



The Gata Data

Gators shake back against Walker, Coach O claims 100th career victory

BY: XYAN DOBARD
Gata Data Reporter

In most sports, good teams often succumb after obvious momentum shifts: first-half leads are lost, and come-from-behind victories are written in the history books. Great teams, however, can recognize when momentum shifts out of their favor and can find ways to snatch a win back from the jaws of defeat. On Friday, October 27, St. Amant did what great teams must do in times of adversity: adjust and adapt when they are facing an uphill battle. The Gators were coming off an unexpected blowout against district rival Dutchtown and now had to face a formidable Walker High. The win was a must if the Gators wanted a chance at the district title. As the momentum of the season shifted after their first loss, the Gators responded when it was paramount to defeat the visiting rival Wildcats in a barn-burning 31-28 victory.

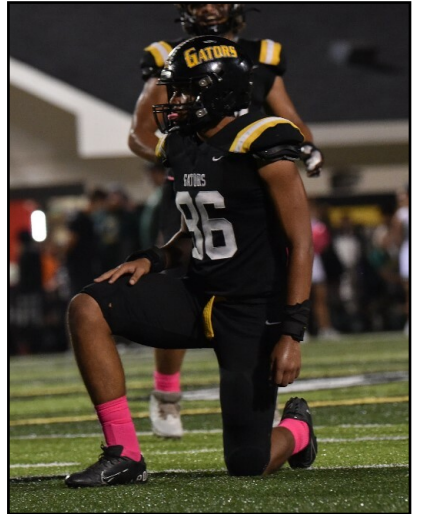
The Gators started off the first quarter with a defensive stop to start the offense off on their own 46-yard line. Attacking the run game and a few incomplete passes gave the Gators a slow start as they couldn't generate any points on the drive. The defense came right back, however, to force a three and out to set the Gators up once again. Sophomore quarterback, Cooper Babin, attempted a pass that was intercepted at the opponent's 21 yard-line. However, the Gators quickly made up for it the following drive with an interception from senior defensive lineman Kamryn Hill, who was recently named WBRZ 2 Fan's Choice Player of the Week. The strong defensive effort from both sides of the ball led to a scoreless first quarter.

The Gators marched down the field to their opponent's 33-yard line but had a field goal attempt blocked, which was recovered by Walker. The Gator's defense stood strong once again forcing a 3 and out, which led to a series of completions by Cooper Babin, which ultimately led to a 34-yard passing touchdown to Sophomore Jermichael Millien to give the Gators the first points of the game. The following drive, Cooper Babin continued to prevail against the Walker defense with another passing touchdown to Junior wide receiver Brody Kernan, to put the Gators up 14-0.

The third quarter didn't start off ideally for the Gators, as Walker returned a 73-yard punt for a touchdown. The Wildcats cut the lead down to 14-7 as they attempted to make a push for a comeback. But the Gator's defense was too much for the wildcats since the following drive, Senior Jaiyh Joseph came up with an eight-yard sack to force, once again, a three and out. The Gators continued to trust their Senior running back Kyron Craft, as he netted 36 rushing yards the following drive to set up Easton Jarreau for the 30-yard field goal. This gave St. Amant a 17-7 lead as they attempted to pull away. With one last defensive effort, the Gators Senior

defensive lineman Kamryn Hill, snagged a sack and fumble recovery to close out the third.

The final quarter got under way and Walker wasted no time responding with a 35-yard passing touchdown on the first play of the drive. This cut the lead to just 17-14 and forced the Gators on their heels. The Gators gave up a fumble the following drive, which was recovered by Walker at the Gators 15-yard line. The Wildcats followed up their big stop with another passing touchdown to give them the lead. However, Senior cornerback Ja'corey Sanders blocked the PAT to keep the lead within three. At 17-20 the Gators needed to overcome the momentum shift make a push on offense. The following drives for the Gators came up empty handed, however, things took a turn for the better with about 4:00 left in the game, as Sanders recovered a fumble at the Walker 30-yard line and returned it to the 11. This set up Craft for a rushing touchdown to return the lead to St. Amant. At 24-20 the Gators knew this wasn't the time to let up as the defense put an end to Walker for good. Following a sack for a loss of six by Jaiyh Joseph, Senior defensive lineman Koen Rock picked off a tipped pass and turned it into six points. Including the field goal from Easton Jarreau, the Gators had extended their lead to 31-20. The Wildcats managed a passing touchdown late, but it was ultimately not enough as time expired and the Gators took home the hard-fought victory with a final score of 31-28. This victory was also the 100th win for Head Coach of 16 years, David Oliver. "I was just really excited for our kids, it was a huge team win, which are the best kind," stated Oliver. The Gators close the regular season on the road at Live Oak and look to become the 2023 5A District Champions.



