

Report from New Orleans on the North American Pairs Competition

'C' teams do District 14 proud.

Eight pairs total went to the Nationals in New Orleans to compete in the North American Pairs Finals. In the 'A' flight, Peg Waller and Ron DeHarpporte from Unit 178 competed, along with Mike Flader, also Unit 178 and his partner Karen Lee Barrett, from South Dakota Unit 162. Facing stern tests from some of the best pairs in the country, both had a respectable showing on Day 1, but were unable to make it to Day 2.

Flight 'B' was represented by Melissa Heston and Barbara Wood from Unit 163 in Iowa, and by Mary Wescott and Keith Thompson, a Twin Cities pair from Units 178 and 103. Wescott and Thompson were one board away from making the qualifying cut, but neither set of pairs got into Day 2.

Flight 'C' showed the promise of a bright future for District 14. Of the four pairs playing for our District, three pairs qualified for the second day. Rolf Hoyer and Susan Hamel from Hawkeye Unit 216 not only got through to Day 2, they finished eighth overall, the highest showing for a District 14 pair. Congratulations to both. We will look forward to future appearances from this pair on the national stage.

Two sets of pairs from Unit 103, Cathy and Paul Wehrman, and Joe Fahey and Gerry Keith, also made it into the second day. These three pairs finished in the top ten of the thirty-six pairs that qualified for Day 2. Also with a respectable showing, but unlucky at the cut was the South Dakota pair from Unit 162, John Scheafer and Karen Hansen.

A big thank you to all our representatives that went to New Orleans to compete for District 14. We all look forward to seeing your names and pictures in future Bridge Bulletins. They gave their best against the best in the country. Everyone in District 14 can feel pride for our players at all levels. As they say in sports, wait until next year!

Keith Thompson

Reporting from the New Orleans NABC

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