

RAIDERS' DIGEST



25 YEARS OF A LEGACY: FR. ROCCA'S IMPACT STILL ALIVE AND WELL

By: Michael Marino '25

On December 6, 2024, a Mass dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Fr. Wayne Rocca's passing was held. Students, faculty, and alumni alike all gathered to celebrate the life of one of the greatest Rummel faculty members. He was a beloved teacher, colleague, mentor, and chaplain. Fr. Rocca was the embodiment of the Raider spirit we all strive to have. His courage was unmatched, even attending football games while he was ill, not long before his death.

Fr. Rocca, coming from a Jesuit background, found his way into the hearts of the Raider Nation during the first football season of his tenure. Attending every game, Fr. Rocca declared that no matter what team we played, he would always support the Raiders. The season concluded with the players carrying Fr. Rocca off of the field on their shoulders.

However, his biggest impact was his prediction that there would be 150 priestly vocations from Rummel. During the anniversary Mass, Head of School, Mr. Matthew Caire '03, stated we are not there yet. He called for students, faculty, and alumni present to search their hearts for the call by God. He asked that anyone who hears that call not shy away from it.

Campus Minister, Mr. Alex Lorio '07 states "Whether we're called to be married, priests, or consecrated, that's the kind of courage we need to have." Fr. Rocca's impact on the Rummel family is substantial.

Perhaps Fr. Rocca's biggest contribution to the daily life of Raiders is that he coined the phrase "Thank God Almighty, I'm a Raider." Powerful words from a man who loved the charisma, mission, and people of the Rummel Community. Even though he has joined our God in Heaven, his legacy will live on at 1901 Severn Ave. forever. **R**



SNOW ON SEVERN

By: Raiders' Digest Staff

On January 21, 2025 Louisiana experienced a blizzard! You read that right. In one day, we experienced up to 11 inches of snow. What did Raiders do in the snow? For most it was a couple of days of frolicking, family, friends, and fun.

"My favorite part of this week was probably mid-day on Tuesday. the reason being that we all went on the levee and sled down the hill. this was something I've always wanted to do and I'm glad I finally got to do it." Zachary Boyce '25

"My absolute favorite time of the snow this week was enjoying it with my family, friends, and cousins. I hope to never take those opportunities for granted because there are many people who may have recently lost loved ones or maybe their family was not in town for these last few days to enjoy the time in snow. The time we have with one another is so precious because when we say goodbye to one another it may be the last few words we may ever say to each other because tomorrow is not promised as it says in Proverbs 27:1." Colston Chatagner '25

"When it was snowing the first day I didn't have anyone to play in the snow with but that's when my friend called me and said he had a 4 wheeler and a boat, and he was gonna come pick me up. When he did I was surprised because we used it as a sled going through streets giving people rides. I also had a snowball fight and built a snowman" Christopher Neely '25

"My favorite thing about the snow this week was having snowball fights with my younger siblings, and building a snowman with the whole family." TJ Duhe '25

"My favorite part of the snow a week ago was the time spent outside walking in the snow, breathing the cold air, watching the snow fall and building a snowman. Another part I enjoyed was taking a walk by the water and seeing how the woods changed from the snow in appearance." Jayce Mendez '26 **R**



SENIORS TAKE REPEAT GOLD IN WINTER OLYMPICS

Noah Truax '26

On January 17th, Rummel experienced the face-off of the grades. Every grade had designated Raider Olympians to compete against every other grade in various events such as Ping Pong, Hippity Hop, Human Pyramid, and the Shoe Find. In addition, the teachers weren't left hanging as they were organized into teams which competed in a memory game.

