

THE BEAR FACTS

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

MADISON, MISSISSIPPI

BOYS WIN STATE!

*Early-morning practices, hard work
and dedication lead to first state championship
for the Bruin boys swim team since 2013*

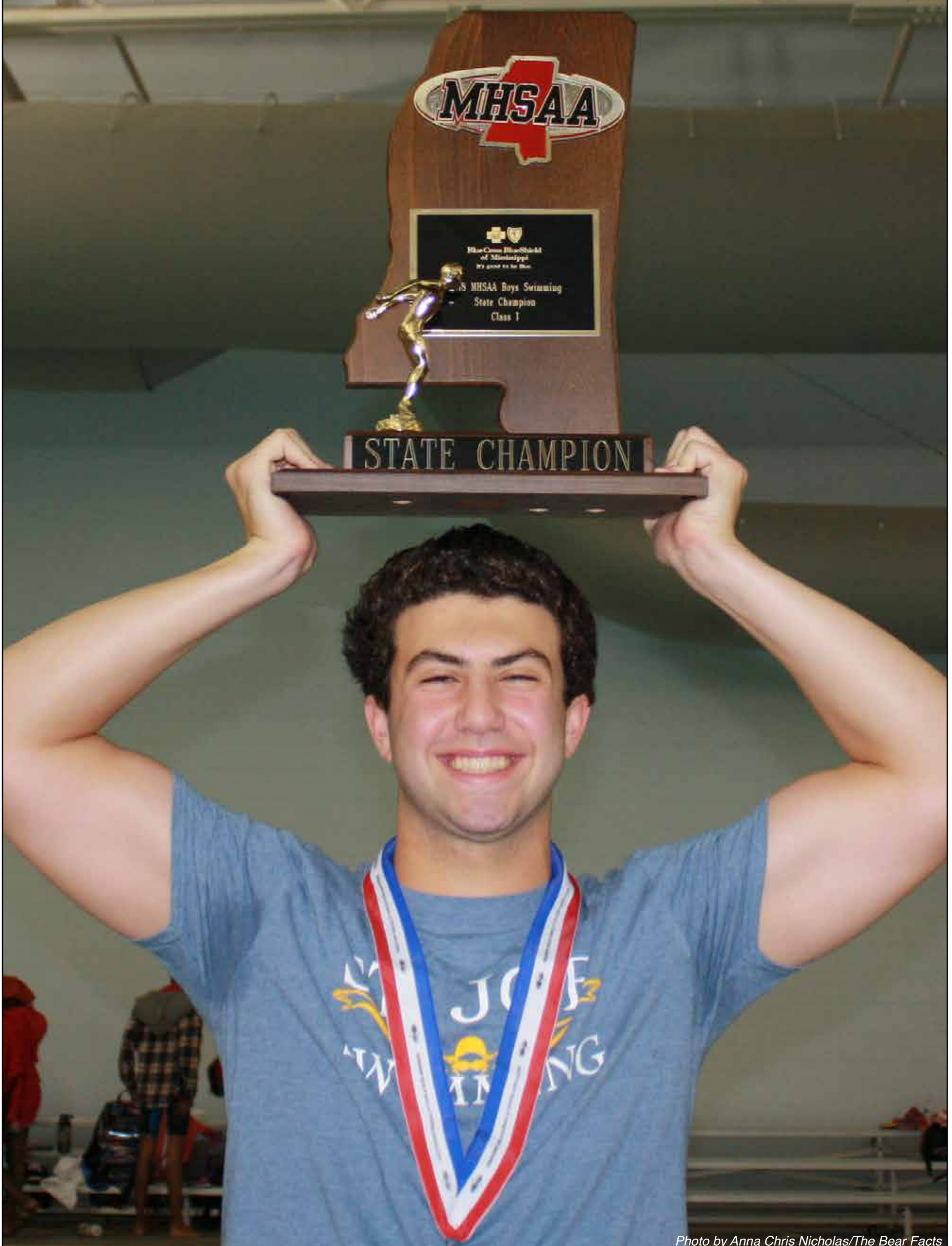


Photo by Anna Chris Nicholas/The Bear Facts

SWIM CONTINUES DOMINANCE

St. Joe boys swim team sets new state records on way to victory; girls swim team ties for second place in state meet

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MORE THAN JUST A SWIM MEET

Finn Blaylock motivated brother and St. Joe senior Gabe Blaylock to an unforgettable, final, high school swim meet

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‘Scary for Carrie’ highlights family values

Scary for Carrie is one of the few things that I like about Halloween.

