

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Pope John Paul II High School boys soccer team upon winning the 2021 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Division IV state championship.

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, the number one (No. 1) seed Pope John Paul II boys soccer team defeated the number six (No. 6) seed Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge by a score of 2-1 at Strawberry Stadium on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University to complete a historical season; and

WHEREAS, senior Michael Tymkiw and junior Shawn Riviere scored the two winning goals for the Pope John Paul II Jaguars; and

WHEREAS, junior Lincoln Oertling was named the Most Valuable Player of the championship title match; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II finished the season with a record of 18-4-2, scoring forty-four goals and holding their opponents to sixteen goals with thirteen shutouts; and

WHEREAS, the state championship title was the first boys soccer state championship in the school's forty-one year history; and

WHEREAS, the Pope John Paul II Jaguars defeated Westminster Christian Academy 7-0 in the second round after earning a bye in the first round; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II went on to host defending state champion, Isidore Newman, for the quarterfinals on Mardi Gras Day at Pope John Paul II in frigid temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars had a record turnout from students and the Slidell community to cheer them on as they defeated the Greenies 2-0 for the second time in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars then hosted their district rivals and 2019 state champions, Northlake Christian, for the semifinals match at Pope John Paul II and the Jaguars again emerged victorious with a 2-0 win in front of a very excited home crowd; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 state championship was a culmination of an outstanding season that began with the Jaguars finishing as runner-up in the prestigious COPA Acadiana Tournament's Premier Orange Division as the Jags earned the No. 1 seed by playing a challenging season made of first class soccer programs, many which are much larger schools, including Mandeville High, St. Louis Catholic, E.D. White, North Vermilion, Newman, and many more; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars had been eliminated in the previous two seasons in the Quarterfinals which served as a motivation, but also presented a hurdle to overcome both physically and mentally; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars were recognized prior to the first kickoff of the season by being awarded the Team Academic Award by the United Soccer Coaches Association for a team grade point average of 3.35; and

WHEREAS, the Pope John Paul II Jaguars were led by team captains senior Michael Tymkiw and juniors Lincoln Oertling and Nicholas Barone; and

WHEREAS, the other contributing members to the Pope John Paul II Jaguars amazing season were seniors Elliz Ortiz, Adam Lisotta, Joseph Estopinal, and Christopher Kelley; juniors Shawn Riviere, Brendan Kuzminski, George Arata, Jack Everard, Patrick Whitehouse, Will Adams, Wilson Varnado, Joey Hosni, and Nathan Baker; sophomores Henley Oertling, Mikey Uwaifo, Jacob Mire, and Nicholas Blum; freshman Allen Raimer, Joseph Whitehouse, Landon Lott, Henry Dutriex; and eighth graders Christian Mire, Carter Chiasson, Preston Mayeaux, Julian Masson, and Adam Merkle; and

WHEREAS, team manager Miguel Silva was integral to the success of the Pope John Paul II Jaguars' season; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars were coached by Head Coach Danny Clavier in his tenth season at Pope John Paul II High School; coach Danny crossed the 100-win threshold this season and was voted All-District Coach of the year; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars were blessed to have two outstanding and dedicated assistant coaches, Devin Jeanfreau was in charge of the team's technical training and Pope John Paul II junior varsity team and Jason Schexnayder who was the team's goalkeeper coach; and

WHEREAS, the team's athletic trainer, Jonah Bailey from the Louisiana Children's Medical Center Group, was invaluable in maintaining the team's health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, appreciation is also extended to Pope John Paul II Jaguars former LCMC athletic trainer, Allen Miller, for the strategic yoga sessions and continued guidance he provided for recovery and strength; and

WHEREAS, the support of Pope John Paul II's administration was instrumental in navigating a season with COVID-19 and weather challenges; and

WHEREAS, thanks and gratitude is owed to Principal Doug Triche, Athletic Director Richard Dieduonne, and most of all, to the Jaguars' number one fan, Assistant Principal Kimberlie Kilroy; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars senior, Michael Tymkiw, was recognized by Max Preps as the National Player of the week for his performance in the Jaguars' opening playoff win; Michael Tymkiw and junior Lincoln Oertling shared the District 5-IV Most Valuable Player honors; junior Brendan Kuzminski was named District Offensive Co-Most Valuable Player; junior Nicholas Barone shared the district Defensive Most Valuable Player award as well; and rounding out the rest of the first team All-District honors were sophomores Henley Oertling and Michael Uwaifo and juniors George Arata and Shawn Riviere; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars recently represented Pope John Paul II High School on a live stream broadcast by BBT Communications on the show "Mike's Corner" which recognizes high school teams in the St. Tammany area; and

WHEREAS, the Jaguars and their parents collected two hundred five food items for donation to the Northshore Food Bank which smashed the record previously held by St. Paul's of one hundred sixty eight items.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Pope John Paul II High School boys soccer team upon winning the 2021 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Division IV state championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Pope John Paul II High School.