

# 'Drag In' Places 2nd In State

Drawing those topics and preparing those speeches is what extemporaneous speaking is all about, according to Ohio's number two girl extemporaneous speaker, Colleen McMahon.

"I began speaking when Paula Lazar dragged me into it last year," said junior Colleen. "She told me I was going to extemp the next Saturday . . . and I came in second!" Colleen then went on to speak in the state competitions at OSU after placing first in the district finals for the girls' extemporaneous speaking last year.

This year Colleen has won the

honor of being Arlington's number one extemp speaker, placing first in almost every local meet she has thus far attended. These meets include Whetstone with ratings of 2-2-1; Northland, 1-1-1; Hartley, 1-1-1; and UAHS, 1-1-2. She has tied once. At UAHS Colleen shared first place with two other Arlington speakers, Fred Grant and Tim Lipetz.

An entire extemporaneous round consists of three separate speeches. "Before the first and second speeches we draw three potential topics. We then choose one and are given thirty minutes to prepare it," explained Colleen. "The third speech can be either one of those two previous speeches . . . probably the one you liked the better."

"I prefer to speak on economic issues because they're relatively clear-cut and easy to find information on," commented the young red-head. "The topics are taken from copies of **Time**, **Newsweek**, and **US News and World Report**. From these topics we must give informative, not necessarily opinionated speeches."

Last year in the first week of November, Colleen judged one round of six extemp speakers at the novice tournament. This tournament is designed to help those students speaking for the first time.



The ability to talk is what makes for a good extemporaneous speaker, and Colleen McMahon certainly seems to have that ability. She has placed first in all but one of the local meets she has attended so far.