The Gata Data

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STA HOSTS ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

By: SANIYA SMITH
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February 28, St. Amant High school held its fourth Black History Month program, an event in which celebrates and honors the contributions of the African American people. This history is so important and the Black History Program continues to educate and celebrate black voices.

Malcolm Reed, St. Amant's African American History teacher has been conducting this educational, immersive and entertaining program for eight years. Coach Reed says, "This will be my eighth year running this program, it's truly a dream seeing everything fall into place, especially after the stress that comes with putting together something like this." The program is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of African American men and women. Reed Says, "The program is not only educational but it's entertaining."

During the program St. Amant students from many different programs were able to come together to create an unforgettable night as teens from all different walks of life had the chance to display their talents. Reed says, "by being active within the school I'm able to build these connections with students, I'm able to give them a platform, these kids are given an opportunity to integrate, to produce such an amazing program." The Black history Program consisted of performances from STA's jazz band, Gatorettes, McKinley Pantherettes and many more, all with the intent to educate the audience about history and its importance. Principal Christina Carter says, " I love events such as these because our students are able to break through their shell, to show off their talents before their peers, it's a great thing."

History should be shared and it should be appreciated. America has so much history it should be preserved and remembered, although some groups are marginalized their contributions to society should be acknowledged. Coach Reed acknowledges author Jarvis R. Givens, he has phrased black history as " Black Memory Work" which is about maintaining memories of those before us because. It truly is important to understand history no matter what race or religion one is. Coach Reed says, "We as Americans have to understand that this country has so much depth and significance, in order to get the full spectrum of history in this country we must acknowledge what's taboo." Black History is American History, STA is continuing to celebrate African Americans and their contributions to modern day America.

St. Amant's flag football team is making history

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The Lady Gators Flag Football team had their first scrimmage in school history on Wednesday, February 25, against Lutcher High School at The Pit. During the scrimmage the teams did not keep score or time, each team was able to run 10 plays on offense and 10 plays on defense. This helped the team out by letting them see what the plays feel like and help them better understand the game. Coach Darren Simoneaux says that the scrimmage went very well for the Gators considering that they only had one true day of practice. As well as allowing the players to feel and understand the game, the scrimmage gives the team film to look back on, "It's easier to see it on film than it is at practices because now you have something to apply it to," said Coach Simoneaux. Coach Joleigh Hartman said that the scrimmage was able to show the girls how the games are going to go and the real speed of the game, "At practice we don't really rush, because we want them to gain confidence. I truly think they saw the speed of the game… They're trying to get used to catching the ball." Coach Jo was very excited to see the growth from the beginning of the season to the scrimmage.

Coach Simoneaux says that the team needs to practice on repping, "the more reps you take the better you get at it." Coach Jo also said that the team needs to be more game ready and, "get a faster beat on things."

Sophomore Rhamsie Georgeson says that the team needs to work on their communication at practice, "We need more communication and a lot more trust."

Coach Jo and Simoneaux said that everyone played well and it was a group effort. Coach Simoneaux said that freshman Emma Schexnayder had a "very good game on offense." Coach Jo said that, "Quarterback Rhamsie Georgeson really showed that she can run with the ball. Overall it was just everybody."

Schexnayder thought the scrimmage went very well. Georgeson thought the game went okay for the first ever time playing as a team, Georgeson thinks this season is going to go a lot better than the scrimmage went.

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STA introduces Indoor Percussion

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This January, St. Amant High School welcomed in a new competition team, Indoor Percussion. This team consists of the St. Amant drumline, marching percussion, and front ensemble percussion which is similar to what one would see during halftime at a Friday night football game, but it is just inside of a gymnasium.

Indoor percussion only plays the percussion part of the music, but it is still the same style that it would be during the half time shows.

The Magnolia Performing Arts Association has a circuit for Winterguard along with a circuit for Indoor Percussion which allowed St. Amant to start doing this team.

This is the first year for St. Amant to join this circuit for Indoor Percussion, but it has been going on in the state for a while. “We decided to see how it would go and see who would be interested in just trying it out.”

