

JC Advance to SCQ FINAL

by CPT Wayne Harris, Team Manager

Jamaica College booked its place in the April 02 Schools Challenge Quiz final, defeating Wolmer's Boys 34-30 in Tuesday match on Television Jamaica.

The win closed out the series 2-0 and send the Fervet Boys to its second SCQ final in 2 years.

The showdown was dubbed as a comeback match, as both teams wanted a comeback but for different reasons. For Wolmer's, they wanted to even the series. Having learned that the series in the other semi-final bracket between Westwood Girls and Dinthill Technical High was now tied 1-1, the maroon and gold team was hoping to do the same.

But the boys from 189 Old Hope Road had other ideas. They too wanted their own comeback, but for a bigger occasion: return to the national stage as quiz finalists, and ultimate winners. Wolmer's was the immediate obstacle, and having dispatch them last year, the confidence was up for this year with 3 returning players from last year's team.

But Wolmer's came to fight and did not make it easy for the True-Blue Team. In the First Section, Wolmers jumped out of the starting blocks taking and maintaining the lead at 1-0, 2-0, 3-1, 4-2. With 15 seconds remaining, the undaunted JC team clawed back, reducing Wolmer's margin to 4-5, and eventually evened the score at 5-5 after a successful query to the meaning of the idiomatic expression 'to hit below the belt', which JC answered as 'to act unfairly'. That answer was a harbinger of how strict the judges were going to scrutinize JC's answers.



These Fervet boys mean business as they look to secure Jamaica College's first Quiz title in 39 years.

With the scores even, the Minutes section offered the opportunity for the One College to separate itself. After all, it had been our best section all season, as it allowed the boys to demonstrate their unmatched superior knowledge. Wolmer's going first jumped out scoring a respectable 8 points, their highest output in the series.

The boys remaining calm and unbothered, maintained their humility and focus to answer any question. From the First

Section, it was obvious that JC would receive the harder set of questions. Nonetheless, they found their Griffin spirit to outpace their Maroon-clad opponents by a whopping 10 points. With the scores on 15 -13, it was Wolmers turn to respond. Already trailing in the match, Wolmer's struggled to surpass their first minute score of 8 points. Scoring only 7 points, and with JC already leading did not help them in their comeback. To alleviate their unease, JC only scored 7 points in the 2nd minute, providing Wolmers with a bit of respite, as the lead was still only 2 points, at 22-20.

Needing to better their score in the the 3rd minute, Wolmer's remembered that the 3rd minute was where they lost the first match against JC. Then, they only scored a paltry 1 point. This time they scored 6 points, fading from 8 to 7 to 6 points to round off the minutes section on 26 points.

Seeing Wolmers final output in the minutes section, and with the score on 22-26, Team JC went to work. JC added 8 points to make the scores 30-26 entering the buzzer. With 2 successful queries JC extended their lead to 32-26.

With their faltering season on the line Wolmer's showed some degree of aggression out-pressing JC 6 to 5 times. But only 4 of their presses were correct answers, putting them only at 30 points. Team JC was a little more efficient from their 5 presses, with 3 correct and 2 incorrect. That was enough to give us an additional 2 points to end the match on 32 points. With such a cushion and the clock winding down, it was sufficient light at the end of the tunnel to put Jamaica College into the 2026 Schools' Challenge Quiz Final.

In giving the closing remarks, our newest Collegeman and team player Ryhomah Muir continued the legacy of his predecessor, immediate past captain Jaheem Khouri, reminding the nation that a college so great they named the country after it by ending with the school's motto: Floreat Collegium, Fervet Opus in Campis.

