

A Chance For Excellence

Nearly 200 determined students took the qualifying test last September for a spot on the Academic team. Only 11 scored high enough on the written test to make the team. Mrs. Blocker, advisor and coach, had confidence in the first string team members Marvin Tucker, captain; juniors Sean O'Briant and Wilmar Stephens; sophomore Shamgar McDowell. Seniors Brandy Peurifoy, Shannon Kinard, Christy Long; juniors Cheryl Grant and Bramlett Easterlin; and sophomores Edward Broach and Marc Stroble round out the team.

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon the team gathered in Mrs. Blocker's room to spend one hour practicing thousands of questions on math, English, social studies, science, history, geography, and current events.

The first game of the season was at James Island High School where 38 teams from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia competed. The A-Team ranked 16th in the finals.

The Knowledge Master Open was held in December and in April. This national competition included 1600 schools from the United States, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The A-team ranked in the top 50%, scoring higher than many large city schools in the nation.

Academic competitions are increasing in number as more colleges have begun to sponsor these events. The Academic Team participated in competitions at Irmo, Newberry College, USC-Columbia, and Presbyterian College. The A-Team also competed in the annual Salkenhatchie Bowl on February 28.

"It is intimidating to be asked questions on any subject matter because I never know what they will ask me next," said Wilmar Stephens.

"Academic competitions are tough and aggressive and I don't think we get enough school support even though we are doing a great job," said Sean O'Briant.

— Amy Zielke



The 1991-1992 Academic Team. Back row: Matt McClaine, Shamgar McDowell, Wilmar Stephens, Edward Broach, captain Marvin Tucker, Shannon Kinard, Christy Long, Cheryl Grant, and Bramlett Easterlin.

During an Academic meet, Sean O'Briant, Shamgar McDowell, Marvin Tucker, and Wilmar Stephens take a break from the competition held at Brookwood High School.