STA Band Director Andrew Graham states.By doing this Indoor Percussion it allows students to be able to do drumline all year and improve their skills by the time fall season comes instead of doing marching band for half a year and then not touching it again for the other half. Also, since freshmen do not march drumline in the fall, “it gives them an opportunity to try some of that stuff out in the spring to better prepare for next school year” Graham says.

St. Amant Indoor Percussion has recently competed two competitions at East Ascension High School and Dutchtown High School and are going to compete at the State Championship in late March. “We wanted to start kinda small this year just to see how it would go, not to compete to get trophies, but to get feedback.” Graham mentions. With the feedback they get from this season, they are able to improve not only for the Championship but also for next season.

STA's Bowling team stays Striking

ALEXANDRA TOSTE
Gata Data Reporter

The Lady Gators beat East Ascension for the second time in two weeks, with a whopping 20-7 win. This puts the Lady Gator bowlers undefeated in district play with a 3-0 record. Additionally, the boys team gave EA their first loss of the season while also setting a new and improved STA record for total pins in one game. The boys are currently 1-0 in district play.

The players claim this is their best season they have had in a while. “I think we have what it takes to make it to the playoffs and have the potential to beat a lot of teams that we lost to last year,” says senior Jessie Tengler. Players hope to remain undefeated until the playoffs.

When the players know they have an upcoming match, they start to prepare themselves mentally. Senior Chase Cagnolatti says he likes to get his mind off the pressure. “I distract myself by talking to my teammates but also making sure I'm focused enough to understand what I'm doing when I get up there,” Cagnolatti said. Students like to calm themselves when they are in a close match, “I'm really trying to focus on my breathing mainly, and just focus on doing my best,” added Tengler.

The players trust in their practice and themselves to succeed. When asked what goals do they want to meet this season Jessie said “I definitely want to raise my average since last year I didn't have the best of years.” Players want to do well overall for their individual scores but also to help the team with their combined team score.

The students not only like to bowl but love the environment they have made with the team. They like the bonds they have created through their team and this has allowed them to make different friends. Tengler says, “I've had friends who joined the bowling team because I was on it and we've grown a lot closer over the years.” Players say the experience is fun and love to show out for STA.

Both the boys and girls team face Dutchtown at Premiere Lanes on Wednesday, March 11. We wish the teams good luck!

STA tennis hits off the season

JOLIE VILLENURVE
Gata Data Reporter

The St Amant Gator tennis team started their season off with a bang. The Gators varsity boys and girls are instructed to play two-set matches going up to six games. The winner of the set, usually, would have a two-game lead. However, when both teams win a set, a tiebreak must occur. This would cause them to compete to get to seven points, however they would have to win by two game-points. If one does not win by two, the game would continue until then.

The Gators tennis team started their official season Monday February 23, against the Dutchtown Griffins. The boys singles side started off with a bang with Junior, Brayden King ending his two-set match: 6-1, 6-1. Senior Tristan Bailey ended his match with a two set and tiebreak: 6-1, 4-6, and 10-7. The boys doubles, senior Luke Rachel and junior Grant Wells won their match: 6-2, 6-4, merely missing a tiebreak. Lastly, for boys doubles, senior Beau Estes and junior Noah Templet won 6-1 6-2.

The most recent matches against Episcopal on Monday March 2, caused more trouble with fewer doubles and singles teams winning. Junior Kellyn Bourgeois won her singles match: 6-1 6-2, completely dumbfounding the Knights girls singles player. Seniors Allie Jeavons and Lila Robinson also won with ease, ending their two-set match with 6-3 6-3, completely avoiding a tiebreak. The boys team had slightly more luck with Luke winning 1-6 6-3 and a 10-5 tiebreak. Furthermore, boys doubles were instructed to do something not as usual, an eight game pro-set. During these matches players must get to eight first and win by a margin of 2. Brayden and Tristian used their skills once again to pull out an 8-4. Lastly Grant and sophomore Eli Roddy won 8-2.

Coach Mia Smith announces that this season "will present some good wins, although matches will present challenges, the team overall will do great." The following matches are Catholic P.C. on March 10th, Walker on the 11th, and Riverside on the 16th. Good luck Gators!

