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Mukai Debate Tournament Hosted by Weber State University

Ogden, UT – Weber State University hosted the Mukai Debate Tournament on the weekend of October 13-15, 2023. The tournament was attended by 27 teams across Novice, Junior Varsity, and Open.

The Novice division features students who are in their first year of competitive debate. The Junior Varsity division showcases students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate beyond the novice level.

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 8 teams in Open, 3 teams in Junior Varsity, and 2 teams in Novice.

In the Novice division finals, Emory University’s Dantrell Cheng and Emma Chen defeated the US Naval Academy’s Nathan Schmidt and Griffin Satterfield.

In the Junior Varsity division, a team from Samford University defeated a team from the University of Georgia in the partial semifinals to debate a team from Baylor University in the finals. In the final round, Baylor University’s Anastasia Keeler and Kyla Pertuit defeated Samford University’s Madison Hackett and Mary Hammond to win the Junior Varsity division.

In the Open division quarterfinals, teams from Wake Forest University, Emory University, Macalester College, and the University of Wyoming bested teams from the US Naval Academy, the University of Kentucky, and Gonzaga University.

In the semifinals, a team from Wake Forest University defeated a team from the University of Wyoming and a team from Emory University defeated a team from Macalester College.

Emory's Kristopher Wallen and Donald Pierce bested Wake Forest University's Dimarvin Puerto and Sebastian Cho to win the Open division.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Novice division, Emma Chen from Emory University was named top speaker. Anastasia Keeler from Baylor University was named top speaker in the Junior Varsity division and Dimarvin Puerto from Wake Forest University was named top speaker in the Open division.

The next American Debate Association tournament will be held online by Wayne State University later in October.

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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