

JC Advance to SCQ Semis

by CPT Wayne Harris, Team Manager

Jamaica College comfortably booked its place into the Schools' Challenge Quiz semi-finals, convincingly defeating Munro College 42-32 in Tuesday's broadcast on Television Jamaica (TVJ). The do-or-die Quarterfinal match-up in the best of 3 series was set up after Munro surprisingly eke out a 37-35 sudden death win in the second Quarterfinal match.

That second match was ominously fresh in the minds of the Fervet Boys, who felt disrespected after Munro players shouted, "Go Home," immediately after their victory in the second match ended. That message vibrated across the FERVET Quiz community, and the boys from Hope took notes and went to work.

Faculty advisor Martin Anderson added, "Munro display of unsportsmanlike behavior in the second match was enough fuel for the Collegemen to repel the Munro challenge and send that team back to St Elizabeth."

The deciding 3rd match started out with both teams attempting to gain ascendancy. Munro unsurprisingly kept up pace with the Collegemen. The first section ended 7-6 in favour of JC. While close, it was good sign for the Boys from 189 Old Hope Rd. The Section had originally ended 7-6 in Munro's favour, but 2 successful queries reversed the score (7-6) in favour of The One College.



The Minutes section was the closest of all 3 matches and ended 30-26 with JC just adding 3 points to their one-point lead from the First Section. Foolhardily, the 4-point margin gave Munro College thoughts of winning the match, as Munro believed they could play a better buzzer section. From the 2 previous matches, the prevailing theme was that Munro is going to be the more aggressive team in the buzzer, and JC's approach was to use its superior knowledge and experience to go for the knockout blow.

As expected, Munro aggressively jumped out to take the first 3 presses (+2, +2, +2) and even took the lead at 32-30. It was the first time that JC trailed in a match all season. But the boys from Hope were not shaken one iota. 6A student Jamarli Banton, sitting at the left end, started the surge with the press that echoed "Let's go, JC, Let's go." It was a twisting buzzer press of historic proportion and paid tribute to Claude McKay's classic poem, "If we must die". It was a stark reminder of the never-say-die attitude of a Collegeman.

That punch of a press evened the score to 32-32, and forced Munro to respond with 2 well timed presses to retake the lead (36-32). JC countered with a response to a Geography question about the highest mountain in Hawaii to claw back the score to 34 -36.

With JC still trailing by 2 points, Munro continued their aggressive posture, but this time, they ran out of steam, incorrectly answering 2 questions to fall to 32-34. JC capitalized on Munro's loss of momentum and starting punching, pressing all the way from 34 to 42 (+2, +2, +2, +2). Led by team ace, Mason Jai Edwards, JC's buzzer blitzkrieg befuddled their opponents, leaving the Munro team deflated and gasping for air. With 15 seconds remaining, Mason's hands were off buzzer, telling the team to lower their adrenaline. It was enough time for the boys to repeat two key lines from the school prayer, "When we are called to rule, make us rule with justice. Drive away from us all ignorance and hardness of heart."



Team captain Marvin Whyte displayed true sportsmanship to close out the match, offering the unwanted handshake and sending Jamaica College to the semi-finals vs Wolmer's Boys.

The match was an epic one to be remembered with irony. The team that calls itself 'City on a Hill' and that was shouting, "Go Home" in the 2nd match, was sent packing on a country bus home. While the team that is named after the Country was moving on to its 3rd semi-finals in 3 years.