



MISSOURI CHESS ASSOCIATION

# MISSOURI CHESS BULLETIN

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## Chess Education in Missouri



*Volume 40 Number One —Spring/Summer 2013 Issue  
Serving Missouri Chess Since 1973*



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*Cover Photo: from right to left: Loal Davis and son Andrew Davis with student Shanmukh Puttagunta*

## Missouri Chess Association: Mission Statement

As the Official State Affiliate of the United States Chess Federation, The Missouri Chess Association's mission is to promote, coordinate, and support chess activities throughout the State of Missouri. This should always to be accomplished with a fair and unbiased approach, protecting the rights and interests of our Members, Tournament Directors, Organizers, and Chess Players in the great state of Missouri.

# Recent News in Missouri Chess

## Top 2 in World, Top 2 in U.S. Battle for Sinquefield Cup

SAINT LOUIS (June 17, 2013) -- For the first time ever, World Championship challenger GM Magnus Carlsen will play a high-profile tournament in the United States.

The World's No. 1 ranked player, GM Magnus Carlsen, will take on three other top-ten players in Saint Louis this September when he joins GMs Levon Aronian, Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky for the Sinquefield Cup, a four-player, double round robin scheduled to be held at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) September 9-15.

## TD Incentives

The Missouri Chess Association began an experimental incentive program to assist organizers in the year 2012. Due to the disparity of chess activity outside of St. Louis, the MCA will be offering an increased reimbursement in its usual incentives for tournaments organized in regions 2 and 3. That includes Kansas City as well as the central areas of the state. Instead of the usual \$1 per player, an MCA approved event can receive \$3 per player back from the organization if the event requires MCA membership and meets some basic requirements. The organization also has formed a committee to oversee this incentive and that committee is prepared to further help organizers who are seeking to get events up and running across the state. The Missouri Chess Association will happily continue to promote and assist tournaments in St. Louis, but with the current chess landscape, it's clear other parts of the state are underserved. We hope to help ensure all Missouri players can have a vibrant local chess community to participate in.

If you are considering organizing local tournaments, contact your MCA representatives to get the full details on how we can assist your efforts. (Board member information is on [page 26](#))



The Missouri Chess Bulletin is the official publication of the Missouri Chess Association, a not-for-profit organization which promotes and supports chess in Missouri. The Missouri Chess Bulletin was founded in 1973 and is published quarterly. Your letters and writings are welcome. All submissions become the property of the MCA and the MCA reserves the right to edit any and all material received. Published opinions are those of contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MCA

# From The Editor



Dear Friends of Missouri Chess,

I am thrilled to bring you this Spring/Summer edition of the Missouri Chess Bulletin focusing on Scholastics and Chess in Education. We have interviewed chess coaches, trainers and educators for the latest information on training up the next generation of chess players in Missouri, and there is a LOT going on.

First of all, the rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm for chess on Saturday, April 27, when students from all over Missouri attended the 2013 Priory Chess Festival. Beyond the giant chess set in the lobby, students could show their dexterity in a "Setup the Pieces" contest, learn about Pawns in a Pawn Game, try their skill with Piece Odds, and play in any of three simultaneous exhibitions: Multi-player, Blitz, or Blindfold. Then, after a satisfying lunch, provided by the school, they played in a quick tournament that sent the organizers from the Saint Louis Chess and Scholastic Center scrambling for more sets and clocks. Hopefully, this event will happen every year. It was nice to meet Grandmasters and International Masters encouraging young people to pursue chess, and it was really awesome to see so many new chess players!

If you consider the world-record attendance of over 5,330 students (including more than 156 from Missouri) at SuperNationals V in Nashville this year and note that each player in that tournament represents an average of 50 other players, who couldn't come for one reason or another, there are more than 272,000 K-12 students actively and seriously playing chess. This is great news for the chess community everywhere, and we need to encourage them. Colleges and universities, especially those who understand the benefits of chess, have a more abundant supply of candidates, and the sport grows with more experts, Masters and Grandmasters. Plus, the vast numbers of scholastic players underscores the need for mentors, coaches and teachers, and teaching chess can revitalize your own chess skills.

In addition to SuperNationals and the Priory Chess Festival, we have reports and games from the annual Parkway Chess Championship, the Don Oswald Memorial tournament, and the Missouri Scholastic State Championships. Be sure to check out the excellent articles by Loal Davis and Ron Luther, too. We sincerely appreciate everyone who contributes to this publication.

