



The Gata Data

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The St. Amant Spirit Squads head to Nationals

BY: HAYDEN LOUPE, CHANCE GOMEZ
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The STA Cheerleaders and Gatoettes are preparing for the Orlando, Florida 2025 UCA and American All Star nationals. STA's competition cheer team, the Black Squad, is heading out on February 6 and returning February 10. The Gatoettes are following a week later, leaving on February 14 and returning on February 18.

Competition season practices vary compared to football season. During football season the girls are more focused on cheers and dances to perform on Friday nights. They also work on preparing stunts and working on their stamina for competitions. During competition season, they are full of full out runs of the entire routines. Practices for nationals are also different from a regular competition. The girls take the critiques from the previous competition and apply the corrections to their routine in order to achieve their maximum scores.

At competitions, cheerleaders are judged off of their motion technique, crowd effectiveness and overall game day performance. The girls perform a traditional routine and a game day routine. The traditional routine is made up of gymnastics tricks, stunts and pyramids.

Game day is what the girls typically do on Friday nights for the football games. Each routine has three score sheets. One sheet is for band chants, where the girls try to form an interaction with the crowd. Another is crowd leading, where the girls have to quickly say a chant based on whether the announcer says offense or defense. The crowd leading section leads into the traditional routine where they are judged based on stunts and pyramids.

When asked if Coach Martha Lambert felt the team was prepared and ready for nationals, she said that she believes the team will not fold under pressure but instead match it. Coach Lambert feels that with two more weeks of practice, the girls' confidence will be able to grow with both routines and have the

chance of matching the 2020 performance which brought them to a national championship win.

The Black squad is not the only spirit team heading to Orlando this month. The Gatoettes are leaving on February 14 and returning on February 18.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MIKIE LONG

Gatoettes performing at showcase on February 1, 2025

"It's more stressful because it's a lot more high stakes than football," Coach Tessa Roussel said when asked if she prefers practice during the regular season or competition. Gatoette practices for nationals are described as much harder than practices for football games, pep rallies and other games. The team also has a lot less time to practice for nationals

than other competitions.

At the national competition, the Gatoettes are scored at a max value of 10 points for each category which can total up to 100 points. Some of the categories are execution of movement, execution of technique, composition and the overall effect on the audience. The team has been prepping for nationals since Christmas break and usually holds practices every day after school.

Senior Captain Jolie Pruitt expects the team to bring a positive attitude and full focus going into the national competition. "I think something fresh. There's a lot of dancers that these judges see so we always want to try and bring something to the table that hasn't been seen before," Coach Roussel says. She hopes to bring more exciting aspects to this year's nationals such as some costume surprises. While the team has to practice and work hard, Pruitt shares, "Everyone is here for a common goal which is to perform our best at nationals and have fun at Disney and you can feel the positive energy at practice." The Gatoettes explain that it is very different from going to practices with 14 dancers to just nine and having to perform weekly claiming the seasons are completely different and so are the practices.

"My favorite part of nationals is how close you get as a team," Pruitt says. She also shares how she enjoys rooming with friends and feeling so accomplished after performing what they have worked hard on all year. Coach Roussel explains how she enjoys the competition season more than the regular season, "It's more fun for me, even though it is more stressful. So I love both of them but they have different vibes."

Heading into February, both teams are heading to Orlando, Florida for their final competition of the season in hopes for a national championship. Black Squad Cheer leaves on February 6 and the Gatoettes leave a week later and compete on February 16.

STA DECA revs up their car show

BY: LAILAH GRANIER

Gata Data Reporter

On January 25, STA's DECA club held a car show to help raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Many members of DECA acknowledge the amount of people who have suffered from childhood, so DECA decided to hold a car show to give 80% of the proceeds to St. Jude, which left 20% for DECA. The club was able to raise a total of 8,500 dollars from the car show. Aubrey Beale also said that the club wants to raise money to be able to participate in nationals this year, and the car show will help provide some money to attend.

The Distributive Education Club of America, otherwise known as DECA, is a business club on campus that goes to competitions to get tested on scenarios to see how well they are able to come up with new and creative business ideas to be able to promote something. The club teaches students about business skills, marketing,

entrepreneurship, finance, and areas.

Vice President Ali McCormick and President Aubrey Beale found inspiration from a past car show that was held by St. Amant.

