

## First Dance

Ragin' Cajuns® compete in NCAA Division 1 championship tournament



AARON LAMBERT

**R**EALLY, YOU HAVE TO TAKE THIS FOR what it is. This team came from dirt. Nobody thought we'd make it here."

With that observation, UL Lafayette senior and leading scorer Yolanda Jones demonstrated that she can keep winning and losing in proper perspective. She made her comments to a reporter during first-round play in the 2007 NCAA Division 1 Women's Basketball Championship in March.

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® were pitted against Marquette University's Golden Eagles. The Eagles prevailed, 87-58. But losing that one contest didn't diminish what the Cajuns had accomplished to get to the NCAA Dayton Regional in Austin, Texas.

Consider this:

- It was the first time in the 36-year history of UL Lafayette's women's basketball program that the Ragin' Cajuns made it to *any* postseason play.
- Going into the tournament, Marquette University was ranked No. 21 in the nation by *USA Today/ESPN* and No. 22 by Associated Press.
- This Ragin' Cajun team won the Western Division of the Sun Belt Conference for the second time in three years.
- UL Lafayette had more wins this season than any other women's basketball team in school history. Final season win-loss tally: 25-9. Five of those nine losses were to ranked teams.
- The Cajuns tied the school record for road victories, winning 13 away from home.
- UL Lafayette was one of 33 at-large selections for the 64-team NCAA tournament.
- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns drew a No. 11 seed in the NCAA tournament. Marquette was seeded No. 6.
- UL Lafayette was one of only nine schools making their first NCAA tournament appearance. Only two of those nine, Pittsburgh and Maryland, advanced to the second round; both lost there.
- UL Lafayette and Pittsburgh were the only at-large selections making their first appearance.



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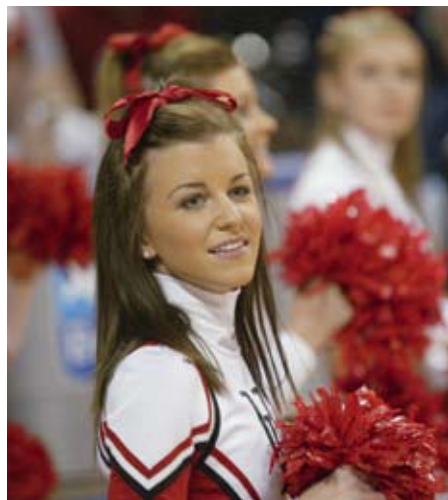


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TOP: Whitney Dunlap. CENTER ABOVE: Ragin' Brass Basketball Band member Wayne Dixon. ABOVE: Onna Charles. RIGHT: co-head coaches J. Kelley Hall and Meredith Hall with the team.



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Although some basketball fans may not have expected Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns to get an invitation to the tournament, co-head coach J. Kelley Hall was confident they would make the cut.

"There's only 22 teams out of 335 that have won more than us," he told a

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Yolanda Jones; Ragin' Cajun cheerleader Kaelyn Hebert; Sonora Edwards; Alica McDaniel; and Jeanette Colbert.

sports writer for *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper, before the NCAA announced its championship teams. "We know we're going to be in a tournament and we've earned that right." ■

# www.ragincajuns.com

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® web site is back and better than ever

**A**FTER ABOUT A FIVE-MONTH HIATUS, Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® web site is live again.

But just about the only part that stayed the same is the URL: www.ragincajuns.com All the rest is prime time.

UL Lafayette hired XOS Technologies to provide server space and web site design. The Florida-based company has more than 480 clients who represent more than 900 university and pro sports teams, including the Florida Gators, Ohio State Buckeyes and LSU Tigers in Baton Rouge, La.

John Dugas, event management coord-

inator for UL Lafayette's Athletics Department, has been working with an XOS crew for several months to fashion the Ragin' Cajuns' new web site.

Cox Communication is the site's main sponsor.

Dugas said the university wants to provide a first-rate web site for Ragin' Cajuns fans.

And, a university's presence on the Internet is especially important to young men and women, he continued. "The college-age kids now are on the Internet so much. Your web site creates your image. If you send them to a site that doesn't look top notch, that's the impression they have, even if they come for a campus visit."

Here's a preview of some www.ragincajuns.com features:

## ■ KEEPING TRACK

There's an all-sports calendar and schedule that covers every sport – right on the home page, all the time. Better yet, fans can easily download the information onto their computers' Microsoft Office Outlook calendar. Icons on the calendar will indicate when related information or features are available, such as game notes or streaming video.

"We'll make it easy for fans to know what's going on," Dugas said.

## ■ CAJUN CLIPPINGS

This service enables www.ragincajuns.com users to receive, via e-mail, all press releases and game reports as soon as they're posted by UL Lafayette's Sports Information Department.