STAFF PHOTO BY HANNAH ROGILLIO

STA Choir moves the cinema to stage

BY: PARIS GOMEZ, REBECCA CRESIE, MARIA MELLAD
Gata Data Reporters

The stars were walking the red carpet, and the smell of popcorn was in the air at the annual A Night at the St. Amant Cinema, the most recent choir concert put on by Sara Bray and her Choir students held on October 24. The St. Amant Choir's first concert was a massive success that featured many musical numbers from much loved cinematic classics. Paired with popcorn provided by Malco Gonzales Cinema, STA's choir re-created the classic Tinseltown atmosphere for a night of celebration of cinema and music alike.

Though the Choir students made the performance look smooth, there were countless hours of work put in to put on the show. "The students get to showcase what they work for. It's such a privilege that they get to see all that the students do," Choir Director Sara Bray said. "It's like a fun exam. Getting to see an audience embrace the students and witness their hard work." All of these performances were anticipated, with each student bringing something different with varying styles and methods of performing. Senior Vanessa Weeden first joined choir during her freshman year. When asked about what most excited her for the concert she said, "I'm most excited about the senior solos. I've heard it every year, and all the seniors would go up and they'd sing and sound so amazing, and now I'm going to go up there to sing." Senior solos are anticipated by both the seniors in choir and viewers and went off without a hitch.

Some performances from the night include: "Listen" from *Dream Girls* by Kendall Woods, "A Lonely Day" from *Disturbia* by Skylar Cox and Steven Allen, and "City of Stars" from *La La Land* by Sanaia Hampton and Kevin Acosta. The show ended with a heartfelt performance by the entire choir of "You'll Be in My Heart" from *Tarzan*. "It just really hit the heart in the best way ever," said Bray. "And you can tell everybody was having really good feelings about it." Bray and the Choir look forward to yet another amazing performance this semester, their annual Christmas concert. "I just want to say thank you to everybody who came out to support us. It really helps our kids feel so appreciated for the thing they love doing most."



PHOTO BY MARIA MELLAD



Maras Bordes named STA Student of the Year

BY: MIA WEBB and BROXTON CRAWFORD
Gata Data Reporter

Maras Bordes has been chosen as St. Amant’s 2023-2024 Student of the Year. Bordes is involved in many extracurricular activities including having a title as president of the Beta Club, public relations officer of Rho Kappa, Thespian Society, the soccer team, and is one of the founders of Lady Gator Talk. “I wanted to be student of the year because I feel as though I’m a good representative of St. Amant High School and it’s such a great accomplishment and honor to be told that out of all of the 600 seniors, teachers picked you based on your hard work and dedication to the school. It feels good to represent this class as a whole,” says Bordes.

Bordes maintains a good relationship with staff and students here on campus and dedicates much of her time to not only extracurricular activities, but also to advanced placement and dual enrollment classes. After high school, she plans to attend college majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law. She hopes to follow that path to become a lawyer and to one day become a politician.

“This process of all of the interviews and essays has really helped me learn more about myself and who I am and has proved to me that I am capable of doing hard things, and it’s given me the opportunity to interview experiences and application experiences. I really do think this process will play a part in helping me achieve my goals,” says Bordes.

Bordes has received great support from faculty, family, and friends in response to her new title. Bordes says that when she heard the announcement that she had won, she experienced a rush of emotions. “All of my nerves and anxiety about it turned into relief and I initially cried. Mrs. Green actually ran around the corner of the hallway to congratulate me because she’s my best friend. She’s obviously the Teacher of the Year, and she’s my person here, so it’s great being able to share the Teacher of the Year-Student of the Year experience with her.”

Bordes is currently partaking in the interview and application process for District Student of the Year. The St. Amant Community wishes her luck in this next step.



