The Gata Data

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Gators dominant in season-opening road win

BY: KHLOE GUFFEY AND RANDI GUFFEY
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On August 29, St. Amant football had a successful final preseason game against Assumption High. Although the usual Jamboree against Assumption is played at home at The Pit, Head Coach David Oliver thought that the travel would be a good way to prepare the players for the season opener on September 5 against Byrd, with a four-and-a-half-hour trip, and get them ready for the different routine, depending on whether they play at home or away.

Jamborees are used by football teams to allow them to get into the routine of the game. “The jamboree is your final dress rehearsal…It allows you to get your substitution, make sure that your side lines and travel arrangement are solid for the year, and your camera work and film the games.” During the jamboree, the gators were able to secure their substitutions, ensure their sideline and travel arrangements are sold for the year, and the cameras work so they can film the games.

The Gators hit the road on September 5 and traveled to Shreveport to take on the Yellow Jackets at Byrd High, with an outstanding win with the final score of 49-6. Coach Oliver said, “It was a great way to kick off the 2025 season, a long road trip. It's a quality opponent; we played really good football in all three phases.”

The Gators snapped a total of 56 offensive plays compared to Byrd's 38. Senior quarterback Cooper Babin threw for 274 passing yards with two touchdowns against Byrd with six different receivers. The top receivers of the game were Landon Blanchard, with a total of 76 yards on two passes and a score; Kaven Taylor had 63 yards; Jermichael Millien had 54 yards and Riley Rizzuto had 40 yards and a touchdown. Babin was the lead rusher of the game with a net of 74 yards and two scores, Jourden Hickerson netted 61 yards and a score, and Jaquan Gordon with the fourth touchdown. “We know it's going to be successful against that certain defense, and we just executed it,” Babin commented on how the offense was so successful against Byrd’s defense.

The Gator defense held Byrd to only 98 passing yards and a zero out of five attempted passes through the entire game. Byrd had fumbled three different times, once allowing Marcus “MJ” Dunn to return the fumble and make a touchdown for the Gators. The Gators did experience one hiccup: a substitution problem. “We just have to make sure we get the communication straight in a close game that can be devastating,” Coach Oliver said.

Babin was nominated for this week's Gridiron Player of the Week award after his dominant showing. “Very proud of the performances, but a lot of it had to do with my teammates playing really good,” Babin said.

On September 11, the Gators host Cecila at The Pit for the regular season home-opener. “Thursday night, a home game against Cecilia is going to be our home opener. They are the defending state champs in their division. It should be an exciting night on Thursday.”

STA Volleyball serves up a new season

BY: SANIYA SMITH
Gata Data Reporter

This upcoming season, the Lady Gators volleyball teams swing into action. During the 2025-26 season, these ladies are expected to excel and to surpass their already high expectations.

The Lady Gators recently demolished Vanderbilt, dominating all three sets with pure unity, and the team expects this victory will continue to manifest throughout this season. Lucie Broussar, St. Amant’s volleyball coach, says, “ One word to describe our team is athletic. Our ladies played exceptionally well during their scrimmages, and we predict that this year will be phenomenal.”

The team has improved greatly, and their awareness has been sharpened; the team's volleyball IQ has been enhanced. Like every team, St. Amant’s Lady Gators had to rigorously work on their skills and assets as a result of their continuous practice over the summer season.

The Lady Gators, as a whole, have refined not only their skills, but the team has also become stronger as a unit, understanding each other and being able to communicate effectively as a team to work toward a specific goal. Broussard also adds. “Our defense has improved a lot, the team's court awareness has heightened, and the girls have a supportive community with leaders who are there to pave the way for a successful and fulfilling season.” Players who have made a lasting impact on the team include: Calli Hargrave, Ally Fraiser, Ryleigh Blanchard, and the other ladies who have all contributed to the volleyball team. In the words of Coach Lucie Broussard, “A lot of awesome things are happening.”

On Thursday, September 11, the girls are going to play against at Assumption and then travel to neighboring Dutchtown for tournament play.

