

five sophomores, one team

Photo by Amelia Butler



1. "Our team has been the same for every meet. We get into a routine of who sits out every round and we know what our team knows, so it makes it easier. We've been in Quest together all through middle school and we learned to work together." Dexter Huss '25
2. "There are questions where we are between two answers and we don't know which one to go with. Then our spokesperson Lucas has to choose one. It seems like it should cause tension but it doesn't. The better you get along as friends then the less tension that can cause in a round." Greta Winger '25
3. "My favorite thing is the environment and when you're in a meet the collaboration, figuring out a question together. It's fun to just get points and have somebody know but it's also fun to be collaborating and thinking, it could be this. The team, collaboration, but all in all the environment and just the people there I know." Daniel Jungwirth '25
4. "Last year I started taking [Knowledge Bowl] seriously and my team got on varsity. It was a little overwhelming because the first meet was at Sartell – Sartell meets are hard and the questions are difficult. We didn't do well, but after that we started doing alright. We realized [varsity] is our competition area." Kumail Akram '25
5. "[Knowledge Bowl] makes me build stronger relationships with my friends and improves our team chemistry because we know each other so well. We get into arguments, but we keep it light and move on. We trust each other's judgment. This year, we did well out of the gate and that validated that we belong." Lucas Lawrence '25

best of the best

Total points scored by the four varsity teams over the season

925 points scored by Varsity One

803 points scored by Varsity Two

689 points scored by Varsity Three

668.5 points scored by Varsity Four



COMPETITIVE On the way to a meet, William Gustafson '26 plays games on the bus with fellow competitors. Gustafson enjoyed the mental challenge as well as the boost of confidence Knowledge Bowl gives him. "[Knowledge Bowl] makes you feel smart and builds your confidence when you win," Gustafson said. "It's a good sport for people who are super competitive because a lot of people are afraid to buzz or give answers, [but] the more competitive people generally buzz in earlier. If you're really competitive, you'll do well against people who aren't as confident." Photo By Matthew Scherber

FACTS AND FRIENDSHIP Laughing with teammates, Ven Estrada '26 and Drake Hermann '26 have found friendships within Knowledge Bowl. Estrada went into Knowledge Bowl nervous. "I was always too anxious, but this year I had multiple friends who wanted to join or were in it. It was a friendly environment of people and I enjoyed being there," Estrada said. Although the season was a positive experience overall, it was bumpy at the beginning for the freshman team. "It was frustrating because we found out that we were in last place after the first round," Hermann said. "We had been scored incorrectly by the judges. We did really well in the round after that, so we moved back up to a good position." Photo By Ruth Green



Avery Thompson '23 laughs, enjoying time with her teammates after answering a question correctly. Photo by Amelia Butler

AMBITIOUS ATTITUDE Smiling at her teammates, Maria Whalen '24 focuses during her Knowledge Bowl meet. Whalen has been in Knowledge Bowl since fifth grade and kept coming back. "In middle school, it was mostly joking, then in high school, it got serious. We continue to joke around but we focus on the buzzer more. I like it being more competitive as long as we still have fun and are not serious all the time. The energy is really something else. It's a really fun environment and as soon as the rounds start it quiets down and we get serious." Photo By Ruth Green



state champs

State winning knowledge bowl team tries for second state title to break a longtime record

The Senior Varsity One Knowledge Bowl team has had an extraordinary record in their time competing. As sophomores, they placed sixth at the virtual state competition and as juniors, they placed first out of 24 teams. This year, they hoped to repeat their win and become the first team in history to win two state championships.

The team had been competing together for four years with the exception of Amelia Butler '23, who was welcomed onto the team with open arms last year.

"I'm really proud of us for continuing to fight this season. We could have taken a backseat after winning state last year and said, 'We're done now and we've gone as high as we can go,'" Amelia Butler '23 said. "We're coming back and we're working hard because we love it. It's not just [about] the finish point because we genuinely want to keep going."

Butler and Avery Thompson '23 are close friends in and out of Knowledge Bowl; their bond with each other and their other teammates pushes the team to higher places.

"We all have been in the same class together since second grade. We have a deep knowledge and understanding of each other and that's what makes us a great team. We all know each other to such an extent that it's immediately comfortable. Amelia fits really well into the mold of our team because she has also known us since second grade," Thompson said. "All of us have become much kinder and we have grown together as people and friends."

The team's extensive knowledge of each other gave the team a

unique dynamic. Matthew Scherber '23 felt that they all balance each other out.

"Our team dynamic is very fluid and structured at the same time because each person on our team has areas of concentration that they mainly handle. We also attempt to branch out and learn things in other people's areas of concentration because we know that it's a team activity," Scherber said. "No matter who knows the answer, it's our team that succeeds. We try to support each other and build each other up inside and outside of the rounds to make sure our team has a positive atmosphere and we can continue our success."

Although forming strong relationships with his teammates is a priority, Milo Zimmerman '23 has thoroughly enjoyed every win.

"[Winning state] felt dignified, like everything we had worked towards the entire season all had led up to this and we were finally proving our worth," Zimmerman said. "Ever since I was but a wee sparkle in my father's eye, I have yearned for this. It fills a void in my soul that I've been yearning to fill. It definitely satiates a human instinct, a human necessity to win."

As this season came to a close, the team was left with the memories that they had created with each other.

"We get to have one last hurrah. It will be our last meet as a team before we are ready to graduate. It would be awesome to get to [state] together and have that as a memory," Scherber said.

Story By Ruth Green



"We never thought we would be able to succeed and it's funny that we joined to be with friends and are succeeding." Drake Hermann '26 Photo by Ruth Green