

# BURBANK LEADER

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Education

## United coronations

**Burbank, Burroughs high schools' homecoming kings, queens are crowned during a rivalry game that had the crowd hopping.**

By Rachel Kane

The stands at Memorial Field swelled Friday with fans of all ages, teens and adults alike, who were hissing, booing, cheering and shrieking before the homecoming game between Burbank and Burroughs high schools began.

By kick-off, the stadium practically buzzed before the game began, with each side's fans finding their seats and gathering together, waiting for the battle to begin on the field.

"Arf, arf, arf," Michael Alvarez, 16, barked into a small bullhorn from the Burbank High School side of the stadium, a tactic of intimidation he has been using since last year's homecoming game.

"Woof," Michael added to a passing fan wearing red and white, the scarlet colors of Burbank High School's nemesis.

Farther down the Burbank High School side of the stands was Victor Abdullatif, 17. His face and hair was painted royal blue, the colors of the Bulldogs, and he was perched atop a bench in the stands, pitching "woo-hoos" into the nippy night air.

"I feel like people feel more motivated to cheer and be spirited when people like me show lot of spirit," Victor said, blue paint caked around his hairline, a broad smile lighting across his face.

His friend, Vincent Ieraci, 18, was a former Burbank High School student and had returned to his old stomping grounds to witness the hoopla he misses in college.

"I go to Cal State University Northridge, and we don't have a football team, so it's good to come back and see these games and see these people that are so spirited and so full of spunk," Ieraci said. "I think that football spirit brings out the best in people."

But under the bleachers in the end zone, a different kind of fight erupted. Marching band members from both schools crowded around a tight circle and leaned in, their eyes open and eager at the drum battle unfolding before them.

Drummers from each school pounded their instruments in elaborate, bumping rhythms, each side trying to one-up the other before they would all take the field and face their opponent.

"That was amazing," said Burroughs student Brenda Begini, 15, after the battle ended. She wore a braided, leather headband with a few feathers on the back.

She wasn't the only Indian out that night, and far from the only person who decorated

themselves in honor of the Burroughs High School's mascot, the Indian.

J.C. Sutton, 17, and Kody Pullen, 16, stood in the dusty track on the Burroughs side of the field wearing red and white body paint from their waists to the tops of their heads.

With two other friends somewhere in the stands, they spelled out "JBHS" with their chests.

"We did this last year," J.C. said. "It takes like two hours. We went home right after school and started."

There was, however, another part of pre-game business to attend to.

Thousands of feet drummed the stands and caused a mighty rumble as the pre-game festivities, including the presentation of the homecoming court, began.

With both schools' marching bands on the field playing "Beauty and the Beast," each school's homecoming court entered the field on the backs of classic convertible cars.

Burroughs' king and queen, Royce Chang and Erica Santoyo, and their royal Burbank counterparts, Eric Blatz and Vivian Zakarian, waved to the crowd as they circled the field.

So did their respective courts: For Burbank — Dalis Hood and Elizabeth Keller; Korey Turk and Yulissa Buruca; Ian Holmes and Seyshelle Gabriel; Tigran Parvanian and Gaby Campas; and Ulises Ochoa and Stephanie Campas. And for Burroughs — Chris Smith and Nicole Pham; Jonathan Waddell and Lauren Lomban; Corey Howard and Melanie Rogers; and Shane Murphy and Stephanie Gomez-Perez.

In the end, Burroughs won, 30-20, but every fan who cheered remains a winner, Victor said.

"We don't come here to win," he said. "We come here to support our team."

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