McCormick mentioned, "We decided to hold a car show because last time it was a huge success so we wanted to kind of maybe bring in people who may have participated in the past and help fundraise for St. Jude because it does take a lot to keep them running every year." Beale added on by speaking on how they haven't done a big event for a while, so by doing this it would get the community involved and bring people together.

The show included four different categories with a top 3 for each, the categories being best of show, people's choice, best vintage car, and best modern car. We had three winners for each category. As they held the car show, they also had a variety of different activities available so people of all ages and interests could participate. Other activities included food vendors, live music with a DJ, food trucks, inflatables, and other fun crafts. STA's FFA also helped by providing a petting zoo to showcase at the car show as well.

Even though the car show was a

complete success for DECA, they had to overcome many hardships to produce it.. Aubrey Beale describes, "We were in the middle of the snow, so it was difficult for us to predict whether the snow would be cleared or if we were going to be able to put it on." She also mentions that there were only 24 people who had pre-registered to show up, so they were worried about people showing up in general.

With state approaching soon, DECA anticipates big things for themselves. McCormick has personal hopes of getting first place for sports marketing since she had gotten second place last year both individually and for the team category. "For Rev Up for Research, we have a competition event called Community Outreach where you present

the event that you held so we are hoping we get first place for the presentation of the event," McCormick adds. Beale also hopes to place at state and be able to make it to nationals this year. Aubrey Beale concludes, "We just wanna bring a good group of people to nationals because that's something that our chapter hasn't been able to accomplish in a long time."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA

Grease is the word on STA’s Campus

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK, ALANA ELLIOT
Gata Data Reporters

St. Amant High School is opening the production of Grease from February 13 to February 15 at 7 p.m. in the Commons.

The production, led by Sara Bray and Heidi Frederic, is a cult classic, following the story of a group of teenagers in the 1950s who face challenges in friendship and romance. “The music is iconic, the era is so much fun, and I just really couldn’t have picked a better show for this group of kids at this time,” says Bray.

“Sandy is a high school girl who has just moved schools and she’s balancing trying to make new friends as well as trying to amend her past relationships,” said senior Caelyn Blackwell, who plays the lead role of Sandy Dumbrowski in the production. “She’s trying to find herself like all other high school girls. This whole production has very normal and real high school issues.”

Danny Zuko, played by senior Jacob Angel, finds a summer love with Sandy and expects to never see her again. “He’s the leader of the T-Birds. He is this nonchalant, doesn’t care, too-cool-for-school guy that radiates energy in a way that nobody does today,” said Angel. When Sandy suddenly turns up as a student at Rydell High School, coincidentally the same school that Danny goes to, their romance challenges the status quo.

After STA’s 2024 production of Legally Blonde, Bray and Fred knew that the group of students in their 2024-25 school year held an immense amount of talent that they wanted to feature. “We were in a unique situation where we just had so much talent that we had to find a show that had leads for a lot of people,” said Bray. “I wish I could do a show where I had a lead for every single person. I really wanted to highlight both the males and the females at our school who are so talented.”

Senior Fresno Swindle, stage manager, said that people should see

Grease because it brings the school together and showcases the artistic and performance communities of STA. “We’re putting a lot of work in. The set is beautiful. The actors are putting a lot of work in. They’re doing great,” said Swindle.

Blackwell praised the cast for their hard work and dedication. “In order to make such a beautiful production, everyone has to be in it. And I’ve learned that every single person in this show is a part of a puzzle piece to making something wonderful and memorable.”

“It was definitely a lot more work than what I was expecting,” said junior Aubrey Scanlan, a member of the ensemble. “The time and effort that everybody wants to put into this play is just astounding to me. Everyone is just giving it their all. It’s really awesome.”

Bray says that she believes this piece is perfect for anyone at any age. She adds that when STA opens a full-length show, it is a unique experience and encourages everyone to take an evening to surround themselves with something different. “We have students on campus that are so multi-talented and do so many different things,” said Bray. “This is an opportunity to watch this specific group of students display their talents, the things that they care about, the things that they’re passionate about.”

Grease tickets are available for sale now by scanning the QR code on the flyer below.



