



The Blue Jay



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500!

Win marks record milestone for basketball's Coach Jennings

By **Jonathan LeBrun**
Staff Writer

Blue Jay fans flocking to the Birdcage have seen many different teams in the past 20 years. The one constant over those two decades has been Coach Chris Jennings on the sidelines.

In 1992, Jennings, Class of '78, was named head coach of the Jesuit basketball team. Jennings, who has won a state championship in 2001 and multiple district titles, stamped his place in Louisiana sports history with his 500th win this season. The milestone victory came at the Newman Invitational Tournament against the John Ehret Patriots, with the Jays winning 47-39.

After the victory, Jennings received a plaque from Jesuit

President, Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J., commemorating the achievement.

When asked what the milestone means to him, Jennings humbly responded "I have been around for a while."

Ron Brocato, noted local prep sports columnist, called Jennings "a master, the dean of basketball coaches in the New Orleans region." The Clarion Herald writer said this win places Jennings among the elite. "His knowledge of the game and his ability to work his defense are superior. That's why some coaches aren't wild about playing Jesuit."

What does it take to become a great coach? "It takes a lot of time and effort," Jennings said, adding "take it day by day and focus on your next opponent for



Coach Chris Jennings, center, strategizes with his players during the game against John Ehret last month. The 47-39 victory placed Jennings in an elite class of prep coaches earning 500 wins.

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Catch Blue Jays on parade



The Blue Jay Band marched with the Krewe of Carrollton parade last year. The band will continue the tradition this Carnival season, appearing in several parades. Jesuit will be represented in other groups through Mardi Gras.

*Add some Blue
and White to all
that Purple,
Green and Gold*

Blue Jays ready to roll!

Every year several members of the Jesuit High School community participate in Carnival festivities. Here's how to spot the Blue and White amid all the purple, green and gold.

The MCJROTC Band and cadets will kick things off marching with the Knights of Sparta parade. It gets underway along the traditional Uptown route at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30. And if you're near Gallier Hall for Sparta, wave hello to Events Coordinator D.J. Galiano, who will be serving as the announcer for the parade

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Thanksgiving drive served 465 families

By Dominic Salomone
Staff Writer

The Thanksgiving Drive is a tradition that has spanned decades of Jesuit history. Beginning in the 1920s, the drive strives to provide as many families as possible a Thanksgiving meal. This year, Jesuit fed about 465 families. Every homeroom pitches in, not to mention many of the clubs, teams and other organizations.

The drive started early in November as many homerooms and organizations began to collect non-perishable food items and money to buy groceries. The real progress was made on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving though.

The day started at 4:30 a.m. for many as students and faculty began shopping for perishable food items at Robert's Market, which for years has generously opened up several hours early and offered a special discount to Jesuit for the Thanksgiving



Juniors from English teacher Timothy Powers' homeroom deliver food to a grateful family during this year's Thanksgiving drive. Before the deliveries commenced on the day before Thanksgiving, the school community participated in a prayer service. At right, Stephen Kramer, S.J., spoke on the role of love as a guiding force to charity.

Drive.

After shopping, the students and faculty made their way back to Carrollton and Banks to pack up the boxes of food.

Each box was soon filled with a turkey, donated by the Class of 1983, and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving feast.

Before making the deliveries, the community paused from

the work of the hectic morning for a prayer service in the Chapel of the North American Martyrs.

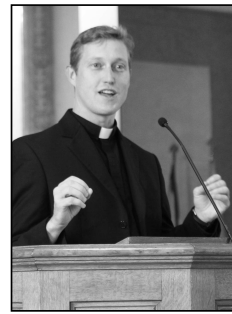
At the prayer service, senior Victor Castellon spoke to the community about the Thanksgiving Drive's focus of "serving God and serving others."

Stephen Kramer, S.J., also addressed the assembled commu-

nity. Kramer discussed the motivation to love others since we are loved by God. At the conclusion of the prayer service, all were dismissed to deliver baskets to their respective homes.

The Thanksgiving Drive is meaningful not only to those who receive baskets, but also to many members of our community.

Junior Xavier Oberhelman



both shopped in the morning and delivered the baskets. He said he felt a particular sense of community during the drive calling it "the ultimate example of the Jesuit community banding together to give back to those who need it."

Junior Daniel Degrange found the delivery of the baskets quite touching.

"It's where we get to really see a difference, not just bringing in canned goods, but watching families gratefully accept the baskets," he said.

Carnival Continued from Page 1

from the city's official toasting stand.

You can also catch the Blue Jay cadets on the final weekend of Carnival, appearing in the Krewe of Hermes parade. It begins its Uptown roll at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5.

