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GARNET VALLEY AND PENNCREST WIN SEMIFINALS; WILL COMPETE AGAINST STRATH HAVEN FOR 2005 DELCO Hi-Q CHAMPIONSHIP

AT DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, Mar. 8: Three schools competing for one position, fighting hard to make the championship. The questions were difficult – much harder than the first round...and all three schools played their hearts out. At the end of the first period, Delco Christian held a slim lead of 28 to Penncrest's 27 and Marple Newtown's 20. Beginning of the second period: First category: Chemistry: Delco Christian increases its lead by four and Marple Newtown pulls within two points of Penncrest, 25 to 27.

One category from the finish, Delco Christian and Penncrest are just one point apart, 45 to 46. Toss-up Mathematics, a buzzer question to all three teams. Marple Newtown captures this last question, making the final scores Penncrest – 46, Delco Christian – 45. and MN – 41. It appears as if Marple Newtown's team had the more difficult set of questions, with five not being answered by any of the three teams. Both of Penncrest's missed questions and Delco Christian's three unanswered questions were captured by other teams.

By one point, Penncrest advances to the championship contest for the fifth consecutive year. For the first time in four years, 2004 champion Marple Newtown will not be there, and Delco Christian, a semifinalist many times, will wait for next year to break the barrier. Penncrest's team fought especially hard to be a finalist because this is the 25th anniversary year for their coach, Michael Ludwig.

A word about Delco Christian's student audience ...it was not a big auditorium; many of the available seats were taken by supporters from the visiting teams, so the home audience was not large. But you wouldn't have known it. Their cheers for their home team, their enthusiastic applause for all three teams belied their size – it was deafening...but they also gave all of the teams respect with their silence when the teams needed quiet. It was a contest in which the home team felt their school's support, but the visiting teams were made to feel welcome.

Delco Christian Principal Joseph Austin introduced the competition and welcomed the many family members and supporters of all three teams, including Marple Newtown Superintendent. Robert Mesaros, Director of Secondary Education Stan Piecara and Principal John Sanville.

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AT GARNET VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, Mar. 9: Garnet Valley's audience is used to their team excelling, to winning most of their contests, to being a Hi-Q finalist...they've done it for the past four consecutive years. And for 2005, they did it again! A perfect score with answers in every single category...right up until the last question – they didn't get it, but they didn't need it. Garnet Valley scored 64 points to become the final team in next week's champion competition. Both opposing teams of Chichester and Radnor missed questions in the first period, ending with Radnor ahead of Chichester by one point, 20 to 19.

Second period...both missed in Chemistry, scored in Art History, and finished the period in a dead heat...tied again at 32 on stage. However, after invoking the appeal process in their Mathematics category, Chichester's final total was reduced by two points after their appeal was rejected by the question's author. It was a much better contest than the scores indicate. Garnet Valley just went its way, picking up points here and there from the other teams, but basically doing most of their scoring on their own questions. Chichester and Radnor students knew how to play the game...they kept giving answers, they kept trying to capture points...they didn't coast...but it just wasn't their day.

Garnet Valley Principal Joseph Hook welcomed the visitors and introduced the competition. Among the many guests were the host school's own supporters, including Superintendent Anthony Costello and Assistant Superintendent Kathie Estock. Among the large group of Chichester fans were Assistant to the Superintendent Barbara DiMarino and Steven Marrone, coordinator of federal programs.

Representing one of Hi-Q's two primary corporate sponsors, from Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, were Michael Magnavita and Diane Lastowka, as well as Rick Durante, who spoke at both of the semifinal contests.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION COACHES AND STUDENTS:

STRATH HAVEN: Strath Haven has participated in several semifinals, including the last two consecutive years, and was a finalist in 1993. Coaches are Mark Linkins, 4 years and Nino DeProphetis, 12 years. George Beatty, Alena Bortkiewicz, Ellen Donnelly, Josh Durgin, Daniel Isaacs, Sneha Narasimhan, Krupa Patel, Thomas Powers, Max Ruby, Andrea Telenko.

PENNCREST: Penncrest teams have been semifinalists or finalists for 10 consecutive years, winning an overall total of seven championships, six of them under Coach Michael Ludwig, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary with Hi-Q. Rob Clain, Aimee Davis, Mary Flannery, Robby Graham, Tim Graham, Sarah Lu, Emily Moberg, Erik Virbitsky, Jeffrey Walker, Joe Walker.

GARNET VALLEY: Garnet Valley has appeared in eight consecutive championships since 1998 with first place in 2001 and 2002, all under the guidance of Coaches Carol Law and Carol Rockefeller, 10 years of service. Jeff Conway, Neal Gupta, Ravi Gupta, Paul Kim, Brendan McGeehan, Zein Nakhoda, Chris Sukhu, Sohun Trivedi, Corky Wharton.

By scoring the most points in Round One, Strath Haven High School's scholars earned the right to host the third and final contest of the 2005 season, the Trophy Competition, on Tuesday, March 15, at 9:30 a.m. All teams will start from zero. The community is invited to attend any Hi-Q contests. Please contact Strath Haven High School, 610-892-3400, beforehand: advance notice is required for reserved seating and because of security requirements.

The first place team will win a \$1,000 cash award for their school and will take possession of the Hi-Q Trophy, to be displayed at their school throughout the upcoming 2006 season. Second and third place finalists will receive cash awards for their schools of \$750 and \$500 respectively.

Individually engraved plaques are awarded to each finalist school. Certificates of Honor and Commendation are presented to each of the more than 200 students representing the 21 sponsoring Delaware County schools.

This is the seventh year of corporate and school sponsorship for this Delaware County tradition, which encourages and recognizes academic excellence and achievement.

The Delaware County Intermediate Unit (program management and production administrator) partners with the Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber (fund-raising and fund administrator) to help ensure the continuation of the Hi-Q program. Donna Zerby is Hi-Q Director, Tom McCarthy is quizmaster, and production engineer is Dave Bramble.

In addition to the participating schools' support, primary corporate sponsors are the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union and the Kimberly-Clark Corporation's Chester Operations. Contributors and supporters for the 2005 season are: Elko & Associates, Ltd.; Giant Food Stores, Hilbush Foundation; Sign Concepts, Inc.; Southco, Inc.; and Sun East Federal Credit Union.

For information on becoming a sponsor of this outstanding education program, call Peggy Sweeney at (610) 565-3677.

FOR GENERAL Hi-Q INFORMATION:: www.delcohiq.org

FOR CURRENT DELCO Hi-Q INFORMATION: Hi-Q Hotline: 610-565-3677 X 300

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