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DELCO HI-Q COMPETITIONS BEGIN WITH WINS BY UPPER DARBY, HAVERFORD, AND THE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The home teams came out on top as contests began in the 60th season of Delco Hi-Q, the nation's oldest continuous academic quiz competition for high school students.

At Upper Darby High School, Dec. 3: As the audience of parents and students listened, Mr. Geoff Kramer, Principal of Upper Darby High School, thanked the program sponsors and welcomed guests and students to the first contest of the 60th season. The host school took on Cardinal O'Hara and Interboro High Schools. Rick Durante, Delco Hi-Q Director, thanked the school for its hospitality and recognized parents and teachers for their support of Delco Hi-Q. Jennifer Strasinski, Assistant Vice President at Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, introduced the contest and told the crowd about Hi-Q's origin as a radio quiz program in 1948.

Cardinal O'Hara scored the first points of the contest by correctly answering the Current Events question posed by veteran actor Tom McCarthy, now in his 30th season as Hi-Q Quizmaster. The three teams were in a tight battle during the first half of competition. O'Hara had an early one-point lead until the home team overtook both visiting teams by correctly answering their Math question and gained a bonus point from a missed O'Hara question. Teams have four chances to answer in a regular category, with a maximum of four attempts, and score four points for a correct answer on the first try. Other teams can score a bonus point after the team exhausts its four attempts.

Upper Darby was ahead by four points at the half and continued to hold their lead throughout the second half. Interboro was able to take a slight lead over O'Hara during the second half to earn second place.

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The Royals capped off their win and pleased the home audience by answering the last toss-up in Math for a gain of four points. In a close contest, final scores were: **Upper Darby – 37, Interboro – 30, and Cardinal O’Hara– 29.**

At Haverford High School, Dec. 4: The home crowd was excited as they anticipated a strong performance from their home team. They were not disappointed. Haverford Principal, Dr. Jeff Nesbitt welcomed the teams from visiting Springfield and Sun Valley High Schools while Tom Brooks, Financial Manager, introduced the contest on behalf of Valedictorian Sponsor, Kimberly–Clark–Chester Operations. Kimberly Clark has supported Delco Hi–Q since its merger with Scott Paper in the 1990’s.

All teams demonstrated their knowledge of Current Events as they scored their full four points in the first category. Haverford and Sun Valley were in a close battle in the first half as the “Fords” correctly answered all of their questions while Sun Valley missed only one question. At the half, Haverford had a four–point lead over Sun Valley with Springfield twelve points behind.

Haverford missed a question in Art History but the Springfield and Sun Valley teams could not close the gap as they also missed in the category. All teams gave correct answers in their Team Choice category for a full four points. In Team Choice, teams can choose to answer questions from one of four categories and have only one chance to answer their specific question. Other teams can buzz in to score two bonus points on missed questions. Haverford added four to their lead by taking the Team Choice toss-up question (only one team can score in toss-ups). Sun Valley buzzed in to answer the toss-up math question but the four points were not enough to take the lead. Final scores were: **Haverford– 48, Sun Valley– 41, and Springfield–20.**

At The Christian Academy, Dec. 5: Principal Anita Gray welcomed the teams from Chester and Academy Park High Schools and lead the audience in prayer to begin the assembly. Liza Mattis, Vice President of Support Services, represented Delco Hi–Q’s primary sponsor Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union.

The home team took the early lead by gaining points in the first three categories. None of the teams came up with the correct answer in the Sports toss-up. This is the only time all three teams can score points on the same question.

Correct answers in Literature left The Christian Academy and Academy Park separated by only one point with Chester yet to score. The home team surged ahead in the late part of the first half to hold a ten-point lead by intermission.

The second half was off to a slow start as teams struggled to come up with the correct answers. Chester struck first and took advantage of Academy Park's missed answer in Art History by buzzing in to score a bonus point. The Christian Academy scored the rest of the points in the second half and went on to win the competition. Final Scores were: **The Christian Academy – 31, Academy Park– 12, and Chester–1.**

The 60th Season continues on December 11th at Monsignor Bonner and on December 12th at Archbishop Carroll. The public is welcome to attend contests but must register with the home school in advance. More information, including scores and upcoming contests, can be found at www.delcohiq.org.

Delaware County Intermediate Unit partners with the Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber to help ensure the continuation of Delco Hi-Q. Rick Durante is Delco Hi-Q Director, Tom McCarthy is Quizmaster, Michelle Skrobak is Hi-Q Assistant, and production engineer is Dave Bramble.

In addition to the participating schools' support, primary corporate sponsor is Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Valedictorian sponsor is Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Contributors and supporters for the 2007/2008 season are the Delaware County Daily Times, Hilbush Foundation, and Sign Concepts.

For information on becoming a sponsor of this Delaware County tradition, contact Donna Stilwell at (610) 565-3677.

Photo Captions

Upper Darby High School Delco Hi-Q Team

Standing (l to r): Faculty Advisor Joe Rigg, Brandon Allen, Amitava Paul, Kevm Lu, Matt McGrath, Ray Amaden

Seated (l to r): Sarah Choudary, Ashveen Bains, Bushra Ozdener, Anila Chaudhary, Steph Frenel

Haverford High School Delco Hi-Q Team

Standing (l to r): Faculty Advisor David McCauley, Zack Groff, Edward Donnelly, Dori Abel, Taylor Hesel, Ben Jack

Seated (l to r): Melissa Smyth ,Rachel Chang, Sarah Somers, Katie Storey, Ayano Kondo

The Christian Academy Hi-Q Team

Standing (l to r): Faculty Advisor Bob Walton, Daniel Garner, Ben Basford, Matthew Nicewinter

Seated (l to r): Suzanne Taylor, Lauren Orner, Sarah McCarrick

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