



# A season of historic achievements



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

St. Thomas Aquinas' Claudeny Jeudy celebrates after the Raiders defeated Tallahassee Lincoln 41-25 to win the Class 7A state football championship in Orlando.

**I**t was a memorable fall for high school athletics in Broward County.

The season featured historic achievements -- two county schools won a football state championship in the same year for the first time in 89 years; and a Broward team captured a team title in girls cross country for the first time in 23 years -- as well as numerous unforgettable individual and team performances.

Here's a look back at some of the highlights that made this such a special season for the county.

## Kings of the gridiron

University School rallied from a 17-point deficit in the Class 3A final to defeat Madison County 24-17 for its first title. St. Thomas Aquinas upset top-ranked Bradenton Manatee in the 7A semifinals, then claimed its seventh crown with a 41-25 triumph against Tallahassee Lincoln, tying five other schools for third most in FHSAA history. Cypress Bay fell just short of its first title, losing 53-50 to Apopka in the 8A final.

## Running down a dream

Led by freshman Alexa Cruz, St. Thomas' girls cross country team unseated two-time defending 3A champ Tampa Plant to win its first state title. Pine Crest freshman Julia Montgomery won the 2A race, becoming Broward's first individual girls champ since 2001. Montgomery was ranked the nation's 15th best freshman by MileSplit.com.

## Making waves in the pool

Pine Crest's Carolyn Chaney won the 1A state diving title for the second straight year while her sister, Kaelah Chaney, led off the Panthers' 200-freestyle relay team that took first in automatic All-American time. American Heritage's Daniel Spas won a 1A state title in the 100-freestyle in AA-A time. Several other county swimmers made the podium as a top-three finisher.

## Spiking their way to states

For volleyball teams in Broward, this was a season of mixed results. There were standout individual performances, and two teams that earned state tournament berths.

But both St. Thomas Aquinas and Sheridan Hills—who were making their second straight state appearances—came up short in their quests for titles.

The Raiders finished as the Class 7A state runner-up with a 23-4 record, while the Sharks were 14-8 and advanced to the Class 2A state semifinals.

They weren't the only teams that had impressive seasons. A young Chaminade-Madonna (24-4) squad advanced to the Class 4A regional finals out of one of the state's toughest districts, and look in position to move further next season, while Douglas, Cypress Bay and Hollywood Hills were among the public school teams that had solid performances.

## Leaders on the links

Coral Glades' Carly Goldstein (4-under, 140) won the 2A girls golf individual state championship while Jorge Garcia (5-over, 149) won the 1A boys individual title and teammate Robert Geibel finished tied for second (7-over, 151) to lead American Heritage to the team championship. The American Heritage girls team finished second at state, with Claudia DeAntonio the highest Patriot finisher who tied for fifth place.



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

University School players rejoice after defeating Madison County 24-17 to win the Class 3A state football championship in Orlando.



RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Claudia DeAntonio of American Heritage helped the girls golf team finish second at the state tournament. The Heritage boys team won its first state golf title.



COLIN HACKLEY/OS STRINGER

Pine Crest's Julia Montgomery wins the Class 2A cross country title in Tallahassee.



JOSHUA C. CRUEY/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Sheridan Hills Christian's Amber Stout goes up for a kill shot in a Class 2A state semifinal game.



GARY CURRERI/SUN SENTINEL

Pine Crest sophomore diver Carolyn Chaney won her second straight state title this year.

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