Halloween is not a bad holiday, I just do not prefer it compared to other holidays. This may be because I never experienced traditional Halloween activities like trick-or-treating.

You can watch all the Halloween movies that you desire, but certain activities define Halloween.

St. Joe has changed my opinion on Halloween, though. When I first arrived in the seventh grade, I was hesitant about Scary for Carrie. Don’t get me wrong: I always enjoy an excuse to dress up.

However, the fact that I had to pay \$3 to do so was confusing – that is until I learned



Photo by Kaycee Jackson/The Bear Facts
Alaina Liess, left, and Mary Greene participate in Scary for Carrie on Halloween 2018.



LEAH CLARK
assignments editor

about the story of Carrie Maniscalco.

I had heard of Carrie before. Every Thursday in Mass, the St. Joe community prays for Carrie, a St. Joe alumna. She graduated in 2002 and has been in-and-out of the hospital since. Now 12 years later, the St. Joe community is still supporting Carrie and her family by raising money for her medical expenses every Halloween.

Once I learned of Carrie’s story, I felt inclined to donate. I am in the 10th Grade now and make sure to participate in Scary for Carrie. I also encourage those around me to do it. Scary for Carrie is a fun way to celebrate Halloween, but most of all the fact that I can help someone in need is the best part. It makes me feel good to do something for someone who needs it, even if it is only donating \$3.

St. Joe prides itself on volunteer work, as it rightly should. Students raised more than \$900 this year for Carrie. Very few students that currently attend school here have ever actually met Carrie or even heard her full story, yet we have banded together to support her.

St. Joe is a family made up of many different families. Many of the school’s students have family members who currently attend or attended St. Joe in the past. This gives us an even stronger sense of community, knowing that we have a history of attending this school.

Despite the great amount of families, it doesn’t matter if a student has his or her entire extended family at school with them or if they are the only one. We are a family that supports its own no matter the situation. This is why St. Joe is able to put on fundraisers, like Scary for Carrie throughout the school



Photo by Taylor Barnes/The Bear Facts

Josh Bailey, left, Chandler Thornhill and Patton Beard fight off a group of frightening ghosts. They all wore costumes for Scary for Carrie, an annual fundraiser benefitting Bruin alumna Carrie Maniscalco.

year and are able to keep them going year after year. Our community is able to step up and put others before ourselves, and almost everyone contributes. Whether those contributions are big or small, it’s the intent that counts.

And most of all, family members support each other through hardships. Carrie Maniscalco has certainly experienced many hardships. But as her St. Joe family, we are totally dedicated to supporting her through it all.

Our view

Congratulations, Bruin swimmers

We offer our sincere congratulations to the St. Joe boys swim team for its state championship and the girls team for finishing second.

The St. Joe community is proud of all the hard work and effort swimmers have put into this season. Every long car ride, early morning practice and day-long swims finally paid off.

Both teams represented our school in the absolute best light. The strength, talent, and determination of the men’s and women’s teams have shown through in all they did.

We and others never doubted your talent or desire to win. Bask in your success. And then get back to work to defend the men’s title next year.

Bruins always support their own

St. Joe holds many fundraisers throughout the year, but Scary for Carrie stands out.

St. Joe is more than just a school. It’s a family. When someone is struggling, the family helps.

That’s what the St. Joe community has done for Carrie Maniscalco, a 2002 graduate who has been battling many medical problems. Since 2007, we have held the fundraiser to offset the costs of Carrie’s medical expenses.