I heard on the daily news about Missouri being the Chess capital of the country, and the Fall issue is going to focus on that. It is also going to be a special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue! If enough people send in one annotated game or story, we are going to have a "Forty Years of Memorable Games" section, and MCA members can vote for the Top 10 games. So, send in your articles, tournament announcements and reasons why this is true or not because this is YOUR Missouri Chess Bulletin.

Molly Nesham  
Editor

*You sit at the board and suddenly your heart leaps. Your hand trembles to pick up the piece and move it. But what chess teaches you is that you must sit there calmly and think about whether it's really a good idea and whether there are other, better ideas.*

~ Stanley Kubrick, Director

# Congratulations to these recent Tournament Winners:

## Missouri Class Championships

Master/Expert - Benjamin Gradsky

Class B - Andrew Parkerson

Class C - David Sayler

Class D/E/Unr - Ryan Deering



## 2013 KC OPEN-- INDEPENDENCE

Master – Ronald Luther

Class A – Tony R Cheng and Jack Richard Easton

## MISSOURI S&T OPEN-- ROLLA

Expert – Selden Trimble

Class A – David Luscomb



## TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS 2013-- COLUMBIA

Co-champions: Kevin Cao and Jialin Ding.

Kevin Cao won the playoff game to get the first invite to the Denker tournament .

Ansar Lemon and William Tong tied for 3rd.



Scenes from the Priory Chess Festival

# Passing on the Chess Torch

~ by Molly Nesham ~

*You can only get good at Chess if you love the game. - Bobby Fischer*

<http://www.chessquotes.com/player-fischer>

In our high-tech world, we have the internet and nearly boundless resources for educating our children, but there is a fundamental flaw. Modern textbooks, loaded with sound bites of information sprinkled over colorful pages, convey a goal of entertaining more than teaching. Targeting the short attention spans of a generation raised on TV and video games, most educational materials have lost focus, and they don't fool the kids, who already know how to have fun. Yet the more we claim learning should be fun, the more our students roll their eyes and complain of boredom. So, where does Chess fit in?

## Playing chess is fun, or is it?

With a cue from Bobby Fischer, Chess is not just passive “fun” or mere entertainment. Chess, which requires passionate diligence and an artistic pursuit of elusive goals, shrouds the veracity that learning is work. Success comes when you love the battle, the challenge, the game. The work of learning Chess carries over into other areas, too, but the benefits of Chess are not the focus here. Instead, how do we pass on this zeal to young people and teach them Chess here in the Show Me state? How do we counter the notion that Chess is an “old man’s game” and breathe new life into the sport?

My husband and I first started teaching Chess by teaching our own children. Back in the 1990s, our first son, Scott, was interested in Chess mainly as a fun way to go on trips with his dad. But by the year 2000 when his dad won the Reserve section of the Wisconsin State Championship, it was apparent Scott’s interests were not in Chess. Perhaps we hadn’t taught him well enough to enjoy the game, but we didn’t want to force him to keep playing. So Chess stayed on the back burner for about eight years, until William and Theodore came along.

From the beginning, we homeschooled William and Theodore, who are ten and twelve years younger than Scott, respectively, and I introduced them to Chess during one of their homeschool co-op classes. William not only showed interest there in Chess but soundly defeated all the other kids in the co-op. The next semester I taught the Chess class, not just to improve William’s game but to strengthen the competition. The curriculum for the class soon proved inadequate, and William continued winning effortlessly. Lacking an official curriculum, William and I simply played chess frequently, because he clearly enjoyed the game. Scholastic Chess is different from what I remember from growing up in Ohio, and I hoped William would not get overwhelmed by it. Nevertheless, my husband took William to his first tournament, a non-rated local school district competition for Fifth Grade students. Although William was homeschooled, the Francis Howell school district let him play, in return for my husband’s help with running the tournament. William ran through the field easily until the last round, winning every game. In the last round William dropped his Queen! But, he played on, and, a few moves later, his opponent returned the favor. Unbelievable! William won his first tournament with a perfect score. Now what?!



