

# Tag Chapelle, Ursuline as teams to beat on court



Ron  
**BROCATO**  
SPORTS

There was no post-Christmas lull for this guy. At a time when insignificant bowl games rule the TV tube, the 36-team Rumble on the River girls' basketball tournament gave us a look at 10 local Catholic schools.

This annual event comes at a time when most schools have 15-20 games under their elastic bands and are showing district form.

There were few surprises, but one that was pleasing was watching Coach Guy McGinnis' Chalmette squad play

John Curtis off its feet for three periods before losing, 67-57. That was just the third loss in 16 games for the Lady Owls, who will be a factor in the otherwise all-Catholic District 10-5A.

Sight unseen, Christy Thiel'er's Archbishop Chapelle team is favored to repeat as 8-5A champion. Led by All-State guard Olivia Grayson, the Chipmunks finished the holiday period with an 18-3 record and string of 12 straight wins.

Look for Dominican (13-7) to edge Chalmette (13-3) for second place. Typical of Coach Ryan Reuter's teams, Dominican plays sound pressure defense and has very good perimeter shooters, led

by Molly and Lauren Emig. It showed great resilience against a solid Ursuline team in the "Rumble" until the last minute when Ursuline won at the free throw line, 48-45.

What Chalmette brings to the district is sound fundamentals. McGinnis' squad runs its motion offense well, and like most schools in this district, makes the opponent work for every point.

Mount Carmel (10-9) is still experiencing growing pains. One of its young players, Ashley Lala, is a heady point guard with a lot of promise. When Coach Mary Ann Marino's Cubs lose a game, it's not for lack of hustle. They could be a spoiler.

Forgive The Academy of Our Lady (2-13) for its record. The

school is still trying to find an identity since its consolidation last year. Under veteran Coach Craig Kirtland, the Penguins will improve but may not be a factor in the district outcome this season.

**District 9-4A** – Cabrini (7-9) is on a four-game win streak. Five of its losses have been to Class 5A opponents. Coach Pat Doyle has watched his Crescents slowly improve into a team that could get into the playoffs as a wild card.

The district favorites are East Jefferson (10-3) and Riverdale (10-4) with Pearl River (8-6), Salmen (5-5) and Franklinton (2-5) in the bottom echelon.

**District 12-3A** – There was bad news for Ursuline Academy that Coach Joey Favoloro turned into good news over the summer. He lost 6-4 center Teresa Plaisance to Vandebilt Catholic when her mother, DoBee, became the women's basketball coach at Nicholls State. Along with her went perimeter shooter Allison Crosby.

Their loss has enabled the Lions to become a quicker club, and they can push the tempo with the best in their class (which may be 4A next year).

Point guard Raven Lyons runs the offense admirably, and veterans Chante Jones, Liann McCarthy and Danielle Dixon provide rebound ability under the goals. And they are all underclassmen. The Lions

See **GIRLS** page 9 >



Photo by Ron Brocato | CLARION HERALD  
Xavier Prep's go-to guards, 4-foot, 11-inch freshman Iriann Nicholas (3) and 5-foot, seventh-grader Alana Lawrence (1) flank 6-1 junior center Kailyn Williams for this comparison shot. Nicholas scored 16 points in the Yellowjackets' 48-46 win over Assumption in the Rumble on the River Tournament.

## CYO holds Youth Night at Hornets-Clippers game

The CYO/Youth and Young Adults Ministry Office has scheduled a CYO Youth Night at the New Orleans Hornets-Los Angeles Clippers game on Jan. 9 at the New Orleans Arena.

Proceeds will benefit the Archdiocese of New Orleans' youth leadership programs.

Groups may purchase tickets (\$15 each) from the CYO office, (504) 836-0551.

## 'Most Significant' series begins Jan. 10

Over the past eight decades, metropolitan New Orleans area high schools have been blessed with outstanding men and women who have carved their names in the annals of the sports pages.

The names and feats of these athletes have been the subject of great debates by this city's ardent prep followers: Who's the best? Who was most significant to their schools' success? Which elevated their tal-

ents at the college and professional level?

Over the weeks, and following a lengthy research, the Clarion Herald will present its top 10 "Most Significant" list for each of the metro's high schools.

The list includes outstanding athletes, both boys and girls, where applicable, for each Catholic, public and private high school in the three-parish area. Also eligible are each school's outstanding coaches and

administrators.

The list will include current as well as schools that have ceased to exist. In rare instances, some schools will be combined (such as New Orleans and Rugby academies and the small Jefferson Parish schools that became giants East Jefferson and West Jefferson in 1955).

The Clarion Herald will feature one school, beginning on Jan. 10.

– Ron Brocato

## Create a Retirement Plan That Works

Designing your future WITH WACHOVIA



When will you retire ... at age 60? 65? 70? Inflation and changes to Social Security are just a few obstacles that can delay the celebration. But they don't have to.

Wachovia Securities offers free comprehensive retirement planning services to help meet your unique financial needs. Call today for a free Retirement Plan Analysis.

**John L. Prevost**, Financial Advisor  
First Vice President - Investments  
111 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Suite 180  
Metairie, LA 70005-4928  
**504-834-2663 • 800-233-5041**  
john.prevost@wachoviasec.com



Securities and Insurance Products

NOT INSURED BY FDIC OR ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY • MAY LOSE VALUE • NOT A DEPOSIT OF OR GUARANTEED BY A BANK OR ANY BANK AFFILIATE

Wachovia Securities, LLC, Member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate nonbank affiliate of Wachovia Corporation. ©2008 Wachovia Securities, LLC [24778-v1-0111]A1211-0209

## Senior Homecare By Angels®



### Select Your Caregiver®

Up to 24 Hour Care • Hygiene Assistance  
Meal Preparation • Light Housekeeping  
Errands/Shopping • Respite Care for Families  
Rewarding Companionship

**866-764-1414**

www.visitingangels.com

America's Choice in Homecare.  
**VisitingAngels**  
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES