



2025 NATIONALS PRESS RELEASE

For the first time since 2000, a Massachusetts team has claimed the top spot in a division at the US Academic Decathlon National Championship!

Three teams from Massachusetts attended the USAD National Finals in Des Moines, Iowa from May 1-3, 2025. **North Quincy High School**, in their first-ever Nationals appearance, clinched the title of Division V National Champions! Competing against thirteen other teams in their division, they came out on top, jumping from second place in the pre-Nationals rankings. This marks the first time a Massachusetts team has won their division at Nationals since Weymouth High School, coached by Bonnie Miller, won Division II in 2000.

Also competing from Massachusetts were **Wellesley High School**, our 2025 State Champions, in Division II, and state runners-up **Acton-Boxborough Regional High School** in Division III.

The overall national championship was won by El Camino Real Charter High School from California. Granada Hills Charter High School, also from California, placed second, and Texas's Earl Warren High School placed third.

North Quincy High School

In Division V, North Quincy High School, coached by Ben D'Amore, placed 1st overall out of 14 teams and won the Rookie of the Year award. The individuals earned the following 10 medals:

- Marko Mano: GOLD in Essay; SILVER in Mathematics
- Luiza Baiense: BRONZE in Interview
- Dhani Paliwal: SILVER in Economics; BRONZE in Literature
- Philip Wang: GOLD in Essay, Science, and Social Science; BRONZE in Art and Economics

Philip Wang also took first place overall among all Varsity students. As the highest-scoring student on the team, Honors student Emily Ko received an award and a \$250 scholarship. Also competing were Matthew Lin, Matthew Amador, and Stephen Yu.

Wellesley High School

In Division II, Wellesley High School, coached by Meghan Church, won the following medal:

- Giselle Ferrick: BRONZE in Essay

As the highest-scoring student on Wellesley's team, Scholastic student Ellen Kim received an award and a \$250 scholarship. Also competing were Andrew Yang, Ayla Lin, and Ryan Prentice.

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

In Division III, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, coached by Vidya Sampathkumar, won the following 6 medals:

- Nicole Yu: GOLD in Speech; BRONZE in Economics
- Elise Harvey: BRONZE in Speech
- Sophia Li: BRONZE in Essay and Science
- Victor Kabaev: SILVER in Science

As the highest-scoring student on Acton-Boxborough's team, Honors student Nicole Yu received an award and a \$250 scholarship. Also competing were Hannah Sun, Shayan Mattoo, Brian Zhen, and Charles Li.