

SPORTS > OC VARSITY > HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Crean Lutheran fires boys basketball coach Josh Beaty one month after winning CIF title



Crean Lutheran coach Josh Beaty has been fired, one month after he coached the Saints to a CIF championship. (Steven Georges, contributing photographer)

By **STEVE FRYER** | sfryer@scng.com | Orange County Register

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Crean Lutheran on Tuesday fired boys basketball coach Josh Beaty, who coached the Saints to a CIF-Southern Section championship last month.

Beaty said he did not see it coming. He met Tuesday with school administrators who informed him of his dismissal.

“I was told that my coaching style was not in line with their mission,” Beaty said. “I asked for specifics but I did not get any specifics.”

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As Orange County boys basketball coaches go, Beaty is among the more relaxed coaches on the sideline during games.

Crean Lutheran emailed to school parents notification of Beaty’s removal. The email included: “After much reflection and prayer, and forever in pursuit of our mission, the decision has been made to make a change to the Boys Basketball coaching staff. Coach Josh Beaty will no longer serve as head coach. This news may come as a surprise to some families as the varsity team had a successful season ... ”

Crean Lutheran athletic director Eric Olson did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

The 2017-18 season was Beaty’s fifth as Crean’s coach. The Saints finished 24-10 overall and went 12-0 in the Academy League to win the league championship.

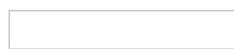
Crean Lutheran strung together a couple of upsets in the CIF-SS Division 3AA playoffs, including a double-overtime road win over state-ranked St. Anthony of Long Beach in the semifinals before beating Knight of Palmdale 62-61 in the championship game. It was the school's first CIF-SS boys basketball championship.

The Saints got their first state tournament win in a victory over Orange Glen of Escondido before losing to Murrieta Mesa in the second round of the CIF Southern California Regionals.

Beaty, 38, last week was named CIF-SS Division 3AA coach of the year, an award that usually goes to the division's championship coach. He was among the finalists for the JSerra coaching position that went to UC Riverside assistant coach Keith Wilkinson.

Beaty is a history teacher at Crean Lutheran.

Tags: [crean-lutheran-basketball](#), [OCVarsity basketball](#), [OCVarsity news](#)



Steve Fryer

Steve Fryer covers high school sports at the Orange County Register. He writes a weekly column on the county high school sports scene and also covers games and writes features. Steve also writes a weekly column that covers pro and college sports, and other topics. Steve does concert reviews for the Register, too, when time permits. Steve's first byline appeared in the Register in 1979. He was in the inaugural class inducted into the Santa Ana Unified School District Sports Hall of Fame. Steve also is in the Southern California Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, and was the first journalist to receive the Contribution to Education award from the Orange County Department of Education. Steve was honored as Champion for Character by the CIF-Southern Section.

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