The Gata Data

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Gators reflect on successful season amid early playoff exit

BY: LIBBY WILKINSON, LAILAH GRANIER
Gata Data Reporters

The Gators wrapped up their season last Friday, ending the game with a score of 20-28. Although the game did not end in the Gator's favor, the team was able to reflect on the past season with positivity. Senior Anthony Salzarulo said, “We played together as a team. We gave it our all, and at the end of the day, that's all that matters. We’re a brotherhood and everything comes to an end at some point.”

Over the season, the team was able to improve both their offensive and defensive skills due to, “the boy’s hard work and effort that they have poured into the program,” says head coach David Oliver. Coach Oliver further expresses how the team has come a long way and that, “people were not expecting much from us this year. We really surprised some people and that is always a fun thing to accomplish as a team.”

Coach Oliver also says that one of his favorite moments of the season was beating East Ascension with a score of 17-12. As well as, “coming back and playing how we did against Walker High School after squandering a 21-0 halftime lead to Dutchtown,” says Oliver. He elaborates by saying he could not have been any more prouder than how the boys reacted to the other teams and that the boys continued to work hard in order to find a way to win.

Several seniors also share a similar bittersweet feeling about the season-ending. Elijah Thornton said, “I enjoyed the season for the most part. Everything in life comes to an end, so now we move onto the next chapter.” Thornton also said that beating Denham Springs was a highlight of his season because of how well the team played.

Senior Connor Darr shares that beating Live Oak was a great achievement for the team because they were able to score their highest score of the season. Darr appreciates all of the memories that he made during his senior year.

Coach Oliver highlights multiple senior players that he was proud to see grow throughout the season, some mentioned were Austin Baxter, Brayden Kling, Reid Mayers, Tyree Williams, Evan Williams, Jarred Brown, and Easton Humphrey. Oliver said he was able to rely on these players to grow into these leader positions and be ready for anything.

PHOTO TAKEN BY LAILAH GRANIER

Senior Tyree Williams was able to fight off a couple of injuries during the year to play his best football for the team. Williams wants the underclassmen to, “ enjoy it as much as possible. It goes by quick.”

Oliver also sheds light on some rising junior players that he is excited to see develop next season. Oliver shares that he is excited for Cooper Babin as, “everything starts and ends with him on the offensive side of the ball. He’s played a ton of football since freshman year and he really started playing some of his best football towards the middle of this year.” He also highlights Jacoby Davis, Jordan Hickerson, Anden Millet, Cedric Jones, and Ronald Guillory.

Junior MJ Dunn expresses that filling in the senior’s leadership positions are “definitely big shoes to fill since a lot of them have been in the program for all four years of high school.” Junior Cole McElroy also shared a similar idea of fulfilling the seniors' shoes. McElroy said, “you first have to know where they were and learn from them. Then try to live up to what the seniors set as the standard.”

McElroy also says that communication was a key takeaway from the past season. Having good communication skills led them to know each other’s roles and be able to adapt with each other. He also says that his favorite moment of the season was when the team won on East Ascension’s field. McElroy says, “We just hit the field and we got into our groove. You know we went out there and played hard the entire game and came out a win.”

In addition, MJ also shares his favorite moment of the season, which was the Scotlandville game. “Even though we were down 24-6, we came back and won. I caught the game chilling interception which was the best moment of my life.” He feels that the season allowed him to grow and expand his abilities for next season.

Overall, the team was able to share the district title and earn a home playoff game. The Gators were able to have a winning record, which was one of their main goals for the season.

Oliver shared with the boys, “What you achieve isn’t as important as who you become in the process because the growth you experience along the way lasts far longer than any accomplishment. True success lies in the transformation not the trophy.”