This highlights this fact: Even after our students have left our school, they remain an important part of our community. “Once a Bruin, always a Bruin.”

The BEAR FACTS

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‘The Curious Savage’ impresses

The opening night of St. Joe’s fall play “The Curious Savage” began in almost complete darkness.

Programs in hand, the audience members waited in their seats as their anticipation steadily built. Then lights turned up. The main room of a wing in the The Cloisters sanatorium and five of its residents were revealed. All of the residents were delusional in some way. For example, Florence, an elegant motherly figure for the patients, believes a baby doll is her 5-year-old son John Thomas, who in reality died as an infant.

Mrs. Savage and her stepchildren enter the narrative some time later. Mrs. Savage was being committed due to “erratic behavior” when the reality is that her stepchildren want control over their late father’s fortune.

As the plot thickened, different elements of the play emerged.

With such a small cast, there is more time to develop each and every character. None of the characters felt minor, even Dr. Emmett, who had the smallest amount of background. Every character had an interesting backstory and quirk. I personally enjoyed Mrs. Paddy as a character, specifically her giving up electricity for Lent and how cleverly it was used for the sake of the plot (though, I would not call her my favorite, because I honestly could not choose a favorite). All of the characters were likable, and I commend the cast for playing such complex characters and doing them justice.

There are themes of reality versus fantasy and found family throughout the play.



BIANCA MCCARTY
assistant editor

“One cannot live like an animal in captivity and truly be happy – safe and comfortable, but lacking any freedom or purpose.”

Despite all of the things happening in both the patients and Mrs. Savage’s lives, they still found comfort in each other. Both parties were left in the sanatorium by people who are supposed to love them. They learn things from each other and support each other, like families do. They take care of each other and make sacrifices for the sake of the group.

Mrs. Savage’s stepchildren never loved her. But in The Cloisters, she finds a family that she hasn’t had since her husband died.

Meanwhile, the patients struggle with facing the truth of their lives. They refuse to read newspapers until they are a month old, and do not even seem to acknowledge that the outside world even exists unless they absolutely have to.

They want to live in their bubble forever, but no one can truly live like that. Dr. Emmett compares the happiness in The Cloisters to an eggshell, very fragile and surface level.

Though the three Savage children are antagonists, they also struggle to distinguish reality from fantasy. In their search for the money their stepmother has hidden from them, they have to differentiate between the lies she tells them and the truths.

At the end of the play, Mrs. Savage has to choose how she wants to live the rest of her life. Does she want to stay with the sanatorium patients and live in a cage, but be happy? Or does she want her freedom back, but with the risk she’ll run into more problems?

The play is left open ended, but it is implied that Mrs. Savage takes her freedom. One cannot live like an animal in captivity and truly be happy – safe and comfortable but lacking any freedom or purpose.

“Mrs. Savage’s stepchildren never loved her. But in The Cloisters, she finds a family that she hasn’t had since her husband died.”



Submitted photo

The cast of “The Curious Savage”: Back row from left, Heath Dodson, Nikolai Armour, Lake Dodson, Alice McPhail, Claire Conn, and Liam Moorehead. Front row: Hannah Dear, Georgia Conrad, Mary Greene, Anna Rose Myrick and Mary Grace Stewart.

The Bear Facts is a proud member of the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.



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Bruin basketball ready for new season

from staff reports

Basketball season is underway. The Bruin boys hope to build on momentum from the 2017-2018 season that saw the team reach the Elite Eight for the third straight year. While the girls team failed to make the playoffs, members hope to turn things around this year. *The Bear Facts* talked recently with Michael Howell, the boys head basketball coach and St. Joe’s athletic director. *The Bear Facts* also spoke with Chantel Goodloe, the girl’s assistant coach.

MICHAEL HOWELL
The Bear Facts: How do you juggle your role as head coach and athletic director?

