

The North Platte High School Blue and Gold Speech Tournament is a two-day event with Friday being the debate portion and Saturday being the speech portion.

This year's tournament was held on Feb. 14-15.

Only schools that compete for both days are eligible for team awards.

This is a huge tournament, with schools of all classes. Kearney, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, Gering, Lexington, Valentine, and Ainsworth were some of the larger schools in attendance.

"The competition is really good and PCHS speakers were fortunate to see and compete against truly quality competitors," Diana Tate, PCHS speech coach, said.

In some of the events, there were more than 60 entrants. Medals were awarded places 1-12 in varsity and 1-6 in novice. PCHS had six medalists: Entertainment--Sammy Snogren third, Allision Kiolbasa ninth--Poetry--Lila Konecky ninth, Alyssa Young 12th, Dayna Dudden fifth (novice)--Duet--Sean Sando and Renae Goodwin 12th.

Other solid performances included Lila Konecky 19th with two superiors in Serious Prose, Brady Mailand 17th in Humorous Prose and Emily Kemling 18th in Humorous Prose, Lexi Schmidt with two superiors in Humorous Prose, Tobias Grace with two superiors in Poetry.

Jakelynn Broeder had two superiors in Persuasive, Kylie Hanson and Lexi Schmidt as well as Mariah Curtis and Courtney McClenahan (each pair with two superiors) in Duet Acting, and Hannah Beck 15th in Informative.

On Feb. 22, Ogallala played host to over 24 area schools, including Scottsbluff and Sidney.

This meet recognizes individual performances only, no team scores or trophies are tallied or awarded.

Unless there were ties going into finals, only the top six competitors in each event medalled, but PCHS placed many in the top 10.

Informative--Hannah Beck seventh, Rebecca Cornelius 8th (under the tie breaking NSSA rules of last year, both girls would have been in finals, but this year's tie-breaking rules have been revised-- Persuasive--Jakelynn Broeder--fourth--Entertainment--Sammy Snogren first--Poetry--Lila Konecky, second, Dayna Dudden seventh, Lexi Schmidt eighth (a tabroom error caused Lexi, who had earned a place in the finals, to be overlooked), Alyssa Young 10th--Humorous Prose--Lexi Schmidt seventh, Brady Mailand eighth--Serious Prose--Lila Konecky fifth--Duet--Amanda and Jossie Osler ninth--OID--Sammy Snogren, Kylie Hanson, Bailey Schrotberger, Kaleb Vak, Sean Sando 3rd; Hannah Beck, Lila Konecky, Zak Kurkowski, Christian White, Brady Mailand fourth.

In addition to these individuals, ribbons were awarded to those entrants who scored superior ratings in the preliminary rounds.

Those speakers included Emily Kemling and Shane Ourada in Humorous Prose, the duet teams of Kylie Hanson/Lexi Schmidt, Mariah Curtis/Courtney McClenahan, and Sean Sando/Renae Goodwin, Kylie Hanson in Serious Prose, Tobias Grace in Poetry, and Allison Kiolbasa in Entertainment.

Saturday competitions are now completed for PCHS speakers whose next performances will be on March 10 at Maxwell for the SPVA speech contest.