

Gage Grabs Gold

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Redemptorist (Baton Rouge, La.) WR/DB Donald Gage displayed his impressive athletic ability at both the recent Junior Olympics and his team's preseason football scrimmage.

Donald Gage is on a hot streak, winning the gold medal in the long jump at the Junior Olympics and catching several passes during his team's preseason scrimmage this weekend. The Redemptorist junior was seeded second in the long jump, but he bested his top-seeded rival in a pressure-packed atmosphere.

"It came down to the final three jumps," said Gage. "The first guy looked like he might have the winning jump. He got a good one. Then, the next person -- the number one seed -- jumped 23-1. They were both clapping before their jump (to motivate themselves and the crowd), so I did the same thing. I started clapping and jumped 23-3. It felt fantastic to get the gold, because I always kept getting the bronze.

"We scrimmaged West Feliciana (2010 3A semifinalist) this weekend. I had six catches and a touchdown, but we only played 17 minutes. The game was canceled early because of bad weather and lightning. I scored a touchdown on the corner route. The short hitch route is my money play, but the wheel route was also open deep. We decided not to throw deep, because the ground was already wet. We stayed with the short slants and hitches.

"I'm going to play all the time at wide receiver, and I'll be on defense against passing teams. If the opposing team runs the ball a lot, I'll probably stay on offense most of the time. I've been working on keeping my arms moving while I run. I don't want cornerbacks to be able to get a jump on the ball.

"Next week, we play Catholic (Baton Rouge) in the jamboree. I'm pumped up for that. In week one, we have Scotlandville. I know a lot of their players. We're staying in shape and staying disciplined. My teammate (junior linebacker) Jestin Kelly is playing well. What can I say (about Kelly)? He makes the big hits, fills the hole up, and I love to have him on the same team."

Kelly is also a junior.

"I had seven tackles in the scrimmage," said Kelly. "Our squad did really good. Their offense's longest run was 15 yards, and they completed no passes."

Last season, Redemptorist reached the Class 3A quarterfinals. The Wolves moved down to 2A this year and are expected to battle fellow Baton Rouge private school Episcopal for district honors.