
Ashytin Lowe	McClymonds	TE/DL	6-4	210
James Aubrey	Hayward	OL/DL	6-4	275
Jordan Bouey	De La Salle	OL/DL	6-0	240
Allen Carroll	McClymonds	OL	6-5	300
Mike Cole	Washington	OL	6-2	240
David Evans	Wilson Prep	OL	6-6	265
Vince Fisher	Deer Valley	OL/DL	6-3	305
Tommy Gray	Irvington	OL	6-1	250
Gabriel Hampton	Hercules	OL	6-4	285
Gonzalo Hernandez	Freedom	OL	6-3	272
Kevin McCants	Oakland Tech	OL	6-5	350
Kyle Nelson	Piedmont	OL	6-4	260
Chris Pitts	Antioch	OL	6-6	240
Tyler Portman	San Ramon Valley	OL	6-2	225
Kyle Quinn	Liberty	OL	6-5	260
Ricky Rigosa	Wilson Prep	OL	6-4	275
Marlon Wilson	Wilson Prep	OL	6-5	260
T.J. Womack	Concord	OL	6-3	295
Rory Graves	Alhambra	DL	6-3	235
Matt Hurd	Hayward	DL	6-4	235
Roosevelt Kirk	Bishop O'Dowd	DL	6-4	225
Kevin Reed	Las Lomas	DL	6-3	210
James Robinson	Salesian	DL	6-6	315
Danny Roper	Clayton Valley	DL/OL	6-4	250
Brent Turner	McClymonds	DL	6-3	250
James Watkins	Encinal	DL	6-0	240
Brady Amack	De La Salle	LB	6-0	205
Harmon Bruno	San Ramon Valley	LB	6-1	200
Grant Hyjer	Miramonte	LB	6-0	215
Matt Levy	San Leandro	LB	6-0	190
Chris Little	Castlemont	LB/WR	6-4	215
Nick Rosato	California	LB	6-2	217
Korey Allison	Alhambra	DB	5-10	165
Dwight Armstrong	Castlemont	DB	5-10	165
Myles Crawford-Harris	Oakland Tech	DB	6-1	190
Keith Franklin	Clayton Valley	DB	5-7	165
Myles Gates	Newark Memorial	DB	6-0	170
Frederick Rice	Castro Valley	DB	5-11	165
Michael Callan	Ygnacio Valley	UTL	5-10	180
Rashad Evans	James Logan	UTL	5-11	175
Mike Lee	San Lorenzo	UTL	5-0	180



PREMIER PREPS: Salesian running back Jahvid Best and San Lorenzo receiver Mike Calvin.

2001.

► Nine No. 1 picks have made it to the NFL, with Aaron Taylor (De La Salle), Jamir Miller (El Cerrito), Amani Toomer (De La Salle) and D.J. Williams (De La Salle) being the most successful. Taylor, Miller and Toomer were consecutive No. 1 picks from 1990-92.

► Nine No. 2 picks also have played with NFL teams, and a 10th is just around the corner, as Cal running back Marshawn Lynch (Oakland Tech) is expected to be a first-round pick in the April draft.

► The best class of all-time still might be that of 1990. Six of the seven top picks played in the NFL. Taylor and Eric Bjornson (Bishop O'Dowd) had stellar careers, and Jeff Kopp (San Ramon Valley) was around for more than just a cup of coffee. This class also produced Chicago White Sox broadcaster Chris Singleton (Pinole Valley), who played outfielder in the majors for six franchises, including the Giants and the A's. Also in that class was David Shaw (James Logan), an NFL assistant for four years with the Baltimore Ravens.

A close runner-up might have

WHERE THEY WENT

What high schools Cream of the Crop members attended (from 1983-2007):

- 51—Skyline
- 50—De La Salle
- 31—McClymonds
- 22—Pittsburg
- 21—Antioch
- 19—Bishop O'Dowd
- 18—Miramonte
- 17—St. Mary's
- 15—Monte Vista
- 14—Pinole Valley
- 13—San Leandro
- 12—James Logan
- 11—Amador Valley, Berkeley, Clayton Valley, Kennedy-Richmond, San Ramon Valley
- 10—Benicia, De Anza
- 9—Fremont-Oakland, Moreau Catholic, Ygnacio Valley
- 7—Oakland Tech
- 5—Campolindo, El Cerrito, Northgate
- 4—Concord, Dublin, Foothill, Hayward, Salesian
- 3—Acalanes, Alhambra, American, Arroyo, California, Castlemont, College Park, Deer Valley, Encinal, Granada, Las Lomas, Livermore, Mt. Diablo
- 2—Castro Valley, Liberty, Piedmont, Richmond, Tennyson
- 1—Alameda, Freedom, Irvington, Kennedy-Fremont, Mission San Jose, Oakland, San Lorenzo, Washington-Fremont, Wilson Prep-Oakland

(Skyline) and Seahawks backup defensive end Joe Tafoya (Pittsburg). Their teams met in last year's Super Bowl.

► Kirk Morrison (Bishop O'Dowd) is the lowest-rated player to make an impact in the NFL. The Raiders' linebacker, now in his second NFL season, was the Crop's 18th-rated player in 2000. He went to San Diego State.

► Six No. 1 players have gone to Cal, including the last three: Best, Derrick Hill (McClymonds) and Kyle Reed (McClymonds). Notre Dame is next with three. Oregon, Miami, Arizona State, USC, Arizona and Stanford have each had two. Tennessee, Michigan, UCLA and Washington have one apiece.

► Finally, a shout-out to Colts' left tackle Tarik Glenn,

whose team will play in the Super Bowl on Sunday. The Bishop O'Dowd grad was ranked seventh in 1993 before heading to Cal. Since being drafted by the Colts in 1997, Glenn has started 154 of 160 regular-season games and all 12 postseason games in which the team has played.

Contact Mike Lefkow at mlefkow@cctimes.com.

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