

National Academic League®



NATIONAL TOURNAMENT Final Four

Congratulations to the following teams who will be competing in the Final 4 round of the National Tournament.

*Eisenhower Jr. High School, Granite, will meet
Stapley Jr. High School, Mesa, on Friday April 4th,
and*

*Carson Middle School, Pittsburgh, will meet
Millcreek Jr. High School, Davis, on Monday, April 7th.*

Congratulations also to the following Elite 8 Teams.

*Lincoln College Prep, Kansas City,
South Charlotte Middle School, Charlotte-Mecklenburg,
St. John Neumann Catholic School, Pueblo,
Wasatch Jr. High School, Granite,*

*For brackets and scores, check our website,
www.nationalacademicleague.org, and click on
[2008 National Tournament Brackets.](#)*

Several leagues have had great media coverage of tournament games. If you have school district or media coverage, we'd like to know about it! Please send us any articles (including online references). We like to share this news throughout the NAL®!

Check out some of these links to National Tournament coverage:

Pasadena—<http://www.pasadenaisd.org/newsreleases/march08/march8.htm>

Charlotte/Mecklenburg—<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/includes/gfi.asp?fileHandle=5142.asp>

Granite—http://www.sltrib.com/valleywest/ci_8560803

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Reminders

Please remember to return your National Tournament game materials, scorecards and scoresheets to the National Office at the address below. We are currently compiling information to determine tournament game High Scorers

*National Academic League®
1445 Lakemist Court
Roswell, GA 30075*

Phone: 770-998-7833

Fax 888-217-7999

office@

nationalacademicleague.org

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Wichita NAL® Holds Annual Awards Banquet



After a long season of arduous practices and nail-biting competitions, many leagues take time out to celebrate their efforts and accomplishments. The Wichita league is one of them.

On March 6, the Wichita National Academic League® held its annual Awards Banquet at the Sedgwick County Extension Office. This function was attended by 375 students, parents, and school administrators and teachers. The banquet included a keynote speech by Wichita School District Assistant Superintendent Busch, presentation of the colors by the Pleasant Valley Leadership Cadets, and the National Anthem sung by cadets from the Mead Leadership Program. The audience enjoyed an outstanding video of the League's season, and individual awards were presented to NAL® students in all schools for High Scorer, Most Valuable 3rd Quarter Player, and Most Inspirational. Team awards went to Brooks for Excellence in Sportsmanship; Wilbur for most successful 3rd Quarter team, and Mayberry for most improved. A special NAL® HOOAH Award was presented to Jardine Coach Sarah Ketchum for her tenacity in keeping her team competing throughout the season. Third Place finishers for the season were Coleman and Robinson, Runner-Up champion was Hadley, and the District Championship Team was Wilbur.

The evening was a great event celebrating the Wichita School District community's dedication to their outstanding academic athletes and the NAL® program.

-Submitted by Col. Bob Hester, Wichita NAL® Commissioner

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS: National Tournament Reminders for Coaches and Officials

Please make sure all teams, coaches and officials are familiar with the National Tournament rules (see pages 33-43 of the *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*). In addition, please pay specific attention to the following:

- All judges' decisions are final in the National Tournament. If, during a game, a problem occurs that cannot be solved or reconciled, stop the game and immediately call the National Office at 770-998-7833. If you continue to play the game, no changes to the officials' decisions or scores can be made later in the game (see page 35 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*).
- If you spend time resolving problems, please be sure to check the game clock against your videoconference facility reservation. If you think you may run out of time, stop the clock and call the National Office at 770-998-7833 (see pages 35-36 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*). It may be possible to extend your game time, but once the videoconference equipment is shut off, we are usually not able to reconnect soon enough to finish the game in a timely manner. **BOTH TEAMS SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATCHING THE CLOCK.**
- Third quarter materials shall be examined prior to the game by the judges. The judges will insure that materials are equal for each team. The same rules for 3rd quarter materials apply as during regular season play (see page 20 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*).
- As in regular season games, third quarter scores must include comments indicating reasons for the scores given (see page 22 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*).
- Third quarter presentations must be videotaped (see page 39 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*).
- The Student Roster lists students who will play in each quarter and the order of play. Students listed on the roster must play, and must play in the order listed. (see page 34 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*).
- Teams should be prepared to give a short presentation about themselves, their school, community, etc. at the end of the game. This is a great way to foster camaraderie and cross-country exchange among our academic athletes.
- Remember to mail your score sheets, score cards and question cards to the National Office the day after the game (see page 43 of *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*).

Good Luck to our Final Four!

FOCUS on... Brockbank Jr. High: Dedicated Team Improvises Practice Venue

The Brockbank Junior High Academic Team puts in long hours of practice. from October to November of each year. The team practices after school, five hours a week. By December basketball season means access to schools on Saturdays, and a couple *more* hours of practice each week.

