

Mock trial team wins first place

Two Trumbull High School mock trial teams competed in the Yale High School Mock Trial Invitational in New Haven on Saturday, Oct. 30. Their participation was made possible by funding from the Trumbull Business/Education Initiative and the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation.

Both teams placed, with Trumbull Black finishing in a first-place tie with Bethel High School as the team ended with a record of 2-0 by posting wins over Westhill High School teams from Stamford. Trumbull Gold finished with a record of 1-1, posting a commanding win over Bishop Guertin High School (Nashua, N.H.) and losing to Bethel by one point.

School adviser Eric August was happy with the results. "I couldn't be more proud of these kids. They worked extremely hard and their results show their ability and commitment. I tell the kids that we use this tournament to gain some experience and work out the kinks before the state tournament, but anytime you can walk away with both teams placing, that is amazing."

Trumbull was a couple of points away from having both teams tied for first. "Bethel is a great program and we lost to them by only one point on one

of the judge's ballots. With just a few things going differently, both of our teams are hoisting first-place trophies," said August.

Julie Malota won an award for best witness as several Trumbull students were

acknowledged for their outstanding performances.

Trumbull High is getting ready for the annual state High School Mock Trial Competition sponsored by Civics First. The opening round is set to take place on Thursday, Dec. 9,

at Waterbury Superior Court from 12 to 6. August likes his teams' chances. "I would be lying if I wasn't expecting great things on the ninth," he said. "With the talent we have, we are going to be tough to beat."

The team roster is made up of the following students, all juniors: Shannon Ahearn, Jillian Barcia, Michael Barnett, Courtney Cunningham, Lucy Flucker, Ayla Hundley, Kate LaBoa, Rachel Lafitte, Tina Lapsia, Anna Larracuenta, Julie

Malota, Molly McCullough, Jillian Noto, Stephen Penney, Erica Quinones, Gabe Reyes, Rhianna Seferian, Joshua Spector, Ally Tuozzoli, Stephanie Voytek, Samantha Wesley, Abby Whitmoyer, and Stanley Zheng.