



# NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe Decathlon Team Named Rookie of the Year at United States Academic Decathlon National Finals**

In their first year of competition at the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) National Finals, Catoosa County's Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe Decathlon Team earned the title of "Rookie of the Year." The National Finals were held on April 22-25, 2009, in Memphis, Tennessee. The team, coached by Ian Beck and Lisa Beck, received the title by scoring higher than any other first-time school at USAD Finals, and placed fourth in Division 3 and finished 17<sup>th</sup> overall in the nation. It was the first time that a Georgia team has finished among the top four teams in a division. Thirty-six teams competed in the National Finals, with Moorpark High School from California emerging as the 2009 USAD National Champion.

The Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe team had recently been named the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Champions, thus earning the opportunity to represent Georgia at the National Finals. During the National Finals, students were tested in seven content areas: economics, art, language and literature, mathematics, social science, music and Written Super Quiz. In addition, students earned points individually in three communication events: public speaking, a personal interview and a written essay. The Decathlon program is unique because each nine-member team is made up of three "A" students, three "B" students and three "C" students. Each year the program features a different overall curriculum topic. This year's topic was "An Introduction to Latin America." Students also participated in the exciting Super Quiz Oral Relay event. During the relay, team members competed in a quiz bowl format, keying in answers to questions regarding this year's topic, "An Introduction to Evolutionary Biology."

PAGE GAD State Coordinator Cary Sell, who accompanied the team to the National Finals, was impressed by their performance. "Earning divisional national level recognition on their first outing at USAD Nationals is quite an honor. Also, the Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe team members and the Moorpark High School team members became friends during the competition. The California team members, along with their Coach Larry Jones, were the first on their feet cheering when our Georgia team was named Rookie of the Year. It was an incredible moment," Sell said.

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