

SPORTS EDITOR: PARKER GROGAN

As the SA girls' soccer team prepared for playoffs, they realized they had to play Wesson first round, Sacred Heart second round, Our Lady Academy or St. Joseph Catholic School in South State, and then South Pontotoc or Mooreville in the state championship most likely. The girls assumed that they would have an easier schedule than St. Joe's girls' team, considering they beat St. Joe twice in the only two district games the girls played this year. However, St. Joe somehow made it farther in the playoffs than St. Andrew's did due to the fact that they had an easier playoff schedule. Furthermore, once the Sacred Heart Crusaders beat St. Andrew's by one goal and went on to beat St. Joe by two goals, they competed in the state championship against South Pontotoc where they won by seven goals. The point of this story concerning the playoffs is not to show the underlying bitter feelings that persist in the feud between St. Andrew's and St. Joe but to explain why the teams in the Southern district are more competitive than the teams in the Northern district. Due to the events of this year's playoffs which yet again proved that St. Andrew's should have played Sacred Heart in state in order to have the most competitive state championship game possible, the Mississippi High School Athletics Association has finally changed the two divisions.

"The only sport that is being moved to the north is soccer, and I think travel is the biggest reason for the switch," Athletic Director DeWayne Cupples said. "It looks like we were changed just to keep teams from having to travel great distances."

While the reason for the switch may be that the Mississippi High School Athletic Association wants to reduce travel distance for each respective team, many players believe the switch would allow for a more competitive district for 3A as a whole.

"Switching us to the North will definitely allow for a more interesting season by allowing better teams to make it farther into the playoffs," Junior Julia Farley Collins said.

Other people in the St. Andrew's community also believe that our athletic teams may do better in the North.

"I think our soccer teams will do well in the North," Cupples said. "This would mean that we would not have to play teams like Sacred Heart, Our Lady Academy, and St. Patrick until the state championship game."

The switch of the SA soccer teams to the North brings up the question about whether or not the rest of the athletic teams should be moved to the North as well. Also, separating the sports of St. Andrew's into two different realms of the MHSAA 3A district may cause people to wonder about the state of unity between the sports at this school. So, many people may ask - Why is soccer the only sport moving to the North? Should other sports move as well? Will soccer become a less supported sport at the school since it is the only one moving to the North and, thereby, the only sport playing certain schools that the Saints have never played before, such as, Southeast Lauderdale, North Pontotoc, and South Pontotoc.

"A certain sense of rivalry and intense competition has developed in the past years with the soccer teams playing against schools such as Sacred Heart, so I really hope that fans don't lose interest because the soccer teams won't be playing well-known teams anymore," Junior Evan Bowman said.

However, the Saints will not be forced to give up one rivalry that they just cannot live without - the Holy War.

"St. Joe will also be moving to the north with us next year," Cupples said.

Therefore, fortunately, the rivalry between the St. Joe Bruins and the St. Andrew's Saints will continue to persist for many years to come in all sports, including soccer.



**BUT TO WHAT
DIRECTION?**



ROWDIE ROUNDUP!

DIAMOND GIRLS!

The Lady Saints softball team thus far has an overall record of 2-0 and a district record of 1-0. The Lady Saints beat the St. Joe Bruins on Mar. 2 with a final game score of 14-2. On Feb. 28, the softball team played Ridgeland High School in a close game, pulling out that win with a score of 9-7. With Senior Hailee Bugg leading the team, the Saints expect to continue their winning streak against the Morton Panthers.

GET LAXED UP!

So far, the SA Lacrosse team has an official season record of 2-0, even though the team has played other games this season. While the Saints did lose to teams such as Briarcrest Christian and St. Benedict at Auburndale, the season is looking up for upcoming games. The boys play Arlington on the first of April for the next game. Everyone ought to come out and show lacrosse some support for future games. Go Saints!

AYY BATTER, BATTER... SWING!

The Saints baseball boys started off this season a little shaky with a loss to Germantown for the season opener. However, the Saints persevered to pull out the win against Vicksburg, Canton Academy, and St. Joe. Also on Mar. 4, the Saints played Winona Christian in a game consisting of 16 innings, which is officially the longest game in St. Andrew's history. As the team prepares to leave for their annual Spring Break beach trip, they are playing Tri-County and Magee.