By Carolyn Lee
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With more than 20 schools participating, and 30 to 40 contestants per event, the Ogallala High School speech invitational was a “tough, competitive day.” That’s according to Coach Jill Bauerle, who added “It was a great experience for our team.”

Bauerle said her speech team observed some amazing speakers and competed with teams they won’t see again this season.

Because of the number of students participating, making the finals required placing first in at least one preliminary round plus another first or second place ranking in the second round.

Andrea Hogsett placed first in both poetry rounds with selections from “The Journey.” She was awarded fifth place out of 49 places after finals.

The Oral Interpretation of Drama team up of Anna Bauerle, Emma Bauerle and MaKenna Ketter placed fifth out of 21 teams with “Deliver Us Not!”

The Duet Acting team of Ryan Moline and Emma Bauerle placed fifth out of 32 teams with “Open to Interpretation.”

Others scoring in the top 50 percent included Emily Johnston in serious prose, 19th out of 48; Anna Bauerle in persuasive speaking, 10th out of 30, and Mindy Castle in extemporaneous speaking, 17th out of 34.

Also competing were Blair Hartman in persuasive speaking; Jessica Hartman in serious prose; Hogsett in humorous prose; Tapainga Kahle in both humorous and serious prose; Calen Griffin in extemporaneous; Darin Knobbe in extemporaneous speaking and poetry, and Moline in entertainment.

“It is encouraging to see our standings in each event and compare our performance score with other students in our conference,” Bauerle said. “We know where our strengths lie and where we must improve to do well at our conference meet.”

Bauerle said the next tournament will be March 2 in either North Platte or McCook.