

One State Championship Team Shares Airtime with Another

Before University School's state championship varsity football team won its first home game of the season, FoxSports.com sought to learn more about USchool's three-time state champions, the speech and debate team.

Fox Sports' Kavita

Channe: We're with Steve Schappaugh who is Associate Director of Student Life and also the coach for the speech and debate team. Talk to us about that because they are nationally-recognized, right?

Kavita Channe: Now if I wanted to join a debate competition, give me three top tips to win a debate.

Kavita Channe: So is this kind of like verbal football?

Kavita Channe: Now, you're a huge supporter of USchool athletics, tell us what you love so much about football.

Channe: You know I missed out. I should have joined the debate team!

Steve Schappaugh: Yes, our speech and debate program is ranked in the top 1% of all speech and debate programs in the nation, according to the National Forensic League (NFL), which is the governing body. We've won the state championship as a team the last three years in the state of Florida. And we're getting excited about our first tournament.

Steve Schappaugh: Okay, if you want to win a debate -- it's not going to happen very often against University School, but if you're trying -- you should:

1) Have well-developed ideas and arguments that are 2) nuanced and structured. 3) You need to think ahead to what your opponents might say so you can preempt those ideas, or just be ready for those attacks so that you can respond effectively.

Steve Schappaugh: It is kind of like verbal football in some ways. My dad always says that we can infuse some of that into debate. It is a lot of back and forth and a lot of strategy and game planning. Our strategy differs from round-to-round depending upon who we're hitting, so much like a coach strategizes for a particular opponent, and we do the same thing in debate.

Steve Schappaugh: I love everything about University School. It's an amazing place with amazing people, amazing kids. Dr. Chermak talked about find the best in U, and football is just one of those outlets that we provide for our students to really grow as individuals, become better contributors to our society. It's a great game and we have great kids who are just a lot of fun to watch. And they work incredibly hard. They put in hours and hours of practice. They also put in a ton of time on homework so they can be great student-athletes. So, it's great to see them performing at such a high level given everything that they have put into it.

2012-2013

Florida State Championship Tournament

Overall State Champions
State Runner-Up, Domestic Extemporaneous
State Runner-Up, Lincoln Douglas Debate
State Runner-Up, Humorous Interpretation
State Finalist, Duo Interpretation
State Semifinalist, Lincoln Douglas Debate
State Quarterfinalist, Public Forum Debate
State Quarterfinalist, Lincoln Douglas

NCFL National Tournament (Qualifiers)
Humorous Interpretation (2)
Lincoln Douglas Debate
Public Forum

NFL National Tournament (Qualifiers)
Lincoln Douglas Debate
Public Forum
Duo Interpretation
Domestic Extemporaneous

2011-2012

NFL: Overall School of Excellence Award

Florida State Championship Tournament

Overall State Champions
Champion, International Extemporaneous
Champion, Original Oratory
Champion, Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Champion, Public Forum Debate
State Runner-Up, Original Oratory
State Runner, Up, Lincoln-Douglas Debate
3rd & 5th Place, Lincoln-Douglas Debate
3rd Place, Duo Interpretation
5th Place, Original Oratory

NCFL National Tournament (Qualifiers)
Humorous Interpretation
Original Oratory

NFL National Tournament (Qualifiers)
Original Oratory
Lincoln Douglas Debate
International Extemporaneous

2010-2011

Florida State Championship Tournament

Overall State Champions

**Out of space for additional accolades*