

# Football too late . . . basketball too soon

Would you believe it? Three more championship games and the high school football playoffs, which began a month ago, are over.

Which makes me believe either the football season, which has been going since late August, lasts too long or basketball begins too soon. Frankly, I believe it's both, but something that would reduce the playoffs a week would be to eliminate second-place teams. I know there are arguments to maintain the present setup, one of which is that it adds interest when a team knows that it still has a chance to make the playoffs.

The coaches, participants and followers probably don't notice the length of the football season as much as someone else.

Checking the teams that reached the semifinals, only three, Shreveport Woodlawn in Quad-A; Monroe Richwood in Triple-A and Sicily Island in Single-A, were runners-up in their respective districts. All three were beaten in the semis. The other semifinalists, 13 in all and including the complete Double-A cast, were district champions.

And here's an oddity, Quad-A semifinalist Covington, which last won state in 1976, did not play a district championship until it met New Iberia Friday night. Covington defeated three runners-up, South Terrebonne, Fortier and Shaw, in the playoffs before losing to New Iberia in overtime 21-14 Friday night.

Frank Spruiell, commissioner of the high school athletic association, defends the system of second-place teams in the playoffs.

Spruiell, who coached at Terrebonne during the days of Istrouma's powerhouse football teams, said he was one of the originators of the proposal, along with Jack Doland and Jimmy Austin, then coaching at Sulphur and Lake Charles High, respectively.

"It helps us financially," Spruiell claimed. "The record proves



Ted Castillo

that a lot of second-place teams have won state titles and it only extends the playoffs one week. It's a financial advantage to our schools during their district schedule as well as the playoffs.

A majority of states determine state champions in football, but I wonder how many have both their champions and runners-up enter the playoffs as is the case in Louisiana.

Get around a group of basketball coaches as I did Monday night at the Wedge Kyes Memorial Basketball Tournament supper and they're talking their sport. What else? Who beat whom and by how many points and what this team has and that and so forth.

The Kyes begins Thursday at the Istrouma gym, but the district race in 7-AAAA starts Tuesday night with a slate of four games. Defending champion Glen Oaks visits Belaire, Covington is at Bogalusa; Baker at Central and Denham Springs at Scotlandville.

The pre-district favorite is Glen Oaks, which received five first place votes and two seconds on the coaches' ballots for a total of 47 points. A coach does not rank his own team in the poll.

Baker, with two first-place votes, and Scotlandville tied for third with 37 points each followed by Belaire (29 points), Central (26), Bogalusa (19), Denham Springs (18), and Covington (11).



Staff photo by John H. Williams

DREW DRAWS A CROWD — Baker guard Billy Drew (14) draws a crowd of Istrouma defenders as he attempts a shot in the championship match of the ninth Oakerland Classic at Glen Oaks Saturday night. Attempting to block the shot is Elton Veals, while James Atkins, left, and Calvin Anderson, background, look on.

## Istrouma claims Oakerland crown

By HARLEEN IVEY III  
Advocate Correspondent

Istrouma's Indians put on an award-winning performance at Glen Oaks' Oakerland Classic Saturday night.

And the plaudits included a 64-59 win over the Baker Buffaloes in the final game and the championship of the ninth annual event held in the Panthers' gym.

Host Glen Oaks took third place honors with a 73-64 triumph over Redemptorist, and the running Lee Rebels secured the fourth-place trophy with a 77-67 nod over the Scotlandville Hornets.

The Indians' sharpshooting guard Keith Bailey was selected the tournament's most valuable player by a panel of coaches. Bailey, who scored 42 points in three games, was one of three Istrouma players to be named to the all-tournament team.

Forwards Elton Veals and James Atkins gained berths to the unit for the winners. Atkins led Istrouma in the championship game with 25 points, blitzing the opposition for most of his points on offensive rebounds of missed Istrouma shots. Veals played his usual strong game and finished with 10 points.

Others named to the select squad included Allen McClure of Central, Scotlandville's Reginald Holiday, Derrick Taylor of Redemptorist, Guevara Johnson and Carl Stewart, both of Lee, Don and Billy Drew of Baker, and Richard Jackson of Glen Oaks.

