

DWP NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENICE RETAINS TITLE IN NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

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Venice High School today captured first place for the second year in a row in the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., marking the first time that one regional area has won the national championship three consecutive times.

Van Nuys High School won the title in 1995. The Venice team also matched Lubbock High School from Texas in winning the title twice. Lubbock won the title in 1991 and 1992.

"We are extremely proud of the Venice team, an outstanding group of young scholars, who represent the finest qualities in our city's young people," said Walter Zeisl, supervisor of educational services for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power which sponsors the regional DWP Science Bowl.

"The team demonstrated unbelievable knowledge and understanding of extremely challenging science and technology concepts," he said.

The five member Venice team of David Dickinson, Noah Bray-Ali, Ryan Young, Adam Farrell, Mathew Nickens and teacher coach Richard Erdman won the grand prize, an all-expense paid, two-week science trip to Australia this summer to study at the

(more)

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2—Science Bowl

International School of Physics at the University of Sydney.

Second place was Wootton High School, Rockville, Maryland; third place was Blake School, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and fourth place was Gateway Senior High School, Monroeville, Pennsylvania.

The Venice High School team qualified for the national competition by winning the DWP Science Bowl regional competition in February. In Los Angeles, 42 teams from 26 public, private and parochial high schools in the city participated. A total of 45 regional championship teams from 32 states competed in the two-day national tournament, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Patterned after the old GE College Bowl television program, the National Science Bowl involves two teams of four students (each team also has an alternate) answering questions provided by a moderator in rapid-fire succession.

Subject cover physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, computer programming, new developments in technology fields, and earth, physical and space science.

This year, more than 6,000 students in 32 states from 1,600 high schools participated in the seventh National Science Bowl.

DWP is the only utility in the nation that serves as a coordinating regional sponsor. Other DWP Science Bowl sponsors include Hitachi, Boeing North American, Kaiser-Permanente, NBC 4, Water and Power Federal Credit Union, Sodexo Management Services, Future Scientists and Engineers of America and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

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1) Success, Authority,
Good Fortune

Book Fortune

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s, General Science, Math. No 78

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Arcadia redux - This time the entire match was nip and tuck with each team surging for one or two questions then falling back. The match came down to a final question which we needed both the toss up and bonus to win after time expired. We got both correct and won by 4 pts - 128-124

Ft. Collins HS (CO)- had just knocked off Lowell High School to eliminate them. This contest was similar to the Arcadia match except that it came down to the last question which they won the right to answer but which they failed to get the bonus thus we won by 8 pts. (110-102)

Gateway HS (Monroeville PA) 100-92

Blake School- this time in the big auditorium before everyone. (172-70)

Wooten- the winners bracket participant in the finals - Venice win by 10 (88-78) points including a 10 minute delay due to the challenge of an astronomy question by David since he had missed the same question in the scrimmage and had researched it to death. We lost the challenge but won the match

Wooten- Venice dominates and wins 138-80 to take the championship

Prizes - Trip to Australia to International Physics School July 6-17

TI 92 Calculators

Trophy and banner

Final summary : Venice 16 Opponents 1

Venice High No. 1 again!

School wins second science title

Unbelievable! Fantastic! And just plain Wow! What else can you say about the five Venice High School students who Monday successfully defended their National Science Bowl championship in Washington, D.C.?

For anyone who thinks today's students — make that *Los Angeles public school* students — don't have the smarts, work ethic or fortitude to succeed against the best of this nation's secondary schools, then look no further than Venice High.

This year's team of seniors Ryan Young, Noah Bray-Ali, David Dickinson and Matt Nickens, and junior Adam Ferrell, beat out the best science students from 45 teams from 33 states to win its second national title in a row.

It is truly an amazing feat.

As coach Richard Erdman said shortly before the team left for Washington: "It's really hard to repeat something like this."

Venice High School has been turning out some of the top science students for several years now. They have won the Los Angeles science title four of the past five years.

Last year, the team went undefeated on its way to the national title. This year, they actually lost a round, to Arcadia High School, but rebounded to win the next two sessions in the double-elimination tournament.

In Monday's final round, Venice twice defeated the previously unbeaten Wootton High School from nearby Rockville, Md., to claim the trophy.

To win this prestigious tournament is a considerable accomplishment. But to win it two years in a row is, well — we don't mean to resort to an athletic analogy, here, but we can't help it — like winning the NBA championship two years in a row. Only the very best can accomplish the feat.

We hesitate to use that analogy, of course, because for too long it has been the athletic teams that receive all of the accolades and the recognition. Now, finally, we have a group of youngsters honored for their brains, not their brawn.

One can only hope that our community and nation will finally give equal — if not more — recognition to those youngsters who study hard and do well in intellectual pursuits. After all, their future, and the future of our nation, depend on their abilities much more than the athlete who can hit a 15-foot jump shot.

We like what U.S. Energy Secretary Federico Pena told the students before the start of the tournament.

"You are our nation's best and brightest," he said. "I hope you appreciate what that means. I do and President Clinton does."

And so do all of us in this community.

Congratulations, Venice High science team. Well done.

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