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**(Neb.)-Preliminary Competitions Come To End In Las Vegas**



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 01/11/2013 01:25 AM

(Las Vegas)-The final night of preliminary competitions for the 2013 Miss America pageant at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, Nevada took place Thursday evening with a packed crowd and many former Miss America title holders in attendance. Chadron's Mariah Cook, Miss Nebraska 2012, participated in the talent portion of the competition for her final performance prior to the Saturday night pageant.

Cook performed a piano number entitled "Madagauña." Aside from this segment, she appeared only in the opening and closing numbers of the program. During the introductory statements, Cook told the audience she was from Nebraska where beef is what's for dinner. In a strange turn of events, Miss Puerto Rico entered stage area on crutches and what appeared to be a sprained ankle. She jokingly said when someone told her to break a leg, she took them seriously. Winning the talent portion for the evening was Miss North Dakota, and for swimwear, the winner was Miss Washington.

On Friday, the girls will have another rehearsal, but will be able to get to bed early Friday evening as there are no events scheduled that night. The competition on Saturday will take place at 5 pm pacific time, but broadcast times may vary.

(Questions? Comments? Email [news@chadrad.com](mailto:news@chadrad.com))

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