



The Gata Data

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Late-game surge not enough to overcome Cougars

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK, CHANCE GOMEZ, OLIVE CARROLL
Gata Data Reporter

Starting with a 68-yard touchdown in the first three minutes of the game and closing with an almost game-ending two-point conversion in the last, the St. Amant High School Gators played hard on Thursday night. Unfortunately, a last-ditch effort from the John F. Kennedy Cougars left them with a slim two-point victory.

In their first game, post Hurricane Francine and the second game of the 2024 season, the Gators learned that sometimes in football, your best efforts don't always lead to absolute success. The Gators maintained a very close score within the first half of the game.

Just two minutes into the game, Senior Timothy Johnson established a lead with a 68-yard passing touchdown from Junior Quarterback Cooper Babin. However, the Cougars responded with a 96-yard play, bringing them to a tie.

In under two minutes, the Gators bit back with a 29-yard pass from Babin to Senior Reid Mayers, putting the game back into the Gator's hands with a 14-7 lead.

The success was short-lived because the kick-off return brought the Cougars their second touchdown to wrap up the first quarter with another tie, lasting until the second half.

Halfway through the third quarter, the JFK football team took almost three minutes of game time to score the only touchdown in the third quarter, taking back the lead.

The fourth quarter was a tight race. It wasn't looking good for the Gators after JFK scored another touchdown, bringing the score to 14-28. The Gators knew they had to step it up for the final 10 minutes of gameplay.

The Gators quickly snapped back with two consecutive touchdowns. This would have brought the team to a tie, so a risky two-point conversion was their only shot. Junior Kaven Taylor saved the Gators in this critical moment when his tie-breaking catch remarkably brought the Gators back to the top by one point. It seemed like this was the end for the Cougars.

With only 12 seconds left in the game, the Cougars managed to snatch the Gator Victory away, with a last resort field goal. "We played hard, we played for 45 minutes," said Head Coach David Oliver. "At the end of the day, they just had one more play."



STAFF PHOTOS



Lady Gators set up a victory against the Comets

BY: LAILAH GRANIER
Gata Data Reporter

The Lady Gator Volleyball team has shown a promising start to their 2024 season. When playing in the Assumption Tournament, the Lady Gators have proved their ability to put forth yet another competitive season as district begins.

"I think we have a lot of great things so far," said Head Volleyball Coach Lucie Hunt. Hunt is optimistic about the start to the new season. When talking about the team's performance, Hunt said, "We have some defensive things come alive, we're running offense a little bit so good things are happening."

The Lady Gators went three and one at the Assumption tournament held Sept. 14. "We have an incredible amount of senior leadership right now which is a great thing," said Hunt. One specific student-athlete described by Hunt as a natural-born leader is number 23, Alexandra Picou. This player stands out by leading by example.

On Monday, September 16 the Lady Gators put up a good fight. However, they lost to John Curtis 3-0. The Lady Gators recovered from this loss and swept Catholic High Pointe Coupee, 3-0. Wednesday, September 18 the Lady Gators put forth yet another win against Woodlawn. Varsity accomplished a clean sweep with 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-15), while the freshman and JV teams won 2-0.

Following Wednesday's game, the Lady Gators won against the Comets on Thursday, September 20 with varsity achieving a win of 3-1 (25-13, 23-25, 25-11, 25-19). The team went into the game with the plan of working on blocks as well as hitting the ball where they want it to land on the other side of the net to make the opposing team move.

Coach Hunt spoke about how this game was a great opportunity for the girls. She highlights how everything is clicking in certain areas by mentioning, "They have all of the opportunities in the world in front of them right now and you know, things are clicking right



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAILAH GRANIER



now, but when it really does click for us it'll be a game changer and we will be a force to be reckoned with."

Alyssa Evans, a senior on varsity, also

discussed how she felt the game went. "We've all played with different club teams, different teams, different energy levels, so I think we're trying to figure out our median versus what we used to play with," said Evans.