STAFF PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY SAVANNAH MATLOCK AND ALANA ELLIOT



Lady Gator Soccer perseveres through first playoff game

BY: ALYSE DUPUY
Gata Data Reporter

The Lady Gator Soccer team has been exerting themselves endlessly throughout the season. They played a total of three back-to-back district games, followed by their first playoff game against Zachary High on January 31. During these district games, the team lost key assets due to injuries. Despite the obstacles faced, the Lady Gators’ undying trust in one another allowed them to seal the deal with a score of 2:0 in their first playoff game.

After the injuries encountered, the team’s confidence in one another was essential to win the game. Although players were hurt, the Lady Gators knew they could depend on each other. “We know there are still 10 other people working together so that we have support to fall on,” junior Cori Bergeron says. When faced with hardships, those who needed to step up proved their strengths. Senior Addison Champagne says, “Sophia Piazza was there getting the back corner, she’s usually a sub but she helped the team a lot when a few players are missing.” Junior Sophia Piazza locked in the score with the second goal for the Lady Gators. Although challenges were anticipated, Piazza describes her play as “amazing.”

The girls exhibited “tactical plays,” previously rehearsed during practice. Coach Jacob Bordelon says, “Tactical meaning how we wanna play when this happens from watching film.” By studying how players will engage in the game, the Lady Gators are set up for

success. “For the past week, we were talking about how that goalkeeper will hit that ball every time she tries to save, and every time we have to follow up with a shot because she will always hit it,” says Piazza.

With such an astonishing season fueled by a hardworking group of girls, there are lessons learned and much more to look forward to. With the overall achievement of winning their first playoff game, the Lady Gators are reminded of why they are here. Junior Kadence Kindschuh says, “I just feel like you should not take things for granted because they can be taken from you very quickly.” The girls’ success would not have been possible without the efforts provided by every player.



STAFF PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY MADELYN LONG

St. Amant High School Theatre & Choir Present

Tickets available by scanning the QR codes below

Thursday
February 13th

Friday
February 14th

Saturday
February 15th

All performances are at 7:00 pm in the STA Commons

Two St. Amant Wrestlers are deemed champions at City

BY: JAYDEN PINO
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant came out of the 55th Greater Baton Rouge City Wrestling Championship, hosted at East Ascension High School, with two champions and a second-place title behind Catholic High in the boys' division. 10 male wrestlers and two female wrestlers from STA placed in the competition. Bradley Anderson won the title of champion in the 175-pound boys' weight division, and Makayla Byington won the title of champion in the 100-pound girls' weight division.

20 schools in the Greater Baton Rouge area were pitted against each other in this competition. The event did not have a direct relation to who qualifies for the state wrestling competition, but it is the last big competition that STA senior wrestlers are able to participate in.

STA won second place in the boy's division with 191.5 points and ninth place in the girl's division with 35 points. The point



STAFF PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY JAYDEN PINO

discrepancies between many schools are due to the varying amount of wrestlers the participating schools had available to compete in the event. The only other St. Amant student finalists aside from the STA champions of this event were Mason Asevedo and Cole Didier.

“I made sure that whenever I wrestle guys I've already wrestled before I capitalize on things I didn't last time.” said senior Bradley Anderson. Anderson attributes his performance to his improved stamina, which he has developed throughout this season.

“Wrestling teaches you discipline, it teaches you mental stability, and how to overcome a lot of things.” says junior Byington. She was recovering from a mild illness during her participation in this event, and like Anderson, she credits her performance to her pacing. This prevented her from over-exerting herself in her already fatigued state.

“The goal is to keep improving, and not let any of that hype get to our head, and actually just perform the way we know we can,” said Anderson. Many wrestlers who participated in this event hope to attend and win the state championship for wrestling and they continue to demonstrate discipline in their practice. STA wrestling coach, Clint Brownell, was impressed with the amount of pins STA got but stated, “We can always do better.”

St. Amant High’s JAG Day experience

BY: JONAH MORRIS
Gata Data Reporter

The St. Amant High School Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program recently attended JAG Day at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales. At JAG Day, JAG students learned a variety of skills that are important for their success in their day-to-day lives from companies who held stations for students to attend.

JAG is a program established in Louisiana that prepares students for any occupation that they could desire for post-secondary education. The program allows specially-trained JAG teachers to make connections with 7th-12th grade students and attend events that would help these students in their careers after high school.

