

**Playing to the crowd,** David Guerrero (12) and Alexis Burnett (12) soak up their win as homecoming king and queen. The winners were announced during halftime of the varsity game. "I was super excited," Guerrero said. "I didn't know I was going to win, so it was great." PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BERBERIAN

**Carrying the rainbow flag,** Anna Mercer (11) marches with the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) during the homecoming parade. The crowd in the bleachers cheered for each club. "I became vice president of the club so it was nice to come out and have so many people watching us," Mercer said. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BERBERIAN

**Reaching beyond the boys around her,** Dylan Fregeau (10) catches the football that ECR Step threw at the homecoming pep rally. "I saw an opportunity so I just jumped up and grabbed the ball," Fregeau said. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BERBERIAN



## ALL 'FIRE'D UP

### Homecoming still plays out after a reschedule due to the Saddleridge Fire

As fireworks went off in the night sky, David Guerrero (12) and Alexis Burnett (12) were crowned homecoming king and queen Oct. 18. But had the game not been rescheduled, the sky would have been filled with a different kind of smoke. Charring over 7,500 acres, the Saddleridge fire blazed through Sylmar, Granada Hills and Porter Ranch Oct. 11, resulting in school closure. At first, homecoming coordinator Jessica Tobon (10) was unsure what that meant for the events planned that day, that evening and Saturday night. "We were all really confused," Tobon said. "Then [student council adviser Holly Kiamanesh] sent us a [message via] Remind

that everything has been canceled and we had to reschedule the game and dance." Both events had required significant planning with outside vendors, which all had to be changed last minute. From balloons and fireworks for the game to food and entertainment for the dance, Tobon had to figure out a solution. "We just had to do everything we originally planned for that day," Tobon said. "That meant also calling the catering and replanning every part." The dance was postponed over a month to Nov. 16. The game was rescheduled to the following Friday, Oct. 18, which aligned with Senior Night, in which seniors in all

participating groups are honored. It also happened to be the rivalry game against Taft Charter High School. Furthermore, the change guaranteed better air quality for everyone involved. "It didn't bother me that much," Daphne Hidley (12) said, "because it was really smoky that day which wouldn't have been that much fun for the players or the students." Despite the changes, Burnett said the event had its desired effect. "It was really sad because for the seniors it was our last game," Burnett said. "I enjoyed it and it went pretty well for rescheduling it."

STORY BY CHRISTINE BERBERIAN



**Performing at halftime,** Lexine Dorsey (12) dances to "Daddy" by Blueface. The hip-hop team participated in their first halftime performance at homecoming. "I got my center stage moment," Dorsey said. "I was a little sad that it was our last homecoming as seniors, but we gave it our all." PHOTO BY DAVID DABLO



**No filters needed,** homecoming queen nominees Rose Vasquez (12) and Allison Yan (12) pose for a selfie during halftime after the final senior court announcement. Though Vasquez and Yan did not win the title, which went to Alexis Burnett (12), they still celebrated the moment in their tiaras and sashes with each other. "The fireworks were going off, so I thought it would be really nice to have a picture together with them," Yan said. PHOTO BY DAVID DABLO

## JUST FOR THE SENIORS

With homecoming rescheduled to the same night as senior night, seniors from dance guard, band, cheer and football are praised for their commitment



**Taking a selfie with his mother** Laura Smets, Bryce Smets (12) celebrates his four years being on football. Despite a game injury, Smets walked through the arch. "Senior night was tough for me," Smets said. "I broke my collar bone first play kickoff return, but it was cool to experience with my seniors." PHOTO BY DAVID DABLO



**Shaking hands with Assistant Principal Lisa Ring,** Alexandra Kinney (12) gets acknowledged for her cheer achievements. The cheer seniors performed senior stunts where the seniors got to fly, and they wore flower crowns to celebrate the occasion. "I've always looked forward to senior night since I joined cheer," Kinney said. PHOTO BY REBECCA TAM



**Holding their senior signs,** Jordan Frawley (12) celebrates her time on dance guard and Lindsay Gonor (12) celebrates her time in band. They received posters from family and teammates. "We were both really excited and cheery," Frawley said. "You only get one senior night, and it's great." PHOTO BY AMY GHARIAL



**Jumping high to avoid his defender,** wide receiver Arcelles Johnson (12) catches a 13-yard pass from Matthew Abajian (11) for a first quarter touchdown. Johnson replaced star receiver Bryce Smets (12) after Smets sustained an injury. "I was ready to step in," Johnson said. "When it was the right time, I made a touchdown." PHOTO BY DAVID DABLO

**Dragging a Taft player behind him,** wide receiver Tyreese Conner (12) runs the ball down the field. Conner said he attributed the 56-3 win to the energy on the fields and in the stands, particularly from The House. "I felt the vibe from the audience," Conner said. "We came out with a victory and everyone came out to support." PHOTO BY DAVID DABLO

## ONE WEEK LATE, BUT RIGHT ON TIME

A day full of events came together Oct. 18 to celebrate homecoming

12:43 p.m.	7:03 p.m.	7:27 p.m.	7:31 p.m.	8:50 p.m.	9:37 p.m.
<b>PEP-RALLY:</b> Football team enters, Step and cheer performs and court is revealed	<b>PARADE:</b> Clubs, class steerings, and homecoming court circle the track	<b>Varsity Game Begins:</b> Camerata sings the National Anthem and Taft kicks off the game	<b>FIRST TOUCHDOWN:</b> Scored by Tyreese Conner (12)	<b>HALFTIME:</b> Dance guard, step, hip-hop and marching band perform. Senior court winners are announced	<b>BIG WIN:</b> Game ends with a 56-3 win, but homecoming isn't over yet

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