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NEWS

Troy High brings Science Olympiad national title back to Fullerton

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By LOU PONSI / STAFF WRITER

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R. BUCKLEY, SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

When the top high schools at the Science Olympiad National Tournament were announced, the third-place team was announced first.

Then the second-place team.

When members of Troy High School's team didn't hear their name, they were pretty sure who the winners were, said Troy senior Hugo Yen, 18.

Yes, indeed. The Fullerton school is the 2014 National Science Olympiad Champion.

"Everyone just jumped up and started screaming and clapping," Yen said. "Emotion just poured out."

The tournament was held Saturday and Sunday at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Troy's national title is its ninth since the National Science Olympiad started in 1985. The Warriors placed third in 2013 and second in 2012, but hadn't won a national title since 2008.



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“This year, not only did we want to win, but this year, we really believed we could win,” said Yen, who is headed to Harvard University in the fall. “So everybody worked really hard at the events and did what they could to support the team.”

Troy improved, in part, by scheduling – and winning – two one-on-one competitions against Sacramento’s Mira Loma High School, the top team in Northern California, Yen said.

The road to the National Science Olympiad begins with 7,000 teams from the 50 states. Teams must advance past local, regional and state competitions to be one of 60 to reach the national. Troy finished first among 25 high schools at the county’s Science Olympiad in February at Golden West College in Huntington Beach. The victory was Troy’s 26th in a row at the county level.

More than 100 students try out each year for Troy’s team. The team consists of 17 members, with 15 participating in Olympiad events.

Dozens of Troy’s Science Olympiad alumni are physicians, engineers, astronomers and university professors.

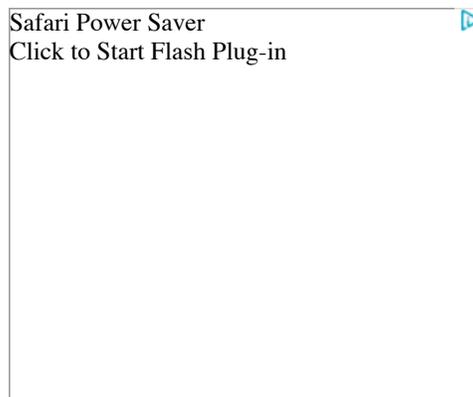
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