OPINION

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce’s relationship is real, and the NFL needs to butt out

BY: MICHAEL MUMPHREY
Gata Data Reporter

Unless you’ve been living under a rock since June, you might have noticed that something has been going on between Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, and pop sensation Taylor Swift. Rumors have been circulating that the two are dating each other, and the PR teams are feeding off of them. To some people, myself included, the exploitation of their relationship is unnecessary and has, in some ways gone too far and has the potential of ruining a possibly real romantic relationship.

In case you don’t know, here’s the debrief on what’s happening. So far, 2023 has been a plentiful year for both of these celebrities. Kelce became famous earlier this year for playing at the Superbowl against his brother, Eagles center Jason Kelce, and winning. Taylor Swift is currently on her multi million dollar grossing phenomenon Eras Tour, and has been a sensation since the late 2000s. On July 8, Kelce paid Swift a visit at the Eras Tour during its Kansas City block. In an attempt to pick up the singer, Kelce made a friendship bracelet (an on trend activity at the Eras Tour) with his phone number, but failed due to Taylor needing to go on vocal rest. In the July 26th episode of the Kelce Brothers’s podcast “New Heights”, Kelce admits that he was “a little butt-hurt” about the situation. Throughout August and Early September, nothing of import happened between the two. Then, on September 21, Kelce invited Swift to their September 24th game against the Chicago Bears. She accepted, and could have been seen standing next to Kelce’s mother, Donna Kelce, and next to Travis Kelce when departing. Swift would see more of him when the Chiefs played the Jets on October 1, and again on Oct 12 to watch the Chiefs play the Broncos. On October 15, a picture surfaced of Kelce and Swift holding hands, adding air to the already blazing fire of rumors that the two were an item. Swift would go see him once more at the October 22 Chiefs-Chargers game, this time sporting a Chiefs jersey and a friendship bracelet in Kelce’s honor. One day later, an instagram photo surfaced of Swift planting a smooch on a lovestruck Kelce’s cheek.

Considering these events, it would be foolhardy to assume that the rumors about Kelce and Swift being a couple are false and that their love is genuine. Before I move on, I would like to acknowledge how shaky and rough celebrity dating can be. And I am very aware that some

celebrities can be more shallow than the Grand Canyon. Keyword SOME. But I would like to add this: Why would Travis Kelce make an effort to craft a bracelet with his phone number for nothing? Why would Taylor Swift willingly go see Kelce at his many games across the country? Swift even stated to People magazine that she wants to further their relationship. Finally, how do you explain the very obvious commitment to one another that they share? Another thing to note is that Kelce’s performance at his games have been seen as a direct relation to Taylor’s attendance. According to NBC, Kelce ran 108 yards while Taylor was present. However, he only ran 46.5 yards when she wasn’t there at the Broncos game this past Sunday, causing the Chiefs to lose the game.



This shows that Kelce and Swift’s relationship is real, and it is seen through the fact that her presence adds a fire to Kelce which causes him to take higher strides and have more confidence. Love often changes people, most of the time for the better. It can give them a new life; a cause to wake up in the morning. Ergo, the relationship between Kelce and Swift is as real and genuine as it gets.

Despite this, the NFL seems content in adding fuel to the fire, and though it may seem harmless now, it could devolve into something horribly ugly. Since the rumors began, Kelce’s jersey sales have gone up 400% according to ESPN.com. However, this does not excuse the nosy advances made from the NFL on Kelce. Shortly after the August 26 episode of “New Heights”, NFL Host Andrew Siciliano tried to

interrogate Kelce about the matter. Kelce’s response shows that he didn’t feel comfortable with responding. He along with affirming what he said, he stated that he wasn’t going to let on any more, and quipped, “I know what you writers wanna hear, and you wanna hear more about that and I’m not gonna give you anything!” Then, after Kelce made a play at the Chiefs-Jaguars game on September 17, NFL announcer Ian Eagle alluded to Swift’s 2014 chart topper “Blank Space”, quipping that “Kelce finds a blank space for the score!” Once again, Kelce shrugged it off, especially when Rich Neilson referenced more of Swift’s songs, like “Anti Hero”, a song from her most recent album “Midnights”. But they didn’t stop there. Shortly before the Jets game, NBC used yet another one of Swift’s songs, “Welcome to New York” to promote the game. At the Broncos game, Kelce and the Chiefs were made a fool of. While running off in a somewhat meltdown, they (the Broncos) played (once again!) yet another one of Swift’s 2014 chart toppers, “Shake it Off”. Taylor was not present for the game.

