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## Team from local high school wins national competition

A team of four students from Centennial School in Coquitlam, British Columbia, has won Wilfrid Laurier University's annual spring stock market competition.

The students are Craig Sowerby, Mark Nazer, Falko Poiker and James Burns.

The team turned its original stake of \$100,000 into \$379,903.52 over a 12-week trading period that began in February.

The money was only imaginary but the competition wasn't as the team beat 996 teams from 209 schools across the country.

Working alone, Sowerby increased his portfolio to \$144,500.67 to win the fall competition among another 738 teams from 151 schools.

The competition began in 1968 as part of a first-year business program at the Waterloo campus, was later played by high school students in Ontario, and went national seven years ago.

Now the largest annual competition involving Canadian high school students, its purpose is to give the contestants a realistic understanding of how the stock market operates in Canada.

Teams watch stock market quotations in daily newspapers and use electronic mail to send their buy and sell orders to the university daily. In return, they receive a transaction report that shows their status.

Sandra Kuehl, manager of the competition, said students gain a lot -- whether or not their portfolio does. "The competition provides students with an enjoyable incentive to learn the rudiments of investing in the Canadian stock market."

The winning teams will receive a cash award of \$500 each courtesy of the Toronto Stock Exchange, individual plaques and a trophy for the school. One member of the winning team, judged by the teacher to have contributed most to the team, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Laurier.

National and regional awards for Ontario only will be presented at the annual awards luncheon at Laurier on Thursday, May 24.

Other contest sponsors include Bell Canada, Richardson Greenshields of Canada and RBC Dominion Securities Inc.

- 30 -

Note: The advising teacher at Centennial School is Mr. Stan Dunster. He and the students can be reached through the school at (604) 936-7205.