

# Words as Weapons

## DHS Forensics Battles its way to State

by Asher Lowrey

After decimating Regionals for the 16th consecutive year, the DeKalb High school Forensics team marched onto the battlefield once more as they prepare to engage in the IHSA state competition.

Coming out on top, in first place by one glorious point, it was a close call at the suspenseful Regionals meet on Saturday, February 4th. Senior Captain Jesse Zenz says, "It was really scary because me and my other two captains, Molly and Paul, were keeping track of the scores of our team and Huntley's since they're our big competition there. I just remember when Paul added everything up on his little note card and we realized we beat Huntley right before they announced it."

Throughout their 2016-2017 season, the DeKalb Forensics team has accomplished many impressive feats. One such example being their Sectionals meet at which they narrowly escaped the jaws of elimination, taking 5th place out of 29 other competitive high schools.

Even early in the season at their hair raising conference meet the team showed its resilience and intellect as they plowed through the event, taking 2nd place.

This year's State meet promised to be nothing less than amazing as senior members Michael Williams, Paul Un, and Molly Stawinoga take to the stage. These legendary members of the team will partake in their strongest events with Stawinoga proudly competing in Special Occasions Speaking (SOS), Williams ready to enthrall the audience with his signature Humorous Interpretation (HI), and Un prepared to blow judges minds with his stunning perfor-



Paul Un and Mr. Fontana in the Peoria Civic Center.

mances in Impromptu and Extemp.

"It doesn't feel real, because tomorrow I'm going to wake up and go to Peoria to perform and do the same thing Saturday, but today it's just another day at school," says Williams a day before their promising competition.

At the emotionally impactful state meet, Stawinoga crushed competition as she battled her way to 12th in her event along with Williams who also placed 12th in his Humorous Interpretation. Un, once more, conquered his competition as he marched into 9th in Extemp and 6th in Impromptu placing him as a finalist. Mr. Un is the first student in DHS history to make it to state all four years for a singular event.

Early in February, the Forensics team held its annual showcase in the DHS Forum Room. During this showcase, many of the teams most talented competitors presented their most powerful and impactful pieces. Previews of some of the Forensic's teams brightest stars at the show case will soon be available on the DHS *Barbwire* website.

The DHS Forensics team is truly one of the most impressive, yet somewhat underrated teams within the high school. If you love writing, public speaking, and winning, Forensics may just be for you.



Michael Williams Presents at DHS Forensics Showcase, Photo by Asher Lowrey.



Molly Stawinoga Presents at DHS Forensics Showcase, Photo by Asher Lowrey.



Paul Un Presents at DHS Forensics Showcase, Photo by Asher Lowrey.



The DHS Forensics Team after their Regionals Competition, Photo by Mr. Fontana