

PRESS RELEASE

Speech Team Places Second at Casper College Tournament

The Jackson Hole High School Speech and Debate Team continued its season accomplishments with another top finish at the annual T- Bird Classic, held at Casper College, December 9-10. Fifteen schools attended the meet with 335 individual entries. Under the coaching of Londe Gagnon and Peggy Gagnon, the team took home the second place trophy, finishing just three points behind Green River.

Seniors and team captains Jheili Montiel Huerta and Alexis Hernandez Lopez brought home the championship in Public Forum Debate, moving through 7 rounds of debate with only one loss in a preliminary round. Hernandez went on to place 4th in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Senior and team captain Julieta Anaya continued their season's successes with a 5th place finish in Poetry Interpretation and 9th in Program Oral Interpretation. They also teamed up with fellow senior Blanca Sartillo in Duo Interpretation to place 6th in the event.

Junior Melany Hernandez Garcia had a rewarding meet, finishing 2nd in Novice Poetry Interpretation and 6th in Novice Dramatic Interpretation. Freshman Maddie Earl found success in Novice Dramatic Interpretation as well, finishing in 4th place in the event. She went on to place 4th in Novice Humorous Interpretation.

Senior Ventura Garcia Perez placed 2nd in Congressional Debate. He also brought home the award for top speaker in the event. Junior Lauren Guh-Siesel placed 7th in Congressional Debate but was recognized as the top novice since the event combined both novice and varsity competitors. Senior Maya Worcester placed 8th.

Worcester also showed strength in Varsity Poetry with her 9th place finish. Guh-Siesel teamed up with sophomore Oscar Andersen in Public Forum Debate where they reached the quarterfinals of the event and finished the tournament in 7th place.

The JHHS Squad fared well in Novice Original Oratory with freshman Finna Halsey placing 3rd, sophomore Ashly Hernandez placing 6th, and junior Analy Garcia

Perez finishing in 9th place. Hernandez went on to finish in 7th place in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking.

Junior Estephanie Garcia continued to show great potential in her events, Novice Informative Speaking and Novice Dramatic Interpretation, finishing in 7th place in both. Halsey teamed up with freshman Sophie Bess to place 2nd in Novice Duo Interpretation.

Coach Peggy Gagnon stated, “ This was a tough meet where many events combined novice and varsity competitors into the same categories and many events advanced straight to finals, forgoing the traditional semi final round. We are extremely proud of what our team was able to accomplish. We think the talent and support the team showed this weekend was extraordinary and we anticipate a very promising upcoming season.”

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