



## Rick Demuth Memorial Quiz Bowl brings out the best in local students

BY SETH ROY • Advocate Reporter • April 23, 2010

NEWARK -- Kenny Dickerson caught his teacher and coach off-guard Thursday morning during an impromptu victory speech at the Rick Demuth Memorial Quiz Bowl.

"Our whole team wanted to go out with a bang," the Johnstown-Monroe High School student said of his retiring teacher, Rachel Petty. "So we made her wish come true and let her retire happy."

Petty, who has taught the cognitive disability students at Johnstown for 25 years, said she has been involved in the quiz bowl since Demuth helped start it.

"It's a fun way for our kids to compete," she said. "It's good, healthy competition."

The event is conducted at the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center and is sponsored by the Licking County Educational Service Center. It features divisions for students with cognitive disabilities and for students with specific learning disabilities.

A student with a cognitive disability might have an IQ less than 70, plus other factors such as limitations in communication, home living, social skills and more. Students with specific learning disabilities might have dyslexia, mild autism or another impairment that affects their ability to read or write.

"These kids, generally, are pretty bright kids," LCESC Assistant Superintendent Dan Montgomery said.

In preparing for the annual quiz bowl, team coaches send questions to the educational service center covering topics including careers, math, science, English, sports and current events.

During the final match in the SLD division between Licking Valley and Northridge, students answered questions such as "Who is the current vice president?" and "What company unveiled a new

smartphone called Nexus One?"

After a question was asked, a team had 15 seconds to answer it to receive 10 points. If that team was unsuccessful, the other team then had five seconds to answer correctly for five points.

Licking Valley won the SLD division, and Johnstown-Monroe won the CD division.

Bryant Haren, 17, a Valley junior, said he has competed in the quiz bowl for three years and was excited to win.

"It's a pleasure coming to compete with other schools," he said.

Each team member has his or her own specialty, Haren added, pointing out that some were more adept at sports or current events, while others are experts in academic subjects.

"Myself, I'm good with history, science, math," he said. "We all kind of pull our own weight."

Students from Watkins Memorial, Utica, Johnstown-Monroe, Northridge and Licking Valley participated.

"It's always been received well by the kids," Montgomery said.

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