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Fayetteville 57°F

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Black History Quiz Bowl Studying pays off

Students show their knowledge of African-American history

By Jennifer Calhoun

Staff writer

For three months, John Rowell studied everything he could about black history.

On Saturday, all that work paid off.

John, who is 14, was one of four students who each won \$1,000 at the eighth annual Black History Quiz Bowl. Their prize money was in cash.

John, who beat out more than 20 contestants in the 13- to 15-year-old category, said he plans to put most of the money into a college fund, so he can realize his dream of becoming a pediatrician.

About 40 students from Cumberland and Harnett counties competed in the quiz bowl at the John D. Fuller Sr. Recreation/Athletic Complex in Fayetteville. The event included a tribute to blacks in the military and a convoy to and then a tour of the Airborne & Special Operations Museum.

Joe McGee, organizer of the event and director of the nonprofit Got Dad Inc., said the quiz bowl is important because it gives young people a chance to understand the importance of contributions made by black people to American society. His organization's longer name is Giving Opportunity Through Dedication And Devotion.

The event, McGee said, continues to grow, with more participants and more activities.

McGee plans to continue the military tie-in at next year's quiz bowl, which is expected to be held the third Saturday in February during Black History Month.

The other three winners in Saturday's contest were BreAnna Johnson, in the 8- to 9-year-old category; Jeremiah Crusoe, in the 10- to 12-year-old category; and Michael Turner, in the 16- to 18-year-old category.

Michael Turner, who is 17, just barely beat out his 16-year-old brother, Markus, in the final round.

The two were neck-and-neck until a tie-breaker question was added to the round.

"It felt good," Michael said after the contest.

Michael jokingly said he offered to battle it out with his brother in a foot race instead of taking the final question.

John Rowell said he learned a great deal about black history in preparation for the competition.

"It is important," he said. "It shows we know about our culture."

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