The Gata Data

ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL ● 12035 HIGHWAY 431, ST. AMANT, LA 70774 ● NOVEMBER 2023

Gators defeat Live Oak, share 5A District Championship

BY: XYAN DOBARD
Gata Data Reporter

The St. Amant Gators football team took down Live Oak last Friday, on the road, to become the 2023 5A district Champions. In a three way tie between Dutchtown and Walker, the Gators came out with the highest power ranking of the three teams at fifth place.

Both teams started off the game slow as they struggled to put up any points in the first. A couple of empty possessions, caused by stuffed run attempts and incomplete passes, led to a scoreless first quarter. The Gators needed to pick things up soon to gain some momentum in their favor.

The Gator's first drive of the second was much stronger , as they began trusting their pass game. The Eagles managed a field goal early in the second but that wouldn't have much of an effect on the Gators as they answered quickly. Sophomore Cooper Babin had a series of completions to receivers Jermichael Millien as well as Timothy Johnson for a 35-yard drive. The gators ended up forced to punt, but positioned the defense to set up the following drive. After a six play drive from Eagles, the Gators referred back to their trusted pass game as Babin completed two additional passes to Millien, as well as one to Senior Luke Raffray. To cap off the drive, Sophomore running back Tyree Williams punched in the three-yard run up the middle for the first touchdown of the game. This gave the Gators the 7-3 lead as the second quarter came to a close.

The second half began with the Gators defense coming up with a stop in just 5 plays as they forced a 47-yard field goal attempt which was no good. The offense continued to complete passes until a fumble by Babin at the opponents 38-yard line. This didn't have an affect on Babin as he responded in a big way starting the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter was in the Gators favor from the beginning. Following a three and out on the first drive by the defense, Babin rushed for a 34-yard gain to kick off the quarter. Babin then completed a pass to Johnson for seven yards, and then Millien for a 15-yard touchdown. This would put the Gators up 14-3, as they were just getting started. The very next play, senior Layne Swanson grabs an interception at the opponents 41 and returns it 31 yards to the home 28. Just a few completions later, Babin completed another pass to Millien for a 13-yard touchdown. The Gators went for the 2 point conversion on a field goal which was no good, but nonetheless gave them a 20-3 lead towards the end of the fourth. To put a seal on the game for good, Swanson snagged another interception with about 50 seconds left and allowed the Gators to run the time out.

The Gators finished the season with a 9-1 record, 5th place in 5A, and the co-district champions. They will face the 28th seed Ouachita Parish, who head coach David Oliver says has "a very deceiving record". "They play, probably, the toughest district in the state… we're going to have to play good football on Friday to get to the second round."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GABBY ANN PHOTOGRAPHY

Sophomore quarterback Cooper Babin makes an athletic throw on the run.

Senior Cornerback Layne Swanson eyes the opposing team.

The Gator's defense overpowers Live Oak.

Gator Cross Country goes the distance at regionals

BY: AVERY LAMBERT
Gata Data Reporter

On Thursday November 2, St. Amant Cross Country members traveled to Highland Park to participate in Regionals. Although they didn't qualify as a team, all members worked extremely hard with many beating their personal bests.

For the Girls Varsity, sophomore Ella Willoughby qualified for state with a personal record of 18:51 and a 9th place finish, junior Isabelle Shields ran a personal record of 21:52 and finished in 44th place, sophomore Savhanna Miller ran a personal record of 22:04 and had a 46th place finish, junior Elizabeth Langston placed 72nd with a personal record of 24:45, sophomore Victoria White placed 83rd with a personal record of 26:16, and sophomore Maria Rivas placed 92nd with a personal record of 28:26.

For the Boys Varsity, senior Caleb Williams qualified for state with a personal record of 16:27 and a 18th place finish, sophomore Mark Carter placed 33rd with a personal record for Highland time of 17:14, senior Reggie King placed 66th with a season best time of 18:32, sophomore Oliver Foret placed 78th with a personal record of 19:07, sophomore Kobey Lowman placed 89th with a time of 19:57, sophomore Tristan Bailey placed 96th with a personal record of 20:42, and sophomore Gage Cook placed 97th with a personal record for Highland of 20:42.

For the Boys JV 3 miles, sophomore Carson Rodrigue ran a personal record time of 20:34, sophomore Hunter Vallet ran a personal record time of 22:13, freshman Lane Lambert ran a personal record of 22:48 Dakota Martin ran a personal record of 22:53 Wesley Calvit ran a personal record time of 24:14, freshman Landon LaPorte ran a personal record for Highland time of 25:03, junior Joseph Richardson ran a season best time of 25:08, and junior Shawn Dunbar ran a time of 27:55.

For the Girls JV 2 miles, freshman Marie Green ran a personal time of 20:31, while freshman Caroline Richardson ran a time of 23:47.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CROSS COUNTRY

Senior Caleb Williams takes part in cross-country regionals on November 2 at Highland Park.

