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MARPLE NEWTOWN WINS A TIEBREAKER
ADVANCES TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

At Penncrest High School, Mar. 8: It was an exciting contest before a packed audience...a real nail biter that went down to the wire and ended with a tie-breaking set of questions to determine the winner. The questions are tougher in this semifinal phase of Delco Hi-Q and the performances of the teams from Chichester, Marple Newtown and host school Penncrest were impressive. The contestants on stage knew that only one school was going to advance to the championship match.

Penncrest Hi-Q faculty advisor Michael Ludwig led the audience in a moment of silence for Donna Zerby, who was closely involved with Hi-Q for 43 years until her passing in August. The new Delco Hi-Q Championship trophy, on display during today's contest, is named in her honor. Principal Kenneth Bachelor welcomed visiting teams and their supporters, then introduced Rick Durante, who spoke on behalf of the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, a major sponsor of the program. Mr. Durante turned the podium over to Quizmaster Tom McCarthy as the highly anticipated semifinal contest between these friendly rivals began.

Penncrest took an early lead and hung on until the half by answering all but one of the questions directed to them and picking up 2 bonus points in current events and biology. But the Marple Newtown and Chichester teams knew the top spot was reachable and came out swinging as the second half began. Chichester picked up a bonus point when Penncrest missed an opportunity to score, and narrowed the point spread even more with a correct chemistry answer. Marple Newtown also answered correctly in this category and edged into the lead.

It seemed as if the Marple Newtown team was on a roll, but errors in physics and American government placed them behind Penncrest once again. Chichester struggled with several categories in a row, bounced back slightly, but remained in third. The final question of the contest, a Toss-up in mathematics, was the turning point of the day. Penncrest was leading by a 4-point margin, but it was the Marple team that answered correctly to tie the match.

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The scoreboard temporarily read: PENNCREST - 49, MARPLE NEWTOWN - 49, CHICHESTER - 35. There were no challenges during the appeal period as the two teams prepared for a Tiebreaker. No one in the audience wanted to leave and Penncrest students were given permission to stay after the bell rang for the next class period.

The Hi-Q tie-breaking format requires both teams to write their answers to six identical questions. After all of the questions were asked and answers were collected, Quizmaster Tom McCarthy read the correct answers and each team's score was posted. After four categories it looked as if another tie game was in progress, then Marple Newtown picked up the 4 points in physics...the fifth question. Neither team wrote the correct answer to a tough American government question...and the Tiebreaker was over. Marple Newtown fans were jubilant as they realized their team had won and would play in one more game...the championship.

The Penncrest student body, as well as, family members and fans of all three teams witnessed a well-played competition and responded with generous applause throughout the match.

The community is encouraged to attend any Hi-Q contest, but should contact the host school in advance for reserved seating.

UPCOMING SEMI FINAL CONTEST:

At Garnet Valley High School, Thursday, March 9, at 1:20 p.m. with Radnor and Strath Haven

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH:

At Delaware County Christian School, Wednesday, March 15, at 12 noon, with Marple Newtown and the winner of the March 9 contest.

Delco-Hi-Q is a partnership between the Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber and the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Tom McCarthy is quizmaster, Dave Bramble is the production engineer and Ginger Beaumont is the Hi-Q Director.

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