The Blue Jay Marching Band makes its annual appearance in the Krewe of Carrollton, beginning its roll Uptown at noon on Sunday, Jan. 31. The band also leads the Krewe of Bacchus on Feb. 7. Each year, Jesuit is the second band of the parade, so do not be late. Bacchus kicks off Uptown at 5:15 p.m.

The Blue Jay Jazz Band will take its traditional perch aboard one of the glittering floats of the Krewe of Mid-City, starting at 11:45 a.m. on the Uptown route.

Following Mid-City, and before Bacchus rolls, look for Athletic Director Dave Moreau, who will be riding with the Krewe of Thoth, beginning at noon. He'll be on float No. 23A, riding on the sidewalk side.

Guidance counselor Justin Genovese also will be riding in Thoth. Look for him aboard float No. 32, third position on the neutral ground side.

Football Coach Mark Songy will be testing out his own throwing arm from the Captain's float in the Krewe of Endymion on Feb. 6. Look for him in position 7 on the bottom level, passenger side of that float. Endymion rolls at 4:15 p.m., beginning right here in Mid-City.

And don't forget about the convenient parking available in the Jesuit schoolyard and Banks Street lot on Endymion Saturday. The cost is just \$20 for the day. The lots open at 10 a.m.

By Peyton Touns
Staff Writer

With conversational topics ranging from the best pizza in town to the meaning of life to immigration solutions, Jesuit's Philosophy Club holds some of the most carefree yet controversial debates on the Jesuit campus.

Every Friday at lunch, about a dozen Blue Jays meet in Room 308 with outgoing club moderator Donald Songy, who has overseen their freeform conversations ranging from the mundane to the profound.

"The Philosophy Club gives guys an opportunity to flex their intellectual muscles," said Songy, the freshmen guidance counselor. Deviating from the structure of Jesuit, "which cultivates a standardization that's important in students' formation process," he added, the Philosophy Club "is a place to cultivate natural discussions and is not a mini-debate club with a detailed academic structure."

While the Philosophy Club has no direct connection to theology, civics, or western civilization classes, the club can provide an opportunity for members to extend their classroom discussions. "I'm not an authority on these academic subjects. I know mental health ... [and how] to provide a safe space for the discussions," Songy said.

Therefore, in order to get better insight into certain topics, other faculty members sometimes pop in the weekly meetings. Charles Bourg, assistant director of community service, and theology teacher Julio Minsal-Ruiz, S.J., have each moderated Philosophy Club



Students (from left) Peyton Touns, Adrian Prudhomme, Jaime Colon, Taylor Bonnet, Colin Scriptor and John Redfearn, with faculty member Charles Bourg, think about and discuss important topics in the Philosophy Club.

Staff photo by Matthew O'Neill

meetings. Bourg will be moderating the club this semester.

The students will comment on the multiple topics that pop up as the discussion changes its course from topics like the Syrian crises to the Paris attacks to college campus protests.

"We discuss controversial topics" and "welcome all levels" of students, said Songy. "The importance is that we are being open to having the discussions in the first place."

A usual meeting is composed of largely upperclassmen with some sophomores and the occasional freshman.

The club has no specific agenda, but students can bring in articles and topics on their minds to kickstart a session.

"Recently, we went from

sandwiches to Benghazi. The chaos brings us to interesting discussions," Songy said. "It's also nice to have some structure," which Songy provides even if the debate has no defined conclusion. Songy said he has enjoyed hearing students' perspectives on the Baltimore riots, institutionalized racism and how their lives are affected by these events.

Bourg, who also teaches computer science and social studies, will be taking the reins as moderator this semester. Students interested in participating in the group should contact him, or simply come to one of the club's meetings. Students can enjoy their lunch while expressing their thoughts on the many hot topics discussed at the gatherings.

Club of the Month

Philosophy Club

Meets Fridays at lunch in Room 308. The moderator is Charles Bourg.

(Listen to morning announcements for potential schedule changes.)



From the golf course to his academic pursuits, senior Carlo Carino drives for success. He was noted by Gambit newspaper recently for his anti-bullying campaign. Staff photo by Jae Kweon

Golfer Carino drives to make a difference

By Donald Barrett
News Editor

A key player for Jesuit's golf team and an outstanding student, Carlo Carino is an exemplary Blue Jay. His many accomplishments were recently recognized by Gambit, as he was selected to be among the newspaper's annual "Top Forty Under Forty."

These 40 men and women are a collection of young New Orleanians who have made significant accomplishments and made a difference in their communities. Carino definitely fits the bill for this group.

About 10 years ago, a 7-year-old Carlo was inspired to start playing golf by his father. Later, at the Zurich Classic golf tournament, Carino's father noticing his son's interest in the game, came across a booth for First Tee and investigated.