Lady Gator Soccer kicks off new season with a 4-0 Record

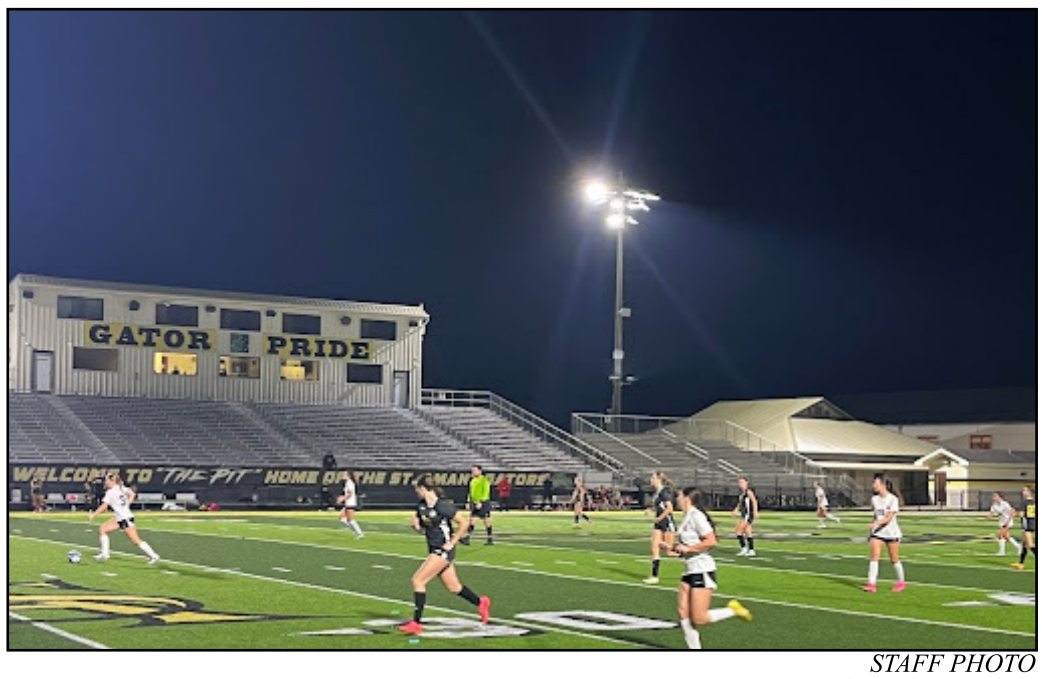
BY: HAYDEN LOUPE , CHANCE GOMEZ
Gata Data Reporters

The Lady Gators soccer team began their new season with a 4-0 winning streak and are projected to win their next two upcoming games. Next week, they play against St. Joseph’s, the 2023 state champions hoping to continue their winning streak.

“I think our defense is really strong.” said senior defender, Kendal Waguespack. One of the most mentioned defensive players is junior, Ann Aucoin. Aucoin’s teammates claim her as one of their strongest players and a “force to be reckoned with” when she gets possession of the ball. Aucoin’s speed and strong defense allows her to take it all the way to the goal. Senior goalkeeper, Addison Champagne is another reason for such a successful season so far. As a goalkeeper , she becomes one of the most important players when it comes to defending. Champagne is one of the best goalkeepers in the D1 division, leading her team with a 4-0 streak.

The Lady Gators also have many more strengths within the team alongside their strong defense. “Being able to work with seniors that have been together since freshman year and being able to work together and learn from each other to help get the wins”, said senior Lillian Aucoin. Champagne also adds that the Lady Gators have done a great job gaining possession of the ball and switching the ball to get closer to the goal each play. Senior Mallory Sutton credits the Lady Gators for building up from last year’s weaknesses and only getting stronger. She also adds, “So far we have shown the strive and dedication that a STA sports team should have.”

Although the Lady Gators have had a great start off, the season, the team still has things they hope to build on such as communication, manmarking, and switching up runs. “We could work on communication as a whole not just the seniors or freshman but everyone as a whole”, said Aucoin. Sutton also adds, “I think that the team could work on communication on and off the field. It's all about helping each other out that leads to success.” Another thing the Lady Gators are challenging themselves to work on include switching up runs. Waguespack mentions being creative would work such as switching up runs and plays to not be as predictable every match. Champagne also notes that manmarking and learning to know where your spot is on the field can make them stronger as a team.



