

Swede varsity, novice teams take sweepstakes at GINW speech meet

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Jensen: Winning significant.

Double excitement was experienced by Dan Jensen and his speech team at the Grand Island Northwest Speech Invite Saturday.

After the last medals were awarded, the Swedes walked away with sweepstakes plaques—in both the varsity and novice divisions.

The last time, the Swedes won both events at GINW was in 2007. In 2008, they competed in Loup City for two years before returning to the Grand Island event.

“Winning both is very significant,” said speech team adviser Dan Jensen.

In varsity competition, Brennan Costello was a double winner in both informative and entertainment speaking.

Maddy Costello swept the competition in persuasive speaking as did Elisa Meridith in poetry.

Duet actors Makayla Franzen and Lauren Schmiett were first-place winners as was the oral interpretation of drama team made up of Abie Jensen, Coltin Bebensee, Morgan Kowalewski, Adrienne Massie and Brett Mann.

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In the novice category for extemporaneous speaking, all the medalists on stage were Swedes.

Only three times since he's been coaching have the Swedes had a shut out in a finals round. The novices accomplished the feat twice this year—in persuasive speaking in Broken Bow and extemporaneous speaking on Saturday.

“That is pretty unusual although we've come close to doing it in extemp a few times this year,” Jensen said. “This shows great promise for our varsity team to continue this tradition in the future.”

First-place honors in novice extemporaneous speaking went to Betsy Potter while teammate Kelsey Kuhlman captured the novice persuasive speaking crown.

Kayla Trevino was first in novice informative speaking and novice duet actors Adrienne Massie and Ashton Aden also finished number one.

Jensen described Saturday as a good day and great way to end the last contest of the regular season.

The GINW contest was a bit smaller than other meets, he said, with 18 schools in attendance that ranged from Class A to D.

Swede competitors will take the weekend off and get ready for Southwest Conference competition next Tuesday in Minden.

For that contest and districts on March 17, Jensen will have to whittle the team to the top two entries in each event.

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Other GINW results included:

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