

# 2015 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

COVERAGE BY THE VENTURA COUNTY STAR

## St. Bonaventure goes 2 for 2

■ Seraphs win Div. 5 title a year after winning first CIF-SS crown

By Rhannon Potkey  
rpotkey@vcstar.com  
805-437-0282

IRVINE—The St. Bonaventure High softball program needed 35 years to capture its first CIF-Southern Section title.

The Seraphs only had to wait one year to win another.

Backed by a prolific offense and stellar defense, senior Cielo Meza threw a three-hitter with eight strikeouts as top-seeded

St. Bonaventure defeated Garden Grove 8-0 in the CIF-SS Division 5 title game Saturday afternoon at Deanna Manning Stadium.

"I knew in the first inning we had it won. That is how confident I am in my team," Meza said. "I didn't even cry because I already knew it was going to happen and we were going to do it. I am so happy for my team."

After winning the Division 6 title last year, St.

Bonaventure (22-7) moved up a division this year and still experienced the same thrill of victory in the end.

It's hardly a coincidence that both titles came in the two years Meza was a member of the team.

Meza's three-hitter — with two hits coming in the seventh inning — put a cap on an impressive post-season run.

The Long Beach State-bound right-hander threw a perfect game, a no-hitter and a pair of one-hitters

to help the Seraphs reach the championship. She finished with 83 total strikeouts in five games.

"I don't know what more you can say about what she's done," St. Bonaventure head coach Bill Therrien said. "If we can score three runs with her out there, we are going to win the game."

The Seraphs gave Meza more than that in the second inning alone against Garden Grove (20-12).

The Seraphs scored four



CHUCK KIRMAN/THE STAR

St. Bonaventure players celebrate after routing Garden Grove 8-0 to win the CIF-SS Division 5 championship Saturday at Deanna Manning Stadium in Irvine.

times, sparked by a lead-off single by Meza and a double by Celeste Ekman.

Angelina Flores drove

both of them home with a double to the right-center

See **SOFTBALL, 6C**

### SOFTBALL from 1C

field fence for a 2-0 lead.

After Serrina Cabral walked, Jessica Gomez hit a two-run single to right field for a 4-0 lead.

Garden Grove got its first hit off Meza in the third inning when Olivia Candelas singled up the middle. But Meza stranded the runner at third base with two strikeouts.

St. Bonaventure sophomore Kayla Garcia led off the fourth inning with a double, moved to third base on a sacrifice and scored on an error on a throw home. Gomez recorded her third RBI to give St. Bonaventure a 6-0 lead.

Garcia put the icing on the cake for St. Bonaventure with a two-run home run over the center-field fence in the top of the seventh inning for the final runs.

"That was just the perfect pitch ever," said Garcia, clutching the home run ball in her hand after the game. "It was a beautiful pitch, and if it's in the zone like that I swing the bat."

Garcia finished 3 for 3 with a double and a home run. Gomez was 2 for 4 with three RBIs. Celeste Ekman was 2 for 2 with a double as the Seraphs collected 12 hits.

"We have always been a good-hitting team, and we worked really hard the last three days knowing that once you get into the finals you are going to see better pitching," Therrien said. "The girls just came out on fire today. They



CHUCK KIRMAN/THE STAR

Kayla Garcia (center) is swarmed by teammates at home plate after she belted a two-run homer in the seventh inning during St. Bonaventure's 8-0 win over Garden Grove.

were great."

Both teams showcased some great defensive plays.

St. Bonaventure senior Julianne Abeloe made a pretty sliding catch in short center field for the final out of the fourth inning.

Garden Grove's Celeste Villagrana answered with her own great play in center field in the top of the fifth inning, crashing into the fence to rob Flores of extra bases.

Cabral, a freshman third baseman, capped the web gems in the bottom half of

the fifth by laying out for diving stab on a line drive by Candelas to end the inning.

Cabral helped St. Bonaventure secure the victory in the seventh inning, catching a short fly and throwing to first base to complete a double play.

Although some of her teammates were celebrating their second straight title, Cabral was experiencing her first CIF-SS final.

A program that waited so long for one ring suddenly has two in the span of two years.

"It's unbelievable what these girls have done," Therrien said. "I coached football for many years, but winning here is really special. These girls work hard. Not that the boys didn't, but these girls deserve everything they have earned."

#### ST. BONAVENTURE 8, GARDEN GROVE 0

CIF-SS Division 5, championship game  
St. Bonaventure 042 002 0-8 12 0  
Garden Grove 000 000 0-0 3 2

Meza and Clemons; Villagrana, Candelas (4) and Miller. W: Meza (21-5). L: Villagrana (15-8). 2B: St. Bonaventure — Ekman, Flores, Garcia. HR: St. Bonaventure — Garcia.

Records — St. Bonaventure 22-7, Garden Grove 20-12.







