

February 15, 2008

RAY HIGH SCHOOL – LIFESMARTS CHAMPIONS

BISMARCK – Students and staff at Ray High School have something to celebrate this weekend; five students answered some very challenging questions to win the 2008 North Dakota LifeSmarts Championship at the annual state competition held Wednesday in Bismarck. Kindred High School took second place and Jamestown High School #2 came in third.

As state champions, the Ray High School students will compete in the national LifeSmarts competition in Minneapolis, April 12-15, 2008. The championship team members are: Daniel Johnson (Captain), LeAndra Reinholdt, Beth Ryan, Jeffrey Simpson, and Brian Viall, led by Coach Bernadette Perdue. Coach Perdue, who has brought a team to the state competition for the past five years, said "Our team is very excited to experience LifeSmarts at the national level. This program is an excellent way to keep students abreast of issues that affect their lives every day."

Eleven teams from nine North Dakota high schools qualified for the state championship, but the winter storm prevented the two teams from Medina from traveling to Bismarck for the event. The remaining teams answered questions in five subject areas - personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities, such as "What is the most common form of cancer – Lung, Skin or Colon?" (The correct answer is "skin cancer.")

The competition was fierce and the students well-matched over ten rounds before Kindred, Jamestown High #2 and Ray made it into the Championship round. Jamestown and Kindred high schools faced off in two tie-breaker rounds to decide 2nd and 3rd place. The final score was Ray – 80, Kindred – 68, and Jamestown #2 – 66.

LifeSmarts Quizmaster Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, offered congratulations to all LifeSmarts participants, saying, "There are no losers in the LifeSmarts competition. As they studied for the competition the students learned how to avoid common consumer scams and also gained a better understanding of how national economic, environmental, and security issues affect their local communities."

Coach Perdue also thanked LifeSmarts sponsors Gate City Bank and Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., for contributions help defray the team's travel expenses to Minneapolis.

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