*Continued on next page*

## Where do we go from here?

Since the Saint Louis Chess club did not exist, the primary way to get more experience for William was to run local tournaments at our small storefront in St. Peters; it would also help advertise our tutoring services. My husband held a simultaneous exhibition there for children, offering prizes to whomever could beat him, and a number of children showed up including: William Tong, Kevin Cao and Henry Cao. All of them left with a prize, and Kevin is one of today's top Missouri Masters.

In addition to running several small tournaments, my husband and I built up the St. Peters Chess Club by going through an excellent primer, Chess Tactics for Students by John A. Bain, which can be found on Amazon or at the Saint Louis Chess Club. Furthermore, we put together a short, "How to Play Chess" booklet to quickly get new students enjoying chess. As I showed kids the basic mechanics and math of Chess, William inspired them with puzzles and wit. As William's rating surpassed mine and then my husband's, the search for better materials for him naturally has led us to learn how to improve our own game. Consequently, William has assumed some teaching at the St. Peters Chess Club, especially while I work with beginning students.

Beyond reading books, watching videos, and paying for lessons, Missouri has outstanding Chess resources thanks to the advent of the Saint Louis Chess Club and the demonstrated success of GatewayChess.org - the main entity for organizing Scholastic Chess tournaments. The indefatigable, penultimate way to teach Chess is still out there, but here are some highlights of what is happening here in Missouri.

## What to study?

Without a doubt, children should study tactics. They need to be aware of the various Chess patterns and train their mind to see Chess combinations in a very natural way - as easily as they speak their native tongue. The ABCs of Chess, tactics are foundational.

*"Listen, I don't want to boast but I do happen to be national champion in Scotland. It just isn't conceivable that you can design a program strong enough to beat players like me." - David Levy, 1969*

*Continued on next page*

## **MCB Material Submissions:**

**The MCB is Missouri's Official Chess Publication, for and by the members of the Missouri Chess Association. Your help providing material for the MCB is appreciated. All submissions become the property of the MCA, and the MCA reserves the right to edit any and all material received for publication.**

### **Please send material for the MCB, including but not limited to:**

- annotated games (PGN format is preferred, but others can be used)
- articles written by members
- articles from outside sources, with permission for republication
- pictures (with captions please)
- historical items
- scoresheets
- chess related quotes, sayings, and jokes
- or just about anything else you would like to contribute that's appropriate

**All contributions that are true, fair, build goodwill and better friendships among the membership are acceptable for publication. Thanks so much to all those who have contributed.**

Chess computers and software also play an important role in Chess education. Great software from companies like ChessBase.com provide software called Chessbase - a Chess Game Database. It is a great resource for finding the games of the masters and researching Openings and other areas of Chess. They also develop Chess Engines which can be used to play against the computer. Playing against Chess engines is not necessarily a good expenditure of time when learning Chess; it may be a poor use of time! It is no more advantageous to learn Chess by playing Chess Engines than it is to learn mathematics by using a calculator. However, the engines are good for analyzing games. One way to use these tools is to look up games in Chessbase, go through the moves, and give certain complex positions to the Chess engine to help reveal reasons behind the moves. Nevertheless, a student must first make every effort to understand the position, before using an engine.

### **What about the Internet?**

With internet access to a vast amount of information, Chess has taken on a whole new life, in some respects. Sites like Chess.com offer a huge wealth of learning experiences, and it is one of the sites I recommend to parents seeking Chess learning resources. In addition to Chess.com, an older site is ChessClub.com (aka, The Internet Chess Club, ICC), which existed some years before Chess.com. The video lessons on ICC are, in my opinion, the best source for video education. GM Alex Yermolinsky has a wonderful series on endgames, and others like GM Ronen Har-Zvi, Joel Benjamin and Boris Alterman offer many hours of educational material for all levels. Even so, Chess.com also has many high quality videos. All this education is very inexpensive compared to some methods of learning, such as private teachers or coaches.

Ron Luther, a native Missouri Master, has written an article with some tips on how to make use of the Internet versus using in-person teachers. See [page 12](#).

### **Who Teaches Chess in Missouri?**

**"Studying chess without a coach diminishes your efficiency and slows down your progress. Also, if you get used to doing something the wrong way, it is very hard to unlearn."**

**- Natalia Pogonina - Russian Chess Woman Grandmaster**

Utilizing the aforementioned resources can get you so far, but further progress and faster learning usually requires a Chess coach. The USCF has a Chess Coach certification program, and the details and qualifications are listed on their website at <http://www.uschess.org/content/view/9474/131/>. Missouri's certified coaches are listed after this article.

