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J.W. Patterson Debates hosted by the University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY – The University of Kentucky hosted the J.W. Patterson Debates on the weekend of September 30-October 2, 2023. The tournament was attended by 131 teams across Novice, Wildcat, and Open.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about nuclear weapons in 6 preliminary debates. The full wording of the topic is “Resolved: The United States should restrict its nuclear forces in one or more of the following ways: adopting a nuclear no-first-use policy; eliminating one or more of the legs of its nuclear triad; disarming its nuclear forces.”

Students participating at the tournament debate half of their preliminary debates in favor of the resolution and half of their preliminary debates in opposition to the resolution.

At the conclusion of the preliminary debates, the tournament seeded teams in all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates are single-elimination for the top 32 teams in Open, 11 teams in Wildcat, and 4 teams in Novice.

The Novice division features students who are in their first year of competitive debate. The Wildcat division showcases students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate.

In the Novice division semifinals, teams from Emory University and the University of Oklahoma advanced over teams from Indiana University and George Mason University. In the final round, the Emory University team of Dantrell Cheng and Emma Chen defeated the University of Oklahoma team of Liane Johnson and Bailey Breen.

In the Wildcat division, teams from the University of Minnesota, Wake Forest University, and Missouri State University defeated teams from George Mason University, Liberty University, and a hybrid team from the University of Indiana and James Madison University in the runoff debates to reach the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Emory University, George Mason University, Samford University, and Liberty University bested teams from George Mason University, the University of Minnesota, and Wayne State University.

Liberty University and Samford University advanced through the semifinals by beating teams from Emory University and George Mason University. In the finals, Kaleb Horne and Alyssa

Shuttlesworth from Liberty University defeated Sarah Chew and Laurel Pack from Samford University.

In the open division, teams from Emory University, Wake Forest University, the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, the University of Kansas, Emory University, the University of Michigan, Dartmouth College, and a hybrid team from Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania were double octafinalists.

Teams from Northwestern University, George Mason University, the University of Iowa, the University of Kentucky, Wichita State University, Emory University, Dartmouth College, and Michigan State University reached the top 16.

Teams from Harvard University, the University of Michigan, the University of Wyoming, and Emory University ended the tournament as quarterfinalists. Teams from the University of Kentucky and the University of Kansas were bested by teams from Georgetown University and the California State University Long Beach in the semifinals.

Jay-Z Flores and Curtis Ortega from CSU Long Beach defeated Kieran Lawless and Zidao Wang from Georgetown University in the final round.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Open division, Chanden Climaco from Harvard University was named top speaker. Kathleen Silkes from Indiana University was the top speaker in the Novice division and Megan Rodak from George Mason University in the Wildcat division.

The J.W. Patterson Debates is the second ADA tournament of the new season. The next ADA tournament will be hosted by the University of Mary Washington.

About the American Debate Association

The American Debate Association began in 1985 as an intercollegiate debate association. It uses the resolution selected by the Cross Examination Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. Currently they have 44 member schools. The ADA's mission is increasing participation, maintaining a balance between education and competition, and ensuring an equitable and fair activity for all programs, regardless of their size or experience.

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