

New year brings speech team back together

Hopes are high as members begin practicing for first competitions

The Fairbury Speech Team kicks off their season on January 24th at Concordia College. "I'm looking forward to the team this year. We have a lot of returning members along with a couple newbies," said coach Jacki Papstein. "Some returning members are branching out and trying new events this year."

Along with new members, the team also has a new assistant coach. David Shellenberger looks forward to his first year as a part of the team. "I am glad to have

Ms. Papstein as the other coach. She has two years experience, so she knows what she's doing."

Returning members come back for multiple reasons. Some want to add to their treasured memories with a full schedule. "I like speech because it's fun, and it gives me something to do in the winter," said Cassie Leonard.

Ali Umland is focused on her events, "I'll do a duet with Cassie (Leonard), and be part of the j.v. O.I.D. this year," she said.

This season is packed

with expectations. "I want to develop more of a 'team' spirit this year. Everyone does their own individual events, so it is hard to keep them thinking as a team," said Papstein. "We've also scored well in the past, and I hope to continue that excellence."

Competitions may have their downfalls, but are also a highlight to the season. "Memorizing my speeches in the beginning is hard and take a while, but once I have them down, meets

are fun," said Leonard. "I also do impromptu. It gives me variety, and is always exciting."

Another concern about competitions is the early mornings. "I don't like getting up early to go to the meets," said Umland.

Concerns for the season are few. This year's team is 18 members strong, and hopes for a successful season. - **Jo Shinn**

Garrett Schlake '09, Mary Lutze '09, Justin Schultis '09, Allie Skidmore '10, and Cassie Waldron '09 practice their O.I.D. before a big meet. /katie ehle



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