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Hawkers win Bozeman speech and debate tournament

By Gail Schontzler Chronicle Staff Writer Dec 11, 2018

It was late Saturday night when the results were announced at Bozeman High School's invitational speech and debate tournament, but the Hawkets came out the winners.

Despite the team's victory at the first tournament of the season when all of Montana's 14 largest AA high schools competed, Bozeman head coach Adam Thane wasn't crowing. He stressed that upcoming tournaments could prove a lot tougher.

"We won because of the strength of our novice debaters, which is great, but there isn't novice debate at state," Thane said of the big state championship tournament at the end of January in Kalispell.

Both Glacier and Flathead high schools, which finished No. 2 and 3 Saturday, are perennial rivals of the Bozeman Hawkets, who have won three state championships in a row.

"It's tough to win up there, but we've got people who can do it if they work hard," Thane said.

More than 700 students competed from across Montana Friday and Saturday, and some 800 community members volunteered as judges. Bozeman High finished first with 191.5 points, followed by Glacier with 156.5 and Flathead with 129 points.

Bright spots for the Hawkets were winning seven out of the top eight spots in novice policy debate and six of the novice Lincoln Douglas spots. Public forum and varsity policy debaters did well, Thane said. Christly Bright, a sophomore, won program oral interpretation, which means she's won every tournament she's entered.

Three Forks High won first among smaller class B and C schools and Gardiner was third. Belgrade finished third among class A schools.

The Hawkers next compete in Helena this weekend, when no novice students will compete. That will show, Thane said, whether the win in Bozeman was “a fluke or repeatable.”

Here are results for Bozeman students from Saturday:

- Varsity policy debate: Jackson Raecke and Ryan Geissler, second; Easton Kelley and Lorelei Michael-Owens, third; Nic Kuntz and Daniel Waterman, fourth; Anna Sofianek and Megan Mahoney, eighth.
- Novice policy debate: Ava Murray and Esmie Hurd, first; Ani Hadley and Amelia Hartshorn, second; Nia Zillis and Katherine Callow, third; Liza Huggins and Marika Schultz, fifth; Miles Fastnow and Ethan Gilpin, sixth; Joe Johns and Katherine Shaw, seventh; Isabelle Lewis and Christine Anderson, eighth.
- Novice Lincoln Douglas debate: Nina Bennett, first; Siena Popiel, second; Sammi Zeng, fourth; Soren Wade, fifth; Samantha Savage, seventh; Annika Gao, eighth.
- Varsity Lincoln Douglas debate: Jackie Olexa, fifth; Audrey Miller, seventh. John Jennings of Three Forks was second.
- Public forum debate: Kaitlyn Krushefski and Mason Scurry, first; Irene Liang and Aiden Farmer, third; Emily Alegria and Daniel Gao, fourth.
- Extemporaneous speaking: Parker Summerhill, seventh.
- Impromptu speaking: Josh Nguyen, sixth. Layne Godak of Belgrade was fifth.
- Humorous interpretation: Jack Snow, fourth.
- Dramatic interpretation: Kiki Mahon, second; Olivia Bulis, third; Logan Sigler, seventh.
- Memorized public address: Olivia Smith, sixth. Layne Godak of Belgrade was fourth; Eliza Jeffries of Belgrade was eighth.
- Original oratory: Reeba Walters, sixth.
- Informative speaking: Logan Yates, second; Macy Thompson, fourth.

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