



Berks County Intermediate Unit
An Educational Service Agency

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Boyertown Area High School Captures *Berks Academic Challenge* *Team to compete in state competition in April*

Reading, PA – The Boyertown Area High School Academic Challenge team won a tie-breaking match against Wilson High School on February 26 at Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to capture the *Berks Academic Challenge* championship and advance to the state competition in Harrisburg on April 25.

A tie-breaking match was needed because both teams finished the academic challenge season tied for first place with 11 wins and 1 loss and identical point totals of 102. Four competitions were held from November through February with all 18 Berks County public schools competing in each one.

The *Berks Academic Challenge* is an academic quiz competition based on a student's general scholastic knowledge. Teams have an opportunity to demonstrate the high level of scholastic achievement in Berks County schools. The competition provides a forum where outstanding students can receive recognition and serve as role models for younger students in areas of scholarly pursuit. The questions require knowledge that students can be expected to have acquired either at school or elsewhere. Each school has a team of four students with up to four substitutions permitted at halftime, as determined by the academic coach.

Boyertown team members who participated in the matches included: Stephanie Bowen, Don Henriques, Chris Hensley, Dan Hicks, Billy Kehs, and Matt Ricci (team captain). Other team members included: Tom Coccia, Rebecca Ellis, Rhiannon Goshow-Snook, Rebecca Griesser, Katie Hoetzer, Lindsey Jansay, Brandon Lalli, April MacIntyre, Kelsey Mullins, Chris Shingleton, and Kristin Troilo. Boyertown is coached by Joshua Turner.

Wilson team members included: Jen Uspal (team captain), Mike Mahon, Dustin Hill, Collin Hull, Haseeb Shah, Olivia Gierlich, Vinoth Birabaharan, and Purav Patel. Wilson is coached by John Magala.

The 17th Annual Pennsylvania Academic Competition will be held on April 25, 2008, in the Chambers of the House of Representatives and Senate in Harrisburg. The Honorable Samuel E. Rohrer will host the event on behalf of the House, along with fellow legislators who will serve as judges during the matches. The state championship team will have the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania in the Panasonic Academic Challenge at Walt Disney World in June.

