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Indiana University Hosts Hoosier Invitational Tournament

Bloomington, IN – The second American Debate Association (ADA) tournament of 2024 was hosted by Indiana University January 20-22, 2024. The Hoosier Invitational Tournament was attended by 57 entries across Novice, Junior Varsity (JV), and Open divisions.

The Novice division features students who are in their first year of competitive debate. The JV 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 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 JV and Open based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates were single elimination for the top three teams in Junior Varsity and 23 teams in Open.

In the Junior Varsity partial semifinal, a team from Samford University bested a team from Missouri State University to set up two teams from Samford University, Madison Hackett, Mary Hammond, Sarah Chew and Laurel Pack, as co-champions.

In the Open division, teams from Oklahoma University, the University of Kentucky, Wyoming University, the University of Kansas, the University of Texas – Dallas, and Samford University advanced in partial double-octafinals over teams from the University of Kansas, Gonzaga University, Northwestern University, the University of Texas – Dallas, the University of Georgia, and Kentucky University.

In octafinals, teams from Baylor University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Texas – Dallas, Northwestern University, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, and Macalester College bested teams from Samford University, the University of Kansas, the

University of Wyoming, the University of Kentucky, Oklahoma University, and Gonzaga University to advance to the quarterfinals.

Teams from Northwestern University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Michigan defeated teams from Baylor University, Macalester College, University of Texas – Dallas, and the University of Iowa in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinals, a team from the University of Kentucky defeated a team from the University of Michigan and one team from Northwestern University advanced over another team from Northwestern University to set up a final round of Northwestern University debating the University of Kentucky.

Lauren McBlain and Jared Adam from the University of Kentucky were named champions of the Open division after their win in the final round.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. Sarah Chew of Samford University was named top speaker in Junior Varsity and Akash Deo from Northwestern University was top speaker in the Open division.

The University of Indiana, Purdue University, and Johnson County Community College were represented in the novice division. Amir Khatib and Kathleen Silkes from Indiana University won all their debates and Kathleen Silkes was named top speaker in Novice.

The next ADA-sanctioned tournament will be hosted by the University of Minnesota January 26-28, 2024.

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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