



The Gata Data

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Lady Gators prevail in district matchups, prepare for playoff push

By: JOLIE VILLENURVE
Gata Data Reporter

The Lady Gator soccer team is ending district play as a 5-1 team and placing 12th in Division I against multiple other high schools in the area. The team was able to prevail due to their ability to latch onto Coach Jacob Bordelon’s approaches by pushing harder and using teamwork to secure multiple wins against prominent teams.

On Wednesday, January 14, Senior Lola Johnson played against her old feeder school, Dutchtown, and succeeded in taking home St. Amant's victory for the first time in six years. Beginning the game with a 1-0 lead for the Gators, Johnson says, “When we scored the first goal against D-town, it allowed everyone else to be more prepared to continue and finish the game all out.” Increasing the adrenaline, the Griffins tied up the score shortly after, making it 1-1 and causing the competition to become even more momentous than previously, while heightening the Gators' stakes of winning. However, the Lady Griffins' tie lasted just a few short minutes, with the Lady Gators scoring the game-winner with just a few minutes left on the clock.

Following this thrilling game, on Saturday, January 17, the Lady Gators faced another rival, East Ascension, and landed with yet another win, 2-0, making it their eighth consecutive victory against the Lady Spartans. Johnson later noted that Coach Bordelon told them to stay committed to the game, giving the girls the realization of

the opportunity they had to pursue the win. The Lady Gators' two goals in the second quarter put the Lady Gators on a three-game winning streak, improving their record to 11-3-2.

The Lady Gators will look to continue their hot streak over Lakeshore on January 24 as they near the end of the regular season and prepare for playoffs..



The Gators keep dunking on their rivals

By: RANDI GUFFEY
Gata Data Reporter

On Friday, January 16, the Gators took on the Dutchtown Griffins at the Gold Dome and ended with an 85-67 win. Coach Travis Uzee thought that they started out very well defensively, but wasn't very pleased with how it ended, but still believed it was a good win to get against a rival. And in the days leading up to the recent EA game, Uzee said, “They’re a rival, it doesn’t matter who's good and who’s not good. It’s always a tough game. We have to be prepared for a tough game.”

And on January 20 they were. The Gators took on the East Ascension Spartans in the Gold Dome and ended with a 65-62 victory in a nailbiter. Coach Uzee said, “I'm very excited for our kids; they deserve that moment.” Coach Uzee comments that although the team didn't play their best, they still showed resilience throughout the game, which allowed them to end up winning the game. The team made some great plays at the end. Kaleb Leblanc made four free throws in the final minute out of the total six points to get the team ahead by three and secure the win. Senior DJ Schonberg thought that the team performed very well. “We work every day for this. I feel like we're ready for tough games every day.” Schonberg comments.

The Gators will take on the Prairieville Hurricanes on Friday, January 23. The team is excited to play. “It's another opportunity for these kids to play another game together.” Coach Uzee said. The team is 20-3 right now, and if anyone beats the Gators, it will be a big win for

them. The team knows what's at stake: “If we don't play our best, then you never know what will happen.” Coach Uzee said. The team is expecting the Hurricanes to play their best game they have had all year. “It might be a tough one, it might be an easy one, we will just see when Friday come, Schonberg added. We wish the Gators luck in the game tonight!



Gator Baseball swings into new season under new leadership

By: ALLY MECHE
Gata Data Reporter

As the spring semester begins, various sports start to prepare for their upcoming seasons.

St. Amant High baseball is currently working to ensure a successful and smooth season.

Last year, the Gators had a memorable season, however it unfortunately ended sooner than expected. The team took into consideration the mistakes and weaknesses that were shown throughout last year in order to have a better season with more achievements. "Last season, we had some guys who were more on their own. They were focused on performing how they wanted to, so it wasn't really a team effort," senior Landon Blanchard said.

Additionally, senior Cooper Babin agrees, saying team bonding, as well as overall last year's team chemistry was a weakness. However, the team is looking forward to growing past this struggle. "We are watching live pitching and playing more scrimmages," said senior Anden Millet.

Another change made to the baseball team was the coach. During the offseason, St. Amant hired Caleb Ricca to serve as the team's new head coach. "We are going to have a good season. I am excited, and Coach Ricca is bringing in some good energy," Millet says.

Coach Ricca sees a successful season ahead, and feels that the team has stepped up and held onto the success from last season and hopes to see carried into this year. "We are bigger and stronger. I feel fantastic, I am ready to see where the year takes us, and I'm excited to be a Gator and be tapped into this community," Coach Ricca said.

The team will have their first game against Lutchter in the Jamboree February 7, before playing E.D. White February 9 and West Feliciana on February 12. We wish these Gators luck in the upcoming season!

New teacher spotlight: Caleb Ricca

By: HAYDEN LOUPE
Gata Data Reporter

New teacher Caleb Ricca teaches Quest for Success and P.E. here at St. Amant. Coach Ricca not only teaches but is also the new head baseball coach. He has been coaching for several years and got his first coaching opportunity at East Ascension for a few years and then transferred over to his high school Alma Mater, Dutchtown, for a year before coming to St. Amant.

Having experienced the three rival schools, Coach Ricca hopes to use his knowledge as an advantage as the team faces off against their parish rivals. He finds that Ascension Parish has some of the best schools and students and finds it to be a blessing to be apart of this parish.