New Teacher Spotlight: Claire Barbier

BY: SOPHIA TUTTLETON
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant welcomes a new first-year English 1 teacher, Mrs. Claire Barbier. Mrs. Barbier has wanted to be a teacher since she was four years old. She wanted to become an English teacher because she "loves when kids realize how literature can impact their lives."

Mrs. Barbier also plans to attend many sporting events. She has season tickets for football, but also wants to try to attend sports like volleyball. She is also excited to participate in STA Homecoming week, because she loves to dress up.

Mrs. Barbier states she "would be happy to help someone even if I don't actually teach them." She encourages all students to ask her for help if they need it, even though she may not be their teacher.

Mrs. Barbier recently graduated from LSU and is excited to teach at STA, not only because it is local but also because she has heard wonderful things about the Gator community.

Opinion

Superman: Movie of the year?

BY: AIDEN SIMON
Gata Data Reporter

In 2023, it was announced that a new Superman movie directed by James Gunn was going to be made, starting the new DC cinematic universe. Many people were excited to see the movie, with senior Lucas Sevario saying, "I was really super excited because that was the only Superman I saw other than the horrible Snyder films," and according to senior Aubrey Scanlan, "They definitely hyped up the movie and I thought it met its expectations."

Sophomore Gunner Bacon, after being asked about the movie, claimed "that jawn was dope," and after being asked to elaborate on what that could possibly mean, said "First minute of the movie, this is peak. Halfway through, this is the peak. I almost cried, but I didn't. The speech with Lex Luthor, I cried during that, that was peak." This emotional reaction can certainly be credited to the scriptwriting. Superman in this movie is a very emotional character with Lois Lane, Superman's girlfriend, describing him, saying, "You trust everyone and think everyone you've met is beautiful." Superman is written to be a very vulnerable character, contrasting with a lot of modern superhero movies, which are very stern and serious and don't really go into the superhero's emotions. Lucas Sevario complimented the film on this saying, "Superman is humane and actually cares about people, especially with the street vendor that died. He knew his name, and he actually valued him as a person and not just another person for aura farming or racking up style points."

What absolutely brings out the great writing are the actors' performances, one of the biggest standouts being Nicholas Hoult as Lex Luthor. Lex Luthor is the main antagonist of the film, with his main goal being to literally ruin Superman in any way possible. Lex Luthor is genuinely filled with rage in scenes like when he finds out Superman escaped from his prison, and he yells into the distance and smashes a mug and yells at his assistants to clean it up you can really feel the absolute anger in his performance. Even when Lex calms down, he still puts on an amazing performance, like when he ragebaited Superman over Krypto, Superman's dog, acting like he had no idea what he was talking about just to call him an "ugly dog with a cape." The performance is hilarious thanks to Nicholas Hoult's amazing acting; it really feels like he was made for the role and made Lex the best he could be.

The movie also looks amazing. Senior Khyri Taylor complimented the film on its color, which helps the film a lot because it helps uplift the film's light-hearted tone and themes, and the fact that it just actually looks like a comic book.

Another thing that helps with the film's lighthearted tone is the humor. Every character has at least one funny moment, from Lex Luthor's comically evil nature to Green Lantern's overly cockiness. The big humor highlight is definitely Krypto the Superdog, a reckless, misbehaving dog that causes nothing but trouble and is the absolute pinnacle of comedy

It's been almost two months since Superman came out, but does the film hold up? Of course it does! Gunner Bacon, who has watched the movie twice, after being asked if the film holds up, said, "Still a 10/10 that jawn was peak. I will watch it again and again. I need to get it digitally before I go insane, and so I can watch it before I sleep, and I can wake up with hope."

The film is overall just amazing and has brought many people to actual tears. James Gunn's Superman has brought humanity back to Superman as a character and to comic books in general. Lucas Sevario very beautifully said, "Superman embodies that you need to have hope, you need to be yourself, and you need to be human because we all deserve to be human." Not only is the writing great, but the actors' performances and visuals of the movie make it a really fun and an absolute essential watch. Aubrey Scanlan, after being asked for additional comments, said, "Go watch it." I mean, what else could you possibly need?