This year the basketball season ended before Presidents' Day week-end, leaving the team worrying about getting ready for the final season game against Jefferson Junior High. Fortunately, parents came to the rescue. New third-quarter recruit, 7th-grader Thomas Peel, has generous parents who offered the family business to the team for Saturday morning practice.

At Brockbank, they have long joked that when you join the academic team, they own you for life. There's humor in the fact, then, that the Peel family business is a funeral home. Even more amusing was the week they prepared for the third quarter topic of organ donation.

Yes, Brockbank is undaunted in practicing: snow, Saturday sleepiness, and death don't even get in the way of practice time.



“TAKE 5” Answers

The following are the answers to the Take 5 Questions on Page 4.

A: Baltimore (Guilford E/MS) and Pueblo (St. John Neumann)

A: Pittsburgh (Area) (Carson Middle School)

A: Hanes Middle School, Winston-Salem/Forsyth School District.

A: Possession Arrow

A: Pasadena (Independent School District)

Philadelphia's Masterman Team performs "Philly Rap Song"



Student presentations are an important part of the NAL®'s National Tournament tradition. After a national tournament game, teams give a short presentation to the opposing team. These presentations deepen the experience and national exchange among our academic athletes. This year, Philadelphia's Julia R. Masterman's National Academic League® team had a presentation that included their own original music. Their "Philly Rap Song" was sung by the third round members who introduced Philadelphia to the Granite School District during the first round of the National Tournament.

Masterman's NAL® team is composed of 7th and 8th grades who have good fact recall or who have the ability to organize and speak well before others. This is their 11th year competing, and each year the team has its own unique personality. They practiced twice a week, during lunch and guidance period, and students are expected to study and know all kinds of information. Practice can be intense but this fun-loving team always makes it an enjoyable and educational experience. Teammates form bonds from their NAL® experience that last for years.

This year the Masterman team consisted mostly of new 7th grade members, with the exception of the third quarter 8th graders who had been together the year before. Although this was not their best year as far as competition, the team was spirited and worked hard to win. They plan to keep studying, practicing, and to return to the National Tournament next year to win!

-Submitted by Barbara Horowitz, Masterman Coach

Questions From the (National Tournament) Field...

Here is a question we received during the National Tournament that we thought would be of interest throughout the League. Please send any questions or comments to us at office@nationalacademicleague.org.

Question: If a student is not recognized by an official (Student raises hand and blurts out answer), especially in 4th quarter, does the student get a technical?

Answer: On page 36 of the *NAL® Rules and Guidelines*, the first sentence under

the "possession arrow" paragraph states "...judges must recognize a student before they give an answer." This should be handled in the following manner:

- If the team who blurts out the answer has the possession arrow, the judge should issue a warning by saying "please wait until you are acknowledged," and count the answer.
- If the other team has the possession, the judge informs the student that it is not his/her turn to answer, and recognizes the other team. Please note that

by not waiting to be recognized, you have just shared your answer with your opponent.

- In this same circumstance, if the student blurts out the answer without possession, and without being called on, and the judge says "That is correct," the question should be tossed. This follows the guidelines for judges, page 48, rule 15, "If you inadvertently state or give away the correct answer to a question, toss it and go on to a new one (follow specific quarter rules for such an occurrence)."

From the Alumni: Reflections from the MESA National Academic League®

Last month we heard from a couple of Mesa, Arizona, Alumni about their experience in the NAL®. Here's what they had to say.

"NAL® provided me with an invaluable opportunity to challenge myself intellectually and engage in friendly competition. Through NAL® I learned the art of public speaking, teamwork, leadership and academic research. Before I began NAL® I was a shy person with few close friendships. NAL® brought me out of my shell for the first time and now, nearly ten years later, I am still friends with many of my teammates."

-Shanna, Mesa NAL® Alumnus

"I was a member of NAL® because it was fun, exciting, and it challenged me in positive ways. I loved that adrenaline rush in the lightning round when it was a race to buzz in first. We got to travel around and be part of a team. But NAL® did much more than keep me entertained.

"NAL® taught me about respect. There was one match where we were away at another junior high and everything was going our way. We had a solid team and we had already seen a lot of success up to that point. In a moment of teenage selfishness we messed up their bathroom and joked about it on our way back out to the remainder of the match. Our actions were totally disrespectful to the school we were visiting and reflected poorly on us as individuals and on the school and people that we represented as members of Poston's NAL® team. We were called to account for our actions and as part of our punishment, we made an apology and we were banned from competition for a while.

"I am so grateful for that early opportunity to learn that respect matters. I had not considered how my actions would reflect on myself, my team, my school, and my peers at that other school. Beyond academics, NAL® taught me that my actions have real consequences. I realized that when I was disrespectful, everyone lost. I cannot honestly say that I have shown total respect to everyone and everything since then, but I have tried my best. NAL® oriented my attitude in a direction that has enabled me to succeed in all aspects of my life.