Howell: I just have to do a good job of prioritizing my time, making sure that I don’t procrastinate when something comes up. I like to get it done right then. There is so much going on. And if you put something on the back-burner, you’ll forget about it. I just try to take care of business, get here early before school, and usually stay late, even if we have practice until 5 or 5:30. I usually have to stay another hour or two to just finish up my work and try to help the other sports that are going on. I have to work really hard to make sure I do a good job as athletic director, but at the same time make sure I’m taking

care of business on the basketball court as well. **The Bear Facts: How are you preparing the team for the upcoming season?** **Howell:** We’re working hard every day, making sure that we’re precise in everything we do. We’re making sure that we are sound technically. After the jamboree, we will have some film, and we can critique the guys and see what they did well and what they didn’t do so well. **The Bear Facts: What are your expectations for the 2018-2019 basketball season?** **Howell:** I feel like men’s basketball is in a really good place. We lost six seniors last year, but we will have eight seniors this year, so we have a huge senior class. I feel like we can be just as good as last year, if not better. We have to stay healthy. Everyone has to work hard and take on their role. There are a lot of variables, but I feel good about where we are at right now.

CHANTEL GOODLOE
The Bear Facts: Being that it was your first game of the season, how do you feel your team played against Christ Covenant last week? **Goodloe:** As a team, I think we played pretty good collectively. We were supposed to arrive at 4:15, but we made it there a little after 5. Everyone seemed like they were a little tired once we got there. But



File photo/*The Bear Facts*

Doug Watson and the Bruin basketball team play in the Elite Eight in the 2018 state basketball tournament at the Mississippi Coliseum. **Goodloe:** Being a second-year coach here at St. Joseph Catholic School, we had nine new players come in from St. Richard and St. Anthony that are helping the team out tremendously. We only had 10 players last year. We come in daily, work hard, work on ball handling, blocking out, and whatever it takes to get the team further than what we what we did last year. At (the) Christ Covenant (game), I think we proved to the parents and fans that we’re here to win more games and that we mean business about what we’re doing.

SWIM, from page 4

some record-breaking swims for this strong group of athletes. The previous record for the 400 free relay was also held by St. Andrew’s with a time of 3:25:81. The new record, held by J.C. Dorroh, David Warnock, Jack Clements and Kenny Thomas is 3:22:65. This team plans to improve in the off-season and break their own record next November. Jack Clements, David Warnock, Covey Lockhart and Jacob Harkins broke the 200-yard free relay. The previous record was held by St. Andrew’s with a time of 1:36:17. The new record is 1:35:28. For Jacob, this was a very special race; it was his last one. He is a lifelong swimmer, and to go out with a gold medal and a state record was something special. “I honestly couldn’t believe



JACOB HARKINS
senior swimmer

“I’m a senior and broke a record my last race as a Bruin.”
– Jacob Harkins, senior swimmer

it,” Jacob told his teammates and family after receiving his medal, “I’m a senior and broke a record my last race as a Bruin.” For the Bruin girls, this was a rebuilding year after losing a few key seniors last year. No one on the team expected such a fantastic performance at North State or at the State meets. The Lady Bruin swimmers proved many wrong and showed that they should never be counted out. From the start of the meet to around the 200-yard freestyle relay,

the girls were actually in first place. They then began to slip back, but only by a small handful of points. Tying OLA for runner-up behind arch rival St. Andrew’s was an excellent way to end the season for this impressive team of girls who look to reclaim their spot on top next season. Of the 11 events in a swim meet, the boys team had representation on the podium for nine of these races. For the vast majority of the races, St. Joe had at least one boy in the top three and most in the top five for their races. The boys not only swept all three relays – they also set best times in each. From the last two weeks in July all the way up the state finals, this team of Bruins worked extremely hard. For the boys, this taste of victory has left them hungry for more, and the girls are now out for blood to reclaim their spot as top dog.