## ■ PICTURE THIS

"We're going to have more photographs than just about any other university athletic department," Dugas said. "For football games, for instance, we will have hundreds of photos



SCREEN CAPTURES COURTESY OF XOS TECHNOLOGIES.

This is a mock-up of the www.ragincajuns.com home page.

– and not just action shots on the field. Photographers and videographers hired by the university will take photos and footage of game-related events, such as tailgating. Those images will be posted soon after a game has ended. “When people wake up on Sunday morning, the photos will already be there.”

Fans will have a chance to submit photos they’ve taken of certain events. Dugas gave an example of how that will work: “On game day Saturdays nights during football season, I’ll activate this feature and for the next few days, people can submit their own photos. That’s really neat because they can put them on the web site and then tell their friends, ‘Hey, I’m on ragincajuns.com’”

Some select, high-resolution prints will also be available for purchase through an agreement with pictopia.com

## ■ STREAMING VIDEO

The only feature of www.ragincajuns.com that has a fee is a premium content area that provides streaming video of certain games. (There will be an online contest to name this service.)

“Most places charge \$9.95 or \$12.95 a month for streaming video, but we just didn’t feel comfortable with that,” Dugas said.

So UL Lafayette’s premium content area will cost only \$7.95 a month. “Football, men’s basketball and baseball home games will all be streamed through closed circuit broadcasts that are already in place. For volleyball, soccer, women’s basketball, softball and tennis, we have purchased equipment to film and stream select games. For away games, we will carry those conference games of schools that are also XOS clients.”

The monthly fee includes on-demand video archives of games.

Game stats will be streamed at no cost.

## ■ SHOP AT THE BOOKSTORE - ONLINE

For the first time, University Bookstore on campus will offer a variety of UL Lafayette merchandise for sale on www.ragincajuns.com. Customers can pay online with a credit card.

## ■ THE LATEST INFO

Information about completed Louisiana Ragin’ Cajuns’ sports events will be posted promptly. “For instance, if a baseball game ends at 10 o’clock, an article about it will be on the site about 15 minutes later,” Dugas said. “It will be very quick.”



Fans can download a comprehensive sports schedule onto their computers’ Microsoft Office Outlook calendars.

SCREEN CAPTURES COURTESY OF XOS TECHNOLOGIES

## ■ ALSO ON TAP

Dugas said pages of www.ragincajuns.com will be devoted to UL Lafayette support groups, such as the Ragin’ Cajun cheerleaders, Ragin’ Jazz dance team, the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band and the Ragin’ Brass Basketball Band. Also available: video tours of Ragin’ Cajun athletic facilities, a staff directory and information about recruitment, athletic training, development opportunities and athletes’ halls of fame.

## ■ ONLINE AUCTIONS

The site will feature online auctions. First up for bid: a throwback SLI baseball jersey and a basketball autographed by members of the 2006-07 Ragin’ Cajuns women’s basketball team, which competed in the NCAA Division 1 Championship in March for the first time in school history.

“The neat thing is that we can auction more than memorabilia. We can auction the chance to be a bat boy for a Ragin’ Cajuns baseball game, for instance, along with a package of tickets and concessions.”

## ■ ONLINE REGISTRATION

This automated feature will enable parents to register – and pay online with a credit card – for their children to participate in youth camps offered by Ragin’ Cajun coaches. “This is going to provide better service for our customers,” Dugas said.

The scope of the improved and expanded web site, and the volume of material it contains, contributed to the amount of time it has taken for XOS and UL Lafayette staffers to put it together. They transferred

some data from UL Lafayette athletics’ previous web site and from the Athletic Network web site, in addition to preparing new content.

The Athletic Network – www.athlet-icnetwork.net – is a popular web site that keeps track of current and former Ragin’ Cajun athletes and support groups. It began as a volunteer project that was created, in large part, by Dugas and his father, Dr. Ed Dugas, a former professor of health and physical education. The web site was designed by Firefly Digital and hosted on that company’s server.

The presence of UL Lafayette athletics on the Internet began in 1998 when Fenstermaker and Associates of Lafayette donated space on its own server.

“For Fenstermaker and Associates to provide that to the university – at no cost – for almost 10 years is just amazing,” said David Walker, UL Lafayette’s interim athletics director. “We appreciate everything it did to help Ragin’ Cajun athletics get online and stay up and running.”

Dugas explained that as the Internet became more popular, demands on the Fenstermaker server became too great. “It got to the point this fall that we were really slowing down its operation.”

So the Athletics Department began using the Athletic Network like a temporary web site until it could obtain bids from web site management companies and evaluate them.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authe-ment said that volunteer efforts of fans such as Ed Dugas have been a huge reason for the success of the university’s athletics networking. “Ed is officially retired from UL Lafayette, but he devotes himself almost full-time to the Athletic Network. It’s difficult to convey how much that means to the university or how grateful we are,” he said.

