

FBLA students 'break barriers' in Orlando

Parli-pro team places first in nation

Journal-Advocate Staff

HAXTUN -- Sixteen members of the Haxtun FBLA Chapter along with Adviser Lisa Schaefer, and parent sponsors Darcy Garretson, Dena Gerk and Tanya Mayhew, recently attended the National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Conference held in Orlando, Florida.

The chapter was accompanied by Jaevyn Faulk and Erin Bell from Julesburg High School.

From the opening session through the awards ceremony, FBLA members were encouraged in "Breaking Barriers," the theme of this year's conference. Keynote speaker Paul Vitale inspired audience members to implement tempo, confidence and resilience when pursuing their niche in life. Introduced during the session were the national officers as well as FBLA's Chief Executive Officer, Jean Buckley.

Throughout the conference,

members competed in various events including the Network Design Team of Cody Fix, Blake Mari and Talya Mayhew; and the Parliamentary Procedure Team of Kelsey Garretson, Kent Hiller, Elliott Krogmeier and Josh Turney. Jake Gerk, Sarah Hiller and Alexis Murillo competed in Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure; Kate Kaus competed in Health Care Administration; Brant Davis competed in Technology Concepts; and Erin Bell and Jaevyn Faulk (both of Julesburg) competed in Business Law. In addition, Colorado members, advisers, and guests attended the Mountain Plains Regional meeting which included overviews of the year from each state president in the Mountain Plains Region as well as a campaign speech from the regional vice president candidate, Whitney Redman of



FLBA Keynote Speaker Paul Vitale with Delegates

Holyoke High School.

On the final day of the conference, the Parliamentary Procedure Team learned they placed in the top 10 and participated in the final part of the competition: an 11-minute business meeting.

Throughout the conference, all 16 members from Haxtun represented the school and the state of Colorado in a positive manner. Members spent many, many hours preparing for their respective contests right up until the final deadlines.

Along with some final preparation and competing, members also had the chance to view several exhibit booths, visit the national officer candidate booths, shop at the FBLA Marketplace and bring back ideas to the chapter for fundraising and activities.

During the conference, Haxtun FBLA was proud to be recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter as well as an

Outstanding Chapter; awards given at the national level.

Adviser Lisa Schaefer was recognized as being an FBLA adviser for 15 years.

Approximately 8,000 FBLA members were in attendance at the awards program and closing session. As delegates anxiously awaited learning if they were among the top 10, Haxtun's Parliamentary Procedure Team members Kelsey Garretson, Kent Hiller, Josh Turney, and Elliott Krogmeier were called on stage and declared the first place team in the nation! As the first team from Haxtun High School to place tops in the nation in Parliamentary Procedure, this team is a true example of "Breaking Barriers."

The national attendees are thrilled to bring their new ideas to the chapter and carry the excitement from this conference to the local members as they work toward the 2012 national theme, "Gateway to Greatness!"



Pictured are members of the Haxtun FBLA chapter at the National FBLA Conference in Orlando. Back Row L to R: Adviser Lisa Schaefer, Karci Lockwood, Alexis Murillo, Erin Bell (Julesburg), Talya Mayhew, Hannah Conklin, Natasha Helfer, Sarah Hiller, Kate Kaus, Kelsey Garretson, Sara Kurtzer. Front Row L to R: Parent Sponsor Dena Gerk, Jake Gerk, Kent Hiller, Jaevyn Faulk (Julesburg), Elliott Krogmeier, Brant Davis, Blake Mari, Cody Fix, Josh Turney, Parent Sponsors, Darcy Garretson and Tanya Mayhew. (Courtesy photo)