The Raider Olympics concluded with the class of 2025 overtaking the class of 2026 in the final event, dodgeball, to win for the 2nd year in a row. The Juniors hope that the senior gold trend holds for next year. **R**



WRESTLING WINS AT STATE TOURNAMENT: RAIDERS RACK UP THE WINS

Special Contributors: Coach Timothy Falter, Jake Brandstetter '25, Kaiden Triche '25

The Rummel Wrestling team took third place at the LHSAA State wrestling tournament in Bossier City, Louisiana, on February 14 and 15. Four of our Rummel wrestlers competed in the state finals with Seniors Kaiden Triche and Jake Brandstetter winning individual state titles at the 132 and 157 pound weight classes and two runner ups with Landen Monica at 113 and Gage Ahsyen at 126. Three Rummel Raider wrestlers took third place on the podium. Sophomore Josh Guhman at 106, Freshman Dominic Schopfer at 120, and Sophomore Dominic Durham at 138. Alex Hernandez placed 6th in the 175 pound division.

According to Triche, "Wrestling was the best experience I've had at Rummel from practices to out of state trips. It definitely had its ups and downs, but the experiences and relationships created throughout the years made everything well worth it. My success over the years comes from the great support system around me from coaches, friends, family and teammates."

Brandstetter reflected that wrestling "taught me to set goals and do whatever it takes to achieve them." He continued stating that his coaches and practice partners "have been by my side every step of this long journey. Winning this state title has shown me not to quit."

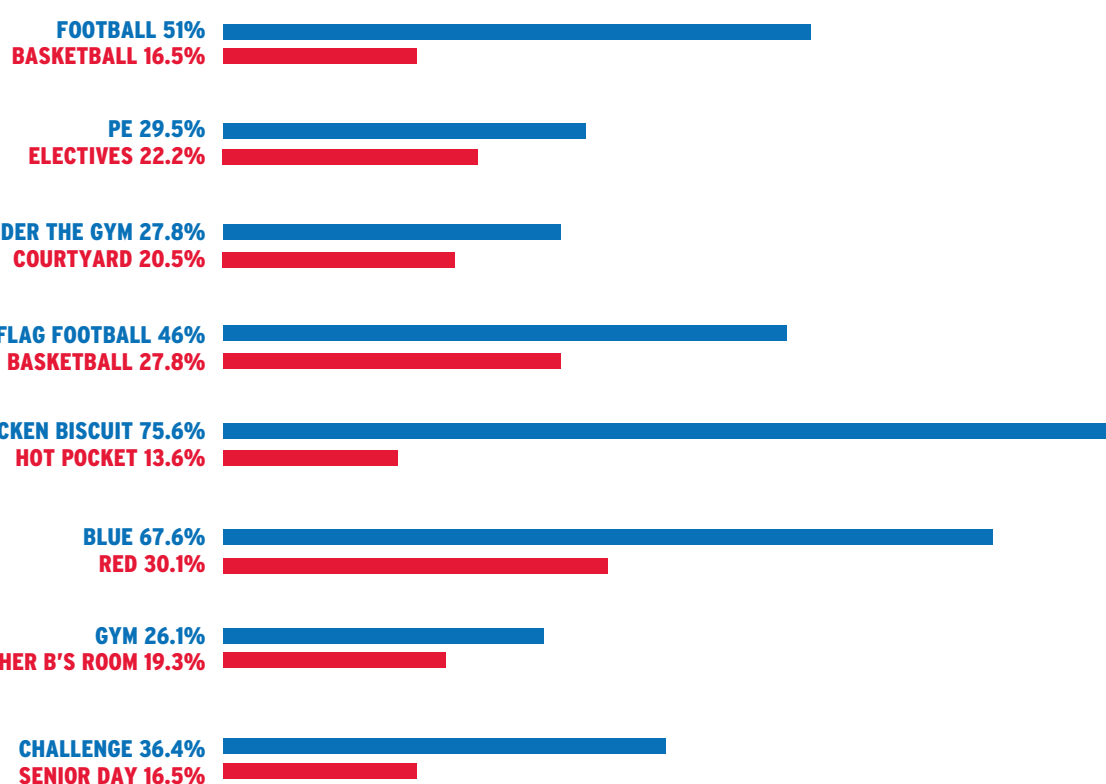
Rummel finished the state tournament in 3rd place to cap off an exciting season. Much appreciation goes out to all the wrestlers and especially our seniors Kaiden Triche, Jake Brandstetter, Dylan Stubbs, Peyton Stubbs, Luke Cusachs, and Lester Johnson. **R**

BEST OF RUMMEL

By: Raiders' Digest staff

FOR THIS ISSUE, WE ASKED STUDENTS AND FACULTY WHAT THEY LOVE MOST AT RUMMEL. HOW DO YOUR FAVORITES MEASURE UP?