STAFF PHOTO
The Lady Gator Soccer Team runs to the goal at the Pit on Thursday, November 14th.

“I see the rest of the season being the best of my four years,” said senior Mallory Sutton. Sutton sees this year to play out in a very strong yet competitive way and hopes to continue the teams winning streak against more challenging teams. The rest of the team also sees the upcoming season to be very good but filled with challenges they will overcome. Make sure to attend the home games in support of the Lady Gators.

Lady Gators dunked on Rival Griffins in Jamboree Opener

BY: SANIYA SMITH
Gata Data Reporter

On November 15, the Lady Gators won their first jamboree against the Lady Griffins, thus setting the tone for the upcoming basketball season. During this grueling match against Dutchtown, the lady gators prioritized collaboration, endurance and mutual respect as they demolished the Griffins.

As the two teams battled, the ladies reached a tie in the middle of the game which both the Gators and the Griffins simultaneously attempted to break, the gators prevailed and grasped the win. Coach, Besty Baldwin said, “The girls did a phenomenal job, this game was rigorous and took a lot of effort.” She also stated, “This win inevitably sets the tone for the games to come because we’re able to observe the girl’s use of their skill and how they carry themselves on the court.” The lady gators displayed reciprocity and understood the end goal.

When asked about how the win was successful senior, Jacey Coleman said, “ We worked hard, and simply made the win.” This shows the confidence that the players have for the future.

STAFF PHOTOS

Seniors! It's time to lock in on college applications

BY: SAVANNAH MATLCOK
Gata Data Reporter

With college application deadlines creeping up, and the first semester coming to a close, students must be aware of upcoming due dates for colleges.

The following dates are the Louisiana college application deadlines for scholarship qualification. If students wish to receive consideration for scholarships for any of these colleges, they must submit their applications before these dates.

PHOTO BY STA CAREER COACHES

Uncover the mystery behind Theater I’s murderous class play

BY: MICHEAL MUMPHREY
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant teacher Heidi Frederic’s Theater I class performed their class play *Too Many Detectives in the Murder Mansion* this past Wednesday and Thursday. The play involves two detectives interrogating various pop-culture detectives to solve the mystery behind the murder of the titular mansion’s owner.

While the murder might be a mystery, the process of putting a show together isn’t. Especially for Frederic, who partakes in many steps to find the right production for her class. First, she finds a selection of plays that accommodate the amount of students in her class. “I try to find a play with that same number of characters in it so that everyone has a chance to be on stage,” explained Fred. Then, she presents the options to her class, who reads through the pieces and then casts a vote. After the play is chosen, auditions are held, and the roles are cast, the actors undergo rigorous rehearsals. “We started with blocking, to get their movements down. Then we work on line memorization, characters, their emotions, and line delivery.” Mix that with other components such as props, costumes, and a set, and a show is born.

There are many students in the class, each of who have diverse backgrounds and theatrical experience, who learned valuable lessons from putting the show together. “I’ve learned a lot about getting out of my comfort zone and not caring about what other people think.” said Freshman Zoe Collins who plays the role of “Fan 2” in the show and has some theater experience under her belt. Another actor learned about what goes into making a character believable for an audience during a performance. “I learned how to have projection and make myself louder, I learned some emotions as far as crying,” said freshman Skylah Brown, who plays famed child detective Nancy Drew. The kids gained this knowledge thanks to Frederic’s rigorous teaching and directing. “I’ve learned so much and I can thank Ms. Frederic for teaching me all this stuff.” admitted freshman Reagan Moran, who plays the Caped Crusader himself, Batman.

