

UPDATE CONTACT INFO HERE

SAINTS CONNECTION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

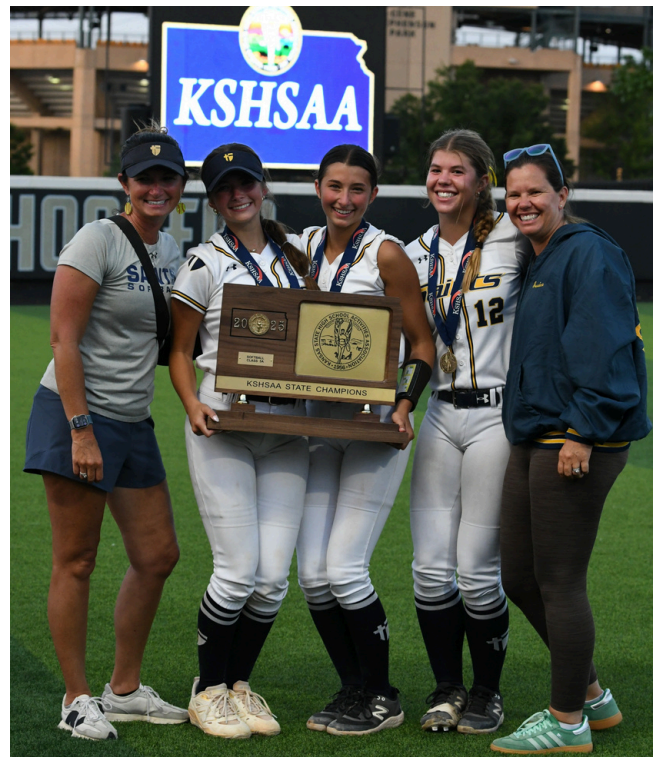
A LEGACY REWRITTEN:

Saints Capture Historic State Titles in Softball and Baseball

The Saints made history in Wichita on May 28-29, as both the girls' softball and boys' baseball teams brought home State Championships — a remarkable double victory that was as emotional as it was unforgettable.

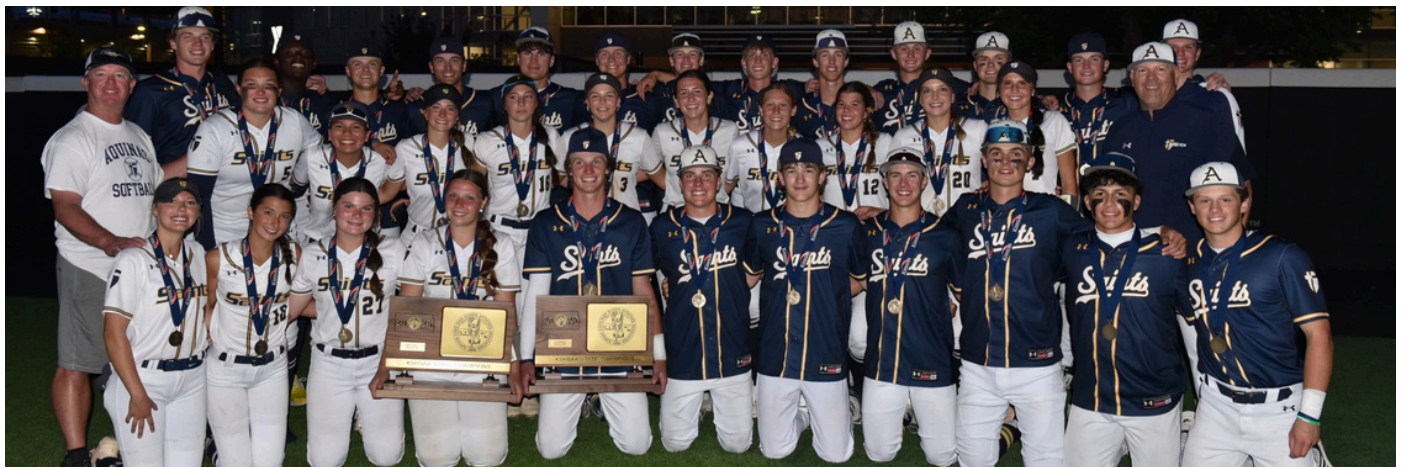
For the girls' softball team, the journey was about more than just winning — it was about redemption and rewriting a story. After finishing as state runners-up last year, they returned with purpose. That mission was tested immediately. In the first round, trailing 2-0 in the seventh inning with two outs, the Saints mounted an improbable comeback, scoring three runs — the final one off a dramatic, diving slide at home plate that sent the dugout into a frenzy and propelled the team to the semifinals. From there, momentum carried them all the way to the title — their first in 17 years. But the victory resonated far beyond the final out.

In the stands were two proud alumni, Mila Nelson Ellsworth ('97) and Jessica Cisper Teddy ('99), members of the Saints' 1997 state championship softball team — and now mothers to current players. This time, they weren't holding bats or wearing cleats. They were watching their daughters carve out their own legacy, nearly three decades later.



Mila Nelson Ellsworth, '97, and Jessica Cisper Teddy, '99, smile with their daughters after the BIG win!

