

Champions Crowned at Annual State KofC Free Throw Contest

PORTLAND — The sound of basketballs hammering backboards echoed throughout the Holy Family Catholic School gymnasium Saturday, March 16, as dozens of young athletes competed in the annual Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Contest.

Contestants had previously qualified at contests held at their local Knights of Columbus District events. Each of the local champions received a trophy.

This year's champions are: Anya Hagen, St. Pius X, Portland; Chase Nordquist, 9, St. Pius X, Portland; Gracie Lulay, 10, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Owen Mostar, 10, St. Vincent de Paul, Salem; Tatum Steinhauer, 11, St. Pius X, Portland; Ryder Niggli, 11, St. Patrick's, Canby; Frankie Koehnke, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Francis Persons, 12, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Hailey Bohnke, 13, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Lucas Ruginis, 13, St. Pius X, Portland; Olivia Adams, 14, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Eli Carter, St. Francis, Sherwood.

The contest was under the direction of State Youth Activities Director George Murphy of Portland.

"We were very pleased with the excellent turn-out," Murphy said. "With four baskets in play, the day went very smoothly and quickly. Statistics have been sent to Supreme."

Murphy was assisted by numerous members of Holy Family Council 16889 and other councils, as well as State Warden Dave Judy.

Special guest volunteer was Rev. Father Rodel deMesa, pastor of Holy Family church. A basketball fan, Father de Mesa encouraged the youngsters to be consistent and practice their basketball skills, just as they should be consistent and practice living and studying their religion.

In spite of have a heavily booked schedule, State Deputy Ken Anderson helped pass out trophies and pose for a photo with each of the winners. Trophies were awarded to the top boy and girl shooters in each age class from 9 through 14.

Anderson encouraged the young athletes to become the best they can be, which is the theme for the Oregon Knights of Columbus this year.

Two boys sank 23 of 25 attempts.

All of the winning tallies will be sent on to the national contest.

The Knights of Columbus have sponsored the local, state and national free throw contests since 1952.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal organization founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Today, there are more than two million Knights worldwide and almost 10,000 Knights in Oregon. All told, they belong to more than 16,000 councils.

For more information, please contact George Murphy at 503-703-7671.



Oregon Knights of Columbus state free throw contest winners. Row 1, left to right: Chase Nordquist, 9, St. Pius X, Portland; Gracie Lulay, 10, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Owen Mostar, 10, St. Vincent de Paul, Salem; Tatum Steinhauer, 11, St. Pius X, Portland; Ryder Niggli, 11, St. Patrick's, Canby; Frankie Koehnke, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Francis Persons, 12, Regis St. Mary, Stayton. Row two: Knights of Columbus Youth Activities Chairman George Murphy, Hailey Bohnke, 13, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Lucas Ruginis, 13, St. Pius X, Portland; Olivia Adams, 14, Regis St. Mary, Stayton; Eli Canter, St. Francis, Sherwood; K of C State Deputy Ken Anderson.





