



Chess Team

Front Row: E. Livingston, G. Huber. Back Row: Mr. Brackenridge, C. Christensen, D. McDowell, D. Huber, D. Dysart.

To the Top With All the Right Moves

This year was the first time that Sycamore had a chess team. They did an outstanding job compiling a record of 11-0-1 and won the GMC title. They also competed in the Tri-State Tournament and a Round Robin tournament at the end of the season with all of the teams in the GMC. Members also participated in Scholastic tournaments in the U.S. Chess Federation.

The Chess team practiced four days a week from October to February in the upper-math rooms. Coach Keith Brackenridge and team members played games and went through chess books and magazines looking at specific moves and crucial opening moves during practices. Brackenridge also replayed games with students to see why someone lost a particular match, and to try not to make the same mistakes again.

During practice players competed in a Round Robin tournament to get placed. They were then assigned to boards by their level of play so that the best players from each team always played against each other, and then the next best and so on. As players improved, the positions changed throughout the year.

The first table player was all league Eric Livingston, who was also voted the most valuable player. Other top players were Greg Huber, Doug Huber, who was also an all league player, Doug Dysart, and Will Toraason.

Greg Huber said, "We're happy that Sycamore chess could be so strong in the first year and we're looking for many GMC points to come."

Brackenridge said, "I didn't know what to expect and I was pleasantly surprised. It's difficult to have success the first time in a sport. I think we did so well because the kids were willing to work so hard."

by Jaime Jahnigen

