



‘Halogen’ lights way for Cameron Haynes

Stevensville youth earns second trip to National Spelling Bee

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — Gather your thoughts, don’t rush into giving your answer, know something about the origins of words — and you’ll be good to go.

That’s how Cameron Haynes, 13, of Stevensville described his approach to the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee, which he won Tuesday, earning a second trip to the National Spelling Bee, which will be May 25-31 in Washington, D.C.

“You just have to know your roots, and your language — (all) the little tidbits,” Cameron said,

moments after stepping off the stage. “You just have to be calm.”

Cameron earned his Grand Champion title by defeating his last rival standing — Lydia Stalcup, 13, an eighth grader from Grace Christian School — just before noon.

In the final showdown, the pair spelled three words correctly before Lydia tripped up on “imbeclic,” an adjective meaning “contemptibly stupid, silly or inappropriate.”

Under the rules, Cameron first had to spell the word correctly.

He then sealed his victory by correctly spelling “halogen,” a noun that refers to an element in chemistry.

Lydia, who recalled finishing nineteenth last year, accepted

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Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

TOP: Cameron Haynes (right) of Stevensville ponders a word during Tuesday’s Cloverleaf Spelling Bee at Lake Michigan College. Cameron, 13, edged second-place speller Lydia Stalcup, 13, of Decatur (left). **ABOVE:** Upton Middle School’s Ashley Ke (right) joins students, including Benjamin Johnston of Lake Michigan Catholic Middle School during the contest.