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Contact Rick Durante (610) 325-5008

CHICHESTER AND RIDLEY HIGH SCHOOLS CAPTURE DELCO HI-Q WINS

The first round of competition of the 60th Season continued this week at Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Carroll High Schools.

At Monsignor Bonner High School, Dec. 11: Assistant Principal Peter Balzano welcomed visiting teams from Academy of Notre Dame and Chichester High School and turned the program over to Delco Hi-Q Director, Rick Durante. Mr. Durante thanked the school for its hospitality on behalf of the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and The Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber. John Powers, Vice President at Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union and a Monsignor Bonner graduate, represented the primary corporate sponsor and recognized the long tradition of Delco Hi-Q.

Chichester had the early lead with correct answers in Current Events, American History, and Biology. The home team was only four points behind after missing the first question in Current Events. Notre Dame warmed up in the later part of the first half with correct questions in Shakespeare and Geography. Chichester's lead started to shrink when they missed in three categories. The home audience had something to cheer about at the half when Bonner lead over Chichester with five points separating each team. Unfortunately for Bonner, that margin would not hold.

The second half of the contest belonged to Chichester. Bonner made a strong attempt but could not come up with any correct answers during this half. Notre Dame struggled in the early part of the half but managed to score in Physics and buzzed in for a bonus point in American Government. Chichester scored in all of the regular categories except Art History. When Quizmaster Tom McCarthy posed the final question in Math, Bonner held a one-point second place lead over Notre Dame with Chichester in first by eighteen points. With four possible points left, the lead was not in doubt but the battle for second place was on the line. Teams had to buzz in to answer this final toss-up question. The suspense ended when none of the teams came up with the correct answer in senior math. Final scores were Chichester, 38; Monsignor Bonner, 20; Academy of Notre Dame, 19.

At Archbishop John Carroll High School, Dec. 12: Road construction delayed the start of this contest but it did not dampen the enthusiasm of several hundred Carroll students waiting in the audience. This was the first home contest for Carroll in two years. Mr. David Dickens started the assembly with a warm welcome for visitors from Penn Wood and Ridley High Schools. Allan Stevens, Vice President at Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, recognized Quizmaster Tom McCarthy for his 30 years of Hi-Q service.

The excited audience erupted as Carroll scored their first four points and was equally polite when Penn Wood gave the correct answer in Current Events and picked up a bonus point on a missed Ridley question. The home team and Ridley both earned points on the toss-up Sports question in baseball. This is the only time all three teams can score on the same question. Teams have fifteen seconds to write their answers and present them to the Hi-Q Director for a possible four points. That answer helped Ridley hold a five-point lead over Carroll at intermission.

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All three teams struggled in the second half but managed to remain competitive by buzzing in to take bonus points. In the end, Ridley managed to hold on to a slim lead. Final scores were Ridley, 22; Archbishop Carroll, 20; Penn Wood 11.

The first round of competition finishes the week of December 17 with competitions at Penncrest and Marple Newtown High Schools. Teams compete three times during the regular season and their cumulative scores determine standings and playoff positions. Information, including scores and upcoming contests, can be found at www.delcohiq.org.

Delco Hi-Q is the oldest continuous academic quiz competition in the United States. Delaware County Intermediate Unit partners with the Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber to help ensure the continuation of Delco Hi-Q. Rick Durante of Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union serves as Director, Tom McCarthy is Quizmaster, Michelle Skrobak is Hi-Q Assistant, and production engineer is Dave Bramble from Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

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 and Hilbush Foundation.

For information on becoming a sponsor and help continue this Delaware County Tradition, contact Donna Stilwell of The Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber at (610) 565-3677.

Photo Captions:

Chichester High School Team

Standing (l to r): Ryan Barnes, Marwen Alnakhaleh, Anthony Hurst, Faculty Advisor John Cole

Seated (l to r): Brandon Wyant, Karl von Steuben, Alycia Logue, Mike Moser

Ridley High School Team

Standing (l to r): Faculty Advisor Allen Lawrence, Andrew Shaner, Brian Gander, Paul Kostyukgo, Justin Fritz, Fazil Rastam

Seated (l to r): Alexis Geibler, Lauren Firth, Yewande Alade, Krista Spuglio, Amber D'Ambrosio

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