FOOTBALL, from page 4

Now, the focus shifts to an extremely talented Collins High School. Collins enters the game with an 11-1 record. The Bruins stand at 6-6. Collins features a high-octane offense that relies mostly on the air raid from quarterback Hershey McLaurin. “Collins is a great football team, and we need to play a nearly mistake-free game to come out on top.” “Collins is a great football team, and we need to play a nearly mistake-free game to come out on top. We need our secondary to play their best game of the season,” said senior offensive and defensive lineman Tyler Brown. “I’m extremely excited to be in the second round of the playoffs, especially to be playing at home,” he said. The skill players at wide receiver and in the backfield pose a formidable threat to the Bruin defense. Luckily for the Bruins, they may have an even more formidable ally on their side: the weather. Early forecasts for tonight predict rain, with temperatures in the low

“Collins is a great football team, and we need to play a nearly mistake-free game to come out on top.”
– Tyler Brown, senior lineman

40s. Both of these factors could heavily impact the passing game of the Tiger offense. As for the preparation side of things, the Bruins have been drilling the secondary and focusing on coverages and other schematic things. A full season can be long and grueling, but the win last week reenergized the team, and they’ll be ready to take on Collins at Bill Raphael Field tonight.

PEARSON, from page 4

his little brother was facing his own important fight. Last spring, after complaining his leg hurt, doctors diagnosed Finn with a rare form of cancer in an advanced stage. That was the start of many doctor visits and hospital stays throughout the summer and into the fall. Finn hasn’t even been able to return to St. Richard Catholic School, where he would be in the first grade. “Everything Finn’s been through has motivated me,” Gabe said recently. “I think, ‘If he can be miserable and still pull through, what the heck is a 5 a.m. practice?’” **LONGTIME SWIMMER** Gabe has been on the Bruin swim team since he started at St. Joe as a seventh-grader in fall 2013.

After five years of hard work and attending daily, rigorous, 5 a.m. practices at the University Wellness Center, Gabe landed a spot on the Bruins’ No. 1 relay team. Gabe juggles a lot of roles. Besides swimming, he also is a drummer in the Bruin band and performs at pep rallies and football games. What little free time he had this fall, he often spent with Finn. Just like everyone else at St. Joe, Gabe is a part of a larger family – one not constrained to genetic heritage and that takes care of each other in times of need. With 400 students in Grades 7 through 12, they often form unbreakable bonds of friendship that last a lifetime. Just this fall, St. Joe sold gold T-shirts that said “Bruins Go Gold,” increasing awareness of childhood

cancer and raising money for Finn’s expenses. Volunteers also collected money at home football games to help offset Finn’s medical expenses. On Wednesday, Oct. 10, the St. Joe community staged FinnFest, an after-school event with games, entertainment and food that attracted hundreds and raised more than \$10,000 to help with Finn’s medical expenses. And that brings me back to the state swim meet. This event didn’t raise money for Finn. But Finn saw it as a chance to celebrate his big brother who had been by his side throughout the summer and since the first diagnosis. **BRUINS WIN** It was Saturday, Oct. 27.

Bruin swimmers had a good morning at the Tupelo Aquatic Center. St. Andrew’s boys team had better times in the pool, but St. Joe swimmers still believed they had a chance to win it all that afternoon. “Gabe Blaylock asked for two things this year: He wanted to be on the podium, and he wanted to win a state championship,” Bruin swim coach Lauri Collins said. It was in the afternoon when Gabe climbed onto the starting block. Other members of the relay team stood nearby ready for their turn. The crowd was unusually quiet, and the enclosed building didn’t render its normal echo. The starting buzzer sounded. Gabe dove in. He swiftly glided the length of the 25-yard pool. He returned. He touched the wall.

Teammate and fellow senior Jacob Harkins dove from the block to complete his leg of the relay. In the end, the team placed first with a time of 1:43:45. A few minutes later, the Bruins won the 400-meter relay, sealing a victory over St. Andrew’s, winning a state championship and completing both of Gabe’s wishes. The swim team erupted in screams, and Gabe embraced his mom. Back in Jackson, Finn and his dad finished watching the meet live on the computer. The swim meet made up for a Saturday spent in the hospital hooked to machines with nurses in-and-out of his room. From his hospital bed, Finn remained excited. “We beat Saint Andrew’s butt.”