STA baseball has had a productive start to the season with new leadership

HAYDEN LOUPE
Gata Data Reporter

As they approach the halfway mark of the season, the St. Amant baseball team continues to gain experience and grow together, leading them to a 9-7 record season so far. The season has had many ups and downs, but the team is learning from those downs to help improve the rest of the season.

This season, the team's strengths are in their offense. While some feel they could be doing better, Coach Caleb Ricca finds that the team is doing great against their tough, talented opponents. Coach Ricca also sees the pitching as one of the strengths as that continues to improve throughout the season.

The team is gaining more experience every day. With each game the players grow and gain more confidence. The team is experiencing many late season troubles early on, so getting this experience is helping them prepare for the later games. "We've had a lot of tight ball games, games we should've won, you normally experience those in the playoff game, but we are experiencing this early in the season, so it's going to help us for sure," said senior Anden Millet. A lot of the games the team has fell behind in has been so close that even just one more hit could have one them the game. This year the team's chemistry has been great.

The team has come together and since a lot of the players from last year are playing again this year, everyone knows how everyone plays. "The energy is a lot different this year," said junior Cohen Robert. This year many of the juniors who played last year have stepped up because they know what it is like to have a first round exit and no one wants a repeat of that ending.

"The connection with these people, building with them, and going through every day practices and games," is some of senior Landon Blanchard's favorite moments of being apart of this team and their chemistry. The team is looking forward to district games and are hopeful for a solid playoff run.

The team has had a great run so far this season with many ups and downs and a new coaching staff. The team is going against another tough opponent, Vanderbilt, on March 6 here at St. Amant. We wish the team good luck in the game tonight and for the rest of the season!

FLAG FOOTBALL *continued from page 1*

Coach Simoneaux expressed his thoughts about the upcoming season, “I’m excited. Overall I think we have enough talent on this team to make a little run, I think we are going to make the playoffs and see if we can shake things up.” Coach Jo is also excited and she is proud that she is able to bring this to St. Amant and to the community.

This is a full circle moment for Coach Jo because when she went to St. Amant powder puff was brought and she played both her junior and senior year, then she was able to bring back powder puff when she became a teacher here, and now she is able to coach the flag football team. “I'm more just proud to be bringing this to our community, they're already showing so much support already. And also to just highlight the girls' sports here.” Coach Jo said. Georgeson says that she is looking forward to the season. She thinks that the team would be in a good spot at the end of the season and make it to the playoffs, and play in the Super Dome.

As of the 2025-2026 school year St. Amant is the school in Ascension Parish to have a flag football team. Coach Jo comments on St. Amant girl athletes, “Our girl athletes are our best athletes on campus. Hands down! St. Amant High has the girl athletes, so this is really really cool to expose them in a way that no other Ascension Parish School is doing.”

The team has their first official game of the season on Monday, March 16. We wish the team good luck on their first game in school history! And wish them the best of luck for the whole season, Go Lady Gators!

Lady Gators dominate Spartans in 2026 home opener

by RAEGAN ELISAR AND BROOKE PIERCE

The first game this season at the Lady Gator Park was a success as they dominated district rival East Ascension with a 15-9 win.

Senior Brooke Rabalais was on a roll with three home-runs, seven RBI’s, and an intentional walk. Senior Rylie Causey got three hits and two RBI’s. Lastly, Senior Bailey Ducote got three hits, one being a triple. Head Coach Amy Pitre wants to add that all of the players stood out to her, “Every player on our roster recorded a hit so that was impressive.”

Sophomore Kyndall Landry was thrown into pitch and was feeling nervous moving there from the outfield but took the circle confidently and got the job done. This game was her first time in the lineup and she hit one out of the park.

Landry says that the last inning was the most thrilling and said, “I knew we were going to finish it out and win the game so that was a good feeling. It was definitely fun to go out there and just have fun in the circle.”

The team usually focuses more individually than preparing for the specific team they are playing. Rabalais states, “we kind of just focus on our own abilities and like playing together.” One thing the team is trying to work on overall is not letting the pressure get to them and knowing that they are prepared for the game.