- BEST SPORTING EVENT
- BEST SUBJECT
- BEST CAMPUS HANGOUT
- BEST INTRAMURAL SPORT
- BEST BREAK ITEM
- BEST RUMMEL COLOR
- BEST CLASSROOM
- BEST RUMMEL EVENT





Soccer Team Kicks Into Gear With Support of Younger Players

By: Matthew Hammonds '26

With the season coming to an end, the Raider soccer team left their mark. From the beginning of the season to the very end of it, this team grew into a complete and accomplished team.

Rummel soccer has always been heavily reliant on its upper class to get the job done; however, this season that was not the case. Upcoming freshman and sophomores, such as Anthony Arias, Dominic Norales, Carlos Benegas, Joseph Delcid, and Anthony Licon-Garcia, were heavily relied upon late into the season due to the injuries of key players such as Robert Montalvo-Vargas, Sam Haims, Kaden Knobloch and Matthew Hammons.

Even with the lasting injuries, the Raider soccer team propelled themselves into the playoffs with the number ten seed. In the playoffs they defeated Caddo Magnet and won their first away playoff game since 2007 against Prairieville. With goals coming from Jeffery Ayala, leading goal-scorer and team captain, and Holden Aleman, team captain.

All in all, the Raiders produce a magical season considering all of the challenges they faced. 



SIGNING DAY BRINGS SIX RAIDERS

Special Contributor: Danté Jones '27

On Wednesday, February 5, six Raiders signed to continue their football careers. Surrounded by family, coaches, and teammates, Fred Banks, Generald Buggage, Lennis Finister, Peyton Depolitte, Ja'Mard Jones, and Norman Taylor signed with six different universities.

All of the departing seniors thanked their families, coaches, teammates, and God for getting them to this point in their careers. Depolitte stated, "It's a great feeling knowing that I can play football at the next level." The Raider community looks forward to their success in the future.

Frederick Banks, Jr., defensive lineman, signed with Lamar University in Beaumont, TX.

Generald Buggage, Jr., Quarterback, signed with Louisiana Christian University in Pineville, LA.

Lennis Finister, Jr., cornerback, signed with Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA.

Peyton Depolitte, defensive back, signed with Millsaps College in Jackson, MS.

Ja'Mard Jones, Jr., offensive line, signed with Nicholls University in Thibodeaux, LA.

Norman Taylor, running back, signed with Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS.

RAIDERS MARCH IN THE SUPERBOWL


By: Raiders' Digest Staff

On Saturday, February 6, the Raider Marching Band and Chapellets took part in a once in a lifetime experience by marching in the Superbowl LIX parade. The parade started at Esplanade and Decatur Streets and ended .

In the Warehouse District on St. Charles Avenue. They put on an incredible performance impressing all on-lookers.

According to to Drum Major, Brian Tran '25, "Participating in the Super Bowl parade was a great experience for our band. To be able to march through the heart of New Orleans with cheering fans really showed the spirit of Mardi Gras. It was an honor to be part of such a historic event."

While the Superbowl parade was exciting, it was only the kick off of their marching season. The Raider Band and Chapellette Dance Team will march in six Mardi Gras parades: Krewe of Excalibur, Krewe of Carrollton, Krewe of Endymion, Krewe of Okeanos, Krewe of Centurions, and the Krewe of Rex.

