

Salvete Certamen Enthusiasts!

Due to the pandemic, the NJCL Convention this summer has gone virtual! All Certamen rounds will be conducted using the Zoom platform. It seems like we have been preparing for this moment since we began running Skype practices in the early 2000s! The tournament will commence later today. The virtual platform has provided new levels of access to all teams, and we look forward to another highly competitive tournament as a result. This time around Team Mass takes the field with the following players:

Novice: Creighton Banitt (BLS, 8), Biya Brook (BLS, 8), Joanna Lin (BLS, 8), Alex Xu (BLS, 8), and Jenny Chen (BLS, 8) – **Coached by Beth Moguel (BLS)**

Novice Wildcard: Mark Snekvik (BLS, 7), Julianna Lee (Duxbury, 7), Miranda Cartee (Duxbury, 8)

Intermediate: Louisa Hemr (BLS, 9), Kyler Hoogendoorn-Ecker (BLS, 9), Mathew Mabington (BLS, 9), Owen Butler (Roxbury Latin, 9), and James McCurley (Roxbury Latin, 9) – **Coached by Dustin Brownell (BLS) & Michael Cowett (Duxbury)**

Advanced: Jinwoo Kim (BLS, 11) Luc Azar-Tanguay (BLS, 11), Danny Nguyen (BLS, 11) Ethan Clark (BLS, 11), and Dante Minutillo (BLS, 12) – **Coached by Francesca Fontin (NEU '16) & Michael Howard (BLS)**

Throughout the week I will keep you all updated on the progress of our teams, as well as the general field. While my focus will be the Massachusetts teams, I will try to continue the fan favorite “**News Around the League**” segment to acknowledge stellar performances by other teams and convey the full atmosphere of the tournament. Thank you all in advance for continuing to tune in and lend your unyielding support! I know that our teams really appreciate it.

Ex pectore,

Michael Howard
Massachusetts Certamen Coach

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Salvete Omnes,

Yesterday our teams competed in the first round of the NJCL Certamen Tournament. The results are as follows.

For reference:

1 round = 20 tossup questions; 1 tossup = 10 points; 1 tossup has 2 bonī; 1 bonus = 5 points

Advanced: Massachusetts vs. Maryland vs. Louisiana

Eager for another shot at our team in a rematch from last year Mika from Maryland struck first blood scoring on a question about the Latin noun “faucēs”. The immediate response from our of team was a symphony of buzzes each coming from a different player which pulled us into the lead after the first five questions. Enter Dante, whose streak of seven straight tossups broke the game open and propelled our team to victory.

Final Score: Massachusetts (230), Maryland (55), Louisiana (0)

Dante led all scorers with 10 tossups, Danny found the mark on a myth question about the Greek god Eros, and Luc scored the culture question about hunts for beasts called “venationes”. Mika led Maryland with all 4 of his teams tossups.

Intermediate: Massachusetts vs. Texas vs. Illinois

Right out of the gates the defending champion Massachusetts team found themselves in a rematch with their finals opponent Texas, with a very good Illinois team also thrown in the mix. A round which would turn out just as good as advertised began with a different team scoring on each of the first three questions. Though Mass found themselves in the lead after the first quarter, both Texas and Illinois came storming back. After taking a commanding 65 point lead over their closest opponent at question 15, Team Mass seemed to run out of steam as Texas picked up the mantle and never put it back down scoring on four of the last five questions to force the tie.

Final Score Massachusetts (140), Texas (140), Illinois (75)

Kyler led all scorers with 5 tossups, and James picked up two in his first ever round of NJCL Certamen. The Texas charge was led by their stellar grammarian Marco and historian Christian who each picked up four tossups in their respective categories. Joseph led Illinois with 3 tossups.

Novice: Massachusetts vs. California Purple vs. Indiana

First it must be pointed out that a cool new rule allows states to enter two Novice teams designated as Purple and Gold respectively, hence California Purple. For much of the first half, it was clear that all three teams suffered from the jitters of playing in their first ever NJCL Certamen round, and in the virtual realm at that! However, it did not take all that long before our

team settled in and went on an unbelievable run and smothered their opponents scoring 12 of the last 13 questions and only allowing either opposing team to land one buzz in that stretch.

Final Score: Massachusetts (260), California Purple (45), Indiana (0)

Contributions to our team came from all around as Joanna, Creighton, and Biya each scored 4 tossups. Alex also knocked down two history questions about Scipio and Titus Tattius. In an impressive display as captain of a two person team, Felix scored all three tossups for his California team.

NEWS AROUND THE LEAGUE

In the Advanced division, a red hot Virginia team puts up 230 points and ties Massachusetts for high score honors on the day. Not to be outdone, Texas notches 205 points with Wisconsin right behind at 200. A seasoned North Carolina team that has been steadily improving for several years explodes onto the scene and picks up 125 points.

In the Intermediate division, Wisconsin asserts its way to the top of the pack with 170 points, while Virginia is not far behind with 160. California and New Hampshire hang in there in a high scoring shootout with Florida, but in the end the Florida juggernaut won out.

In the Novice division, Florida showed why they have earned the title juggernaut as they bring in a new crew of excellent talent year after year. This team appears to be no different as they scorched the competition for 275 points and high point honors on the day. Texas Purple lights up the scoreboard with 230 points, while a Texas Gold falls to Illinois in a high scoring affair. Led by 7 tossups from Mark and 3 more from Miranda, both from Massachusetts, Wild Card Alpha wows the crowd scoring 220 points against a very good Wisconsin team.

Thank you to everyone who was able to tune into the rounds, as well as all of those who were supporting in spirit! Now that our teams have gotten acclimated to the competition they will be ready to roll today in round 2!

Stay tuned for more...

Ex Animo,

Michael Howard

Massachusetts Advanced Certamen Co-Coach

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