SOCCKER, from page 4

even. Two penalty kicks it went, and after that the Bruins had the most stressful situation known in the game of soccer: sudden death penalty kicks. Five rounds passed until someone finally missed. A shot from a Saints player hit the field goal posts, rendering anything after the ball deflected pointless. Bruin players and fans cheered while the ball bounced from the field goal post to the top of the goal. The referees, however, called it a goal and this would lead to the Bruins losing the game two rounds later. This gave the Bruins the motivation to do the seemingly impossible. The boys won the last four games of the season, and were in the playoffs. They now had to travel to Strayhorn, Vardaman, and take two trips to Ridgeland High School to win the state championship.

They did all of this and won the state title. But it was not as big of a celebration as after the Bruins won the North State title, when they played a familiar opponent, the Saint Andrew’s Saints. The Bruins fought hard in one of the most intense games many fans said they had ever seen. The Bruins scored 3 goals early and were trying to simply make it through the rest of the game without blowing that lead. The night was made for the Bruins as the sweetest of all victories came on Valentine’s Day for them. The season was not over, however, as the Bruins still would go to the state championship, where they beat the Sacred Heart Crusaders 4-2 to close out the season. Now, the Bruins are trying to defend that title once again, with 12 players returning and more coming in.

MISSISSIPPI’S AWARD-WINNING
HIGH SCHOOL NEWSCAST

Available every Friday on the
Bruin News Now channel on YouTube

Bruin Sports

SPORTS LINE

BRUIN FOOTBALL ON THE AIR TONIGHT



When the Bruin football team takes on Collins tonight, St. Joe will be in its first second-round playoff game since 2016.

If you can't make the game, you can follow the action live on WJXC Jackson, Mississippi Catholic Radio, 107.9 and also on www.stjoebruins.live. Bruin Broadcasting Network will not provide a live video stream. Airtime: 6:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL ENTERS REGULAR SEASON



The Bruin boys and girls basketball teams have been practicing since August in preparation for the beginning of the season.

See what the Bruin coaches have to say about the prospects of the 2018-2019 basketball season.

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BRUIN SOCCER STARTS NEW YEAR



The Bruin boys and girls teams enter the 2018-2019 season on the heels of great success. The boys won state, while the girls advanced to the South State championship.

Both teams hope to add to the success this year.

BRUIN CROSS COUNTRY STATE MEET

Bruin cross country runners had a great season; they wrapped up the year at the state meet Monday.

Angela Bethea led the girls team and finished eighth in the state. The girls team as a whole finished sixth out of 12. The boys team was sixth out of 19 teams.

These are some of the best finishes in Bruin cross country in the last several years.

Bruins face Collins tonight

By JOE PEARSON
The Bear Facts

The St. Joe football team advances to the second round of the state football playoffs tonight when the Bruins host Collins High School at 7 at Bill Raphael Field.

Admission to the game is \$8 each; the only passes accepted will be state passes.

The second-round game follows

the Bruins' first-round win against the Bogue Chitto Bobcats, 57-38.

Kiland Harrison led the way with three touchdowns – including a 70-yard interception returned for a touchdown.

The offensive line for the Bruins



KILAND HARRISON



JADEN COLEMAN

controlled the game from the start.

The team mounted a touchdown drive on the first offensive possession of the game and didn't look back.

The defense contained the Bobcat offense well. Jaden Coleman was a constant presence in the Bobcat

backfield, as he disrupted most of the run side of the offense.

There were a few hiccups in the secondary, on which Bogue Chitto and their quarterback Shaw King capitalized.

All-in-all, the game was a solid team win, and a game the team can build on for the second-round match up.

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SWIM DYNASTY



Bruin swimmers celebrate the boys team state championship and the girls team second-place finish at the state meet in Tupelo.

