

Challenge Program orientation assembly at Shade



Photo by Kayla Pongrac

Jeremy Nicholas, Brittany Lusczek, Dan Mack, Katie Dneaster, Mark Koleszarik and Whitney Kline participate in a game during The Challenge Program orientation assembly as Kathy Holtzman looks on.

By **KAYLA PONGRAC**
Daily American Correspondent

The Challenge Program Inc. (TCP) has entered its fourth year at Shade-Central City High School District.

An orientation assembly for sophomores, juniors and seniors was held Oct. 15. Hank Parke of PBS Coals and Kathy Holtzman gave the presentation.

TCP is a nonprofit organization that awards high school students with \$250 cash incentives. Students have the opportunity to win awards in four categories: Most Improved, Best Attendance, Most Community Service and Highest

GPA. Only four students from each grade win, but all students are eligible for the awards.

PBS Coals and Boswell Prescription Center are the business ambassadors for the school. Business ambassadors fund the program by donating \$3,000 to each school.

Parke spoke about the rewarding aspects of the coal industry during the assembly. He distributed PBS/Rox Coals hats and encouraged students to consider jobs in coal mining.

After the assembly, Parke expressed his appreciation to the students and TCP.

"It was good to be back at Shade. I really think that the

kids understand the program and how it relates to the world of work," he said. "TCP can very well turn around a few lives because everybody has a chance to win."

Kathy Holtzman added, "I believe today's assembly shows how important a business ambassador is in the school. The fact that Hank was here showed that people can make a good living right here in Somerset County."

Students at Shade have begun to work toward winning The Challenge Program awards. The \$250 checks will be distributed at the school's award ceremony at the end of the year.