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**PENNCREST, HAVERFORD AND RADNOR HIGH SCHOOLS
ADVANCE TO HI-Q CHAMPIONSHIP**

Twenty-one Delaware County high schools compete three times each year and their cumulative scores determine playoff positions. The top scorer earns the right to compete in the championship contest, while the next six teams compete in the semi-final rounds.

Top-scorer Penncrest had the week off, while waiting to learn of their opponents in the March 3 championship. Garnet Valley finished in second place and hosted sixth place Haverford and seventh place Marple Newtown. Radnor finished third and hosted fourth place Strath Haven and fifth place Delaware County Christian School.

At Radnor High School, February 17, 2009: Strath Haven came out on fire and took the lead, correctly answering six of their first eight questions while picking up a pair of bonus points. Home team, Radnor, answered five of their first eight and managed to pick up four bonus points to stay on the heels of Strath Haven. At intermission Strath Haven held a three-point lead over Radnor.

Radnor's took over the lead in the second half by correctly answering five questions including the important Team Choice Toss-Up. Delco Christian made a stunning second half performance, nailing a two-point bonus pick up on top of answering six of their eight regular category questions correctly while Strath Haven hung in there, answering three questions correctly. Radnor took the win and advances into the final round. **Final Scores: Radnor – 44; Strath Haven – 37; Delco Christian – 28.**

At Garnet Valley High School, February 20, 2009: Garnet Valley Principal Scott Farina welcomed visiting teams and special guests including, former DCIU Director and FMFCU Board Member, Dr. Harry Jamison, and Adriene Irving, Director of Legislative and Community Services at DCIU.

It was a tight match throughout the first half of the contest. Haverford brought their A-game to the stage answering all of their first round questions correctly. Both Marple and Garnet Valley correctly answered six of their first half questions. At intermission, Haverford had the lead with 32 points over Marple with 24 and Garnet Valley with 23.

The second half of competition proved that Haverford had the right stuff. They correctly answered four questions along with the Team Choice Toss-Up and gained two bonus points, extending their lead over Garnet Valley and Marple Newtown. Garnet Valley remained competitive to the end and correctly answered the final Math toss-up question before Quizmaster Tom McCarthy could even finish reading the question. The four points boosted their school but Haverford was far enough ahead to upset second place Garnet Valley and advance to the finals. This also marked the final contest for Marple Newtown's faculty advisor Deb Bonder. Ms. Bonder led her team to four championship titles with seven championship appearances in eleven years. **Final Scores: Haverford – 50; Garnet Valley – 39; Marple Newtown – 33.**

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Haverford and Radnor will compete against Penncrest High School for the Delco Hi-Q Championship and the right to hold the Donna Zerby Trophy for the next year. Penncrest scored the highest point total during the regular season and earned the right to host the Championship on Tuesday, March 3 at 9:45 a.m.

Penncrest: Penncrest will make their twenty-third championship contest appearance since 1959. Their last championship title was in 2003. Six of their seven championships were earned under the guidance of Faculty Advisor, Michael Ludwig, now in his twenty-ninth season as coach. Penncrest has earned a place in the championship every year except one in this decade.

Haverford: Haverford is making its first appearance since 1997, when they took first place, and this is the first appearance for current faculty advisor, David McCauley. Mr. McCauley is in his sixth year as faculty advisor. Since 1955, Haverford has appeared in sixteen championship contests.

Radnor: This is Radnor's second consecutive appearance and the school has a long history in the finals. Radnor teams have previously appeared in twenty-four championship matches and have won the title eleven times since 1965. Mary Quinlan is serving in her fourth year as faculty advisor.

The community is invited to attend Hi-Q contests but must contact Penncrest High School in advance to register, due to security and limited seating.

Delco-Hi-Q is a partnership between Delaware County Intermediate Unit and Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Rick Durante from FMFCU serves as Director, Dave Bramble from Delaware County Intermediate Unit is the production engineer and Wes Crane is Hi-Q Coordinator. Veteran actor Tom McCarthy, now appearing in the critically acclaimed "The Philly Fan," is Quizmaster.

In addition to the participating schools' support, primary corporate sponsor is Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Foundation. Long-time Valedictorian sponsor is Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Delaware County Daily Times and the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce are supporters of the 61st Season.

Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union and Delaware County Intermediate Unit will honor all teams at the Partners in Learning Celebration on April 23 at Drexelbrook. Nominations are now being accepted for the Delco Hi-Q Hall of Honor. More information is available at www.delcohiq.org.

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Photo Captions:

Penncrest

Back row (l to r): Faculty Advisor Michael Ludwig, Jackson Buttery, Joseph Hooker, Katie Ferguson, Elizabeth Freeburg, Alex Senko

Seated (l to r): Katie Davis, Isabel Janmey, Jennifer Walker, Celia Castellan, Elizabeth Madara

Radnor

Back row (l to r): Grace Lee, Huaya Liu, Andrew Lee, Hank Bao, Walter fu, Faculty Advisor Mary Quilan

Seated (l to r): Ana Nourmahnad, Lin Zheng, Jennifer Potter, Jessica Ng, Pearl Somboonsong

Haverford

Back row (l to r): Faculty Advisor Dave McCauley, Jeff Hosan, Sarah Somers, Edward Donnelly, Lauren Walheim

Seated (l to r): Carol Ly, Melissa Smyth, Rachel Chang, Ayano Kondo, Eileen Storey