

CONSOLATION STORYTELLING AT NATIONALS

Why?

A second consolation contest was needed. The large and increasing numbers entering impromptu were making the contest difficult to complete in one day. Although many popular contests could have been chosen, two criteria had to be met:

1) Since this is a consolation event, entered only after elimination in one (or two) main events and one (or two) supplemental events, the new event must require limited or no preparation. Events which required either research or writing were unsuitable. No contestant concentrating on a main event or supplemental events will have time to prepare for a consolation event.

2) The new event should have an interp bias since the current consolation event, impromptu, has a public address bias. Interp contestants will now have an interp consolation event.

3) Hence - Storytelling

What Storytelling is not:

1) It is *not* story reading. There is no script or book. NFL has a contest in Prose reading already.

2) It is *not* children's literature, although one year the theme might be children's stories. Other types of story telling occur in our society. Recall Alberto Rios storytelling at the Phoenix Nationals, the National Storytelling Festival and even the National Liar's Contest.

3) It is *not* drama. The Presentation of characters is not banned but the focus will be on communication of a narrative.

4) It is *not* original fiction made up by the contestant.

5) It is *not* Improvisation.

What Storytelling is:

1) The retelling of single narrative incident. Think of yourself telling a group of friends your favorite ghost story or golf anecdote or debate war story or Greek myth or urban legend.

2) The extempore (no notes or props) re-creation of a story one has previously read (not memorized) or heard. (i.e. Secretary Jim Copeland grew up in Michigan where his relatives told him the tales of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. Jim can still retell those tales today - 50 years later)

3) Each year there will be a central theme for storytelling.

Possible Areas:

Myths and Legends from past times.

Ghost tales around the Campfire

Urban Legends

Children's Stories, etc.

This year's Storytelling theme at the 2000 NW Rose Nationals will be Native American and Western Legends and Stories.

Preparation for Storytelling:

A student will prepare by:

- 1) Selecting a story within the theme
- 2) Reading it
- 3) Writing a brief introduction
- 4) Retelling it in 4 minutes w/o notes
- 5) Practice retelling it.

Rules:

1) A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend must be *retold* without notes or props.

2) The maximum time is 4 minutes, but the story may be briefer without penalty. Any introduction must be included within the 4 minute time limit.

3) The student may not tell a story s/he used previously in any NFL district and/or national tournament.

4) The delivery must be extempore, not read. No book or script may be used. The story may be delivered standing or seated.

5) Gestures and pantomime may be used with restraint. Characterization may be used, but the focus must be on the narrative.

6) The retelling must be true to the original tale. The contestant may *not* add original material or materially change the content of the story.

Judge Ballot:

The art of storytelling is to create a mood wherein a spoken narrative transports the audience to the time and place of the story being recounted.

A story teller is a narrator - not an actor or actress - and although gestures, pantomime, movement, and characterization are not barred, they must be used with restraint.

The focus of the presentation must be on the narrative, with the teller acting as an unobtrusive presenter and not a performer. The teller must clearly grasp and convey the meaning of the tale.

The judge should rate highly the mechanics of superior speaking: fluency, vocal variety, articulation, eye contact, gesture.

The presentation should be extempore, not read. No book or script may be used. The storyteller may speak standing or seated. No props or visual aids may be used.

"When the teller has been successful in bringing the tale to life, the telling will seem entirely natural, almost effortless"