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**HAVERFORD AND GARNET VALLEY WIN SEMI FINAL CONTESTS AND WILL FACE PENNCREST
FOR THE DELCO HI-Q CHAMPIONSHIP**

Marple Newtown welcomed a full house to the first of two semi-final contests on February 16th. The host team finished the regular season in third place and hosted fourth place Haverford High School and fifth place Delaware County Christian School. The students in the audience were anxious to see their home favorites win and move on to the Championship contest. The audience was especially energized, as this was their first day back to school after the President's Day holiday and several snow closings. Marple Superintendent, Dr. Merle Horowitz, commented that she was glad the light snow was no more than a nuisance and did not delay the contest or the return to school.

The semi finals presented the teams with more challenging questions as well as more challenging opponents. All three teams battled for every point they could. Marple Newtown was looking to return to the championship after missing an appearance last year. The home team took away three consecutive championships starting in 2006 but missed last year's finals. Haverford was hoping for a second consecutive championship appearance after taking second place in 2009. Delco Christian was battling for their first trip to the championships since 2005. Both Marple Newtown and Delco Christian correctly answered five of their first eight questions to start the contest. While Biology stumped all three teams, Haverford managed one more correct question than their opponents to take a slight edge going into the intermission. At the break, Haverford held a one-point lead over Marple and a two-point lead over Delco Christian School.

Going into the second half, it was still any team's contest. The science slump would affect all three teams as no one managed to earn more than a few bonus points in Physics and Chemistry. Delco Christian and Marple would both correctly answer three questions, but it turned out to be Haverford's half. Haverford managed to correctly answer four questions including the coveted Team Choice Toss-Up, extending their lead and paving the way to a return appearance to the Championship contest. Final scores: Haverford – 42; Marple Newtown – 38; Delco Christian – 35

Dr. Scott Farina, Principal of Garnet Valley welcomed a lively audience to the second semi final contest on February 18th. Second place Garnet Valley took on sixth place Strath Haven and seventh place Radnor. Priscilla Basile, Garnet Valley Alum and branch manager for FMFCU, sponsor of Delco Hi-Q spoke briefly on the event and the credit union's educational initiatives in the community before turning over the podium to Quizmaster Tom McCarthy.

After being knocked out in the semi finals last season Garnet Valley was hungrier than ever. They would jump out to an early lead by sweeping the questions posed by Quizmaster Tom McCarthy in the opening Current Events category. The home team would go on to answer six of their first eight correctly while banking an additional four pick up points in the first half.

After a slight stumble Radnor and Strath Haven would battle back in the second half to catch up to Garnet Valley. After nailing their questions in Chemistry and Art History, it looked as if Strath Haven was staging a come back, drawing within four points of the leaders. Strath Haven's push was short lived when Radnor made a comeback by answering four of their second half questions correctly including the Math Toss-Up. However, Garnet Valley managed to cash in on five of their eight questions in the second half and gained four pick up points to cement the win. Final Scores: Garnet Valley 47; Radnor 34; Strath Haven 23.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Garnet Valley and Haverford 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 2 at 9:45 a.m.

Penncrest: The defending champions will make their twenty-fourth championship contest appearance since 1959. Seven of their eight championships were earned under the guidance of thirty-year Faculty Advisor, Michael Ludwig. Penncrest has earned a place in the championship seventeen times in the last twenty years.

Garnet Valley: Garnet Valley also has a long history of successful Hi-Q seasons. This is their sixteenth trip to the championship contest. Their last first place finish was in 2002. Faculty advisor Carol Rockafellow has been coaching the team for seventeen years and fellow advisor Dr. Lesley Arensberg is in her fourth year.

Haverford: The Haverford team is making their second consecutive appearance and finished in second place last year. Since 1955, Haverford has appeared in seventeen championship contests. Mr. Dave McCauley has been their advisor for seven years.

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 one man show "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 is a supporter of the 62nd Season.