

NEWS RELEASE

2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Seton Catholic Wins Third Academic Decathlon State Title *Sentinels Become Experts on the '60s for 'Three-Peat'*



Seton's Academic Decathlon Team, (L-R): Tyler Ash, Silas Gadd Jr., Colin Curran, Mariah McNally, Anique Kaijser, John Buessing, Kyle Mendoza, and Cole Stickland. Not pictured: Jarrod Hebert

CHANDLER, Ariz., March 21, 2019 – Members of Seton Catholic Prep's Academic Decathlon team weren't even born when Andy Warhol was transforming soup cans into art and "the British invasion" referred to music, not history.

Despite their youth, Seton's academic decathletes probably know more about the 1960s than their grandparents.

Their collective knowledge and appreciation of the era propelled them to the 3A state title at the 35th Annual Arizona Academic Decathlon State Tournament. It was a three-peat for Seton Catholic, which placed first in 2017 and 2018.

Seton now advances to The United States Academic Decathlon's national online competition in April as Arizona's medium school representative.

The state tournament, held March 8-10 at Hamilton High School in Chandler, attracted Arizona's top 39 teams. Seton Catholic placed sixth overall, competing against schools with much larger enrollments.

"I am so proud of our team's commitment and achievement," Principal Victor Serna said. "I am continually amazed at their competitiveness, especially against larger schools."

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SETON THREE-PEATS IN STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLON - ADD 1

Hamilton was the overall state champion, followed by Canyon del Oro of Tucson and Westwood High School of Mesa.

Focusing on the theme, “The 1960s: A Transformational Decade,” students took rigorous tests in art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, social science, and science. Essays and speech were also part of the competition.

Three Sentinels medaled: Silas Gadd, Jr. of Chandler and Tyler Ash of Tempe respectively captured gold and silver in the essay category, and Cole Stickland of Gilbert won a bronze in science. Mariah McNally, also a Gilbert resident, led Seton Catholic in scoring with 8,018 points.

The remaining team members are Anique Kaijser, Colin Curran and John Buessing, Chandler; Kyle Mendoza, Gilbert; and Jarrod Hebert, Ahwatukee-Foothills.

Serna also commended Seton Coach Todd Decker for his commitment and the guidance he provides to the team. Decker has coached academic decathlon teams for 29 years, longer than any Arizona coach.

About Seton Catholic Preparatory

A 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, Seton Catholic Preparatory is a diocesan, coeducational high school in Chandler, Arizona, open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership and loving service to others. For more than 60 years, Seton Catholic has served the East Valley of Phoenix as the only Catholic college preparatory high school, serving young men and women from parochial, private, charter, public and home schooling backgrounds. Seton Catholic graduates earn scholarships to and attend an array of selective colleges and universities, including state, private and Ivy League schools as well as service academies. Seton Catholic is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. www.setoncatholic.org.

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