

University's College Bowl team wins big in regional competition

By Dolby Morgan
Emerald Contributor

With an overwhelming win in the Northwest regional tournament, the University's College Bowl team earned the right to compete for the national title in April.

The University secured the national berth by going undefeated in the regional tournament held at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho last Friday and Saturday.

College Bowl is a quick-recall knowledge game played between two four-member teams. The competing teams score points by answering difficult science, literature, history and general knowledge questions.

Q: These are to mathematicians what recipes are to chefs.

Q: Name the French fortress city that held back the German army in World War I.

The University's team included team captain Chris Matz, a political science senior; Tom Grimes, an undecided sophomore; Thomas Prowell, a journalism senior; and Matt Uhre, an English senior.

Twelve teams, from the University, College of Idaho, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, Linfield College, Montana State University, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, University of Idaho, University of Puget Sound, University of Washington and Whitman College, competed in the weekend tournament.

The University team went undefeated throughout the tournament, and for the most part unchallenged as well.

"I was a little surprised by the competition," Matz said. "Without sounding boastful, they were a little less than I expected."

"The way they (tournament participants) talked up U-Dub (University of Washington), we were going in expecting to get our butts kicked," he said.

On Friday, the team played teams from Lewis-Clark State College and Whitman College in exhibition matches. Oregon won both handily.

On Saturday, the tournament proper began. First, Oregon edged Idaho State 120-90 in a close morning game. "We were kind of sluggish there," Prowell said. "I think we were still asleep."

In the next round, Oregon demolished Linfield 195-35. That victory earned the team a bye for the quarter-finals, and team members said they went bowling to wind down.

Oregon met University of Puget Sound for the semi-finals and got off to a slow start. At halftime, UPS led 55-10.

But it was all Oregon in the second half; the team didn't let UPS answer a single question. The Ducks correctly identified *algorithms* as being to mathematicians what recipes are to chefs and *Verdun* as the French fortress city that held back the German army in World War I to rock UPS 170-45 at game's end.

That earned the team another round of byes while the losers settled among themselves to determine who would challenge Oregon in the finals. UPS beat Linfield to earn the opportunity again in the double-elimination tournament.

Oregon thoroughly dominated the rematch, beating UPS 200-100.

The national College Bowl championship will be held April 27-29 this year at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Oregon will send its team — if it can get the money.

Prior to this year's match, no Oregon team had finished higher than fourth in the regional tournament. The surprising finish of this year's team has led to a funding problem because not enough money remains in the EMU Rec Center's budget to send the whole team.

Sue Pedersen, Rec Center manager, said it would cost about \$3,000 to send the team. The center will pay for about half that; Pedersen is soliciting funds from student and off-campus organizations such as Craft Center, Panhellenic Council, Cultural Forum and Amusement Unlimited to get the rest.

Pedersen said the response has been "very positive. If they (organizations) can find the money in their budgets, they're more than likely to support the program."

Pedersen said the team will also meet with University President Myles Brand Thursday.

Until then, the team will prepare for the finals. Matz said he was surprised the other teams at the regionals took the competitions so seriously. Many teams had coaches, advisers

and study manuals.

Matz said the University team had done nothing to prepare for the regionals.

"Part of the key to our success is our relaxed attitude," Matz said. "I don't think any of the other teams went bowling during the tournament."

"College Bowl doesn't really take a 'steel-trap' mind," Prowell said. "It takes more of a 'lint-trap' mind. It helps if you have the sort of mind that just picks up useless bits of junk and trivia."

Oregon's team members were drawn from the top three teams to finish in the campus tournament last month. Matz and Uhre were from the first-place team, With the Underhills. Prowell was from the second-place Merciless Ice Weasels, and Grimes was from the third-place Truckin' for Jesus II.

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