

Five Swedes earn trip to NFL speech finals

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Lucky rabbit's foot may have helped with wins.

Five qualifiers for National Forensic League competition is the second largest group Dan Jensen has had since students began competing in NFL.

Jensen, the Swede speech adviser, said he took eight students to Las Vegas, NV, in 2008.

At NFL regionals in Cheyenne, WY, March 31-April 2, two Swede duo interpretation teams and senior Elisa Meredith—in dramatic interpretation—earned a trip to nationals with “13 Things About Ed Carpolotti.”

Junior Makayla Franzen and her partner senior Lauren Schmiett finished in the top three of the round with “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” as did senior Chris Block and junior Jeramie VanAcker with “Star Wars: The Phantom Menace.”

They will travel to NFL finals in Dallas, TX, June 13-18.

Block also qualified in international extemporaneous speaking but chose to compete in duet.

National qualifiers can compete in only one event.

Finalists Josh Clark, a junior, and senior Janae Wiggins, were chosen as a first alternate in the event which means they will go if another duo team cannot.

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Other Swedes who were finalists, and chosen as first alternates, were senior Ashlee Bruntz in humorous interpretation and sophomore Cale Moore in international extemporaneous speaking,

Swedes who made it to the semi-final round were senior Brennan Costello and Meridith in duo interpretation and Costello in oratory.

Three events finishing one away from qualifying for nationals was disappointing but Jensen said that's part of what students have had to learn to accept.

Jensen said he was pleased with the performances of all students.

"I cannot identify one situation where our kids were not well prepared and giving it their all," Jensen said. "We did not have one student who didn't do everything expected of them."

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