John Dugas noted that he has taken special pride in working on the new www.ragincajuns.com “I grew up coming to sporting events here. Since my father was a faculty member in kinesiology, I would spend all my summers at Earl K. Long Gym when I was growing up.” Like his father, he’s a devoted Ragin’ Cajuns fan.

John Dugas noted that the XOS support team has seemed impressed by UL Lafayette. “They have a lot of clients who are tigers and lions and such, but there’s only one ‘Ragin’ Cajuns’ and we have a very distinct culture in this area. I think this new web site showcases it very nicely.” ■

## Athletic Facility Will Carry Name Of Leon C. Moncla Sr.

THE NEW INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY for Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® will be named in honor of the late Leon C. Moncla Sr., a well-known Lafayette businessman and civic leader.

When the facility opens later this year, it will be used by all UL Lafayette sports teams. It will feature a 120-yard practice field with drop-down batting



Construction of this indoor practice facility was slowed earlier this spring by frequent rains. When it's complete, it will be used by all UL Lafayette athletic teams.

cages and a separate wing that will house a basketball court. It's located on Reinhardt Drive adjacent to the football practice field.

Moncla was owner of Moncla Real Estate and Insurance Agency, which was established in 1956 and remains in operation.

"Leon was one of the most involved civic leaders in Lafayette. He often raised money for groups that benefit citizens of Lafayette," said UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement, who served with him on the Cajundome Commission and in other organizations. "And, he loved basketball. He loved to harass the referees from his seat in the stands. What a character!"

Authement added that upon Moncla's death in 1999, friends established the Leon C. Moncla Memorial Athletic Endowment. Moncla's son, Charles, is an active supporter of UL Lafayette athletics.

Born in Patoutville, La., in 1925, Moncla graduated from St. Peter's College in New Iberia, La. He entered the military in 1942 and served in the European and Pacific Theaters during World War II.

Upon his return to Acadiana, he earned a bachelor's degree in business education from Southwestern Louisiana

Institute (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette). After graduating in 1950, he taught at Cathedral High School and Lafayette High School.

Four years later, Moncla worked as the secretary to the superintendent of the Lafayette Parish School Board and in 1956, opened Moncla Real Estate and Insurance Agency.

Moncla participated in many civic organizations and projects in Acadiana and supported UL Lafayette. He received UL Lafayette's Basketball Best Friend Award in 1969 and was named an Outstanding Alumnus in 1982. In 1998, Moncla was honored by the College of Education as a distinguished graduate.

He also was awarded the Civic Cup in 1976 for his work with the community's youth and later served on the Civic Cup Committee. In 1983, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by D.H. Holmes. Ten years later, he received the Sertoma Award for Service to Mankind.

Moncla assisted many service organizations and schools – particularly Our Lady of Fatima, Cathedral Carmel and St. Thomas More. He was active with the Bish-

op's Charity Ball campaign and served as its king in 1997.

He was a Scout Master at Cathedral High School and in 1999 was honored with the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Service Award.

He also was the recipient of the Optimist of the Year award and the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award. In 1959, he served as president of the Southwest Louisiana High School Officials Association. He was a member of this organization for more than 30 years.

Moncla also worked with the American Legion Baseball program and was presented with the Sportsmanship Trophy in 1953. He received the Lafayette Parish American Baseball Citation in 1960.

Moncla was a past member of the Lafayette Optimist Club, Chamber of Commerce, Acadian Home Builders, Lafayette Parish Insurance Exchange, United Givers Fund, Fine Arts Foundation, Boy's Club, Lafayette Young Men's Business Club, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lafayette Board of Realtors®, Knights of Columbus and other groups.

### 2007 LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	South Carolina	Columbia, S.C
SEPT. 8	OHIO (7th annual Herbert Heymann Football Classic)	CAJUN FIELD
SEPT. 15	MCNEESE STATE	CAJUN FIELD
SEPT. 22	TROY STATE*	CAJUN FIELD
Sept. 29	Central Florida	Orlando, Fla.
OCT. 6	NORTH TEXAS	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 13	Arkansas State*	Jonesboro, Ark.
OCT. 20	FLORIDA ATLANTIC* (62nd Homecoming)	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 27	Open	
Nov. 3	Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.
Nov. 10	Middle Tennessee*	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Nov. 17	Florida International*	Miami, Fla.
NOV. 24	LOUISIANA-MONROE*	CAJUN FIELD

The Homecoming game will begin at 4 p.m. on Oct. 20; all other home games are set for 6 p.m. kickoffs. All game times are subject to change.

\* SunBelt Conference Game