

Debaters arguing for top spot

By John Kelly
Campus Editor

UK's top debate team won the Glenn R. Capp Debates at Baylor University last weekend, keeping itself in contention for a No. 1 seed in the national debate tournament.

UK's first team, seniors Paul Skiermont and Jay Finch, beat a team representing Harvard in the finals. Skiermont finished second overall in individual speaker awards.

"They certainly have a good chance (at earning the top seed)," coach J.W. Patterson said.

"They aren't in as good a position as they were last year at this time, but they have a good chance."

To lock up the top seed, Skier-

mont and Finch would have to finish well at the next major tour-

namment, the Wake Forest University Invitational Debate Tournament in Winston-Salem, N.C. That tournament, which is the last major tournament of the collegiate debating season, begins the weekend of Feb. 11.

Last season, Skiermont teamed with senior Jason Patil to win college debate's highest honor, the Rex Copeland Award. The team drew the top seed for last year's national tournament.


Skiermont won top individual

speaker honors, but his team lost in the quarterfinals of the national tournament.

This year, Patil is debating with junior Jason Renzelman. That team made it to the quarterfinals at the Baylor tournament last week, where it was to meet UK's first team. In tournaments, however, when a school's two teams meet, one usually forfeits, Patterson said.

Skiermont and Finch were chosen to advance and eventually won the tournament, Patterson said.

"Harvard is usually one of the national powers," Patterson said.



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J.W. Patterson
UK debate coach