Although it is a class production, Frederic believes it is just as important as all other forms of fine arts. “Watching art makes you a better person, it teaches you empathy, it shows you someone else’s perspective, which we need a lot more of in this world,” explained Frederic. Frederic also states that she enjoyed teaching her Theater I class as much as she did putting on the production “The students are very fun, they’ve had a great time, they’ve worked hard and I know they’re going to have a successful run.”

OPINION

STA parking lot chaos

BY: AVERY LAMBERT
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant parking lots have become notorious for the dangerous and risky driving behaviors of student drivers. Many student drivers can be seen cutting people off, driving over the parking curbs, speeding and disregarding pedestrians. Not only this, but these driving behaviors are most likely caused by students feeling rushed to get to their after-school jobs and other activities. Once the dismissal bell rings, student drivers are practically bolting to their cars to avoid the pile-up of cars. However, if drivers do not leave five minutes early, they are forced to stay an extra 10 minutes or sometimes longer due to parking lot traffic.

From a survey done on 43 student drivers, 90.7% said they do not like the structure of the parking lots, 93% said they would consider the parking lot dangerous and 88.1% said they have gotten into or close to an accident. This is a concerningly high number and is worth attention and some form of change.

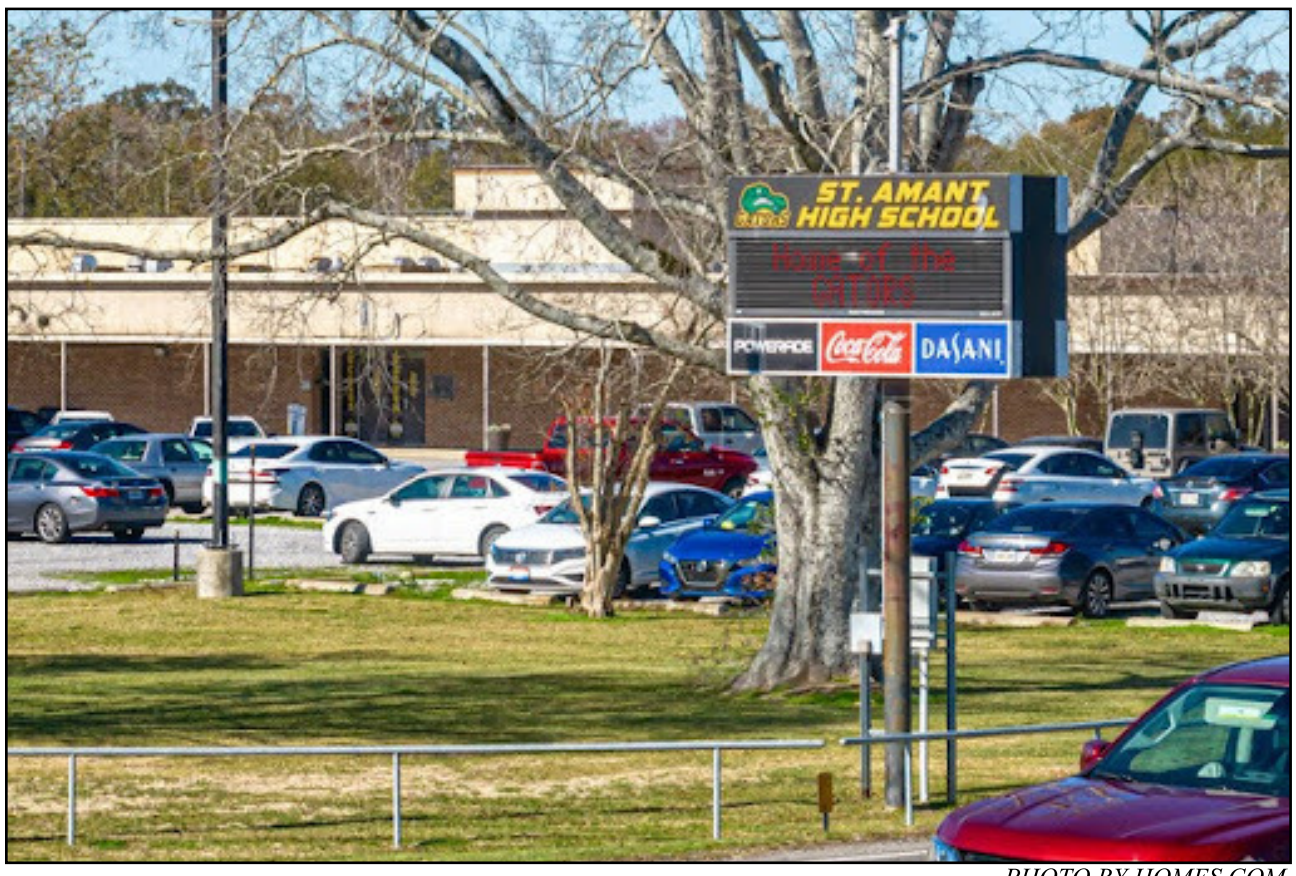


PHOTO BY HOMES.COM

One student described their experience in the black lot. “I almost hit a person, a teacher, who was guiding the lot out. She practically jumped in front of my car and I was so stressed. I don't think teachers should ever guide traffic. Please get them out of there.” St. Amant should not have one single untrained teacher risking their life in the school parking lot.

There should be other forms of patrol done in order to ensure students are making it out of the lots safely.

