California Lutheran University has a long-standing tradition of championship athletic teams. In 1962, just one year after the first classes were held, a football team was organized. Having adopted the moniker of Kingsmen but lacking a field to play on, the team traveled to Camarillo High School for its home games.

In 1963 Tex Schramm, general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, visited the campus seeking a site for his team’s summer camp. He made arrangements to begin the Cowboys’ training at California Lutheran College in the summer of 1963. That fall the Kingsmen were able to play their home games on Mt. Clef field, which had been readied for the Cowboys’ training camp. The Cowboys continued to train at the University until 1989.

The University’s athletic tradition reached new heights in 1971 when the Kingsmen faced off against larger universities to become the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II national football champions. To win the national championship, the Kingsmen beat Montana Tech and Westminster College in the playoffs. A celebration was staged in conjunction with the Dallas Cowboys, who won the Super Bowl in January 1972. Kingsmen Coach Robert Shoup was named NAIA Coach of the Year and Lutheran Coach of the Year. From that championship squad many players went on to professional careers.

Today CLU competes in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) and is a member of the NCAA, Division III. The move to SCIAC took place in 1990 to bring all sports into the same conference. In 1970 CLC adopted the name Regals for all women’s sports. The Kingsmen and Regals have racked up an enviable record of championships in SCIAC competition.

CLU tennis players have copped national titles in both men’s singles and doubles. The Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame, housed in the Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center, chronicles the achievements of Ventura County teams, athletes and coaches.

Baseball legends George “Sparky” Anderson and Tommy Lasorda speak at the groundbreaking of the athletics complex.

The Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame, also housed in the Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center, depicts the glorious history of CLU’s team and individual athlete accomplishments. The Ventura County Sports Hall of Fame, also housed in the Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center, chronicles the achievements of Ventura County teams, athletes and coaches.