The group would like to recognize as always the hard work and dedication of Mr. Telly Higgins, Band Director, Mr. Jacob St. Pierre, and all of the parents, friends and supporters who march alongside them. 



SPOTLIGHT- MEET THE NEW FACES



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By: Johnny Sanchez '26

In every issue Raiders' Digest spotlights a teacher. In this issue, we sat down with Coach Thompson.

1. How long have you been teaching?

I've been teaching for 28 years.

2. What is your favorite part about Rummel?

I value Rummel's commitment to family, community, and commitment to faith and formation.

3. What is your favorite part of Civics or History to teach about?

When I teach history, I love talking about the World Wars. In Civics, I love teaching about the U.S. Constitution.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

By: Todd Weigel '26

Every issue the Raiders' Digest highlights a student. This issue we focus on Brady Gill '26.

Q: What is your favorite Rummel event and why?

A: My favorite Rummel event is Rummel football games because there is a sense of brotherhood and camaraderie. During anticipated games, the student section in particular shows great enthusiasm and shows non-Rummel associates how strong of a bond Rummel has to each other.

Q: What were your first impressions of Rummel?

A: Rummel, on the other hand, seemed to be full of life when I toured here. The tour guides showed enthusiasm when talking about Rummel. Additionally, they felt like they were being genuine rather than trying to sell something to me.

Q: What advice would you give to lower classmen at Rummel?

A: The first piece of advice, I would say, is to not take it for granted. This goes for both academics and the time you have at Rummel. The time flies very quickly and it seemed like yesterday that I was walking in as an 8th grader. For academics, do not slack on your work because it will catch up to you eventually. My second piece of advice, find the right friend group. The people you surround yourself with will impact how you act in your own life.

DEAR RAIDERS,

I hope you all enjoyed the third edition of the Raiders' Digest for the '24-'25 school year. As we head into the final quarter of the school year, graduation preparation will start, the postseason for numerous sports will come to a close, and much more. I hope you all look forward to our final edition of the year!

Blake Caire '26
Editor-In-Chief
Raiders' Digest

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SCI-FI CLUB HOST SECOND ANNUAL INTERCLUB POKEMON TOURNAMENT

By: Raiders' Digest Staff

Rummel's library was the site of the second annual Sci-Fi Club Interclub Pokemon Tournament from February 11-17. Students from Sci-Fi, Table Top Games, Cross Country, and others came together to battle on the Pokemon Showdown ground.

Sci-Fi planning committee member Joshua Sophio '25 started planning in December. Sophio created a Forms registration then created brackets for the tournament. He felt that the tournament was an important activity to continue. Moderator Mrs. Drouant stated that "it is important to bring clubs together in fun activities."

The event created quite a stir. Over 50 students attended the tournament either as players or cheerleaders. Ultimately, Carlos Arostegui took the gold. **R**



POWERLIFTING POWERS THROUGH THE SEASON

By: Joel Medina '25

The Rummel powerlifting team is gearing up for regionals, with state competition on the horizon. The team has performed exceptionally well this season, showcased in the most recent JV and Varsity meet. Freshman Wyatt Meche and senior Brian Mcspadden took first place in their respective weight classes. Senior Joel Medina placed second. Four lifters have already qualified for regionals. The team is focused and ready to compete.

Raiders cheer on the Powerlifting Team as they move forward in their season. **R**

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- STUDENT COUNCIL
- INTRAMURALS
- BASEBALL
- TENNIS
- STRONG
- WRESTLING
- TRACK AND FIELD
- RAIDER NATION
- LA SALLE
- CORNHOLE
- RUFUS
- BOWLING
- GOLF
- LACROSSE
- VICTORY
- FOOTBALL
- SOCCER
- UNAFRAID
- BOLD

RAIDER RUMBLE

By: Raiders' Digest Staff

Find all of the words that have to do with Raider athletics and fandom. Words can be found vertically and horizontally and both forwards and backwards. The first three people to bring a correct puzzle to Mrs. Drouant during lunch will get a sweet treat.