

## On to national speech tourney

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 02 April 2010 13:45 - Last Updated Friday, 02 April 2010 13:49

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### **Meridith, Franzen and Clark qualify at NFL meet.**

Tres.

That is the number in Spanish of Gothenburg speech students who will travel to Kansas City, MO, in June to compete at the National Forensic League tourney.

During what Swede speech team adviser Dan Jensen described as a grueling, double-elimination contest last week, Elisa Meridith, Zac Franzen and Josh Clark separated themselves from the rest of the pack.

All earned the right to compete nationally at the NFL qualifier in Cheyenne, WY, last Thursday through Saturday.

“I was very pleased with the effort and stamina our students showed,” Jensen said.

Meridith qualified in dramatic interpretation while Franzen and Clark will compete in duo interpretation.

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Franzen also qualified in dramatic interpretation but can only compete nationally in one event.

All were third-place finalists. Only the top three in each event advance to nationals.

In addition, Franzen was named the Hole in the Wall District Student of the Year for Gothenburg's NFL district.

Jensen said the award recognizes students for their contributions to school, community and speech community outside of their success in forensic competition.

Competitors at the qualifying tournament had to survive numerous rounds to get into finals.

Clark and Franzen went six rounds in their event. In dramatic interpretation, Franzen completed seven rounds as did Meridith.

Other individual results and rounds completed included:

Duo interpretation—Semifinalist, Willis Middleton and Jeramie VanAcker, five rounds; Morgan Kowalewski and Maddy Costello, four rounds; Beth Advey and Ashlee Bruntz, two rounds.

Dramatic interpretation—Brennan Costello, two rounds.

Humorous interpretation—Semifinalists, Ashlee Bruntz and Elisa Meridith, seven rounds; Jeramie VanAcker, four rounds.

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U.S. extemporaneous speaking—Morgan Kowalewski, four rounds; Josh Clark, three rounds.

International extemporaneous speaking—5. finalist, Aaron Block, five rounds.

Original oratory—4. finalist, Brennan Costello, seven rounds; semifinalist Beth Advey, six rounds; Maddy Costello, four rounds.

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