One thing Coach Ricca loves about St. Amant is the student body. He finds that the general student body loves to be a Gator and seeing the school spirit and the want to be a STA Gator is the most interesting factor of the school. "I just love the energy around here," said Coach Ricca.

Coach Ricca has been enjoying his first year at St. Amant and wants to give a big thank you to the school and students for accepting him as he made the switch from the rivals to St. Amant.



Gatorettes Leap in Nationals

By: KHLOE GUFFEY
Gata Data Reporter

On January 17 and 18, the Gatorettes competed in the American All-Star Regionals. The team got first in their Pom routine, fourth in Hip Hop, and got a superior rating in Jazz. Additionally, Junior Cale Marchand got third in High School Division II solos, competing a lyrical.

Sponsor Sarah Badeaux says that over the past weekend, the team was strongest in pom. "We really worked hard that past week, and it paid off because we got first in that division." Co-Captain Nila Landry says that the team's dynamic is something that helps them be strong. "I feel like we have really gotten close as a team, and our chemistry is really good, and I feel like every practice we improve a lot, and even through the ups and downs and the hard full outs, we still like to come together and are able to critique each other and build each other up for the hard practices," Landry said.

The team continues to practice between competitions.



Captain Sydnie Ezell says that they use their score sheets with corrections on them, as well as look at videos from past performances. "We use those to review and correct past mistakes, work on our weaknesses, and make them strengths." Badeaux says, "They are really good at taking constructive criticism and supporting each other." Badeaux says that getting first would be great, but placing in the top three would be a good goal for the team. Ezell says that she wants to beat East Ascension and get a sweepstake. The team will have a showoff on February 1 in the Gold Dome at 6:30 p.m., along with the Cheer team, and on Sunday, February 8, the team will compete in the Mardi Gras Classic at Chalmette High School. Then, on March 6, the team will compete at Disney for nationals. We wish the Gatorettes the best of luck in their upcoming competitions!

Opinion:

Louisiana adopts new "Hands Free Law" for Drivers

By: RAEGAN ELISAR
Gata Data Reporter

As of January 1, 2026, Louisiana adopted a new hands-free law. Drivers in Louisiana will no longer be able to hold phones in their hands while driving. This new law states that they will only be allowed to use Bluetooth or voice command.

In 2023, there were 3,275 people killed and 325,000 injured due to distracted driving. This is an average of 9 deaths daily from preventable distractions. The goal of this law is to reduce the number of accidents caused by distracted driving and cell phone use and potentially decrease high auto insurance rates.

This law prohibits drivers from holding their phone to talk, text, scroll social media, or watch videos. The "lawfully stationary" exception states that the car must be fully stopped and put in park or neutral. This means that red lights and stop signs do not count because the vehicle is in a travel lane.

This law officially took effect

on August 1, 2025, initially issuing warnings, but full ticketing was implemented as of January 1, 2026. Fines include up to \$100 for the first offence. This fine is increased to up to \$250 in construction and school zones. Fines can also be doubled if a crash occurs due to distracted driving, and repeat offenders may be required to complete an additional driver's education course or perform community service.

While this law is strict, there are a few exceptions: law enforcement, first responders, and utility workers on duty, and reporting accidents, hazards, life-threatening situations, or emergencies to 911.

As an attempt to document the data of distracted driving accidents, starting April 1, 2027 and ending April 1, 2032, the Department of Transportation Development and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections will issue a report each year of the recorded accidents caused by distracted driving. Overall, the goal is to provide safer roads and an improved driving experience.



You Can't Fake Influence

By: BROOKE PIERCE
Gata Data Reporter

The iconic Tiger Girls of Louisiana State University lost to the University of Nevada - Las Vegas by 0.3333 at the UDA College Nationals in the Division 1A hip-hop category.

The Tiger Girls shocked fans with yet another sharp and creative routine to a Kendrick Lamar mashup from the Super Bowl last season. In previous years, the girls have won this category four times. They first became an online sensation when they competed and won in 2022 with "Like a Boy" by Ciara. Since then, the Tiger Girls have gained a significant following on their social media platforms. Not only did it bring attention to the Tiger Girls, but also to the competition as a whole. This is what created an uproar when the girls lost this season.

This Season the girls were going for yet another national title. This competition works by having two rounds: semi-finals and finals. In the Semi-finals 18 teams competed and only 10 made it through to the finals. The tiger girls were first going into finals from the previous round with a score of

96.0167, while Nevada was in third with a score of 94.8. The Tiger girls were about two points ahead of Nevada going into finals. Then in finals Lsu placed second under Nevada with a 97.05, and Nevada had a 97.3833.

Arguably, Nevada looked better in the semi-finals rather than the finals; meanwhile, the Tiger Girls went more full-out and were sharper in the finals. This sparked many questions for the fan-base of the Tiger Girls.

Although the placement wasn't what they were expecting or hoping, they were still proud of their placement. Not only were they proud, but they left their mark on the stage. Louisiana State University sports photographer posted on Instagram with the caption "You can't fake influence" a quote that was in their music from Kendrick Lamar. This just highlights the significant influence that the tiger girls have within the dance community, whether they come out on top or not. Their impact is widely recognized, and it continues to resonate across various circles, demonstrating how much they shape the view of dance.



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