Hunt adds on by talking about the team's strengths during this game. The team was able to successfully keep control of the ball most of the time. Hunt also follows this with the ways she hopes the team can improve. Coach Hunt hopes that the team can avoid getting a little too comfortable while playing, which contributed to the one set they lost.

Coach Hunt added on by talking about how several players contributed to the win, having multiple kills on the court. Coach Hunt commented, "Alyssa had 10 kills tonight. Calli Hargrave had 8 kills, Ryleigh Blanchard had 8 kills, Josie Leon had 9 kills and Gabi Saucier had 5 so we contributed kind of all over the court. That's really good when you have kids that have that many kills in a game. It's a really cool thing to have." Hunt enjoys that she can really rely on players.

Hunt also loved the energy that was given to the team members themselves. She commented that she heard the defense communicating with each other and other players telling people where to hit shots.

Alyssa Evans and Ali Picou both commented on how they want their senior year to go. Evans shared that she is very motivated to win and make this season her best. Picou added on by saying, "I just want to win. I want to have a good season and end on a good note."

With the first district game coming up, Hunt shared, "We start the district off with Dutchtown so we need to work on the speed of our offense, keep focusing on our blocks, and probably reading the other side of the net better." Be on the lookout for their upcoming district game against East Ascension on October 2.

Gator Green, What's New?

BY: RAIDEN GANN

Gata Data Reporter

St Amant High School has adopted a new system for Gator Green to start off the 2024 Fall school year. All Gator Green rewards, along with the currency itself, have been made digital, and a new website where students can manage their Gator Green and purchase rewards has been created.

Assistant Principal Tara Jones believes the new system to be beneficial. "It makes it a lot easier for teachers to give them since it's electronic," Jones said. "It also makes it easier for kids to cash it in.... It makes things a lot easier with IDs since you can order them," she added. The new system is efficient and allows for smooth transactions, along with cutting down on paper waste.

But it doesn't come without downsides, since Gator Green has

been made easier to give, the value of it has dropped. "There's just an unlimited amount of Gator Green to be given out now, and we've noticed the amount of Gator Green being given out has increased." Ms Jones said. Six Gator Green used to be equivalent to one dollar at the concession stands, now it's 10 for a total of a 40% value decrease.

Rewards for Gator Green will also receive changes. "We have a PBIS team of teachers and one committee we have is just for student rewards... Our goal is every month to add one or two new things," Jones said. "Every month we'll still have dress down, and I think we're going to do popsicles one more time while it's still hot out... obviously when it gets a little colder out we'll have hot chocolate and things like that," she added. Students are welcome to provide feedback on rewards, within reason.



Student uses new Gator Green system to purchase concessions

PHOTO CREDIT BY RAIDEN GANN

Common App tips for College

BY: AVERY LAMBERT

Gata Data Reporter

Apps

Common App is the commonly used website for easily submitting college applications. The website provides seniors with thousands of colleges and universities to apply to while also simplifying the application process, making it easier to apply to multiple colleges at once using just one site.

Common App users will fill out a variety of questions used on college applications, but they only have to answer these questions once rather than filling them out for every single college on the list. If you are a STA senior having trouble with any of these questions, feel free to reach out to Mrs. Carla Hollifeild or Mrs. Kim Aucion.

Although Common App is meant to simplify the application process, many seniors may still be confused on how to use it. One of the most common errors when filling out Common App questions includes misspelling responses and not typing in complete sentences. "Students should avoid using acronyms and should always answer the full question," said Hollifeild.

One of the major reasons students may misspell responses or type in incomplete sentences is because they may feel rushed and do not feel like they have the time to type out thoughtful answers. However, Common App will save all of your responses, so filling out questions does not have to be done in one sitting. In fact, the majority of seniors do not complete their Common App in one sitting.