He found an organization whose mission is "to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf."

He decided to sign his son up. Little did he know, First Tee would become one of most influential organizations in Carino's life.

"A lot of the opportunities I've had to make a difference have been through the First Tee," said Carino. One of those opportunities to make a difference came through First Tee's emphasis on leadership.

Although not included in the mission statement, it was an important part of the organization's goals, Carino said. In an

Blue Jay of the Month

effort to promote leadership, First Tee encouraged Carino and other members to start organizations. It was this encouragement that led Carino to start the Life Matters Anti-Bullying Campaign, which uses the game of golf to fight bullying in inner-city schools.

Through this campaign, Carino visits inner-city schools during their PE classes and uses "positive reinforcement" to help spread his message of the dangers of bullying.

Along with golfing and the Life Matters Anti-Bullying Campaign, Carino must keep up with the rigors of academics at Jesuit as well as the responsibilities that come with being a senior.

Even with a strenuous honors course load, however, Carino still maintains a 4.43 GPA.

Looking to the future, Carino has applied to several colleges including Duke University, Louisiana State University, Stanford University, and the University of Central Florida.

Although Carino loves golf and plans to play for the rest of his life, he does not want to pursue it professionally. With keen interest in the brain and its workings, he will instead pursue a major in neuroscience.

Though he has many major influences in his life, Carino considers his mom to be his hero because she "always pushed me to be successful in life."

Carino already has become a great influence on others. His commitment to service and outstanding leadership abilities will surely take him far in the future.

Horvath makes tracks back to Jesuit, finds success in class, on field

By John Nimmo
Staff Writer

An outstanding character both on the field and off, Coach Rudy Horvath is as passionate about coaching as he is about teaching.

As a teacher for 20 years, Horvath has been at Jesuit for just three years but has already made his mark with Jesuit students. He teaches Psychology and Western Civilization, and coaches the cross country team.

He kicked off his career in the school system at Archbishop Hannan where he taught and coached football and track and field. Not too long after, Horvath moved to Cabrini high School, where he stayed for 18 years.

He started at Cabrini teaching only Psychology classes while fulfilling the role of athletic director; however, after eight years the classroom was calling his name. For the next 10 years, Horvath was the cross country coach and taught AP Psychology, World Geography, and Western Civilization.

Nevertheless, after spending almost two decades just a few miles down the street, Horvath felt that it was time to return to his roots. Graduating from Jesuit in 1986, he participated in varsity football and varsity track and field for three years and was a member of the German club.

Horvath remembers the academic rigor in his time here as being just as challenging as it is today. One difference he noted, however, is that the opportunity for involvement has greatly improved since the 1980s.

"My overall favorite thing about Jesuit is that there is some-



Coach Rudy Horvath receives the state championship trophy for the cross country team. Since coming to Jesuit, Horvath has led the team to the championship for two of the past three years.

Teacher Feature

thing here for everyone," he said.

In addition to his teaching duties, Horvath is the head coach of the cross country team and the assistant head coach of the track and field team.

Having won state championships two of the past three years, the cross country team has accomplished great feats under his leadership. The 2014 team was the first state championship team he has ever coached. He repeated that feat this year as well. (See the story on the state championship team on Page 4.)

While every coach wants to win, Horvath's philosophy focuses mainly on the self-improvement of the athlete. "Even if we don't win, an athlete cannot have regrets if he gave his best effort and competed," he said.

Student athlete Peyton

Ruppert, who has Horvath both as a Psychology teacher and a coach, says, "As a coach, he is very engaging and tries to get to know everyone on a personal level, and he does the same thing as a teacher."

While his passion for his career is clear, Horvath is especially ardent about another aspect of his life — his family.

His favorite thing to do outside of school is spending time with his 11-year-old son, Rudy Jr. Following in his father's footsteps, little Rudy is a triathlete-in-training; and Horvath enjoys traveling with his son to his competitions.

When he finds the time, Horvath also renovates houses with his wife, Dawn, and enjoys fishing.

If there is one ideology that Horvath professes to his students and athletes about life, it is to "question everything!"

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STATE CHAMPIONS

Cross country team repeats run to top

By William Fine
Editor in Chief

Never has a four-hour drive for a 17-minute event been more worth it. Traveling in November to Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, the Jesuit cross country team ran a three-mile race to once again capture the state championship.

The course offered many challenges for the Jays. The team had to wait an extra day to run the race due to torrential downpours. The rain came and went but left the course in deplorable condition. There was ankle deep water especially in the lower parts of the course. By the end of the race, Jesuit runners were covered head-to-toe in mud.

