

*National Catholic Forensics League*

**Grand National Tournament**

May 27 - 28  
Washington, D.C.

**By Tomi Miller**  
*Colby Free Press*  
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After many nights of practice and preparation for the 4A State Forensics Competition in Topeka on May 6 and 7, the Colby High School Forensics team is still not ready to close out their season. Instead, ten qualifiers are preparing to travel to Washington D.C., for the National Catholic Forensics League Tournament.

"I'm nervous for all of the competition that I will face at nationals. I went (to nationals) last year to watch and everyone was amazing," said sophomore Gabby Browne, who qualified in oral interpretation of literature.

Browne placed second at the national qualifier in Colby in March and placed in serious solo at state. Browne said she is preparing by practicing her piece as much as she can.

Sophomore Blake McNinch, a qualifier in Lincoln-Douglas debate, said he

is most nervous about the size of the competition and going up against “speed readers,” debaters who read their case at a pace that is hard to follow. Even with the nerves, McNinch is still excited for the new experience.

"I've practiced by thinking a lot about the topics and arguments people won't be prepared for," McNinch said.

McNinch also qualified for state in duo interpretation.

"I'm really excited to spend time with the team and have some crazy fun. I also can't wait to watch all the interesting pieces," said junior Christina Ostmeier, qualifier in duo interpretation of literature.

Ostmeyer said she enjoys duo interpretation because it is a lot different from normal duets and she has a great partner this year.

"Since my piece is serious, I can channel all my bad emotions into it," said Cameron McLaughlin, a sophomore qualifier in dramatic performance. "It can

be hard at times but I enjoy performing my serious solo."

While McLaughlin said she is excited to travel to Washington, D.C., and watch her competitors, she is still nervous about competing in front of forensics students who are the best in the nation. She isn't the only one who has mixed emotions about the trip.

"I'm excited to watch my competitors and gain new experiences as well as ideas," said Madison Tubbs, freshman qualifier in duo interpretation of literature, "but nervous because we will be going up against amazing people; and I don't want to be the worst."

Tubbs also qualified for state in her duo piece with Ostmeyer. The pair took home a fifth-place medal.

Michael Tubbs, a junior qualifier in extemporaneous speaking, has been working hard for the past few weeks to prepare himself for the tough competition that he expects at nationals.

"I've put a lot of work into finding in-

formation for my crate as well as practicing my speeches," Tubbs said.

The crate is a box of information including article clippings and quotes which Tubbs will use to create his speech. The qualifiers have been hurrying to gather more information and perfect their pieces before they head towards the competition.

on Wednesday, May 25.

Other national qualifiers are senior Bailey Koerperich in original oratory, senior Shelby Terrell in dramatic performance, sophomore Tomi Miller in Lincoln-Douglas debate and freshmen Victoria Rall in oratorical declamation.



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