



AT THE SPEECH LOCK-IN on Friday at Decatur Community High School, Jude Walinder and Nolan Henningson looked through books for ideas on acting scenes or possible duets they might want to do this season.

Students and coaches have some fun

Students flipped through book after book, play after play, looking for scenes to perform for this year's high school speech season.

Around 25 Decatur Community High School students met Friday night after the home basketball games for a speech "lock-in" at the high school cafeteria, which kicked off their season. The lock-in ended around 1 a.m.

Students laughed and watched intently as Amanda Marshall and Nolan Henningson acted out their duet from last year. Amanda acted as Nolan's over active, often troublesome pet dog.

The two worked in sync unfolding the story of owner and pet, bringing a smile to the faces of the audience members.

The event, said Coach Doug Mason, gives new students a time to get introduced to the speech team, what it is and what members do. He said he had "crazy" games to get the

kids loose and comfortable with going beyond themselves, food and material for them to look through if they want to chose a duet or acting cut for this season.

The evening started with a description of speech events, rules and regulations, said Mr. Mason, and then the older students gave examples from last year.

The team has been divided into three groups, he said. He is working with those doing speeches, coach Anthony Marshall, a former team member, helps those with acting and coach Deedra Frasier, an English teacher at the high school, those with prose and poetry readings. Mr. Mason is sponsor of Oberlin Teens for Christ.

While Leigh Davis has been the speech coach for many years, said Mr. Mason, she is on leave for health reasons, so others have stepped up to help coach. Ms. Frasier is the head coach, he said.

Scheduled meets for the speech team include:

- Saturday, Jan. 29, at Hill City.
- Saturday, Feb. 5, in Oberlin.
- Saturday, Feb. 12, in Norton.
- Saturday, Feb. 19, in Northern Valley.
- Saturday, Feb. 26, in Hays.
- Saturday, March 5 in Ellis.
- Tuesday, March 22, in Oakley.
- Thursday, March 24, in Smith Center.
- Saturday, March 26, in Colby.
- Monday, March 28, Northwest Kansas League at home.
- Thursday, April 7, at Phillipsburg.
- Thursday, April 14, an Evening of Forensics for the public.
- Saturday, April 16, regional competition at Quinter.
- Saturday, May 7 state competition.
- Thursday, May 12, speech awards.



COACHES ANTHONY MARSHALL, Deedra Frasier and Doug Mason (left) talked while the students had a snack and looked through some material. Amanda Marshall (above) acted out a duet from last year's speech season with Nolan Henningson (not pictured).

