

Debaters continue
to win national
awards and
recognition

Top team

Although possibly not known by the entire student body, one of the university's teams consistently ranks in the top ten each year. Its members might not be athletes, but they bring national attention to this school each year. It is the debate team.

"It was an excellent place to debate," Jarrod Atchison said. "You have the most resources of any school in the country, the best coaches of any school in the country and the best debaters of any school in the country. I couldn't have picked a better school."

This praise does not come without hard work. Atchison estimates that members of the team spend 45 hours per week researching for future debates and pull two or three all-nighters the week before a debate.

The work, however, pays off. This year the team of Atchison and Wes Lotz were ranked second going into the national tournament, the highest ranking a university team has received during the duo's four-year career.

Lotz ended the tournament ranked second speaker, and Atchison made third, although the team only advanced to the Sweet 16.

"We basically had a most tournaments. I the end of the year,"

The team as a young promise. sophomores that made the largest Northwestern. "For very impressive, so the said.



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pretty good finish in think we won four by Atchison said.

whole also shows Atchison said two it to the finals of one of tournaments, held at sophomores that is future looks bright," he



On the top floor of Carswell Hall, Jarrod Atchison and Wes Lotz prepare for their next debate tournament. Atchison and Lotz, debating as a team, made it to nationals this year.

Wes Lotz & Jarrod Atchison

Wes Lotz and Jarrod Atchison displayed one of their many trophies they have received over their four years of debating.



Wesley Lotz and Jarrod Atchison formed Wake Forest's strongest debating duo. Lotz and Atchison finished the regular season with a 56-5 record, winning 92% of their matches. Allan Loudon, the Director of Debate said, "A record this good is unheard of, clearly the top in the nation." Of the twelve major national competitions, Lotz and Atchison won three and placed second in three others.

The duo earned the top seed for the National Debate Tournament, a first for the Wake Forest Debate program. In the tournament they defeated all of the top teams during the preliminary rounds, but failed to advance to the finals. At the NDT, Lotz was named the number two speaker in the nation, while Atchison earned the number three spot.

Atchison will remain at the university to attend graduate school in the Communication Department and act as an assistant coach to the debate team. Lotz plans to attend law school, with the help of scholarships awarded for his outstanding debate skills.

-Cassie Rich

