

***By Carolyn Lee***

***The Imperial Republican***

The two Chase County Schools students who qualified for the State Speech Tournament in Kearney last week each placed 16th place in their categories, not qualifying for finals.

Emily Johnston came in fifth place in both rounds before finals in serious prose, with “My Left Breast” about breast cancer, and was one point behind the two who tied for second place in the first round.

“It came down to judge’s choice rather than the speaker’s presentation,” said Coach Jill Bauerle.

Blair Hartman, in persuasive speaking, came in fifth in her first round and sixth in her second round, before finals Bauerle said. She also tied with the fourth place speaker in the first round.

“Her judges both commented on how difficult it was to rank the speakers,” Bauerle said.

“Both girls performed as well as they ever have, and because Emily and Blair competed against all outstanding speakers at state, I can only applaud our girls for a job well done.”