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St. Charles Cyclones win state soccer title

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The St. Charles Cyclones U-19 team defended its 2007 state championship title, winning the 2008 Louisiana Division I U-19 championship at a tournament April 26 in Alexandria.

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The team outscored its opponents in the state tournament 14-1, with potent offensive play and a very stingy and dominating defensive effort, coach Darryl Samaha said.

Samaha said he is very proud of his team and the back-to-back state championships. The team is made up of players from Hahnville High, St. Charles Catholic in LaPlace, Destrehan High, Archbishop Rummel High and Brother Martin High.

The team ended its spring season 16-2. The team won the last six tournaments it entered, the 2007 Plantation Cup, 2007 U-18 State Champions, 2008 Lafayette Cajun Cup, 2008 Lafreniere Soccer Fest, 2008 St. Charles Plantation Cup and 2008 U-19 State Cup.

The Cyclones have been very successful over the years playing together since U-14, winning a total of 13 tournament championships, and being state finalists in 2004.

Team members are Justin Aubert, Devin Samaha, Drew Samaha, Justin Breaux, Paul Finn, Nick Caropino, Zach Landry and Tim Hager, all of Luling, and D.J. Winkler of Paradis, students at Hahnville High; Daniel Ballard and Matthew Ballard of Destrehan, Zack Matus, Peter Lambert-Oswald and Mike Weber of LaPlace, all students at St. Charles Catholic; Will Conwell of St. Rose, a student at Rummel; Patrick O'Regan of LaPlace, a student at Brother Martin; and Evan Coffman of Destrehan, a student at Destrehan High.

Assisting Samaha were Bill Ballard, Lou Conwell and Jared Larouse.

The St. Charles Cyclones U-19 soccer team won the Louisiana Division 1 state championship title in Alexandria. Members include, front, from left, assistant coach Bill Ballard, Daniel Ballard, Justin

Aubert, Devin Samaha, Drew Samaha, Justin Breaux, Zack Matus, Paul Finn and assistant Coach Lou Conwell; and back, from left, Matthew Ballard, D.J. Winkler, Will Conwell, Nick Caropino, Peter Lambert-Oswald, Mike Weber, Patrick O'Regan, Zach Landry and Tim Hager.