

## WSU DEBATERS - WINNING TEAM

by H. Woloson

You know a team is successful when they win 47 trophies in one season, and label it an "average" year. Although relatively unknown on campus, even as they complete another winning season, the WSU Debate and Forensic Teams are recognized nationally for qualifying for the National Debate Finals in 13 of the last 16 years. What makes this recognition somewhat outstanding is that Wayne State does not offer scholarships to attract high school debaters, as do most of the universities which the squad competes against.

Despite having won probably more awards than any other group on campus, stock-piling trophies is not the purpose of the organization, according to Vivian Dicks. Dicks, one of the team's coaches said, "The Wayne State forensic program is designed to develop the communication skills of all participating students, rather than just winning awards. Trophies are merely a sign that our students can compete against other college speakers and win."

Senior Mike Nolan exemplifies the purpose of the program. Despite never having debated in high school, Nolan has become one of the team's most successful participants. He was part of a team that qualified for the National

Debate Finals last year, and also won the Naval Academy Tournament.

Other participants on the Debate Team include seniors Bob McBroom, Jack Kay and Ron Lee; juniors Chuck Juntikka and Henry Woloson; and sophomore Neil Kruzsmann. These students participated in and won trophies at tournaments held in cities as far south as Atlanta, Georgia, and as far west as Topeka, Kansas.

The forensic program at Wayne State is not limited to speech majors, said Dr. James Klumpp, director of the forensics teams. Some faculty members in the WSU School of Business plan to encourage their students to join the Debate Team, because employers have expressed a need for better communication skills in their personnel, he explained.

In addition to the Debate Team, WSU also runs a program for students interested in developing their public speaking skills. Students can participate in a variety of events such as informative speaking, extemporaneous speaking, and oratory. WSU student Kathy Schmitz demonstrated the value of the individual events program, as she placed first in her category at her first tournament.



Although speech tournaments are over for the next few months, the Forensic Union is always seeking new members, according to Dr. Klumpp. And considering the increasing need for good

communication skills in all fields, participation in forensics seems to be one positive way of developing abilities which are sure to be required in any career, he maintained.