The Blue Jays overcame the adversity, running one of their best races of the year. Out of a field of more than 300 runners, the Jays placed three runners in the top 20: Reed Meric, Carlos Zervigon, and John Kling.

Meric and Zervigon anchored the team, as they have all season, finishing 11th and 12th with times of 16:56 and 16:58 respectively. Kling was the X-factor for the day. Head Coach Rudy Horvath said, "If you'd have promised me before the race that Kling would finish in the Top 30, I'd have been happy with that."



The members of Jesuit's cross country team gathers with their coaches to receive the championship trophy after winning the state championship meet in Natchitoches. In a field of more than 300 runners, three Blue Jays led the way, finishing in the top 10.

Kling far exceeded expectations finishing 14th overall, with a time of 17:06. Kling was not in that position all race however. At the one mile mark, Kling was in 31st.

"If he'd have stayed there, we'd be coming home with the runner-up trophy" Horvath said. Kling pulled ahead and outran

competitors all the way to the finish. Junior Tanner Tresca and senior John James rounded out scoring for the Jays finishing 31st. and 38th respectively. Senior John Nimmo also ran coming in 67th and junior Eli Sisung, who was battling injury, placed 73rd.

For the second year in a row,

Jesuit won the title without placing a single runner in the top 10. Since the scores are tallied by adding the finishing places of each team's top five runners, the Jays were able to win by running as a group rather than placing one or two runners in the top 10. By the end of the race, the Jays' score of 106 was 12 better than

second-place John Curtis, who had the individual champion.

The team often flies under the radar, but their achievements the past two seasons have been incredible. It will certainly continue to train, under the guidance of Horvath and his assistant coaches, Scott Thompson and Ron Brignac.

Team swims to 2nd in state

By Will Hurley
Staff Writer

There are very few times when an athletic team can perform to the best of its abilities and still fail to come in first. This is the experience that the Jesuit swim team had in the 2015 state tournament in Sulfur.

The swim team placed in second as Catholic High School went on to win its third straight championship.

Despite the unfortunate results, the Jays left with their heads held high. Everyone's hard work paid off, and many swimmers turned in noteworthy individual performances.

Junior Jack Jackson had a very impressive state meet. He finished second in the 50-yard



Members of the Jesuit swim team cheer on their teammates at poolside during the 2015 state tournament in Sulfur.

freestyle and third in the 100-yard freestyle.

Jackson also swam on the 200-yard medley relay team that finished in third place.

Junior Josh Armond also turned heads at the meet finishing in second in both the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle.

Armond also contributed to the fifth-place finishing 400-yard freestyle relay team.

Perhaps one of the most impressive performances was by freshman Davis Edwards. Edwards finished third in the 200-yard individual medley and in the 500-yard freestyle.

Senior Cade Fuxan went out

with a bang finishing third in the 100-yard butterfly and swimming for the 200-yard medley team as well.

In addition to these outstanding swimming performances, seniors Brady Stiller and Felix Rabito were named Academic All-State swimmers.

At the end of the day, Jesuit had nothing to positive thoughts on their minds.

"Even though the trophy said state runner up, we were true champions because of the way we carried ourselves and the way we swam," senior Evan Dudenhefer said. "I could not be prouder of this team."

Jennings called 'master' of game

500th

Continued from Page 1

that week."

Since taking the reins of the team in that 1992-93 season, Jennings has coached nearly 750 games, winning 67 percent of them.

Jennings himself was a star player for Jesuit from 1975 through 1978. The team's leading scorer, he holds the school record for the most career points scored - 2,011.

Through his career with the Blue Jays, Jennings has coached hundreds of students, and 23 of his players have gone on to play college basketball. One of the most prominent of these players is Mike White who played for Ole Miss and now serves as the head coach of the University of Florida's basketball team.

Several of his players have returned to Carrollton and Banks to teach or coach as well, including current faculty members Kevin Murphy, Jeremy Reuther, Scott Thompson and Jonathan

Hernandez.

Reuther, who serves as Director of Student Ministry, was one of the players on the 2001 championship team. Reuther said Jennings is "the kind of coach you always want to play for and win for, because he challenged you to be your best."

Hernandez, who is now an assistant coach for the team, also weighed in on his one-time coach and current colleague. "He's been consistent on his teachings on the game of basketball and his attention to detail throughout the years," Hernandez said.

The current Blue Jay basketball team will continue to battle throughout the season as they hope to rebound from their early season struggles. The Jays earned victories early in district play against John Curtis and Archbishop Shaw but suffered a nail biter loss to rival Holy Cross. The Jays hope to build on the early success in district play to make a run at the playoffs. Jennings commented on expectations for the rest of this season saying "our team will play hard and compete hard."