

### **Dynamic Duo off to nationals!**

There's no debate: Lily Ogozalek and Emily Rubera are that good.

The two Hancock Central School sophomores reached the finals in all of their categories during the Iroquois District National Qualifier for Speech and Debate, which ran Feb. 23-24 at McQuaid Jesuit in Rochester. Students from New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont participated.

Lily competed in Dramatic Interp and Duo, and Emily represented Hancock in Duo and Congressional Debate. Their Duo piece was a parody of Harry Potter titled, *"Gary Trotter and the Man We Whose Name We Cannot Say Due to Copyright Infringement,"* by Patrick Bates.

Although Lily and Emily placed third overall in Duo – missing an automatic berth to nationals – they're still going to the National Speech and Debate Association national tournament this June in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. McQuaid had multiple first-place finishes and relinquished its Duo spot to compete in the World Schools Debate category at nationals. By doing so, Lily and Emily moved up in Duo to No. 2, which also carries an automatic berth to nationals.

This marks the second straight year Lily has reached nationals. Last year, she competed in Birmingham, Alabama.

Coached by Monica Whitt, the girls also qualified to compete at the National Catholic Forensic League Tournament on Memorial Day Weekend in Washington, D.C. The two needed a top-three finish at the Leatherstocking Region District Tournament to advance to the NCFL event, which features private and public schools from across the country. Lily and Emily finished second at the district qualifier in early March at Mount Markham High School.

Congratulations to the girls for their strong finishes in a category with tough competition!