STA Band puts on a frosty performance at Showcase

BY: MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporter

This past Saturday, the Golden Band from Gator Land took the field for their final performance for the Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands at the Cajun Field in Lafayette. For the past 4 months, band staff and members have been working hard on their show, “Into Thin Air”. The hard work started at Band Camp, which took place in Late July, and these students have been non-stop since school started.

The band attended two competitions before Showcase, where they placed 1st at the Bayouland Classic and 4th at the Silver King Classic. They received critiques and scores from judges to help perfect the show up until the showcase performance.

Showcase day started bright and early for the Color Guard members. A breakfast was hosted for the team before the band arrived. Girls hung out together and got ready before the day got started. Color Guard member Madelyn Long states, “I really enjoy the breakfast before showcase because it is a time for all the girls to come together and chill before we have a super hectic day at showcase”.

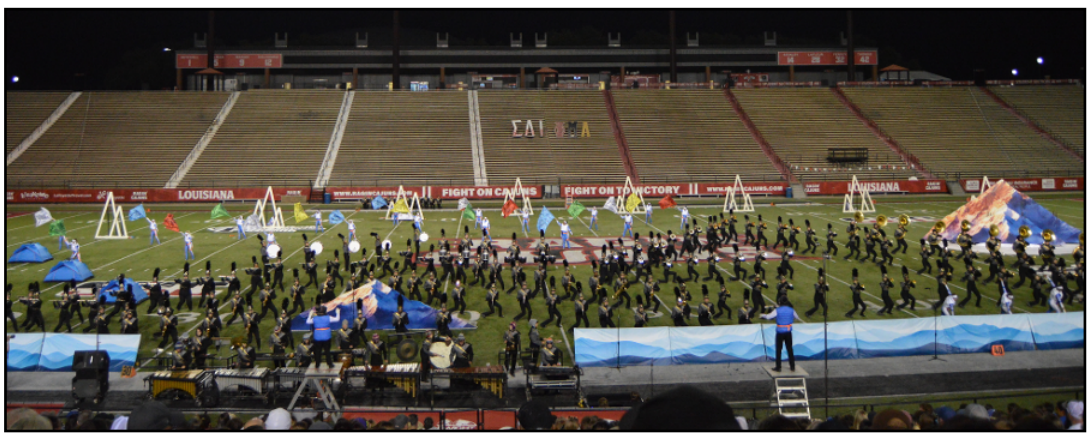
Once the band arrived, members and staff reviewed films of performances before they went outside for a final run on the band practice field. Once they completed this run, it was time for the members to load up the buses and head to Lafayette.

Before the performance, band members got to watch other bands perform. Junior Caroline Cash states, “My favorite part of the showcase was getting to see the other bands perform. It's nice to see the different styles and themes of the show that each band comes up with”.

The band then prepared for their performance by warming up, and then it was time to take the field. Cash states, “Overall I think we had our best run of the season with very little mistakes. It was a great night.”

After the performance, seniors and section leaders went on the field for awards. The St. Amant Band received ones in all categories, including auxiliary, percussion, drum majors, and overall band. They got a superior band rating, and the drum majors (Elijah Elliot, Maggie Lobell, Payton Wingerter) placed 2nd in the AAAA class. Overall, the band came out in 4th place. Senior Drum Major Payton Wingerter states, “I feel like we respectfully got what we were judged upon and I think we did great.”

Next up for the STA band is their Christmas concert on December 19 at 6:30, to put a fun end to the semester!



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARIA MELLAD

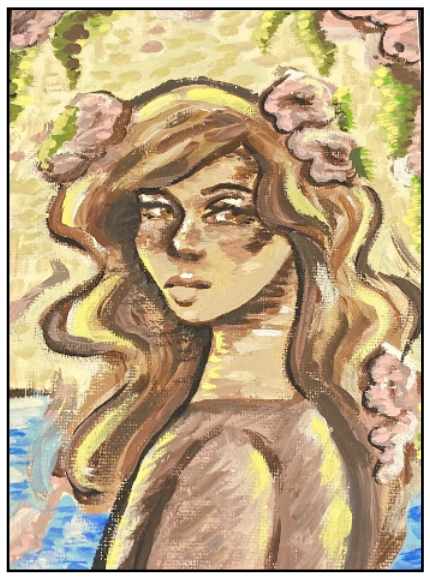
STA celebrates National French Week

BY: DANIELLE DARVILLE
Gata Data Reporter

National French Week is an annual celebration of French culture at St. Amant High School. National French Week takes place during the first week of November. During this week St. Amant French teacher, Margaret Pellerin, has organized various activities and lessons to engage students in celebrating French tradition and culture.

During the week Pellerin has arranged different activities to get students involved in National French Week while also incorporating students’ learning. Pellerin states, “So what we do is just a fun cultural experience, we learned about impressionist paintings and they made their own, -- and we’ve been checking out the New French Cinema, celebrating French culture, anything that students wouldn't normally get to experience all on their own.” Pellerin expresses that next semester she plans on involving popular French sports and games, such as Boul.

