

# Debate team shows the academic side of the University

Talk about UK to someone, and the subject of basketball will undoubtedly be brought up.

UK boasts the winningest record in college basketball, has won five national titles — surpassed only by the University of California-Los Angeles — and has turned out a number of All-Americans.

To often, however, basketball alone is associated with UK.

But thanks to members of the University's debate team, UK has distinguished itself as a top academic institution as well.

At the collegiate National Debate Tournament on the campus of Miami University of Ohio last weekend, UK fielded two teams.

The duo of William Massie and David Welsh did not make it past the preliminary round, but the team of Calvin Rockefeller and T.A. McKinney advanced to the national semifinals before losing to the eventual national champion team from Baylor University.

Rockefeller and McKinney are sophomores, and according to UK debate coach J.W. Patterson, it was only the fourth time in the history of the national finals that two sophomores have advanced to the final four in debate competition.

It is refreshing to see students such as McKinney, Rockefeller, Massie and Welsh excel in an area such as debate.

The success of the debate team also is a welcomed change to the current controversy surrounding the UK men's basketball program.

While the four students may not be as well known on the UK campus as a Chris Mills, Eric Manuel or Sean Sutton, their accomplishments demonstrate that the University is striving to do well both on the athletic field and in the classroom.