

The Black mock trial team from Perkins County High School has moved into the regional final and will compete for a spot in the state competition to be held in Omaha. Their opponent is yet to be determined, but will be a team from either Dundy County/Stratton or Southern Valley and that trial will probably be held on Nov. 17.

In the first trial of the day, Perkins County Black defeated Maywood #1.

“We thought that Maywood had a nice team and competed very well, but we were also very pleased by our team’s performance,” said Don Harris, coach. “Our Black team represented the government (ICE) and we felt very good about how they responded.”

Witnesses on that side were Amara Meyer, Kalyn Hanson and Ben Ross. They all impressed the judges,” said Harris.

In their critiques, the judges noted how well they portrayed their character. They noted, in particular, the accent that Amara Meyer uses as Dr. Amour-Propre as something that they felt added a lot to her character.

Perkins County coaches, Harris and Diana Tate, thought it was the best performance to date by the attorneys, Candace Lee, Jeremy Hagan and Tori Osler.

They had done some work on the cross examinations since the last trial which helped them. It appeared that Maywood may not have been prepared for some of those questions.

Students are also showing improvement in their opening and closing statements. Leadership shown by Candace Lee is also impressive. She is the most experienced attorney and whenever there has been a rules issue, she has taken the responsibility and handled things well.

The second trial of the day was Perkins County Red against Eustis/Farnam #1. The Red team represented the respondent Kev Inruser. It’s believed that this is the tougher side of the case and the Red team handled it well, losing a split decision to Eustis/Farnam. The performance judges split, one feeling Perkins County had won and the other favoring Eustis/Farnam. The presiding judge favored Eustis/Farnam, sending them into the afternoon trial against PC’s Black team.

Even though they lost, coaches were very pleased with the performance of attorneys Michael Dreiling, Tanya Metcalf and Colton White, and witnesses Ashley Kemling, Callie Meyer and Kyle Schulze.

This team began the season with almost no experience and they won two trials and had a chance to win this one also. Eustis/Farnam’s experience and maturity helped them and the PC Red team learned a great deal about the intensity and preparation necessary to compete against good teams.

Since both of the morning winners had done the government side of the case, a drawing was held to determine which side of the case each team would take. The Black team again represented the government and they defeated Eustis/Farnam. They were challenged by Eustis/Farnam, but gave a very good performance also.

Everyone agreed that the government side is the easier side to do. That means that they must work to improve their own performance on the respondent side because there is a good chance they will have to do that one in the regional finals.

The season is now over for the Red team, but the coaches are both excited by what they have shown. They have seen so many good things from the students and believe they can do very well in the future.

“I told them when we got home that I was hoping they could advance one more round, but the

fact that they lost did nothing to diminish how pleased we were with their performances and effort," said Harris. "We hope they will continue with mock trial because we believe in its value and in them."

Don Harris and Diana Tate
Co-coaches