Pellerin includes French culture into National French Week by trying out different French food and delicacies. Pellerin says, “The food is a huge part, we've talked a bit about cafe culture. The French are known for their pastries and their bread.” Pellerin’s class tried out a variety of cultural French food such as parfaits, tarts, and crepes.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DANIELLE DARVILLE

JAG prepares students for the future

BY: ELIZABETH LANGSTON
Gata Data Reporter

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA JAG

JAG, “ Jobs for America's Graduates” is a program that teaches students how to break down barriers and help them to be successful, not just in high school, but in the future. Kaylee Guidry, the head of JAG at St. Amant High School notes, “It is life-skill based, it is a program that allows a variety of skills that will help students to be successful in the future.” JAG is ranged with over 10,000 students alone involved in the Louisiana JAG program. One of the nine positions opened for elections to the JAG members was given to Junior Zoe Stephens. Stephens was selected as the Vice President of Service Learning and Socials. Stephens says, “ Having the opportunity of the upcoming title of vice president felt really rewarding. Knowing that people saw leadership skills, high-level presentation skills, and interaction skills in me made me feel accomplished.” Allowing JAG to be on campus opens up many opportunities to the younger generation. Stephens states, “JAG is an important program to have on campus through its dedication to young people. It holds great promise and it comes along with so many different opportunities such as volunteering, community service, etc.” Guidry also adds, “It allows students to learn life skills through their long lasting friendships they will carry for a lifetime.” JAG helps students pursue and accomplish goals in the future through life skills learned throughout the program. For more information contact Kaylee Guidry at kaylee.guidry@apsb.org

Spanish Students celebrate Dia de los Muertos

BY: MICHAEL MUMPHREY
Gata Data Reporter

Traditionally celebrated in Mexico on November 1, for remembering children, and 2, for remembering older relatives and others, Dia de los Muertos is used to honor late relatives by placing mementos and photos on ofrendas, altars used to honor passed loved ones to keep their memory alive. To celebrate, STA's Spanish classes participated in many activities to celebrate the holiday. "They started off by drawing a fun calabera, which is a sugar skull, and we did a step-by-step YouTube video to intro Day of the Dead," Jones stated. Along with the cabalera drawing, the class learned about the migration patterns of Monarch butterflies to Mexico from Canada, and alabrejes, spirit animals, and watched "The Book of Life." Jones's favorite part, though, was hearing the class share stories about their lost relatives. "It was just really cool to hear what they had to say about their loved ones." She said.

Jones believes that having opportunities to celebrate holidays in an educational environment allows for exposition to other cultures because many students are unaware of the holiday's existence altogether. "They think it's a scary holiday or that it has something to do with Halloween, so it's just kind of eye opening for them that it actually has nothing to do with Halloween," she said. This experience has affected many students in many different ways. Student Kylie Brigalia said "It helped me realize how important family is to Mexican culture, and how you can learn from people's pasts." Another student, Jade Pollard, stated that, "It really just helped me learn a lot about different cultures, and how people grieve from their dead ancestors." Check out some photos of Spanish students celebrating this beloved holiday.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL

Girls Soccer team kicks off the new season

BY: AGUSTINA BUSTOS
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant's girls soccer team is starting up again for the Fall 2023-2024 season. They have been working very hard, striving for as many wins as they can get this year. The girls soccer team is also happy to welcome their new coach, Jacob Bordelon. Bordelon has been playing soccer since 2008 when he was in 8th grade. He has been playing the sport for about 16 years now and this will be his second year of coaching an actual team.

After getting insight on the upcoming season, Bordelon states that he is looking forward to "working hard and getting better as a team, and paying attention to details that can turn into a bigger result." Bordelon's core values as a coach are being able to set realistic expectations from the start of the season and helping the team have more discipline and consistency. He hopes that the girls soccer team will have high expectations, host a playoff game, finish top two in the district and at least have around 14 wins.

A typical in-season practice consists of many possession, defense and communication practices. They also like to have practices based on how they perform in games and focus on specific movements that some players might need more work on.

Junior Kendal Waguespack is number 33 on the soccer team. Waguespack claims to be looking forward to their game against East Ascension High School. She feels that their skills from the beginning all through summer have improved. Waguespack states, "We lost some defense and attacking line," she adds. "Losing Nya Bridgewater and Madison Parker was hard."

Junior Addison Champagne, the team's goalie, is excited to start the new season again. She claims that the midfield has improved since last year due to their new players. Champagne states that they "are connecting well."

Seniors Sarah Faulkner, who is number three, and Maras Bordes, number 13, are also most looking forward to their game against East Ascension. They would like to improve on keeping a good energy for this season and for all teammates to get along. Both Faulkner and Bordes feel that the team has improved their "environment and team relationship."

The girl's soccer team has done a lot of hard work to improve themselves for this year. They are looking forward to seeing more people attending games to show some love and support for the upcoming season.