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MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL WINS 2008 UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON

GARDEN GROVE, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA — Ventura County's Moorpark High School on Saturday, May 3, 2008 won the United States Academic Decathlon. The team scored 53,119.4 points out of 60,000 possible, earning the school the national title and the highest, all-time score throughout the country. The winners were announced before an enthusiastic crowd at the 2008 United States Academic Decathlon's award ceremony at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove, California.

Members of the winning team are Jonah Buck, Christie Calle, Colin Calle, Anaamika Campeau, Angela Chen, Justine Levan, Chrissa Rutkai, Kris Sankaran, Paul Watanabe and Coach Larry Jones.

Waukesha West High School in Wisconsin finished second with 53,096.1 points and Pearland High School in Texas finished third with 51,589.9 points.

Moorpark also finished first in the Super Quiz with 5,940 points out of 6,000 possible. Waukesha West finished second with 5,640 points and Whitney Young Magnet High School in Illinois finished third with 5,585 points.

Moorpark received 36 individual medals (eleven gold, fifteen silver and ten bronze) and claimed four out of nine Top Individual Overall Achievement Awards in Division I.

In all, 41 high school teams representing 41 states from across the country competed in this year's national Academic Decathlon championship. Decathlete teams are comprised of three Honor students (3.75 and above GPA), three Scholastic students (3.00-3.74 GPA), and three Varsity students (2.99 GPA and below).

This victory gives California its sixth national title in a row and fifteen national titles since 1982. In 27 years of national competition, California has placed first or second every year but one.

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