The same survey also asked student drivers if they had possible solutions to the parking lot chaos. Multiple students suggested having more patrols in all parking lots. Others suggested a separate dismissal for seniors and another for juniors and sophomores. One student suggested, “I believe that it would be beneficial to have cops guide traffic. The lots are student-led too and it can lead to a lot of mistakes. It is kind of horrifying to get out.” Another student said, “Parking curbs need to actually be spaced correctly and not crooked. Many students park on top of each other because of the curbs instead of actually getting in a good space.” There are possible solutions that should be taken into consideration to keep student drivers and pedestrians safe in St. Amant’s parking lots.

One click for a quick fix

BY: Jayden Pino
Gata Data Reporter

One moment, you are responding to a TikTok that a friend sent, and the next you realize you have been mindlessly scrolling for hours. People say that "time flies when you are having fun," but is that fun worth hours of lost time without anything to gain but fleeting thoughts and information about other people's lives? In my opinion, it is not. Short-form platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube offer people a source of instant gratification that borders on addiction for some.

The more people view content that provides them with quick dopamine releases, the sooner dopamine will release in their brain and the sooner the craving for more dopamine will hit. This makes people less likely to participate in activities that have long-term payoffs as they don't satisfy the dopamine craving produced by sources of instant gratification that they view. This can be especially harmful to a high school student as it may seem difficult to put down the phone late at night, leading to sleep loss. The simple distraction of short-form platforms can turn a thirty-minute homework assignment into an hour-long ordeal. Short-form platform usage decreases overall productivity if it is not properly monitored.