While, yes, it may now seem like professional teasing or workplace banter, but imagine what it could devolve to. What if the “witty” jokes referencing Swift’s discography turn into personal attacks, cancellations on social media platforms, or even something as severe as a death threat? What would it do to their individual egos? What if the pair end up throwing in the towel due to one having such a large head to the point where they’re barely recognizable? Like I said before, celebrity love is very fragile, and it isn’t helped by magazines, paparazzi, and corporations making a comment on their every single move and constantly begging for some kind of answer about the lives of people who at the end of the day are just that: people. No matter the billions of dollars one owns, love is love, and it’s a very fragile thing that can be easily broken by exploitation, dishonest gossip, and more. All of these could be individual strands on a web of lies which could cause pain, resentment, and eventually heartbreak. So, in a way, it’s not just the NFL that needs to back off, but everyone mentioned before. This includes the interviewers for the New York Times or Paparazzi who have nothing better to do than to stalk celebrities like a lion stalks its prey 24/7, because at the end of the day, they are only causing trouble and nothing more.



Dear Allie,

I need advice on how to raise my grade in one of my core classes. The semester is about to wrap up, and I am failing one of the classes I need to pass in order to graduate. I'm worried I won't be able to get a passing grade, so what advice do you have to help me out?

Sincerely,

A Stressed Student

Dear Senior,

Don't stress, you still have time to get your grade to where you want it. First, let's assess what studying tactics and behaviors you have used so far in the semester, and identify what has and has not worked for you. Make a list of things that you can do better for the rest of the semester to help keep your grade up, like being timely in turning in assignments and staying awake in class.

Now that we know what has kept your grade low, we can come up with a game plan to help raise your grade before the semester is over. I have plenty of advice to help you in and outside the classroom.

Let's start in the classroom. Attendance is key in making sure your grade is where you would like it. Being in class as much as possible for the rest of the semester allows you to get all the material you need to pass upcoming assignments. While in class, it is important to be attentive and ask questions when you have them. Take advantage of study guides, extra credit, and notes that your teachers supply you with to study while at home. Also, be aware of due dates

and test dates. This will help you be aware of what you need to prepare for and avoid the consequences of turning in assignments late.

This leads us to our next point, getting quality study time. It is easy to get caught up in other things while trying to study, so try and find a quiet space without your cell phone to decrease distractions. Come up with a study plan to make sure you prioritize what needs to be done, and take frequent brain breaks. I would suggest making a calendar with blocks of time where you can focus on studying certain subjects each day.

Missing assignments can also account for a large part of your low grade. Talk to your teacher about how you can make up for these missing assignments because it is better to have something graded instead of a zero (which can severely bog down your grade). You can also talk to your teacher about how they would suggest you improve your grade, but make sure not to wait until the last minute to ask for assistance.

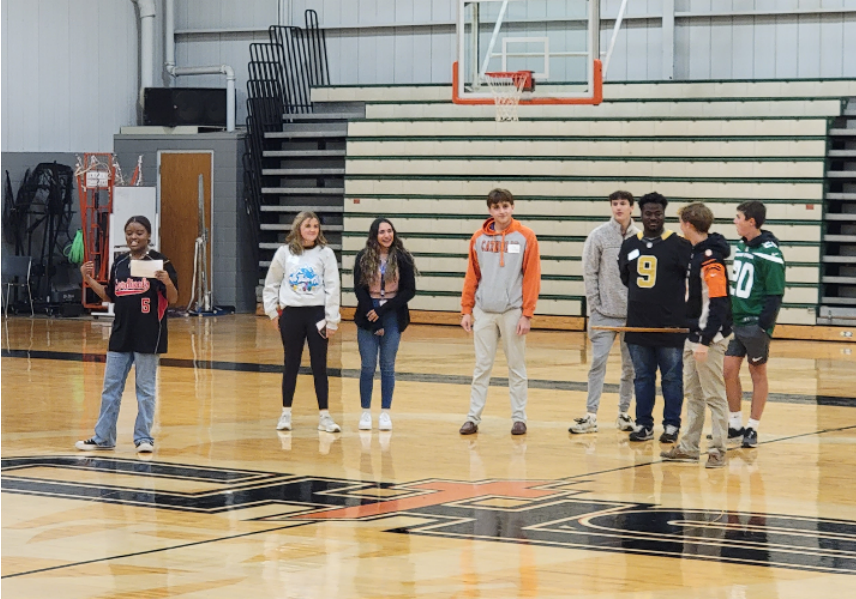
Lastly, make sure you take your final test or LEAP exam very seriously. Here at STA, your final counts for 20% of your grade and you need a passing score on the LEAP to pass the class. Start studying for the exam a week in advance, and section off material to go over each day. Get a good night of rest and eat a healthy breakfast before you take the test.

