

# Rummel in LHSAA finals for first time in 23 tries



Ron  
**BROCATO**  
SPORTS

**C**ongratulations, Archbishop Rummel. You're now part of an elite club.

After 22 years of competing for a state football championship, the Raiders will finally invade the Louisiana Superdome on Dec. 12 with the opportunity to gain their first Class 5A, or any other class, for that matter, championship trophy.

By defeating Westgate on a blanket of snow and icy rain last week, Rummel gained the opportunity to meet West Monroe for the gold and walnut trophy.

The berth also gives the Raiders membership in the Catholic League Finalists

Club. In its 46th year, Rummel has joined Jesuit, Brother Martin, St. Augustine and Archbishop Shaw as championship finalists.

The Metairie school made it to the semifinals on five occasions (see chart), but had failed to take that last giant step until this season.

Entering the post-season eliminations as the No. 1 seed, the undefeated Raiders of coach Jay Roth defeated Captain Shreve, 10-3; district mate Jesuit, 14-7; and Hahnville, 24-7 – all at home – before traveling to Lafayette to take on a surprising No. 21 seed, Westgate of New Iberia.

With the host school leading, 6-0, late in the game and time ticking against Rummel, it rallied from behind for the 10th time this season to break the long drought.

It happened when Ben Jefferson, a Rummel safety, came out of the shadows of his celebrated defensive teammates

to intercept a Westgate pass. He plucked the ball out of the icy air on the sideline and sprinted 31 yards for the tying touchdown. His dependable teammate, Marc Raziano, nailed the PAT and Rummel was finally a championship contender.

When the last horn sounded, the Rummel players celebrated by playing winter games.

"They were sliding around in the snow and ice and throwing snowballs at each other," noted Roth, who has coached the Raiders to a playoff berth every year since his hiring in 1995.

"We celebrated for a long time, until (Cajun Field) security made us leave.

"But on the two-hour bus ride home, I didn't hear a word out of any of them. I guess they were trying to thaw out."

To Roth, victory helped  
*See BROCATO page 9 >*

## Rummel's heartbreaks

YEAR	ELIMINATED BY	SCORE	ROUND
2008	Acadiana	21-14	Regional (2)
2007	Acadiana	35-14	Quarterfinal (3)
2006	Sulphur	7-0	Semifinal (4)
2005	Sulphur	31-0	Regional (2)
2004	John Ehret	22-21	Regional (2)
2003	Evangel	7-5	Regional (2)
2002	Evangel	39-0	Semifinal (4)
2001	Evangel	41-10	Semifinal (4)
2000	Abp. Shaw	28-3	Quarterfinal (3)
1999	St. Augustine	23-6	Regional (2)
1998	Destrehan	24-17 (OT)	Regional (2)
1997	Abp. Shaw	49-20	Regional (2)
1996	West Jefferson	14-7	Bidistrict (1)
1995	Hahnville	17-0	Regional (2)
1991	Sulphur	28-7	Bidistrict (1)
1985	South Lafourche	16-3	Bidistrict (1)
1982	Ruston	14-3	Semifinal (4)
1980	John Ehret	17-10 (OT)	Regional (2)
1975	Covington	14-14*	Quarterfinal (3)
1974	Fair Park	7-0	Semifinal (4)
1973	West Jefferson	7-0	Bidistrict (1)
1972	O. Perry Walker	14-13	Bidistrict (1)

\* Lost on first downs, 15-7.

# Jesuit takes 11th CYO title; favored to win Catholic League

By Ron Brocato  
Clarion Herald

Even without leading scorer, Dominick Scelfo in the fold, Jesuit won the 57th Catholic Youth Organization basketball tournament sponsored by the Allstate Sugar Bowl on Dec. 5 by defeating District 10-5A rival St. Augustine, 58-50.

With the luxury of having

played four tournament games on its home court, the Blue Jays defeated St. Paul's, John Ehret and Hahnville to advance to the finals.

Meanwhile, St. Augustine beat Holy Cross, Brother Martin and Archbishop Rummel to gain a berth in the finals.

The Purple Knights have won eight CYO titles.

The two are favored to be

battling it out for the Catholic League crown in February.

The CYO tournament has been a gauge by which the District 9-5A teams are evaluated. And in early-season performances, Jesuit and St. Augustine appear to be the most talented teams in the league, approaching pre-Katrina strengths.

The Clarion Herald lists the

order of finish as 1. Jesuit, 2. St. Augustine, 3. Brother Martin, 4. Archbishop Rummel, 5. Archbishop Shaw.

The tale of the tape tells the story:

► **JESUIT** – Scelfo, a senior power forward, is rehabilitating a damaged knee and should be ready for district play. He joins Colby Kiefer, Brady Hadden, Josh Dudley, Nicky Varisco and

Alex Melendreras, all of whom began playing basketball together in the eighth grade.

That depth and experience gives the Blue Jays the edge in close games.

► **ST. AUGUSTINE** – The Purple Knights and Jesuit were tied for the 2008 district title until the Blue Jays defeated the Knights in a playoff. The

*See CYO page 9 >*

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