



For Immediate Release

So Very, Very Close

UCSD's Speech & Debate Team Misses "Running the Table" by Six Points

Still, Team Wins *First Place Sweepstakes Award* for Novices' Performance

On December 1-3, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team participated in its final tournament of the Fall Quarter--the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association's (PSCFA) *Fall Championships* Tournament, held on the campus of Mt. San Antonio College, in Walnut, California.

The *Fall Champs* Tournament is the finale of southern California major speech and debate tournaments of the Fall Quarter of the 2023-24 season. This was the *largest tournament* of the Quarter, featuring 39 schools, 350 debate entries, and over 600 speech competitors. The tournament offers three debate formats and 12 speech events in up to four division competition levels, invites schools from around the country, and offers **two** Sweepstakes Tournament Championship Awards for which UCSD was eligible to win.

Prior to this tournament, UCSD's Speech & Debate Team had won **all** the major tournaments in southern California during the Quarter. Had UCSD won this tournament, the Team would have set another, unprecedented record of "running the table" during a Quarter. Unfortunately, this goal was not achieved.

The UCSD Speech and Debate Team did win the **Novice Division First Place Sweepstakes Award**, surpassing second place University of Utah. UCSD then won the **Second Place Four Year Schools Sweepstakes Award**, besting its arch rival, Point Loma Nazarene University, which, with 60 points, placed third in the tourney. UCSD fell to the first place award winner, the University of Utah, by a score of 101-95.

The Team's effort began Friday via NPDA (two vs. two) debate. UCSD struggled, as only two of its 10 NPDA teams reached the elimination rounds. In the Novice Division, Irina Shemonaeva and Elani Moss won the **Third Place Bronze Award**, while in the Open (Senior) Division, Khushi Kumar and David Cordier also achieved the **Third Place Bronze Award**. Srujam Dave won the **Third Place Speaker Award** in the Junior Division. David Cordier rose to **Fifth Place** and Carter Castillo earned **Seventh Place Speaker Awards** in the Open Division.

Saturday was a different story, as UCSD won big in all three divisions of the Team's strongest debate format-IPDA (one vs. one) debate. Of the 17 Team Members reaching the elimination rounds, 11 proceeded to the Finals. The results are listed in the following table.

Division	Team Member	Award
Novice	Lillian Theis	Gold (1 st)
Novice	Parsa Kazerani	Gold
Novice	Elani Moss	Silver (2 nd)
Novice	Karam Sodhi	Silver



For Immediate Release

Novice	Irina Shemonaeva	Bronze (3 rd)
Novice	Keira McIlvenna-Davis	Bronze
Novice	Sariah Markes	Bronze
Junior	Kyle Matsuno	Gold
Junior	Darief Maes	Gold
Junior	Srujam Dave	Silver
Junior	Dasha Okolyшева	Bronze
Junior	Nika Radgoudarzi	Bronze
Open	Carter Castillo	Gold
Open	Lucas Howard-Ron	Gold
Open	Kellen Foster	Silver
Open	Kiran Kumar	Silver
Open	Eugene Kong	Bronze

The tournament concluded Sunday with the Speech competitions. Once again, UCSD struggled in a field in which the Team usually shines. Only 10 of the 34 Speech Team Members reached an elimination round.

In the Open Division of Extemporaneous Speech, Chaturika Bandara, David Cordier, Jared Hoffart, and Dayyan Rizvi reached the **Semi-Finals**. In Open Impromptu, Odessa Castillo and David Cordier were **Finalists**.

In the Novice Division of Extemporaneous Speech, Lillian Theis, Srujam Dave, Darief Maes, and Kyle Matsuno were Finalists. In Novice Impromptu, Sariah Markes rose to **First Place Gold**, while Elani Moss captured **Third Place Bronze**.

Head Coach, Robert Campbell wrapped up the three days--along with the Fall Quarter's effort--by observing, "This huge tournament, comprised of the top schools and competitors in the southwestern U.S., presented our team its biggest challenge in its young, five-year history. While focusing upon, and defeating, the perennial favorite, Point Loma Nazarene University, we never imagined the University of Utah would arrive with such a large, strong team. Congratulations to the Utes; their deeper array of speech competitors carried them to the tournament championship. We thought we had enough "firepower" at the tournament to defeat them; our strategic mistake will not be repeated at future tourneys.

And I do want to mention that the Fall Champs Tourney was not the only tournament we attended the first weekend of December. On Friday, one of our British Parliamentary (BP) Teams, comprised of Joey Wang and Arif Ruslan, competed in the tournament hosted virtually by Seattle University. Although not quite reaching the elimination rounds, this UCSD BP team defeated two teams from Stanford, two teams from the University of Vermont, and a team from Tufts.

Overall, Fall Quarter 2023 has witnessed the most success of any prior UCSD Team as we won four of the five major tournaments and falling just shy of winning the final fifth one. In six short years, UCSD Speech and Debate has grown to its stature of "Regional Powerhouse"—a reputation of which we all can be very proud."