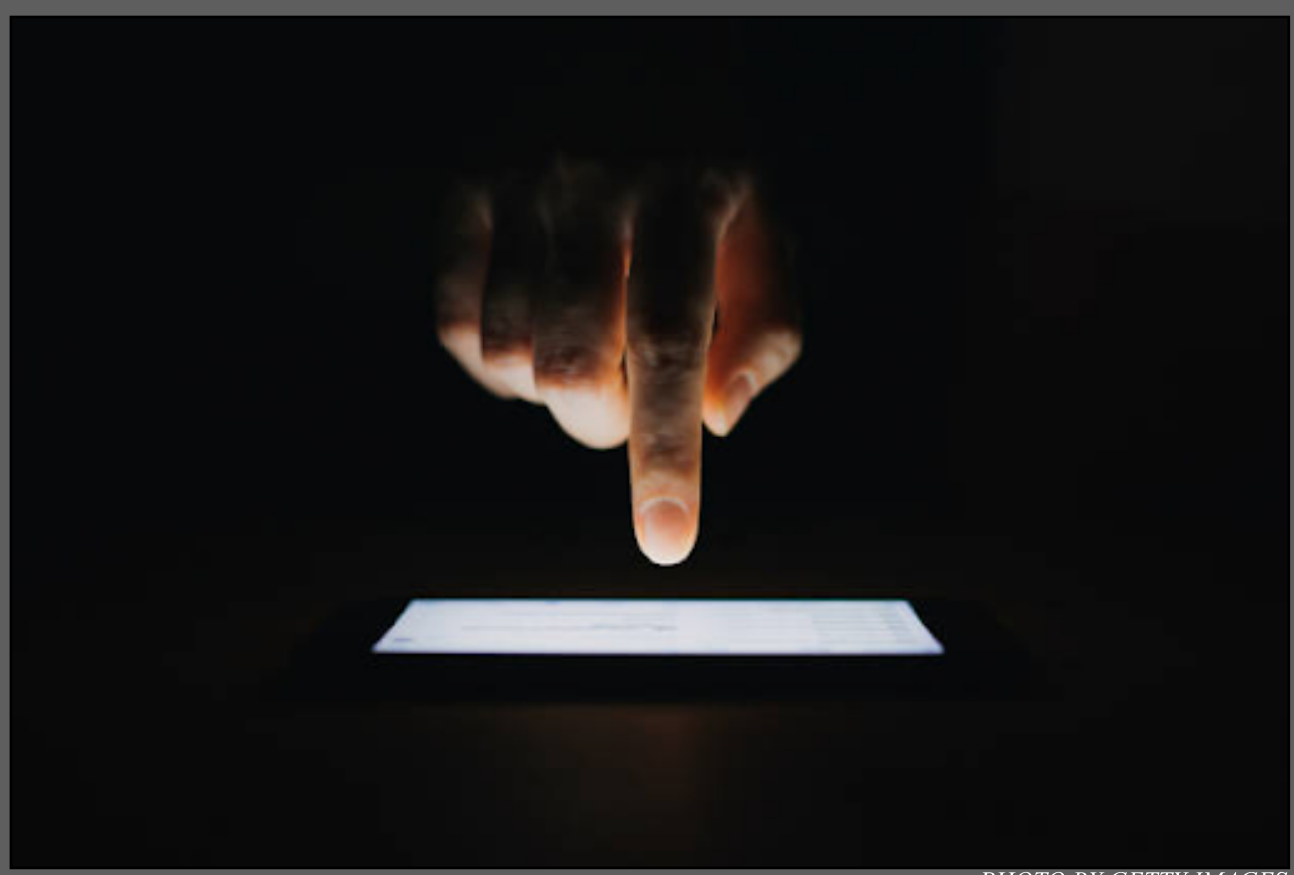


PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES

Unlike instant gratification, delayed gratification can offer longer-lasting, more fulfilling rewards. Activities such as learning an instrument, exercising, and reading are all forms of delayed gratification as they take time and concentration but lead to long-lasting rewards. By becoming comfortable with delayed gratification, one's quality of life will drastically increase as it allows people to become more well-rounded and accomplished.

The simplest way to cut back on short-form platform usage is to delete these platforms completely. For many people that is an unrealistic solution as they may be afraid of missing out on jokes and information, even though this fear is inaccurate. Short-form platforms are unreliable sources of information, and not knowing a niche internet joke is unlikely to affect one's day-to-day life in any serious way. If one is unwilling to delete short-form platforms there are other solutions to cut back on mindless scrolling, such as finding activities to pass one's time that have more gratifying rewards.

Many people would benefit from being more mindful of how they use their time and how their phone screen takes away from their time without them even knowing. While it is challenging for many, monitoring one's use of short-form platforms is a simple way for people to stay productive and ensure their lives are fulfilling. I know that I am someone who doesn't want my life defined by short videos that I will forget in a week, and I am sure you feel no different.