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RMS WINGS purchases Smartball system

Dontavious Bryant sprints back to his team after hitting the target and picking up his ball.



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Roulhac Middle School and the RMS WINGS afterschool program are the proud new owners of an innovative new fitness system called Smartball. With physical fitness and health one of the major focus areas of the WINGS program, the Smartball system was purchased to help get kids moving in a fun, interactive and unique way.

The system consists of four panels with light sensors located all over the 8-foot panels.

The panels are run by a central computer with many games programmed into the system. The instructor can choose different games for students to participate in, either individually or in teams. Players hit the targets on the screen with balls, noodles, batons, bean bags or their hands.

RMS WINGS hosted WINGS site coordinators from Washington, Holmes and Jackson counties to preview the system and participate in and view a demonstration of Smartball. Washington County Superintendent Calvin Stevenson, Deputy Superintendent Mike Welch, WINGS District Program Director Sue Porlier, and RMS Principal Phil Flater were also there to see the Smartball system. The group participated in several games and then watched as Coach Mike Gates and Delanie Prichard's PE students ran through several relays and team games.

The system will soon be permanently installed at RMS and will be used during the day by the PE classes and after school during WINGS and during the WINGS summer program. It will help improve and promote hand-eye coordination, rapid thinking and improved memory, accurate throwing, catching and aiming, balance and agility as well

as strength and endurance and provide a great cardio workout.

The system was purchased by RMS WINGS through the newly awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. For more information on the RMS WINGS afterschool program, contact Julie P. Dillard at 638-6170, extension 255.



Above left: A Sportwall demonstration instructor shows the group one of the individual games. At right: RMS Principal Phil Flater, Poplar Springs WINGS Coordinator Marie Yancey and RMS WINGS Coordinator Julie Dillard compete against each other.



Above left: Deputy Superintendent Mike Welch plays a team game with Niki Crawson, VMS WINGS coordinator. At right: RMS students compete in a relay game using the Sportwall system.