View from the Hill

Forensics

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WKU's Forensics team is consistently ranked among the best in the country. Amy Bingham has more on the high profile speech and debate team in this week's View from the Hill.

It may not be football or basketball, but recruitment for WKU's Forensics program is every bit as intense. The team has brought home multiple national titles over the past decade.

Jamaque Newberry is one of nearly 40 members of WKU's highly touted forensics team.

But the Florida native always thought he would compete on the field.

"I was a football player at first, my whole life was dedicated to football, but I was also taking a novice class of debate at the same time."

Then in tenth grade, a decision was made for him.

"My high school debate coach came in and grabbed me by the ear and said you're done with football and your gonna do forensics and it's gonna make you a better person."

Jamaque and the rest of the team recently celebrated a record setting season.

"This year our team scored the most points at the national tournament than our team has ever scored before."

Coming in second only to Bradley University, WKU is poised to be back on top next year.

"I want to bring a championship home. Individual success doesn't mean anything to me as long as the team can bring home a championship and make everybody proud, I'll be fine."

But summer doesn't mean down time. Forensics camp at WKU has attracted students from twelve states.

"Speech camp is a place where if you've never done speech or done speech all your life you can come here and you can learn new things no matter what."

It's a great recruitment tool as well.

"I’ve talked to a lot of campers who want to come to WKU for their forensics program.”

A campus that places a high priority on forensics starting with the president.

"I tell recruits all the time that you will not go to another school that values the activities of speech and debate the way our administration does here at WKU."

TAG

The WKU Forensics program is the oldest student organization on campus. The team and coaching staff has more than doubled in size in the past fifteen years. With this week's View from the Hill, I'm Amy Bingham.