The Oakers' Anthony Guy was named the best defensive player of the tournament.

In raising its overall record to 6-1, Istrouma used what has been its strongest facet of play, rebounding, to capture the coveted championship trophy. The Indians' domination of the backboards directly resulted in many of their baskets. Throughout the tourney, Istrouma has controlled the boards. They earlier beat Scotlandville and Glen Oaks to reach the finals.

In the third place contest, Glen Oaks and Redemptorist met for the third time this season, and as was the case in two previous meetings, the Oakers prevailed. This time the verdict was 73-64, unlike the two other meetings where Glen Oaks won on the strength of game-winning points by Anthony Guy.

The quickness and hustle of Lee allowed it to get by just-as-quick Scotlandville in the battle for fourth place. Like Istrouma, the Rebels got help inside from their big men. Center Carl Stewart hurt the Hornets repeatedly with buckets off offensive rebounds, and forward Guevara Johnson got open underneath for key baskets to finish with 15 points. Guard Eugene Daniel had 16 points.

Reginald Holiday led Scotlandville with

In 6-AAAA the poll looks like this:

- 1 — McKinley, 45 points (4)
- 2 — Lee, 39 points (2)
- 3 — St. Amant, 37 points (2)
- 4 — Tara, 31 points
- 5 — Capitol, 29 points
- 6 — Istrouma, 20 points
- 7 — Broadmoor, 14 points
- 8 — East Ascension, 9 points

The polls are based on seven points for first, six for two, etc.

"It's going to be a heckuva district," said Tara coach Bill Whittle. "There are no weak teams with the possible exception of East Ascension and they have the 6-8 (Dwayne) Manuel kid."

This district race does not begin until a week from Tuesday when the feature attraction will be a Centroplex doubleheader between McKinley and Broadmoor and defending 6-AAAA champion Capitol and St. Amant.

Plaquemine received all the first-place votes but its own in 6-AAA. That vote going to Catholic High, which also had four second-places to rate the runner-up spot in the race which does not begin until Jan. 4.

Redemptorist, which has won the district the last three seasons, is rated third with 36 points. Zachary follows with 29. Port Allen had 26 for a fifth-place forecast. Donaldsonville, with 17 points, is picked to finish sixth and Woodlawn and Walker tied for seventh with 13 each.

### FUTILE FORECASTS:

Quad-A — New Iberia over St. Augustine at New Iberia.

18 points, hitting some long-range jumpers. Eldredge Watson and Anthony Brown added 16 and 14 points respectively for the Hornets, 1-4.

**Championship**  
A key to the Istrouma triumph had to be the defensive effort by Bailey on Baker's Billy Drew. After penetrating the defenses of two earlier opponents to lead his team to the finals, Drew was unable to break through the Istrouma defense to feed Don Drew and Carlos Bradford for good percentage shots. Billy Drew ended the night with seven points.

Forward Wendell Harrison picked up the scoring load for Baker, leading the Buffs with 20 points. Don Drew added 14 and Wilbert Ferdinand 10.

Istrouma scored the first six points of the contest and never trailed in gaining revenge for an earlier one-point loss to the Buffs.

**Third Place**  
As is usually the case when Redemptorist and Glen Oaks meet, it was a burner. The Wolves came out of the visitors dressing room with determined looks on their faces, and for a while it

Score by quarters:

**Fourth Place**  
Lee 19 16 23 19 — 77  
Scotlandville 20 13 16 18 — 67  
LEE — Kelvin Barnes, 3, 2-3; Eugene Daniel, 4, 4-8; Randy Daniel, 2, 2-4; Guevara Johnson, 6, 3-15; Carl Stewart, 10, 3-4; Dennis Derouen, 1, 0-1; Carlton Foster, 2, 0-4; Ray Taylor, 0, 1-2; Leonard Cummings, 0, 0-2; Jeff LaMothe, 1, 0-0; Carl Bell, 0, 0-0. TOTALS — 71, 59-77.

**SCOTLANDVILLE** — Anthony Brown, 6, 2-2; 14; Reginald Holiday, 8, 2-2; Reed King, 2, 0-3; Eldredge Watson, 6, 0-1; Keith Jarrett, 0, 0-0; Earl Wade, 3, 0-0; Thomas Davis, 1, 0-2; William Warren, 1, 2-5; Jeff Walker, 0, 0-0; Billy Duckworth, 0, 0-0. TOTALS — 30, 73-67.

