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THE ENQUIRER

Last Updated: 8:23 am | Sunday, December 23, 2007

# Students win stocks contest

## Ryle High team beats out 63 others

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### HIGHLAND HEIGHTS

-- Ryle High School's Ryan Alleman and Jake Rouse won Northern Kentucky University's High School Investment Tournament earlier this month. The pair turned a theoretical portfolio of \$500 into \$3,893.

"It felt great to win, especially realizing the competition that we were up against," said Alleman, a senior. "Competition against 64 different teams is never easy, especially against some of the other schools that were attending, but I know Jake and I both felt great bringing the trophy back to Ryle in just our first time competing."

Bishop Brossart, Boone County, Elder, Newport, Owen County, Ryle, Scott and Simon Kenton high schools participated in the competition.

The event was organized by Stuart and Sharon Crickmer of Omniology LLC who developed the software used during the game.

The tournament is a capstone event following the series of on-campus programs, said Stuart Crickmer. Schools submit teams - two students per team - to participate in a 64-team, NCAA-style tournament.

There are 16 opening-round games, each with teams from four schools. Each game is managed by a moderator. At the end of the round the team with the highest portfolio value is the winner. Winning teams advance to the Sweet Sixteen. All other teams continue to play in a consolation bracket.

Each round represented a year in the stock market. At the beginning of each year, students were allowed to reset their portfolios according to economic conditions provided by the game's computer program.

Alleman attributed his team's success to their superior strategy - and risk taking.

"While there certainly was a large amount of luck involved, I attribute our success to making a number of risky but necessary choices at the right time," said Alleman. "Without making these decisions, it would have taken a ridiculous amount of luck for us to have been successful."

Owen County High School's team of Denny O'Toole and Ty Goodridge placed third by turning their \$500 into \$2,296.

"This event taught the students about investing like no one else could teach it," said Susan Stowe, Owen County's accounting and finance teacher. "It taught that a person can be wealthy one day and have nothing the next. The most important lesson about investing is to diversify. Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

Alleman hasn't invested actual dollars yet, but uses several stock market simulators online.

"When I do begin to invest real money, I believe that I will have a well diversified portfolio of stocks and mutual funds, as well as the occasional bond or commodity," he said.

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