

Lexington Academic Bowl Team Qualifies for National Tournament

By Christian Anazagasti

High fives to Lexington's Academic Bowl team for winning fourth place at the Eastern qualifier! For the first time, the Lexington team will be traveling to the National Academic Bowl at Gallaudet University, scheduled for April 11-15, 2019.

Lexington approached last weekend's qualifier, at Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD), with a strong team comprised of second-year competitors – Elghin Hebrado, Edgar Martinez, Ahsanur Rashid and Gigi Zheng. The Eastern tournament had four different pools with five schools in each pool. On day one, the schools in each pool compete for seeding in the final day's March Madness-style tournament, where a single loss could mean instant elimination.

On the first day of the competition, Saturday, March 9th, Lexington's team was placed in the Pinky Pool. The pools are named for characters in the Pac-Man game – Inky, Blinky, Pinky and Clyde. Lexington placed first in their pool with a score of 4-0 in official matches. Results from the first day of competition on Saturday, March 9th, were as follows:

Match 1 – Lexington vs. Whitney Young High School (60-22 for Lexington)

Match 2 - Lexington vs. Rochester School for the Deaf (58-56 for Lexington)

Match 3 – Lexington vs. Mountain Lake High School (50-20 for Lexington)

Match 4 – Lexington vs. New York State School for the Deaf (Rome) (36-19 for Lexington)

Unofficial Match-up of the Day – Lexington vs. Willie Ross School for the Deaf (66-22 for Lexington).

Sunday's playoffs included harder questions and challenged the teams to put forth their best efforts. Lexington managed a win, 17-15, in its first game against Rhode Island School for the Deaf. The second game, against Rockville High School, was a nail-biter. Rockville had just beaten New York School for the Deaf (Fanwood) and the teams were playing for a spot in the Nationals. Lexington pulled out a win with a score of 35-34. This win was amazing because Lexington qualified against a team that had won the National Championship three years ago.

In the third match of the day, Lexington succumbed to EDCO-Newton Public Schools (38-58). In their final match, Lexington lost to Rochester School for the Deaf (19-32), but managed to hold onto fourth place overall. Both Lexington and WPSD received Sportsmanship Awards for the event and Lexington's Ahsanur Rashid was one of six participants selected as an All-Star Player.

Congratulations to all of the teams who participated, especially those who qualified for Nationals. First place - Maryland School for the Deaf (MSDS), second place – EDCO, third place – Rochester School for the Deaf, fourth place – Lexington School for the Deaf, and the wildcard teams – Marie Philip School and Rockville High School.

