



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Sterling High School sophomores Jarrod Odom, left, and Thayer Walmsley —with debate team coach Maggie Eubanks — won first place at the recent Cross Examination Debate UIL District Competition.

No debate: RSS tops at UIL competition

Sterling High School Speech and Debate team members won big at this year's Cross Examination Debate UIL District Competition, taking 50 percent of the top awards.

Sophomores Jarrod Odom and Thayer Walmsley dominated the competition, beating solid North Shore and Channelview teams to win first place.

The win qualifies Jarrod and Thayer to represent District 21-5A at the UIL State CX Debate Tournament in Austin in March. This is the second state tournament Jarrod and Thayer have qualified for as they will also compete in the Texas Forensic Association State Tournament in El Paso in March.

Sterling freshman Devin Barbee and senior Jasmine Landry finished in fourth place at the Cross Examination Debate UIL District Competition.

The students compete under Coach Maggie Eubanks. Remarkably, this is only the second year of competition for the revitalized Sterling Speech Debate team.

Sterling's Speech and Debate team has been re-inventing itself over the past few years, Eubanks said, having been out of the competitive arena for quite a while.

Starting with just a few speech competitors three years ago, the Sterling team has grown to include Debate last year and several other Forensics events this year, and now have between 20 and 30 students competing in Speech and Debate events at tournaments in the area.

"These students want to win, and they have competed well, placing in the top levels at multiple large tournaments this year, including against schools spawning state and national champs in past years," Eubanks said.

"Even though we are a small program, we believe that we can compete against any team in the area and be successful, and so far, the kids have done just that," Eubanks said. "What we want now are more team members and more resources to keep our winning tradition growing."

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