Photo by Sydney Shoemaker/The Bear Facts

Bruin boys swim team wins state championship while girls team ties for second place at state meet in Tupelo

from staff reports

The boys swim team captured a state championship at the Tupelo Aquatic Center two weeks ago.

The team fought off rival St. Andrew's for the top spot in the class 1-4A classification.

The girls ended their three-year winning streak, but tied with Our Lady Academy for an impressive

second place finish.

"It was electric," veteran swim coach Lauri Collins said about the state meet and atmosphere surrounding the Bruin team.

The team once again asserted dominance with the largest team present and many swimmers who were champions of their individual races. Every swimmer set new personal bests, and there were even

See SWIM, Page 3

COACHING SUCCESS

Lauri Collins has been a successful swim coach at St. Joe. Her record includes these championships:

- Boys: 2013
- Girls: 2015
- Girls: 2016
- Girls: 2017
- Boys: 2018



LAURI COLLINS

Gabe Blaylock: motivation behind the man

JACKSON – Six-year-old Finn Blaylock lay in bed one Saturday afternoon, staring intently at his dad's laptop computer.

Most children would spend their weekend outside playing with friends or huddled on a couch watching cartoons. Not Finn. He was in Blair E. Batson



JOE PEARSON
editor

“Everything Finn's been through has motivated me.”

– Gabe Blaylock, senior swimmer

Children's hospital surrounded by nurses, hooked to machines and watching his big brother Gabe

compete in the state swim meet streamed live to his dad's computer.

At the same time, Gabe, a St. Joe senior and member of the Bruin boys swim team, stood on the edge of the Olympic-sized swimming pool at the Tupelo Aquatic Center ready for the 200-medley relay.

ARCHRIVALS

The Bruins entered the afternoon finals of the swim meet as underdogs to cross-county rival

St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland, just a few miles south of St. Joe's Madison campus.

St. Andrew's performed exceptionally well in prelims earlier in the day. The Bruins needed to place well in every event, including the 200-meter relay, if they hoped to knock off the Saints.

It was a fight Gabe and other Bruins were determined to win. At the same time, Gabe knew his little

See PEARSON, Page 3

Soccer teams seek another state title

from staff reports

The St. Joe soccer team is an established program, used to making deep postseason runs.

The varsity teams will have to find a way to supplement the production they lost from key seniors last year.

Reed Collins, the boys' leading scorer, and Allie Milner, the girls' leading scorer, both graduated last year.

Nevertheless, the Bruin players are confident they have a chance to achieve the ultimate goal: a state championship.

They are a young team, but they have players who have several years of experience.

Players like Aidan Lipovetsky, who has been a starter for two years, will be the backbone of the team.

The team is also bolstered by new players who include Natchez Cozart, an extremely quick scorer, and Christian Smallings, a goalie.

The team's biggest strength is its experience in a postseason atmosphere and championship pedigree from the previous year.

Last year in the first game of the regular season, the Bruins matched up against a little known school, the Clarkdale Bulldogs.

Not a lot was expected from Clarkdale, as they had started four seventh graders. But the Bruins did not have the oldest team

either. Coach Dwayne Demmin was forced to start two eighth graders, a freshman, five sophomores and three seniors.

The game started, and five minutes went by before the ball popped out, John Baladi gained control, and sent it up to Lipovetsky, who dribbled past the last defender and put it in the back of the net.

This was not all. The Bruins ended the game with a 5-0 win, with Lipovetsky having a stunning four goals.

From there, the Bruins would go 8-0 – the best start for any soccer season in St. Joe history.

After this, however, the Bruins hit a rough

spot in the season, which started and ended in games against St. Andrew's.

The Bruins lost the first game against St. Andrew's 2-1, and going into the second game the Bruins seemed to have been prepared as if it was the state championship.

All was not going well for them, however, as with 20 minutes left in the game the Bruins trailed the Saints 3-1. The last glimmer of hope seemed to be the substitutions and position changes at that time, which led the Bruins to tie the game with no time left.

Overtime passed, but the teams remained

See SOCCER, Page 3