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United States Naval Academy Hosts Crowe-Warken Debates

Annapolis, MD – The first American Debate Association (ADA) tournament of 2024 was hosted by the United States Naval Academy January 13-15, 2024. The Crowe-Warken Debates were attended by 49 entries between Novice, 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 all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates were single elimination for the top nine teams in Novice, five teams in Junior Varsity, and twelve teams in 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.

In the Junior Varsity partial quarterfinals, teams from George Mason University and James Madison University advanced without debating. A team from the United State Military Academy defeated a team from George Mason University. In the semifinals, teams from George Mason University and James Madison University bested teams from the United State Military Academy and George Mason University respectively.

Berkley Smith and Maggie Matzen from James Madison University came out on top in the final round against George Mason University and were named Junior Varsity tournament champions.

In Novice, there was a partial octafinals where a team from Liberty University defeated a team from George Mason University. In the quarterfinals, teams from the United State Military Academy, Liberty University, the United States Naval Academy, and Cornell University advanced over teams from Liberty University, Indiana University, and Cornell University.

That set up a semifinal where a team from the United States Naval Academy and a team from Liberty University advanced over the teams from the United States Military Academy and Cornell University.

In the championship round of the tournament, Jake Lawrence and Griffin Satterfield from the United States Naval Academy came out on top of a team from Liberty University.

In the Open division, teams from Emory University, the University of Texas – Dallas, and Trinity University advanced to the quarterfinals over teams from George Mason University, Emory University, the University of Minnesota, and James Madison University in the partial octafinals.

In the quarterfinals, teams from the University of Minnesota, Emory University, and Dartmouth College bested teams from Emory University, Trinity University, the University of Texas – Dallas, and Wake Forest University to reach the semifinals. Emory University defeated Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota defeated Emory University in the semifinals.

Kristopher Wallen and Donald Pierce from Emory were named tournament champions in the Open division after beating a team from the University of Minnesota in the final round.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Novice division, Kalani Wineman from Liberty University was named top speaker. Maggie Matzen Ella Ford of James Madison University was named top speaker in Junior Varsity and Kristopher Wallen was top speaker in the Open division.

The next ADA-sanctioned tournament will be the Hoosier Invitational hosted by Indiana University later in January.

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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