

Mock trial team makes it to district semi-finals

by Elizabeth Hruska

Putting their reasoning skills to the test, the mock trial team felt they had a successful season.

This year's case involved a foreign citizen who is seeking asylum in America. The unique characters, and twists and turns on each side of this case made it one that was both exciting and challenging for this year's team, according to mock trial coach Ed Sieck. Led by Sieck, and assisted by Carl Hart as attorney coach, the team was made up of eleven members, who won their first scrimmage against the Aquinas mock trial team.

According to Sieck, many schools



The mock trial team won the first round of districts before falling to Columbus in the semi-finals. Photo by Elizabeth Hruska

have a decided advantage. "Bigger schools have the advantage in that they not only have a bigger base to pull people from, but many have day-time classes that dedicate time to mock trial competitions."

Despite minor complications such as synchronizing practice

schedules, this team, according to Sieck, was farther ahead of schedule than in any year previously. In part, this was because of a larger number of participants, and more returning members, who helped out the others in practice, and made everything go more smoothly. Other positive

things included communication, perseverance and acting skills.

"The witnesses and attorneys communicated very well with each other. We all worked together greatly," freshman witness Samantha Hascall said.

Taking a different view was junior Lucas Schmidt. "I'm surprised at how well defined our characters were. Though for the most part we were focused as a team, we did tend to get distracted, but we did make it pretty far in competition."

The team won their first round of districts against Howells. Getting a bye for their second round, this sent them directly into semi-finals, where they lost in a close and competitive match against Columbus.

Increased membership, involvement lead FFA

by Lukas Fricke

"Premier Leadership, Career Success and Personal Growth" is the FFA motto. The David City High School FFA chapter best fits this motto by showing the involvement of all its members.

"Agriculture is Nebraska's number one industry and is 'a way of life' for those around David City," chapter adviser Jenny Kocian said concerning the wide appeal of FFA.

The National FFA Organization was founded in 1928 by 33 young farm boys in a Kansas City hotel. They called themselves the Future Farmers of America and changed the course of agriculture for millions of people. In 1988 the FFA name was changed to the National FFA Organization to promote not just farming but all agricultural education and knowledge.

With over 40 members the DCHS FFA is led by the officer team made up of of sophomore Lukas Fricke, president; senior Austin Zeilinger, vice president; senior Brian Glock, secretary; senior Nikki Romshek,

treasurer; freshman Amanda Clymer, reporter; senior Tanner Wemhoff, sentential; and junior Amanda Kahnk, parliamentarian.

Activities that keep the group busy

include Husker Harvest Days, State and National conventions, Career Development Event (CDE), Leadership Skill Event (LSE), among many other events

and activities. "There are many opportunities in FFA. It's not just a group of farmers talking about corn and the weather," sophomore Dillon Hicks said.

One-act cast works to meet challenge

by Elizabeth Hruska

After placing third in the state competition last year, being state champions twice, and going to state seven out of the last nine years, this year's One Act cast and crew take on their next challenge, *The Life and Death of Jesus*.

"We needed to incorporate some more spectacle into our production; this storyline provides that in bunches," director Jarod Ockander said with regard to why he chose this year's play. "Also, I'm interested in the human and historic elements of the story."

Even though the Scouts lost quite a few actors from last year, both upper and underclassmen are pulling together to hopefully make this year's

play one that the audience won't forget. "Although the cast can get off task sometimes, people have been stepping up by memorizing lines, speaking loud and clearly, and working hard at practice,"

senior Staci Ossian said. Junior Alissa Trainer agreed. "I've noticed a lot of dedication coming from first-year performers all the way to the fourth-year performers, and that will help us in the long run."



In a flashback flanked by the crucifixion, Mary pleads with her young son Jesus in the one-act, *The Life and Death of Jesus*.

Photo by Michael Buresh