

Mock Trial back in court

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Guest Writer

On Feb. 25 and 26, the Wheaton College Mock Trial team participated in a national tournament sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Wheaton competed against teams from Michigan State University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, and Notre Dame. Winning the ballots against Michigan State and the University of Chicago and splitting the ballots against Illinois led the team to ninth place. The team qualified for the next level, which is called the Opening Round Championships (ORCs).

Finishing with a 5-2-1 record was satisfying for the team, especially after overcoming obstacles in preparing for the tournament including sick team members and transportation changes. The team was originally supposed to compete in Atlanta, but had to change their travel plans at the last minute due to their flights being canceled. The team didn't let anything faze them, however, as they frantically made arrangements to compete closer to home.

Mock Trial has come a long way, considering this is only their second year competing. The feat they achieved this past weekend of advancing past the Regional tournament was a long-term goal that sophomore co-captains Trenton Van Oss and McNair Nichols set for the team at the beginning of the year. Van Oss is happy with their success and states, "It's very difficult to advance, and it is only our second year. To do it this year is awesome!"

Coach Brooks Locke is also proud of



Courtesy
Trenton
Van Oss

The Mock Trial will move onto the next competition after a successful round.

their hard work and dedication to improving. Locke said, "I couldn't be more proud of the way the team has represented Wheaton. The future for Wheaton Mock Trial is certainly bright."

At the Regional tournament this weekend, Trenton Van Oss won an All-Region Attorney Award and Andrew Bayer came in one point short of getting a Best Witness Award.

The team has even more work ahead of them as they prepare for their next competition. The trials will get more complicated as the semester progresses. "AMTA will add in a completely new witness to the case, which will change everything," Van Oss explained. "This means there will be many new facts, and a new person to cross-
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examine. There is a lot to do to get ready for the next tournament.”

The Mock Trial team will next compete the weekend of March 23 to 25.

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