Total fouls — Lee 15, Scotlandville 22. Fouled out — None. Technicals — None. Officials — Greer and Keller.

**Third Place**  
20 11 13 20 — 64  
Glen Oaks 16 14 21 22 — 73

**REDEMPTORIST** — Derrick Taylor, 8, 2-3; Donnie Fontenot, 9, 4-7; Earl Rousseau, 0, 0-0; Yogi Jenkins, 1, 4-8; Kahn Travis, 4, 0-4; Jason Baquet, 0, 0-0; Chris Porche, 3, 2-3. TOTALS — 25, 14-21, 64.

**GLEN OAKS** — Steve Dillard, 6, 4-8; Kerry Sanford, 3, 2-2; Pat Johnson, 1, 4-5; Randy Ellison, 2, 3-5; Anthony Guy, 5, 0-1; Aaron Hawkins, 2, 4-6; Richard Jackson, 1, 4-4. TOTALS — 25, 9-14, 59.

**Total fouls** — Redemptorist 25, Glen Oaks 18. Fouled out — Earl Rousseau, Yogi Jenkins, Redemptorist; Richard Jackson, Glen Oaks.

**Technicals** — Redemptorist head coach, assistant coach, Redemptorist bench, Donnie Fontenot, Fontenot ejected for flagrant technical foul. Officials — Greer and Degate.

**Championship**  
13 16 14 14 — 59  
Istrouma 13 16 18 17 — 64

**BAKER** — Billy Drew, 2, 3-5; Don Drew, 4, 2-3; 14; Wilbert Ferdinand, 4, 2-3; 10; Wendell Harrison, 9, 2-3; 20; Carlos Bradford, 2, 0-4; Horace Smith, 0, 0-0; Gary Davis, 2, 0-0. TOTALS — 25, 9-14, 59.

**ISTRUMA** — Keith Bailey, 3, 3-8; 9; Calvin Anderson, 0, 3-4; James Atkins, 12, 1-2; 25; Greg Colbert, 1, 3-5; Marvin Forrest, 4, 0-0; Elton Veals, 4, 2-5; 10; Michael Ross, 0, 0-1. TOTALS — 26, 12-26, 64.

**Total fouls** — Baker 20, Istrouma 13. Fouled out — Marvin Forrest, Istrouma. Technicals — None. Officials — Keller and Degate.

### Bengals whip Lions in wrestling meet

The Belaire Bengals defeated the Capitol Lions, 48-12, in a wrestling match at the Capitol gym Saturday.

Results — Carlos Williams (Capitol) dec. Rusty King (Belaire), 15-14. 105 — Ken Ledell (Belaire) pinned Robert Morris (Capitol), 2:30. 112 — Lawrence Smith (Belaire) pinned Janelle Joseph (Capitol), 5:22. 119 — Jonathan Brown (Capitol) dec. John Sanders (Belaire), 16-4. 126 — Tim Chidester (Belaire) pinned Michael Moore (Capitol), 3:50. 138 — Melvin Johnson (Capitol) pinned Tommy Perkins (Belaire), 3:28. 145 — Kevin Faber (Belaire) dec. Joe Brown (Capitol), 6-1. 155 — Bobby Sartin (Belaire) pinned Stanley Tobbins (Capitol), 5:24. 167 — Rich Larkin (Belaire) dec. Vernon Sanders (Capitol), 10-5. 185 — Jack Carr (Belaire) pinned Anthony Hawkins (Capitol), 1:08. HW — Darryl Boudreaux (Belaire) pinned Randy Hinton (Capitol), 0:24.

### Emory Bellard raps story about team

STARKVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Head Coach Emory Bellard reports he is unhappy about a newspaper story saying his Mississippi State football players are dissatisfied.

Bellard commented on a copyright story in Friday's Meridian Star and said it was "totally unfair and unfounded."

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## Old hands in finals as playoffs wind up

By MARK YOUNG JR.  
Advocate Correspondent

It's going to be revenge, regain, and defend with the closing of the final chapter of Louisiana high school football Friday night.

In Eunice, St. Edmund will be trying to avenge last season's loss. In Metairie, John Curtis will try to regain the title it lost in '78. St. Augustine in New Orleans, meanwhile, will be out to protect its title against New Iberia.

Although the opponent won't be the same, St. Edmund's goal will be: win the State Class A title. Last season the Blue Jays were blasted by Catholic High of Pointe Coupee 45-16 at Bernie Moore Stadium. This year the game will be played at St. Edmund.

Port Sulphur won't exactly be a pushover for St. Edmund. The Bronchos went into overtime to defeat Sicily Island 21-14 at Sicily Island.

St. Aug will be after its third state Quad-A crown in five years. The Purple Knights defeated Covington in 1975 for the title and defeated district rival Jesuit last season before approximately 40,000 in the Louisiana Superdome.

This season St. Aug will travel to New Iberia to face the Yellow Jackets. Last

### Wolves beat Panthers

The Redemptorist Wolves defeated the Brusly Panthers, 39-36, in a wrestling match at the Redemptorist gym Saturday.

Results: 99 — Derrick Ritzbons (Redemptorist) pinned Greg Legnon (Brusly), 3:26. 105 — Tim Ledebiac (Brusly) dec. Craig Mistretta (Redemptorist), 14-9. 112 — Mike Scarpoulos (Redemptorist) pinned Scotty Spele (Brusly), 1:23. 119 — Kirk Roussel (Redemptorist) pinned Audie Wilson (Brusly), 2:11. 126 — David Rabalais (Brusly) pinned Dean Falcon (Redemptorist), 1:35. 132 — Weyne Prejean (Brusly) pinned Steve Shore (Redemptorist), 2:28. 138 — Cliff Rabalais (Redemptorist) dec. Grant Witty (Brusly), 11-4. 145 — Louis Martineaux (Brusly) dec. Johnny Manno (Redemptorist), 14-9. 155 — Shelby Ramagosa (Brusly) pinned Jimmy Richard (Redemptorist), 3:01. HW — double forfeit. HW — Chris Holiday (Redemptorist) won by forfeit.

Double-A — Curtis over Patterson at New Orleans. Single-A — St. Edmund over Port Sulphur at Eunice. Last Week's Record: 3-4. Playoff Record: 35-17. Over-All Record: 175-57-1.

**TEDBITS** — Current host Alexandria and former host Lake Charles were the only cities to submit bids to the high school athletic association for the state basketball tournaments for 1981 and '82 before the recent deadline. . . The bids will be included on the agenda for the annual meeting of the association here next month. . . Alex will host this season's Top 24 (March 4-8) and Sweet 16 Tournaments (Feb 27-28-29, March 1).

St. Augustine coach Otis Washington is again being mentioned as a possible assistant at LSU. . . Washington was offered a coaching position at LSU last year, but decided to remain at St. Aug's.

Tara's football banquet is scheduled Thursday night at the Bellefont.

For the first time in history, one school, Broadmoor won both the Quad-A boys' and girls' state cross country titles. . . Broadmoor led a 22-team field in boys' competition and the Lady Bucs claimed their second straight state championship and 20th consecutive victory in girls.

Ralph Hargis, principal at Central Lafourche High School, is interviewing applicants for head football coach. . . Anyone interested should contact Hargis at the school or at his home before Dec. 31. . . Carlton Falgout, who had been the head coach for four years, resigned at Hargis' request, the principal said, but will remain as a teacher. . . Central Lafourche had an 0-10 record this season.



## COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

|                |                   |           |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| DEC. 15<br>SAT | GARDEN STATE BOWL | 1200 Noon |
| DEC. 15<br>SAT | INDEPENDENCE BOWL | 7:00 PM   |
| DEC. 21<br>FRI | HOLIDAY BOWL      | 8:00 PM   |
| DEC. 22<br>SAT | TANGERINE BOWL    | 9:15 PM   |
| DEC. 29<br>SAT | HALL OF FAME BOWL | 7:00 PM   |
| DEC. 31<br>MON | BLUEBONNET BOWL   | 7:00 PM   |

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