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# District champs



Brad Staman/Gering Courier

Gering junior Mock Trial attorney Gavin Hovseth presents opening arguments Tuesday in District competition at the Scotts Bluff County Court House.

## GHS Mock Trial team wins districts

by BRAD Staman  
Gering Courier

**G**ering's John Boyd rose to his feet, stepped in front of the jury and began his closing arguments.

Boyd and his team were one of eight teams competing

in the high school Mock Trial competition held Tuesday at the Scotts Bluff County Court House. Two teams from Kimball, Scottsbluff, Chadron and Gering took part in the single elimination competition.

Gering's Blue team, made up of attorneys Boyd, Kyle

Upp and Gavin Hovseth and witnesses Holly Grote, Isabel Wolf, Jenna Longmore and Chelcey Mannel began the day going to trial at 9:30 a.m. against Chadron Team Two. They successfully argued the case for the defense.

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# CHAMPS

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Gering's Gold team, made up of attorneys Becca Brenner, Emma Leypoldt and Cara Wimberley and witnesses Nicolette Cook, Stacia Cowan, Tegan Murdock and Adrian Silva lost their case to Scottsbluff Team 1.

Gering's Blue team then argued the same case, this time for the plaintiff, against Scottsbluff Team 1. Again they convinced the jury, made up of two professional attorneys and the judge to rule in their favor.

They then took on

the Chadron Team 1 in the finals, again arguing on behalf of the defense.

"This was a choice between excellent and outstanding," Scotts Bluff County Judge James Worden said as he announced the District Championship team. "It is a split decision . . . you all did a wonderful job. The winner is Gering."

"It's exciting," Gering Mock Trial advisor Andy Stobel said. "We haven't been to state since 2010. We have a great team and their chances at state

are good this year."

"We took it one trial at a time," Gering's Kyle Upp said. "Every single one (case) was close. It was not easy."

"Our Gold team also deserves credit," he added. "Every practice they pushed us. The team we spent in practice (twice a week for 2-3 hours, everyday on their own and time with the attorney coaches at their offices) paid off."

The team will continue to practice for the state competition held Dec. 10-11 in Lincoln.



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**Gering junior Mock Trial attorney John Boyd goes through paperwork with fellow attorney Kyle Upp as they prepare for the case.**

**Gering Blue team attorney Emma Leypoldt listens to the Scottsbluff attorney.**