All in all, you got this! There is still time in the semester to pull that grade up if you work hard and stay determined.

Sincerely, Allie

Student Council Rally

On November 1, St. Amant High School's Student Council attended A Rally for Schools in District III. This year's theme was "Leading to Victory". The student council officers had the opportunity to meet and work along side other student council officers in the Greater Baton Rouge Area. Student Council sponsor Jannet Fuentes said. "Im proud to announce that our Gator Leaders exemplified our principles of Success Trough Actions while showing teamwork. communitv sense and commitment to each other and towards other schools members that worked with them on the activities". Senior Secretarv Keiffer Clouatre and other members of the council won the skit competition by acting out how good leadership and skills can lead to victory.



Student Council members preform their skit about how good leadership skills can help bring an team to victory.

STA Swim successful at city meet

On October 27 and 28, St. Amant’s Swim Team traveled to the Crawfish Aquatics pool for their city meet against several other Louisiana schools. The St. Amant boys swim finished 7th overall and 4th among non-select schools while the girls team finished 3rd overall and 1st among non-select schools.

With 20 out of 28 STA swim team members establishing at least one personal best. the gator swim team established a total of nine new team records. Junior Sean Baudoin set three new records in the 100 Free (52.66). 200 Free (1:52.40). and 500 Free (4:58.16) and achieved a new state qualifving time in the 100 Free. Junior Ava Ostendorf broke her own record in the 100 Breaststroke with a 1:06.23. Junior Emmv Wilkinson established three new records in the 100 Free (55.71). the 200 IM (2:13.42) and the 500 Free (5:15.59). The Girls 200 Medlev Relay consisting of Jules Haddon. Ava Ostendorf, Libbv Wilkinson. and Emmv Wilkinson swam a 1:56.88 bettering the record thev established last year. The Girls 400 Free Relay consisting of Emmv Wilkinson. Lia Ostendorf. Julia Haddon. and Libbv Wilkinson finished in a record time of 3:54.46.

Ostendorf savs that she’s recently experienced medical issues that prevented her from swimming a month prior to the city meet. She adds. “I was only able to practice four days before.” But even with these obstacles. Ostendorf continued to break her own record at the meet. She savs her favorite part about the city meet was. “After mv 100 meter breaststroke. all of mv friends came over and circled around me to celebrate.”

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At the Citv Championship Meet. the top 16 finishers score points. The Gators scoring points were: Junior Sean Baudoin (200 Free - 8th. 500 Free - 3rd). senior Amelia Crittenden (200 IM - 16th). iunior Julia Haddon (100 Flv - 11th. 100 Back - 11th). iunior Dakota Jarreau (100 Flv - 14th). iunior Ava Ostendorf (100 Breaststroke - 1st). freshman Lia Ostendorf (200 Free - 4th. 500 Free - 4th). freshman Rush Richardson (500 Free - 15th). Emmv Wilkinson (200 IM - 4th. 500 Free - 1st). iunior Libbv Wilkinson (200 IM - 5th. 100 Flv - 4th). Girls 200 Medlev Relay (Julia Haddon, Ava Ostendorf. Libbv Wilkinson. Emmv Wilkinson - 3rd). Girls 200 Free Relay (Ava Ostendorf. Kyndle Fontenot. Zoev Schulz. Lia Ostendorf - 6th). Girls 400 Free Relay (Emmv Wilkinson. Lia Ostendorf. Julia Haddon. Libbv Wilkinson - 3rd). Boys 200 Medlev Relay (Brody Clift. Ryder Latiolais. Kelan DuPont. Ian Percv - 14th). Boys 200 Free Relay (Dakota Jarreau. Rush Richardson, Benjamin Poche, Sean Baudoin -

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