

No debate about it: Long hours and hard work pay off in victories and friendships

By Kelly Noyes
Staff Writer

Within the walls of the student union at Miami University in Ohio, four UNC students and three coaches worked frantically for 12 to 14 hours a day for a whole weekend.

"Imagine an enormous ballroom where the whole room has been set up with work tables," said Cori Dauber, UNC assistant professor of speech com-

munication. "The atmosphere on the perimeter was tense, very focused. Those people were there to do a job, and they were not there to play."

The task at hand was research and preparation in between the debates at the National Debate Tournament held in early April. The students were four members of the UNC Debate team: the top two-person team, Tom Goldstein and Joy Rhyne, and the second team of Phillip Wertz and Josh Lanning.

Based on their season record, Goldstein, a political science major from Columbia, S.C., and Rhyne, a political science and speech major from Hickory, were invited to the tournament as one of the top 16 teams in the country. Dauber, their head coach, and two assistant coaches, Lisa Hobbs and Heidi Hamilton, accompanied them.

The four-day tournament began with eight preliminary debates from each of the nearly 70 teams. Each team that earned a record of 5-3 entered the sudden-death elimination bracket, which started with 32 teams and ended with a tournament champion.

Seniors Goldstein and Rhyne finished their debate career with a 6-2 record in the preliminary debates, a 5-0 victory over Stanford University in the round of 32 teams and, finally, a loss to

Michigan University. "I can kind of equate this with how Hubert Davis must have felt when he played his last game in the NCAA, because it is sort of the same kind of thing," Rhyne said. "I've spent the last seven years of my life preparing, and this is the last time I'll ever debate."

Goldstein said: "We spend so much time (debating), it's hard to imagine what life will be like without it because so much outside work is involved."

Debaters began the nearly daily research in July after the topic was announced. This year's topic centered around U.S. Supreme Court decisions that recognized that a constitutional right to privacy should be overruled.

Debate topics ranged from abortion and pornography to search and seizure. Goldstein said an estimated ratio of the time spent researching the cases versus the time spent debating was 15 to 1.

"In the debates at the national championship, it is fair to say that nearly every single thing that has been written about the subject will have been read by the debaters," he said.

Wertz, a sophomore political science and English major from Charlotte, and

Lanning, a freshman from Charlotte, reached the national championship by placing fifth in the Southeastern Regional qualifying tournament.

"Phil and Josh are so young that it was really an extraordinary victory for them to have qualified," Dauber said. "They were there for a different purpose. They were there to go through the process of being in the national tournament, to get the experience and to get the national exposure."

Dauber said she tried to expose the rest of the 12-member team to tough tournaments throughout the year as training. Although they were unable to attend the national debate, the other teammates continued researching to support the four competing members.

Goldstein and Rhyne had to close the doors on the world of debate after the National Debate Tournament.

"I've met some of the best friends that I have known through the activity from different schools," Rhyne said. "You get to know a lot of people and get really close to them."

Goldstein said: "Even if a very diverse group of people enter the activity as freshmen, by the time you get to be a senior, and you are on your way out of it, it has really had an effect on your personality. People start to think more and more alike."

This friendship even extended to the national tournament. Dauber described the scene: "As soon as they got back from one debate, they sat down, and they immediately began working for the next debate. There was tension, yes, and there was competitiveness, yes, but there was a real sense of camaraderie."



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Campus Calendar

THURSDAY
 9 a.m. Yackety Yack is taking yearbook portraits in 213 Union. Come there to schedule an appointment.
 10 a.m. Sorority Rush 1992 Registration will be in the Pit until 2 p.m.
 4 p.m. Black Ink will have an interest meeting in 206 Union for potential staff members for next year.
 5:30 p.m. Amnesty International Student Action Group will have an urgent-action letter-writing meeting in Lenoir Dining Hall.
 8 p.m. La Casa Espanola: Una presentacion sobre la influencia afroamericana en latinoamerica. En el segundo piso de Carmichael.

Correction

In the April 15 Computech insert stories, "Business fraternity shows off latest in computer fashion" and "Tomorrow's technology displayed at Computech," the group sponsoring the exposition was incorrectly identified. The correct name of the group is Alpha Kappa Psi.

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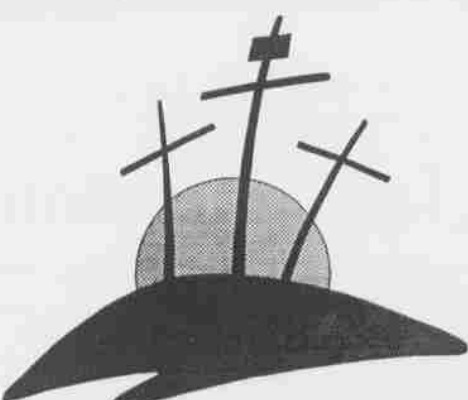


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