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George Ziegelmüller Invitational Hosted by Wayne State University

Detroit, MI – Wayne State University hosted the George Ziegelmüller Invitational (“The Ziggy”) on the weekend of October 20-22, 2023. The tournament was attended by 28 entries between Junior Varsity and Open.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about nuclear weapons in six 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 both divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates were single-elimination for the top 12 teams in Open, and 3 teams in Junior Varsity.

In the Junior Varsity partial semis, a team from Indiana University defeated a team from Missouri State University to reach the final round against a team from Missouri Valley College. Indiana University’s Zane Kierzyk and Zander Fish won the debate and were crowned the champions of the Junior Varsity division. Missouri Valley College’s Sha Wilson and Sage Carter were runners-up in the Junior Varsity division.

The Junior Varsity division showcases students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate beyond the novice level.

In the Open division partial octofinals, teams from Northwestern University, University of West Georgia, and the University of Iowa bested teams from the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, Emory University, and Michigan State University to join teams that received octofinals byes through to the quarters.

In quarters, teams from Samford University, Wayne State University, Gonzaga University and Northwestern University advanced over teams from Northwestern University, the University of

Iowa, and the University of West Georgia. Samford University defeated Northwestern University and Gonzaga University defeated Wayne State University in the semifinals.

In the final round, Samford University's Joey Tarnowski and TJ Riggs defeated Gonzaga University's Avalyn Renee and Nicholas Dawson to win the Open division.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Junior Varsity division, Addie Kimmerle from Missouri State University was named top speaker. TJ Riggs from Samford University was named top speaker in the Open division.

The Wayne State University tournament is the last American Debate Association tournament of the fall semester before the ADA Fall Championships in November.

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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