## Competing

## To be the

## Best

ith the arrival of spring came the inevitable: beaches, birds, spring break, and baseball. Coach Ralph Martin, with the help of his most trustworthy assistant Russell Polk, began whipping this group of young men into a baseball team. After a frustrating season last year, the team was looking forward to another shot at a championship and at defeating Summerville. Marlon Cobbs commented, "Last year was a very frustrating season for us. We had a lot of talent, but no one really worked up to his capability."

The team started out the season very strong. They won four out of their first five games. This was one of the best starts the baseball team ever had. The team could not have had such a record without the following outstanding participants: Lion's Club MVP and batting champ, Jamie Iriel; Most Improved, Jody McLaine; and Golden Glove, Archie Sims. Freshman William Moore commented, "The team was composed of a few outstanding players, but the most

FRONT ROW: Wallace
Campbell, Heath
Jones, English Crosby,
Terry Miller, Ron Youmans, Allen Grier, Antony Womble. BACK
ROW: Coach Ralph
Martin, Archie Sims,
Perry Smalls, Greg Jenkins, Jeremy Ware,
Jody McLaine, Jamie
Iriel, Marlon Cobbs,
Coach Russell Polk.

important thing is to play as a team and remember no one individual can win a game."

The baseball team changed its tradition a little. They did not have a captain or a co-captain. The captain was anyone who could show leadership and abilities on and off the field. The team had many different captains throughout the year. It was as if each person had a chance to be captain.

The baseball team finished 14-4 in the regular season and made it to the playoffs. Marlon Cobbs remarked, "We knew we could make the playoffs. It was just a matter of proving it to ourselves and everyone else." The team also made the conference and finished in second place behind one of the best teams in the country.

Walterboro High also began a J.V. baseball team. The team finished 9-2 leaving the coaches with great hopes for future years. With this type of feeder program, the coaches felt the baseball program can only continue to improve.

by Lasonya S. Washington



