

No debate over this Kearney senior's talents

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — How many times have you seen flustered award winners blurt out, "I'm at a loss for words?"

Well, that's one problem which will doubtfully ever confront Chris Regan.

It's not that the 17-year-old Regan isn't capable of capturing awards. In fact, he's been collecting them in bunches lately. But, because these plaques and trophies serve to honor Regan's debating skills, you can be sure of an eloquent acceptance speech.

Regan, a senior at Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S., has quickly proven himself as one of the country's best young debaters. The Brighton resident won a state championship last year, was part of a national team that recently placed third in a world tournament, and is now eyeing a high finish in two national competitions later this year.

Although this is only Regan's third year of organized debate competition, he's been honing his specialty for a much longer period — much to the chagrin of some former instructors.

"I caused a lot of trouble. I couldn't wait to raise my hand and point out some of the flaws of my teachers," smiled Regan, who is currently ranked 18th out of 128 in his senior class.

Ironically, Regan noted that a teacher has been one of his guiding forces. He attributes his worldliness to his mother, Suzanne, an instructor at the Seton Catholic intermediate and junior high schools, and his father, Richard, an attorney.

"Both my parents talk to me as a human being, not as a kid. And both have strong feelings about education. They don't miss an opportunity to tell



Bishop Kearney senior Chris Regan sits in the 'players' room, surrounded by the many trophies he has helped win as captain of the BK forensics team. Regan is hoping to rise from No. 1 in the state to No. 1 in the country during the National Forensic League championships this June.

Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

me something they don't think I already know," said Regan, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 150 Varinna Drive, Brighton.

Regan serves as captain of Bishop Kearney's forensics — more commonly known as debate — team. The squad has enjoyed phenomenal success in the 12 tournaments it has entered in 1992-93, capturing six first-place finishes, two seconds and three thirds.

"We're the only school in western New York with more than two wins," noted Regan. He added that Kearney usually competes against 10 to 15 schools, but sometimes the diocesan school has faced off against as many as 30 teams from around the

state.

Students are assigned various topics on which they debate and deliver speeches. A recent issue, for instance, was "the principle of majority rule versus the principle of minority rights."

Competitors must make both pro and con arguments on the issue. Using a head-to-head format, each round won by an individual is applied toward his or her team score.

Regan's expertise in these tournaments has earned him a spot in the prestigious National Forensic League championships, to be held this coming June in Indianapolis. Joining him will be three Kearney teammates: senior

Norma Holland, junior Camille Joseph and sophomore David Jones.

This quartet, along with sophomore Liz DeMatteis and juniors Mike Johnson and Brian Gallagher, has also become eligible for the Catholic Nationals in Palm Beach, Fla., on Memorial Day weekend.

Regan already has one major tournament under his belt this year. He helped the U.S. team to a third-place finish — its best showing ever — at the World Schools Championship, held two months ago in Medicine Hat, Alberta. The competition featured debaters from 15 countries.

As far as the upcoming national competition goes, Regan expects to rise from No. 1 in the state to No. 1 in the country. He placed 20th individually at last year's National Forensics League tournament.

"I'll win," he predicted with a typical debater's assertiveness. "There aren't too many people who beat me last year that haven't graduated."

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BINGO TIMES & LOCATIONS

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| <p>Bishop Kearney
125 Kings Hwy. S.
671-1065 Wed. 8pm</p> <p>Good Shepherd
3288 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-3518 Sat. 7:30pm</p> <p>Guardian Angels Church
2061 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-1412 Wed. 7:30pm</p> <p>Holy Apostles
6 Austin St. 254-7170
Tues. 7:30pm</p> <p>Holy Family Church
899 Jay Street 320-3110
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899 Jay St. 328-4800
Wed. 7:30pm</p> <p>Holy Ghost
220 Coldwater Rd.
247-3535 Fri. 8pm</p> <p>Most Precious Blood
179 Stenson St.
458-8079 Fri. 7:30pm</p> <p>Our Lady of Mercy
600 Denise Rd.
865-0775 Tue. 7:30pm</p> <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help
923 Portland Ave.
457-2725 Wed. 7:30pm</p> <p>St. Anne
1600 Mt. Hope Ave.
271-3260 Thur. 7:30pm</p> <p>St. Boniface
15 Whalin St. 271-1468
Sun. 7:45pm</p> | <p>St. Cecilia's
2732 Culver Rd.
467-4286 Fri. 8pm</p> <p>St. Charles Borromeo
64 Maiden Lane
663-3230 Mon. 8pm</p> <p>St. Francis Xavier
316 Bay St. 288-9700
Tue. 8pm</p> <p>St. James
119 Brockley Rd.
482-8796 Thur. 7:30pm</p> <p>St. Jude the Apostle
4100 Lyell Rd. 247-4322
Thurs. 7:45pm</p> <p>St. Mark's
54 Kuhn Rd. 225-3710
Fri. 8pm</p> <p>St. Mary
Lyceum Hall, Auburn
315-252-9545
Mon. 7:30pm</p> <p>St. Michael's
869 Clinton Ave. N 325-4040
Thur. 7:30 & 9pm</p> <p>St. Rita's
1008 Maple Dr. 671-1100
Sun. 7:30pm</p> <p>St. Stanislaus
1150 Hudson Ave.
467-1472 Sun. 6:15pm,
Tue. & Thur. 8pm</p> <p>St. Theodore
170 Spencerport Rd.
429-6811 Sun. 7:30pm</p> <p>St. Thomas The Apostle
41 Colebrook Dr.
342-2323 Sat. 8pm</p> |
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