If one college requires more or less information than

others, Common App will be sure to let you know. For instance, for each college application, Common App lists how many recommendation letters are needed as well as informing users as to whether or not these colleges require a college essay. It is important to note that all colleges have different requirements for their application process.

College essays are another huge part of the Common App process depending on where seniors want to attend college. These essays can be crucial to a college getting to know the person they are potentially letting in. According to Hollifeild, being authentic in your essay and making sure it represents who you are as a person is what the admissions committee is looking for. These essays should be creative and unique to you. If any students are worried about their essay, it may be helpful to ask a teacher to proofread it for you before submission.

One more important factor when doing your Common App is completing letters of recommendation. The best way to go about getting recommendations is asking ahead of time to make sure your teachers are able to write one. Once students have their recommendations written, Hollifeild suggested not asking to review the letter as it may delay the application.

If you have any more questions regarding Common App or the college application process, feel free to email carla.hollifeild@apsb.org or kim.aucoin@apsb.org.

A guide to St. Amant's AP classes

BY: BROXTON CRAWFORD, OLIVE CARROLL

Gata Data Reporters

Are you interested in getting college credit? Or maybe learning more about a certain subject? Then AP classes may be the right fit for you. AP stands for Advanced Placement Program, which allows academically inclined students to pursue college-level classes. If the AP exam is passed, students have the privilege of getting rewarded a college credit.

There are many benefits to taking an AP class. Even though AP courses are paid classes that will reward you with college credit in that specific subject, it is also a fraction of the cost of a college class. AP credits will also transfer to out-of-state colleges unlike most DE classes.

AP classes help you prepare for the workflow and classwork of a college class. "You read a lot on your own, practice on your own. You have to do that a lot in college. Professors aren't going to show you every

step of how to do everything, they aren't going to cover everything that's on a test, so you have to go read a lot on your own and do a lot on your own." said Chemistry II AP Teacher, Martha Lambert.

AP courses also teach you much more about a subject than any academic class St. Amant offers. For example, English IV AP requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts, while academic English IV stresses expository writing, verbal communication and vocabulary of British literature from Anglo-Saxon to the modern times is included with emphasis on both personal response to the literature as well as more formal literary analysis.

If you are interested in joining an AP class and want more information on that specific class, you can find the 2024-25 Curriculum Guide under the Student Services tab on the St. Amant High School website.

STA celebrates Hispanic Heritage month

BY: VICTORIA RODRIGUEZ

Gata Data Reporter

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15. This month helps individuals realize and understand how big of an impact Hispanic culture has on American society.

Hispanic Heritage Month runs mid-month to mid-month because of countries' differing independence days. September 15 is the independence day for several Spanish-speaking countries such as Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras. October 15 also serves as the independence day for other Spanish-speaking countries.

Sharing culture during Hispanic Heritage Month helps shine a light on the impact and importance of Hispanic achievements. "We learn about a different famous person every day and the contributions that they made," said a Spanish teacher at St. Amant High, Mrs. Jessica Jones.

Mrs Jones said, "Being able to expose students to different cultures of

music can also help them see how different the Hispanic culture is from the American culture, through music and not just the other things the Hispanics have brought to the world."

There is a different theme for Hispanic Heritage Month every year. This year the theme will be "Pioneers change shaping the future together." This theme encapsulates the spirit of innovation, resilience and unity that define the Hispanic experience. The reasoning behind this theme is that the first Hispanic Heritage Month celebration was originally only celebrated for a week. It was former President Ronald Regan who believed that Americans needed to honor Hispanic citizens who lived in the country and the impact that they've made on it, prompting him to expand it to a whole month.

If you would like more information on how you can celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, contact Mrs. Jones at jessica.jones@apsb.org.

GREASE

Auditions

October 1st - 3rd

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Vocals	Dance & Scenes	Callbacks
Choir Room	Little Theatre	Choir Room

Auditions start at 3:00 PM each day!

Please see Ms. Fred or Ms. Bray for any questions
Google Classroom Code: wiiren2