JAG is all about supporting the student in any way possible. “It could be applying for scholarships, it could be applying for a job, it could be helping with talking through home life, various different things about just supporting the student,” said Kaylee Guidry, the St. Amant High School JAG teacher.

“There were stations for how to change a tire and how to check their oil,” said Guidry. “They also had stations for career skills. So how to approach an interview, job applications, what employers expect as far as presenting yourself, meeting them for the first time and good first impressions,” Guidry continued, presenting the idea that students also

gain workforce skills from participating in JAG.

JAG Day also hosted speakers alongside companies who gave words of encouragement to the students. “The mayor was there telling us what he did in his position, how he got to where he is now, what he had to go through and what he's doing for the town,” said Adilee Levron, a 12th-grade JAG student.

“I talked about the opportunities that you can have in JAG to open up doors to experience things, things that you like, things that you might not like, but it's just a good avenue for trying to figure things out,” said Christina Carter, principal of St. Amant High School and former JAG student who spoke at JAG Day.

JAG will continue to support its students in their academic and workforce efforts throughout the school year. JAG even supports its seniors for twelve months after graduation to ensure their success post-graduation.

St. Amant High School Students can join JAG by showing interest when scheduling or by speaking to Kaylee Guidry or a counselor or administrator about joining. After that, they will be interviewed for a chance to be one of the students selected by the JAG Advisory Board to join the JAG class of the following year.



TAKEN BY GRACE THERIOT, CONTRIBUTED BY JAG

STA Softball is swinging into a new season

BY: MADELYN LONG, ALEXANDRA TOSTE
Gata Data Reporters

With spring around the corner, the Lady Gator Softball team is ramping up for the new season. Through practice and team bonding, they hope to fight against the pressure of their current triple State Champion title. This season also brings changes to the program, including welcoming new members and remembering old ones.

Their beginning preparations for the season started off without bats or gloves. Instead, the team devoted their attention to working together. Their team dynamics focus on finding a role for each person. Senior Ryleigh Moran, who plays centerfield, said, “Everyone has a duty to fulfill, whether you are on the field or not, there's always different ways for you to contribute to success.”

The upcoming team had many positions to fill with six seniors retiring after their successful season last year. This influx of new faces makes them a very young team, in grade level and experience, according to the Head Softball Coach Amy Pitre. Yet, this new opportunity allows for younger players to get their chance on the field. Pitre said, “Sometimes girls don't play until their junior or senior year. You wait your turn. It is exciting for us to get to see some new players that waited their turn for a while.”

With all the recent changes this season, the team is undergoing lots of pressure. However, there will always be pressure when being a part of St. Amant’s softball team, according to Pitre. When Moran was asked about pressure she said, “We prepare for it

countless times, it encourages us and we expect to overcome it.” Raising the stakes, this year's seniors have the privilege of winning three state



STAFF PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY MADELYN LONG

titles. “The seniors this year have the experience of winning previous state titles and know what it takes to work every single day. We take it one day at a time to reach the end goal” Ryleigh said.

To combat this pressure, the Lady Gator softball team is putting in the work with each

opportunity. Moran said, “We are working everyday, not only on our physical strength but our mental aspect as well.” Coach Pitre also elaborates on this hard work by explaining an unique tactic used to practice: intrasquad scrimmages. She said, “We divide the teams up evenly and let them compete against each other because we still have people competing for a spot this early on.”

This year does look a little different without the team’s biggest supporter, Mr. Clark Lambert. As a St. Amant alumni and employee, Lambert made an immense impact on this program and the people in it. Pitre said, “That man lined every single game, celebrated every score, and went to every game since I have been here”. Although this tremendous loss has affected the people so close to Lambert, they also feel a sense of purposefulness. Moran adds, “It puts more meaning and another driving factor to play for and another reason to show what St Amant Softball is all about.”

In honor of his contributions, the Ascension Parish School Board voted to rename the school’s softball field to Clark Lambert Field at Lady Gator Park. This is soon to be followed by the season's opening game, where the team is planning on honoring Lambert further. Pitre mentions, “It's going to be emotional for sure. We are going to bring back all the alumni and Mr. Clark’s family, so it's going to be a good event.” The Lady Gator Softball team would like to invite you to their first home game on February 20 to celebrate Lambert and the upcoming season.