



Had A Brain

For hours on end, a small elite 12-member team practiced its craft with brain-straining determination and a gutsy, heart-wrenching drive to be the best. This team practiced religiously every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the entire school year to build what would become the 1988 Academic team. This team included Captain Randy Beach, Katrina Avant, Chrisie Greene, Scott Schlessler, Tracy Judy, Michael Portereiko, Arnie Farmer, Jonathan Spires, Pete Lommen, Jeff Hughes, Tim Smoak, Brad MacLean and Advisor-Coach Janis Blocker.

In September, over 300 students were tested for the team and 12 members were selected from the 12 highest scores. The team lost its first competition, the Winthrop Challenge of play, but bounced back to place high in the Knowledge Master Open, a national competition played on the Apple II Computer. They earned 1169 points. The team played the contest again in April, with different questions scoring 1203 points.

February wasn't the cruelest month for the A-Team as it placed fifth in its first attempt at the Coker College Academic Decathlon. This

contest involved answering written questions on the topics of History, Language and Science, delivering a prepared speech and writing a spontaneous essay on "Spaceship Earth." Also in February, the team placed first, for the fourth consecutive year in the annual Salkehatchie High School Academic Bowl Competition.

After a long, three-year struggle to obtain a buzzer system for practice sessions, the administration came through and bought the system in May. In June four members of the team traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the Nationals.

