



Beaufort High mock trial team heads to state

By CHARLOTTE LAWRENCE

Gazette Sidekicks Correspondent

Gavel swiftly met wood as the court was called into session. However this was no ordinary court. This was the 2004 regional mock trial competition held in Charleston on Feb. 28.

Beaufort High School was involved competing against other high schools trying the same murder case as though they were actually trying a real case. Real life judges and attorneys are judge and jury presiding over the case. Only two teams out of eight get to go to state competition.

However, this year it was decided that four teams may proceed to state.

Feb. 28's awards ceremony ended with Beaufort High School's coach Mark Davis leaping into the air in pure jubilation. He is joined by Attorney Jim Brown, who is the attorney coach for Beaufort High School. He works closely with the students to help them with courtroom procedures. He was assisted by Attorney Tom Rensberry.

Not only was Beaufort High School advancing to state competition in only its second year of participation in mock trial, (a rarity), but it had taken second place with a total score of 522 points. One team is made up of three attorneys and six witnesses.

The attorneys for Beaufort High



PHOTOS BY BOB SOFALY/GAZETTE

TOP: Andrew Cooper stands and voices his objection as he and his "legal team," Amanda Sutcliffe, left, Meghan Glenn and Jeremy Meed, far right (expert witness), listen as testimony in their mock trial was being made Tuesday morning. The team was getting ready for the mock trial competition this weekend in Lexington County.

ABOVE: Mock trial team from Beaufort High School are Jeremy Meed, front; from left, Jim Brown, attorney coach; Michelle Baxter, Bobby Bailey, Charlotte Lawrence, Andrew Cooper, Amanda Sutcliffe, Meghan Glenn, Lauren Murtagh, Chelsea Jones and Mark Davis, school coach.

BOTTOM: Lauren Murtagh gets sworn in as a witness during mock trial practice Tuesday morning in the Beaufort County Courthouse.

school are Andrew Cooper a junior, Meghan Glenn, a junior, and Amanda Sutcliffe, a senior. Three witnesses testify when Beaufort High School tries the plaintiff's case and they are Chelsea Jones, a junior, Jeremy Meed, a senior, and Charlotte Lawrence, a senior. Then three witnesses testify when Beaufort High tries the defense's case and they are Bobby Bailey, a junior, Michelle Baxter, a junior and Lauren Murtagh, a junior.

State competition is to be held in Lexington's new courthouse on today and Saturday. Today, students will face elimination rounds and if they make it, will continue to championship rounds Saturday afternoon.

Nothing but positive notes ring from

Beaufort High School's team as they meet after school to perfect their case.

"I'm very proud that we made it thus far, and extremely excited to go to state and I definitely look forward to kicking butt," Glenn said.

Sutcliffe smiles radiantly as she exclaims "To be going in our second year is definitely exceptional and I can't wait to go to state."

"Clearly Beaufort County should be proud," Cooper said.

Sixteen teams will compete at the state competition and only one will represent South Carolina in the national competition. Beaufort High is working to be that team.

Charlotte Lawrence is a first-year Gazette Teen Correspondent and a Beaufort High School senior.

