

Dairy Bowl Team Loses Bid For National Title

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Lancaster Farming Staff
CHARLESTON, S.C. — The six-member dairy bowl team representing Pennsylvania lost its bid to take a national title this past week.

A team from the New England region captured the 1990 national win. The tournament was held during the 105th Annual Convention of the Holstein-Friesian Association in Charleston, S.C.

Junior members of the Holstein-Friesian Association meet during the convention, discuss business, compete for the dairy bowl title and spend some time taking in historic and educational tours.

There is also competition for the title of Junior Distinguished Member.

However, the team from Lebanon County, which had high expectations and showed lots of promise during earlier competitions, had lost its two, first-round competitions.

The quick elimination was surprising.

The four actual players consisted of two women - Rebecca Sonnen, the former state dairy princess, and Terry Hill, the current Lebanon County Dairy Princess - and two men who have earned numerous ribbons and trophies for their Holstein cattle - Duane Nolt and David Lentz.

All, including alternates Sherry Donmoyer and former Lebanon County princess Kynel Bomgard-

ner, have deserved reputations for possessing a great amount of knowledge about the dairy industry.

But, according to team members, the loss was not due to a lack of dairy knowledge - rather the use of a wrong stratagem.

A written test given the night prior to the start of the double elimination tournament had Lebanon County seeded second to the team from New York. The New York team finished second in the quiz competition.

Dairy bowl competitions are similar to television quiz games. During the first phase, teams are isolated and teams accumulate points based on accuracy of answers to dairy industry questions. Incomplete answers receive no points.

The second phase of competitions vies both teams against each other in a test of speed to touch off a button. In this phase incorrect answers result in points deducted from the total score.

Terry Hill, Lebanon dairy bowl competitor, said Wednesday during a telephone interview from her hotel room after the finals, that the Lebanon team actually was winning both competitions going into the second phases of both games.

"In the final round, we knew most of the questions. They were extremely easy questions. We were making it harder than it was," Hill said.

"We thought they were going to



A lighter moment for the state dairy bowl team — Duane Nolt breaks out in laughter and the other smile along as team coach Mike Kunkle attempts to finish reading a question before Rebecca Sonnen finishes the answer. Other members of the team, from the left, are Terry Hill, Kynel Bomgardner, Sherry Donmoyer and captain David Lentz.

be trick questions, because they sounded too easy at first, so we waited until the question was finished. But they weren't trick questions, they were easy. We were not buzzing quick enough.

"In both of the first phases we were beating both of them. We lost in the second phases, it was matter of who hit buzzer first," she said.

"I think state competition was harder than here," Hill said, referring to the types of questions posed during the national competitions.

During the state competitions, Hill said questions were trickier

and more complicated. The Lebanon team also had a rougher time of it, losing its first state game, then coming back through the losers' bracket to eventually defeat the top winners' bracket team twice to take the title.

"I'm disappointed we didn't win the national title," Hill said. "But I'm happy we made it this far."

Hill also said that despite the loss to take the top title, the entire process the dairy bowl offers makes everyone a winner.

"Everybody grew a lot closer

through the contest," she said.

In other business, Hill reported that Tammy Balthaser also lost in her bid to be one of six Distinguished Junior Members nationally.

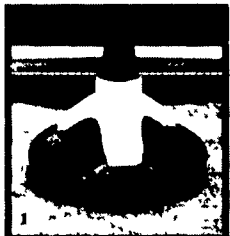
Those who did earn the title were Daniel Carroll, Minnesota, Jeffrey DeWall, Illinois, Jeffrey King, New York, Katherine McComb, Virginia, Marie Rindsig, Wisconsin, and Scott Ruby, from Oregon.

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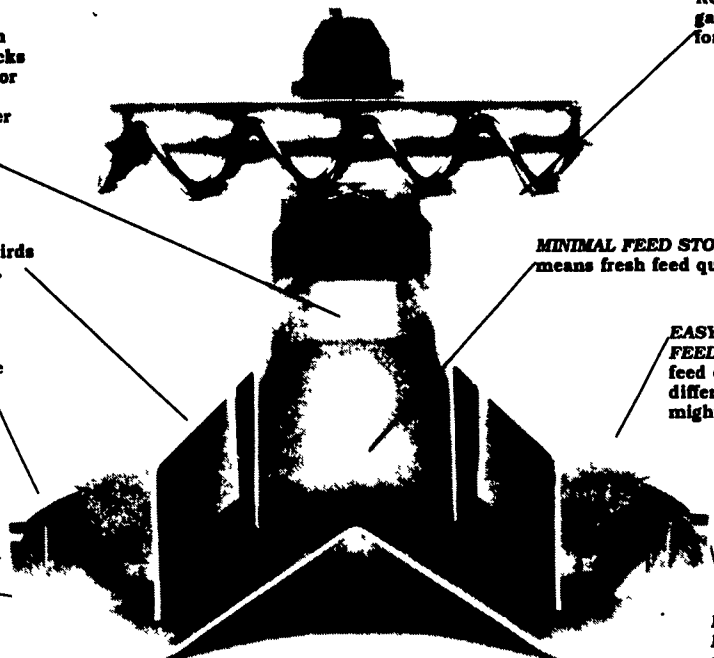
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Thursday, June 28, 1990

Report Supplied by PDA

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