"NAL® really helped me grow up. To this day I keep in touch with my former teammates.. I don't see them everyday anymore but that NAL® camaraderie struck a chord that will always resonate for me."

-Kyle, Mesa NAL® Alumnus

National Academic League®

*Unfolding the Future of
America's Children*

In Georgia:

1445 Lakemist Court
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: 770-998-7833

In Utah:

1917 South 100 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
Phone: 801-487-8088

Email:

office@nationalacademicleague.org

Fax:

888-217-7999

We're on the web:

*www.nationalacademic
league.org*

A Message from the National Office

We are looking forward to seeing old friends and becoming acquainted with new ones at this year's NAL® National Conference. We know from past experience that, while we accomplish so much with the use of technology, 'face time' has no substitute. Conferences have historically been the best setting for affecting rule changes. Additionally, the information and idea exchange has always proven invaluable to our attendees. NAL® leagues play their seasons differently, and the strength and endurance of the program has been fortified by participating leagues collaborating. From ideas on expanding a league, to funding, to changing score-sheets, this conference is a great place to share success and solve problems, face-to-face with your colleagues.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta in May!

*Donna L. Elmquist
President
Terrel H. Bell & Associates*

"TAKE 5" Questions

Check your NAL® National Tournament IQ with this month's "Take Five" questions. We will return to our usual format for "Take Five" in the next newsletter.

Q: Identify the leagues of the two Sweet 16 teams whose game went into Overtime.

Q: Identify the only NAL® league in the Eastern Time zone that is playing in the Final 4 round of the National Tournament.

Q: Name the school and the league of the 2007 NAL® National Champion.

Q: Explain the method of resolving the problem of 'who buzzed first' when playing via videoconference.

Q: Name the NAL® school system that broadcasts its National Tournament games throughout the school system using their Intranet.

National Conference Update

WHEN: Thursday, May 1—Pre Conference Mixer through Sunday May 4—Morning Wrap-up

WHERE: Atlanta, Georgia

WHO: NAL® Commissioners, Coaches & Officials

WHY: NAL® National Conferences have been an important part of the NAL® for many years. This is a working conference but we also have a lot of fun! It's a chance to see old friends and make new ones.

DETAILS:

Thursday Evening—Welcome Reception

Friday – Meetings

Catered Lunch

National Awards Banquet

Saturday— Meetings

Late Saturday Afternoon: Seeing Atlanta

Saturday Dinner

Sunday Brown Bag Farewell

Updated Conference information may be found at

www.nationalacademicleague.org

Click on [National Conference News](#).

NATIONAL ACADEMIC LEAGUE® PRICE LIST
2007-2008 Season

(Prices do not include shipping and handling. Prices & availability subject to change without notice.)

Contact us at office@nationalacademicleague.org to order.

GAME MATERIAL

- Gameset* (Question cards, scoresheets, and scorecards for one game)..... \$20.95
**Available only to League Commissioners*
- NAL® Rules & Guidelines© book \$17.45
- NAL® Mastery Certification© \$10.95
- NAL® Study Book© \$16.55
- "Playing the Game" training video or DVD \$19.95
- NAL Custom Gameset (Available: Level 1 Game, SAT Vocabulary Game, Mythology Game, Anne Frank Game) \$32.95

NAL STARTER KIT \$55.00

NAL brochure, practice Gameset (question cards, scoresheets, scorecards),
NAL® Rules & Guidelines© book, "Playing the Game" training video

MEMORABILIA

- Sports Shirt (All colors available! Ask us!)..... \$17.50
- T-Shirt (All colors available!)..... \$9.00
- Color NAL Pin..... \$3.25
- Pewter NAL Pin..... \$2.50
- Pewter NAL Charm (With necklace chain \$4.20) \$2.50

AWARDS

- Foiled Certificate (blue or gold)..... \$3.50
- Non-Foiled Certificate (blue or gold)..... \$2.75
- Medal (Add \$1.00 if engraved)..... \$9.95
- Mylar Medal (Add \$1.00 if engraved)..... \$9.00
- 4" x 6" Plaque \$25.45
- 7" x 9" Plaque \$30.95
- Trophy \$89.95
- Star Trophy \$38.00
- Mylar Trophy \$14.50

PROMOTIONAL

- "NAL: An Introduction®©" promotional video \$9.95
- NAL Brochures®© (10) \$5.00
- Podium Banner..... \$60.45
- Wall Banner \$82.45

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES WILL BE INCREASED BY 40% FOR PARTICIPANTS IN ANY NAL® LEAGUES THAT DO NOT PAY PARTICIPATION FEES. THIS INCREASE WILL BE CALCULATED BY THE NATIONAL OFFICE AT THE TIME OF THE ORDER.