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PENNCREST FINISHES IN FIRST PLACE; GARNET VALLEY, MARPLE NEWTOWN, HAVERFORD, DELCO CHRISTIAN, STRATH HAVEN AND RADNOR EARN PLAYOFF SPOTS IN THE FINAL REGULAR SEASON CONTESTS

The last two contests of the season were highly anticipated by most Delco Hi-Q teams because the outcome of these late season contests determined playoff positions. Dr. Scott Farina, Garnet Valley principal, welcomed an auditorium full of Garnet Valley fans to the February 4th contest that pitted the hosts against visiting teams from Radnor and Haverford. The atmosphere was electric as the sign waving, cheering audience greeted Pricilla Basille, a Garnet Valley alum and branch manager for primary sponsor Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Ms. Basille spoke briefly on the history of Hi-Q before and gave information about the credit union's scholarship program.

The threat of bad weather caused a one-day postponement but it was worth the wait for the three teams who were competing for playoff positions. The contest was very competitive from the first question posed by award winning actor and veteran Quizmaster Tom McCarthy. Teams were locked in a three-way tie until the third category in Biology. All three teams missed their own biology questions but the home team was able to answer questions posed to both visitors and picked up two bonus points. Correct answers in the toss-up Sports category by Garnet Valley and Haverford left Radnor in third place by half time and the home team holding the lead with two points over Haverford.

Another science category, Chemistry, stumped all three teams at the opening of the second half. Home team Garnet Valley grabbed a single bonus point before nailing the next six in a row including the team Choice Toss Up. Radnor, who had a tough time with the second half, was one point shy of securing a playoff spot going into the final question, the Math Toss-Up. Radnor needed 29 points to beat out Springfield for a playoff spot. Being quick on the buzzer paid off as they nailed the math toss up and secured a playoff spot along with Haverford and the winning Garnet Valley team. **Final Scores: Garnet Valley – 53, Haverford – 39, Radnor – 32.**

On February 5th, Chris Dormer, Principal of Upper Darby and a Hi-Q contestant on the 1991 O'Hara team, welcomed the visiting teams from Marple Newtown and Chichester for the final regular season match of the season. Hi-Q Director Rick Durante reminded the audience that this was the final contest of the season and that the outcome would determine playoff and season standings for all three teams. The stakes were especially high for Marple Newtown who ended the second round of the contest in second place.

All three teams started off strong and the match started to look like a tight race. Marple correctly answered six of their first eight and a trifecta of bonus points. The home team, Upper Darby, in the hunt for a playoff spot, nailed five questions and a bonus point, while Chichester snatched four of their first eight. It was still close at the half with Marple six points ahead of Upper Darby and Chichester only five points back in the third spot.

The second half proved tougher for Upper Darby and Chichester who both only managed to correctly answer three questions. Marple stayed firm correctly answering five questions and grabbed a single pick up point to lock in a playoff spot and the contest win. Upper Darby was

disappointed after coming within five points of securing a semi-final position. After the contest, Marple Newtown Superintendent, Merle Horowitz, congratulated her high school's team and first year faculty advisor, Liz Marino, for the win and for taking third place in the season. **Final Scores: Marple Newtown – 48; Upper Darby – 39; Chichester – 27.**

With all twenty-one contests played, **Penncrest** finished first in the season with 160 points and advances directly to the Championship contest on March 2nd in their home auditorium. **Garnet Valley** finished a close second with 153 points and will host sixth place **Strath Haven**, and seventh place **Radnor** in a semi-final contest on February 18th at home. **Marple Newtown** ended with 149 cumulative points and will host a semi-final against fourth place **Haverford** and fifth place **Delaware County Christian School** in February 16th. The two semi-final winners will face off against Penncrest in the 62nd Annual Championship Contest.

Delco-Hi-Q is a partnership between Delaware County Intermediate Unit and Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Veteran actor Tom McCarthy is Quizmaster, Rick Durante from Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union serves as Director, Dave Bramble from Delaware County Intermediate Unit is the production engineer and Wes Crane is Hi-Q Coordinator.

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 and the Delaware County Daily Times is a supporter of the 62nd Season.

Anyone interested in supporting this Delaware County tradition, please call Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Foundation at 610-325-5008 or visit our website at www.delcohiq.org.

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