

Dos Pueblos wins county mock trial championship

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The Dos Pueblos High School varsity mock trial team won first place Saturday at the Santa Barbara County Mock Trial Championship.

The Chargers put on a dominant performance at the historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse, sweeping the final round against defending champions San Marcos High School.

One of the two schools have won the county championship every year for the past 16 years, with each side taking eight wins over that period.

Dos Pueblos will move on to the state mock trial competition in Sacramento on March 20.

"I feel incredible," said senior captain and four-year mock trial veteran Maggie Miller. "We all gave it our best, which is what we needed to give in order to win this."

Dos Pueblos' junior varsity team also gave a strong showing, advancing through the preliminary rounds before getting knocked out of the tournament by the school's varsity squad.

Local attorneys Deedra Edgar, Tyrone Maho, Joel Block, Sarah Knecht and Susan Epstein helped

prepare Dos Pueblos for Saturday's competition.

The mock trial case asked whether the fictional defendant was justified in using lethal force against a security officer to defend his friend's life.

"They're disappointed of course, but they are proud that they came together and did really good mock trial," said San Marcos coach Luke Ohrn of his team's second place finish.

"Last year we won the competition with maybe a more experienced team and Dos Pueblos was in more of a rebuilding year. This year, they had the more experienced team."

Several members of the current Dos Pueblos squad were on the roster that won the New York Empire World Championship Mock Trial tournament in October.

Mr. Ohrn said nearly half of his lineup had never competed in a mock trial before Saturday and the experience will give them confidence going into next season.

"Since we have such a young team with only 2 seniors a lot of our kids will be coming back with a year under their belt trying to get that trophy back."

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COURTESY GLENN MILLER

Dos Pueblos High School's varsity mock trial team took home first place in the Santa Barbara County Mock Trial Championship on Saturday at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse.