

# *News from Saddleback College*

For Immediate Release

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## **Saddleback College Men's Basketball Wins State Title**

Mission Viejo, CA – The Saddleback College men's basketball team became the second straight number four seed from the south to win the California community college state championship by defeating City College of San Francisco this past Sunday at California Lutheran University. The Gauchos held off the Rams for a 63-57 win, capturing the schools' second state title in nine years.

“The tenacity of these young men is something that we can all look up to, whether we are athletes or not,” said Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College. “They knew what they wanted and put in the work needed to achieve their goals. We couldn't be more proud of what they have accomplished.”

Perry Webster was named as the tournament MVP after finishing with 19 points and seven assists in the title game. Tyler McManaman and Robert Curtis were also named to the all-tournament team.

"What an unbelievable season," said head coach Andy Ground, who has appeared in the state title game in each of his two years at the helm. "To see these guys work as hard as they did and see that hard work rewarded in this way, it's truly an amazing feeling."

The teams traded baskets and free throws for the majority of the second half, with neither team able to force its will. In the end, the Gauchos made 13-of-14 from the free-throw line to close the game.

Saddleback finishes the season at 29-5 after losing in the state title game a year ago. It was the fourth appearance in the state title game for the program.

*Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College provides quality higher education and training to the greater south Orange County community. Having served more than 500,000 students since 1968, Saddleback College offers over 300 degree and certificate programs to help students reach their personal, career, and educational goals. For more information, please visit [www.saddleback.edu](http://www.saddleback.edu).*

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