The Second Annual Dade County Geography Bee was held in February, 1987. Encouraged by the success of the first bee (Kirk and Maer 1986), the organizers worked to make the second even more notable. Participation this year was double that of 1986; thirty-two middle and junior high schools from Dade County competed. Because of the increased number of schools involved, the Bee’s founding sponsor, the Optimist Club of West Kendall, recruited the Optimist Club of North Bay Village to co-host the event. The combined resources of the clubs helped make this Geography Bee an even greater success than last year (1).

The competition rules again established double elimination rounds. The first school to reach ten points with a two-point advantage was declared the winner. Moderators came from local universities and colleges and from the business community (2). Pat Kixmiller of Miami-Dade Community College North Campus again donated her time to edit the questions.

The first elimination round was held on February 12th at McMillan Junior High. Seventeen schools sent teams to vie for the two semi-finalist positions. The winners were McMillan Junior High, the defending champion, and Gulliver Academy. The second round, held at Nautilus Junior High the next day, saw Nautilus Junior High and The Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami advance to the final round. The championship round was held two weeks later. McMillan Junior High defeated the others to retain the championship. The co-captains (John Clarke and Daniel Gray) and the rest of the team (Scott Percival, Pedro Rodriguez, Erin Rooney, and Eric Lanning) accepted the Optimist Clubs’ traveling trophy and individual plaques.

The organizers of the Dade County Geography Bee encourage other Florida counties to hold similar competitions and they look forward to a state-wide competition in 1988. The Optimist Clubs of Florida will also be encouraged to become involved in this worthwhile educational competition. Anyone interested in further information on the Bee should contact the authors at McMillan Jr. High (13100 S.W. 59th Street, Miami, FL 33183) or Dr. Michael Krop (Vice-Chairman, Dade County School Board, Miami).

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2. Thanks also goes to the moderators: Page Cubbison (MDCC-South), Richard Daar (Optimist Club of North Bay Village), Nancy Erwin (Florida International University), Patricia Kixmiller (MDCC-North), Althea McNulty (St. Thomas University), F. Kaye Reinhofer (Reinhofer and Associates), and Denis Shaw (MDCC-South).

Reference