Watching both my daughters win a state championship at my alma mater was EPIC!" Mila said. "I know firsthand how hard it is to win one — the hours of practice, the setbacks, the pressure. When I played, I had control and could influence the outcome. As a parent, it's harder — you can only watch, pray, and cheer. I couldn't be prouder of them and feel so blessed to experience this moment alongside them."



Mila's words come from deep experience. Back in 1997, the Saints' title was the result of sweat, teamwork, and unshakable belief. Now, 28 years later, her daughters have added to that same story – showing that excellence isn't just remembered, it's reborn.

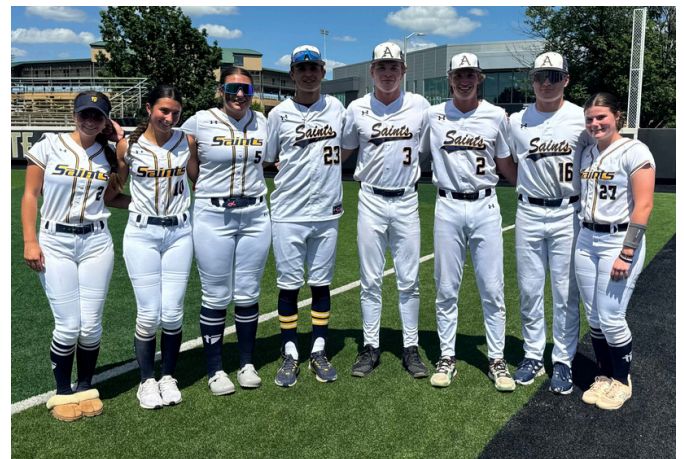
Peylan reflected, "Winning state with my older sister was unforgettable – and what makes it even more special is knowing that our mom did the same thing when she was in high school. It's like we're carrying on a legacy."

Keyle added, "This win shows how strong and close our family is. It's not just about talent – it's about the hard work and team spirit that's been passed down from one generation to the next."

The Saints' softball program now stands as a beacon of what it means to build something that lasts – not just trophies, but tradition. The pride stretches across players, parents, coaches, and an entire school community that shows up year after year with faith, grit, and heart.

Meanwhile, on the baseball diamond, the boys' team had their own mission: defend their title and go back-to-back. They delivered with confidence and composure, surviving tense moments and closing out another championship season – cementing the Saints' place in state history.

What made the weekend even more memorable? Four sets of siblings across the baseball and softball teams got to share the triumph – and the memory – together.



For the Saints, this wasn't just about two trophies. It was about legacy, resilience, and the power of family – both on and off the field. It was about daughters stepping into the footprints of their mothers, and then running beyond them to make their own mark.

It was about writing the next chapter of a story 28 years in the making.

Way to go, Saints. Your legacy lives on - and it's stronger than ever!



TIME TO PLAN YOUR REUNION!

Homecoming is set for October 3rd, 2025!

CLASS OF 1980

Saturday July 26, 2025
Knight's of Columbus Hall
Shawnee , Kansas

Please follow our fb page
St. Joe of Shawnee Class of 1980.
Contact: [Julie Soetaert King](#).

CLASS OF 2005

The Class of 2005
Family Tailgate - October 3rd
Adult outing - Craft Putt October 4th
[Laura Cindrich Foote!](#)

SAVE THE DATE: October 3rd weekend!

CLASS OF 2020

The Class of 2020 is in the early stages to planning their 5-year reunion. If you have any questions or interest in helping to make this reunion a reality please contact, [Amanda Hamm!](#)

SAVE THE DATE: October 3rd weekend!

CLASS OF 1975

The Class of 1975 is underway on planning their 50th reunion! Plan for October 3rd - 4th weekend. We will go to the football game October 3rd and join in on the tailgate fun!

Contact: [Deb Shackelford](#)

REUNION YEARS

15 year - 2010
20 year - 2005
25 year - 2000
30 year - 1995
35 year - 1990
40 year - 1985
45 year - 1980
50 year - 1975
55 year - 1970
60 year - 1965
65 year - 1960
70 year - 1955
75 year - 1950

LEGACY HALL: TELL YOUR STORY

Our goal is to create a place that tells the story of three schools becoming one incredible tradition. To break ground, we need 2,025 alumni to donate \$100 each. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help us tell the story of our shared heritage and honor the legacy that unites us all.

Your gift will help ensure that this vision comes to life. Together, we can make it happen.

For every 100 Alumni donations we will be raffling off all kinds of incredible items!

DONATE HERE! - under special comment please write - Legacy Hall!

CURRENT SPACE



THE VISION:





GOLF TOURNAMENT

Have you ever wanted to play golf but didn't know where to start? If that is YOU, then I have a perfect place for you to swing away and have some fun. Join us for this year's Saints Golf Classic, June 9th at Lionsgate Golf Course. It is a friendly get together for a great cause!

Sign up today and your team receives a special gift!

SIGN UP HERE!

HALL OF FAME: 2026 THE NEXT INDUCTION CLASS!

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School established the Saints Hall of Fame Awards Program in the school's 25th year to formally recognize Alumni, parents, and friends that help define and advance the institution and its mission.

Nominate Here:

