

# Good US debut in world math contest

A CORRESPONDENT

Indian American Akash Gupta was a member of the four-student team from Silicon Valley, California that won high

honors at the 9th Po Leung Kuk Primary Math World Contest held in Hong Kong last month.

The quartet – the only entry from the United States – won the overall 2nd runner-up trophy in the teams category, and fourth price in the Merit segment in team competitions, in an event that saw teams from 43 countries, including India and China, participate. The contest, open to students under 14, is sponsored by Po Leung Kuk, a renowned welfare organization in Hong Kong that runs numerous schools. Felix Sung, a member of the team, received second honor in the individual category.

Gupta, 13, is a student at the Chaboya Middle School in San Jose; the son of Alope and Poonam Gupta, Akash Gupta will be entering 8th grade this fall. The other members of the team were Sung, Sung, 13, is of Miller Junior High in San Jose; Alex Chang, 13, of Menlo School in Atherton and Logan Short, 12, of Redwood Middle School in



■ Elisha Garg (assistant coach), Logan Short, Alex Chang, Ewa Garg (coach), Felix Sung, Akash Gupta, Aaron Garg (assistant coach)

Saratoga.

The team was coached by Ewa Garg, a Chinese married to Indian American Atul Garg. Their children, Elisha Garg and Aaron Garg, served as assistant coaches. Ewa Garg

was a software engineer for 15 years before switching to teach elementary- and middle school-level after-school problem-solving mathematics for the past four years.

Elisha Garg, 17, graduated from Saratoga High School in Saratoga California and will be attending Stanford university in the fall. Aaron Garg, 14, who has participated in many math competitions, will be attending Saratoga High School.

"The contest was highly competitive and I'm extremely happy with the results, being our first time in that contest,"

Ewa Garg said. "It was a great experience for myself as well as for my students who participated."

"Team participation in the PMWC is by invitation. Each country is entitled to send a team consisting of a leader, a deputy leader and no more than four contestants."

PMWC is the only international math contest being conducted for this age group today, she said.