

CAJUNS MAKE THE 'BEST DRESSED' LIST

LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS HAVE SOME of the sharpest football uniforms in collegiate athletics.

UL Lafayette ranked fifth among the Top 10 best-dressed university football teams in an article about gridiron garb written by Nancy Armour, an Associated Press national columnist.

"Simple in either red or white, with 'LOUISIANA' in plain block letters on the front, but they work. There's no need to be flashy when your helmet says 'Ragin' Cajuns,'" Armour wrote.

She offered opinions for three categories: good, bad and really ugly.

Her top four picks for fashion flair were Michigan, ("Maize and blue and winged helmets. Enough said."); Florida State; Harvard; and the University of Texas. Notre Dame came in sixth, followed by LSU in Baton Rouge. Rounding out the list were UCLA, Ohio State and Penn State.

Oregon State was No. 1 in the "bad" category for its Halloween hues of orange and black. No. 10 was a tie between Mississippi State and Nebraska. Five other schools made the "Really Ugly"

category. Oregon State ("Oh, where to begin.") topped the list. Notre Dame's special green jerseys, Tulsa, Mount Union and North Carolina were also cited.



Wide receiver Jason Chery

New tennis coach strives to raise Cajuns' rankings

During her inaugural year at UL Lafayette in 2005, assistant coach Katalin Gyulai helped the women's tennis program earn its first national ranking.



Katalin Gyulai

She made school history again this year by becoming the first female head men's and women's tennis coach. She replaces Justin McGrath, who resigned to take a coaching position at Cal Poly.

"We finished last season ranked in both men's and women's and we look to improve on that this season," Gyulai said.

Interim Athletic Director David Walker said he's confident that Gyulai has the ability to direct the tennis program. "Her success in leading the women's tennis team has allowed the program to reach new heights and we know she will continue this success as a head coach."

Gyulai arrived in Lafayette in September 2005 and had a notable fall season. Some highlights:

- The women's team won the University of Houston Cougar Fall Classic.
- Cajun sophomore Kimmie Lyles won the Flight B of the Pepsi Challenge hosted by UL Lafayette.

• The Ragin' Cajun doubles team of sophomore Tammy Day and freshman Clemence Remy reached the quarterfinals of the ITA Regional Tournament. It also finished the fall season with a No. 8 regional doubles ranking.

Gyulai began her coaching career in the 2003-04 season as an assistant at the University of Texas-Pan American. Her duties there included recruiting for its women's tennis program.

Gyulai is a certified United States Tennis Association official.

Nothing tops "Ragin' Cajuns"

"Ragin' Cajuns" is the best nickname for a college team in the nation.

Results of an informal, online ESPN poll taken this summer showed that 27.5 percent of respondents chose UL Lafayette's moniker as No. 1. A total 508,883 votes were cast in a survey entitled, "What are the best things in college sports?"

The "Banana Slugs," the name of the unofficial mascot for University of California Santa Cruz's coed teams, was the second place finisher, with 13.9 percent of the votes. Following close behind were:

- Tulane "Green Wave," 11.5 percent;
- Alabama "Crimson Tide," 8.8 percent;
- Marshall University "Thundering Herd," 8.5 percent; and
- University of Texas "Longhorns," 7.1 percent.

The remaining contenders each garnered less than 4 percent of the votes:

- Wake Forest "Demon Deacons," 3.9 percent;
- Arkansas "Razorbacks," 3.9 percent;
- Texas Christian University "Horned Frogs," 3.8 percent;
- North Carolina "Tar Heels," 3.5 percent;
- Southern Arkansas "Mule Riders," 3.3 percent;
- Purdue "Boilermakers," 2.2 percent; and
- Oklahoma "Sooners," 2.1 percent.

The nickname "Ragin' Cajuns" was first used – unofficially – in the early 1960s for the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now known as UL Lafayette) football team.

"Ragin' Cajuns" was listed as the team's official nickname in USL's 1974 Football Guide.

Gomez rewrites Cajuns' record book

IT WAS THE 2003 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD Series in Oklahoma City.

On the pitcher's mound: the University of Texas' Cat Osterman. The 6-foot, 2-inch hurler was cool and confident. It's no wonder. She hadn't given up a hit in nearly 65 innings.

Ragin' Cajun freshman Danyele Gomez stepped up to the plate. Anyone unfamiliar with Gomez probably considered it a classic David vs. Goliath matchup. But fans who had followed Gomez' career all season knew that it was more like two Goliaths.

Gomez had earned a reputation for successful "firsts." She hit a grand slam, for instance, in her collegiate debut, the season opener against Louisiana Tech. In her first NCAA regional competition, she claimed a solo against San Diego State.

Now it was her first at bat in a World Series.

Osterman pitched the bright yellow ball. Gomez sent it sailing more than 300 feet, where it landed beyond the left field fence for a home run.

UCLA won the World Series that year. But Gomez and Osterman continued to play like champions.



Danyele Gomez

This year, both were named to the First Team of the Louisville Slugger/NFCA NCAA Division 1 All-America Team.

Gomez wrapped up her career with 83 career home runs. That's the fourth highest number of home runs in NCAA history.

As a senior, she had 30 home runs, leading NCAA Division 1 with that season total. Only two other players in NCAA history have hit that many home runs in one year.

Gomez led the nation in home runs per game, runs per game and slugging percentage (.957).

By racking up a career high of 83 home runs, she set a UL Lafayette record. That's 26 more than the previous record. She also set school records for home runs, runs and total bases.

Gomez was one of 10 finalists for USA Softball's Player of the Year in 2006. She was featured in the "Faces in the Crowd" section of *Sports Illustrated* this spring and was named to the 2006 All-Louisiana Softball Squad by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

Gomez joined former Ragin' Cajun pitcher Krystal Lewallen on the Texas Thunder pro fastpitch team.

UL SPORTS INFORMATION

LOTIEF'S WINNING WAYS TAKE HER TO NO. 3

UL Lafayette's Stefni Lotief has the third highest winning percentage of active NCAA Division 1 softball coaches in the nation.

To be ranked by the NCAA in that category, a coach must have a minimum of five years experience as a Division 1 head coach. The ranking is for spring varsity fast-pitch at four-year universities only.

Here are the latest NCAA statistics.

COACH, TEAM	YEARS	WON	LOST	TIED	PERCENTAGE
1. Mike Candrea, Arizona	19	1,027	203	0	.835
2. Sue Enquist, UCLA	17	837	166	1	.834
3. Stefni Lotief, La.-Lafayette	5	259	52	0	.833
4. JoAnne Graf, Florida St.	22	1,092	342	6	.760
5. Yvette Girouard, LSU	25	1,012	325	0	.757

Source: NCAA

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