



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Mary's Academy Mock Trial White Team Advances to State Competition Held in downtown Portland on March 11-12

Portland, Ore. – **March 1, 2011** – St. Mary's Academy proudly announces its Mock Trial White Team advanced to the state competition after placing first in the Multnomah Regional Competition held on February 26. The state competition will be held at the Mark O. Hatfield federal courthouse in Portland on March 11 and 12. This is the fifth straight year a St. Mary's Academy team has advanced to the state competition.

"Our regional competition involved some very tough teams, so this is truly an accomplishment," said Alyssa Tormala, coach and coordinator of the program for the past 10 years. "I am also proud of our Blue Team who fought hard and performed extremely well. Both teams brilliantly upheld the SMA standard of high-level performance and teamwork, and I could not be more proud."

If the White Team places in the two spots after three rounds, they will compete in a fourth and final round, whose winner will advance to the national competition on May 5-7 in Phoenix, Ariz.

The team is led by Tormala and Aaron Cronan (attorney and second-year coach), as well as James Baumgartner and Doug Pahl, both attorneys and parents of White Team students.

The following students comprise the White Team and St. Mary's Academy wishes them the best of luck during their upcoming competition.

Captains: Simone Butler and Kate Baumgartner

Jordan Pahl

Dahlia Bazzaz

Analies Steensma

Therese Healey

Maddy Miller

Maddie McKerrow

Ally Emmet

Madeline Fraser

Anna McLean

Chloe Rask

Mackenzie Berkman

Amanda Stapp

The St. Mary's Academy Blue Team placed fifth in the regional competition and narrowly missed the opportunity to join the White Team at the state competition by one point.

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For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Ghassemi, APR, Director of Communications, at 503-724-8589 (cell) , 503-721-7715 (direct office) or crystal.ghassemi@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and one of 716 all-female schools in the country. The student body represents a diverse background of young women from over 30 urban, suburban, and rural communities in Oregon and southwest Washington. St. Mary's Academy is distinguished by its development of the whole person, and is the only school in the state to receive three U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools awards. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit: www.stmaryspdx.org.