

Speech team scores big in GI

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Swedes take seven firsts at CNFL.

At their first big meet of the season, Swede speech competitors showed they are a team to be reckoned with.

During the awards ceremony at the first of two Central Nebraska Forensic League tournaments in Grand Island Saturday, team members learned they had earned seven first-place medals.

“I was very pleased with how our kids stacked up against good competition,” said speech team adviser Dan Jensen. “There were 29 schools that attended this contest.”

On the varsity level, top honors went to Aaron Block in extemporaneous speaking, Stephanie Rubenthaler in informative speaking, Jeramie VanAcker in humorous prose, and Zac Franzen in serious prose.

Franzen teamed up with Josh Clark to take first in duet acting.

Novices who finished in the winner’s circle included Morgan Kowalewski in extemporaneous speaking and Maddy Costello in persuasive speaking.

The team travels to Broken Bow this Saturday.

Others who placed included:

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Extemporaneous speaking—Varsity: 2. Chris Block, 4. Josh Clark; Novice: 4. Kristin Bartlett, 6. Jon Rehmert, 8. Ricci Whitney, 9. Alex Spencer.

Persuasive speaking—Varsity: 2. Brennan Costello, 4. Beth Advey, 5. Kristi Block; Novice: 3. Rebecca Miller, 8. Kaylee Beyea.

Entertainment speaking—Varsity: 3. Josh Clark, 15. Ashlee Bruntz.

Humorous prose—Varsity: 12. Ashlee Bruntz, 15. Chris Block/

Serious prose—Varsity: 12. Elisa Meridith.

Poetry—Varsity: 2. Elisa Meridith; Novice: 7. Haydon McKenney.

Duet acting—Novice: 3. Maddy Costello and Morgan Kowalewski.

Oral interpretation of drama—Varsity: 3. Liz Graham, Leah Loostrom, Chris Block, Alex Spencer and Coltin Bebensee.

Also competing were Cale Moore, Jessica Wolff, Becca Else, Ryan Ostendorf, Lauren Schmielt, Makayla Franzen, Peyton Maline, Willis Middleton, Heather Lunkwitz, Crystal Moore, Mackenzie Brand, Patrick Reeves, Janae Wiggins, Eric Cole, Amanda Larson and Bailey Gibbens.