Choosing a coach, right for you and your child, is a personal decision, but it may be limited by other factors like where you live and times the coach is available. Some Missouri families have successfully used Skype to overcome the distance and accessibility issues, and indeed, we also tried that medium. But, it became apparent that it was not ideal for a long-term "Chess Instructor relationship. The communication nuances that a face-to-face meeting provides were not the same. Indeed, actual "face time", possible with Skype was shied away from by the instructors in Eastern Europe, and the sessions were verbal only. With a cost of \$60/hour - the ROI was not good enough.



Ronen Har-Zvi Teaching

*Continued on next page*



One of the most impressive changes to happen in Missouri Chess was because of the vision of the founder of the Saint Louis Chess Club and Scholastic Center (CCSCSL) - Rex Sinquefeld. Where his vision will ultimately lead is still yet to be seen! Mentioning the CCSCSL's significance in Missouri allows me to segue to the examination of teachers in Missouri. Some of the Chess teachers, who have come into Missouri via the CCSCSL, are among the top in the world, including: GM Yasser Seirawan, GM Ronen Har-Zvi, GM Benjamin Finegold and GM Varuzhan Akobian. In fact, you can watch these teachers in videos produced by the CCSCSL

at <http://www.youtube.com/STLChessClub>.

My husband, Tim, spoke with Ronen Har-Zvi, one of the instructors at the CCSCSL, to understand what good practices are for teaching Chess. Ronen Har-Zvi (born 13 October, 1976) is an Israeli chess player and writer, and he won the under-16 title at the World Youth Chess Championship in 1992. He has held the title of Grandmaster of chess since 1995, and he visited the CCSCSL in February 2013. Graciously Ronen Har-Zvi agreed to be interviewed for the MCB; his teachings on ICC have helped me (see pg.23) and many others learn new openings and use them effectively. Many of Ronen's videos can be found at <http://www6.chessclub.com/chessfm/index/ronen/index.html>.

Here are some highlights from the February 3rd, 2013 interview with Ronen, exploring what he considered to be a good Chess teacher:

**Tim:** How do you teach children, and what materials do you use?

**Ronen:** The basic thing, if you go through 1000 games of kids, how are those games being finished? Is any winning an amazing Rook ending that any would be proud of? Not even one. They are blundering their Queens, and the other one is taking the Queen and checkmating them. The first concept to understand is the material advantage - this is to learn not to blunder material. The second concept is space - why do we play in the center in Chess and we don't play in the side. The children need to learn that the center is more valuable because it gives more possibilities. If we are playing soccer, and I am in the center, I can kick the ball left, straight or right. If I have more places to maneuver, that is an advantage. Once we are understanding material and space then we can start speaking about higher concepts such as activity, which means a player can have more material or space but his pieces are less active. Two other factors, pawn structure and King safety complete the five factors that are 99% of looking at any Chess position.

**Tim:** I have been running a Chess club for a while, and I try to find things to teach in my club and to my son. One area that I taught, which William enjoyed, was how to play a gambit. (Note to reader: a gambit is an opening that gives up material for other advantages such as space and initiative). Your comments about material and space make me question when I should start teaching gambits - if at all.

**Ronen:** The basic approach is to teach the most basic things first, not the fancy ones.

In teaching from the material in Chess Tactics for Students, as mentioned above, it was great to have Ronen affirm my understanding of what to use to teach.

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## Passing on the Chess Torch, Cont'd

The CCSCSL is not the only place to find Chess teachers in Missouri, and a “big name” teacher can be expensive. However, the quality can be as good for a teacher who charges less, depending on the area being taught. A top Grandmaster may charge \$60-\$100 per hour for lessons, but that level of compensation is not really necessary until a student is already at or near expert level. For the student looking to reach expert level, a good Chess teacher, charging only \$20-\$30 per hour, can effectively instruct students ranging from beginners to Class C players (Class C is about 1500 USCF points). Another rule of thumb is that the teacher should be a minimum of 200 points above the student’s rating, but this leaves open the opportunity for a lot of poor teachers. For example, a student with a rating of 500 is not much different in understanding from a teacher with a rating of 700. To apply the 200 point rule, the USCF-rating for a good teacher should start at about 1800 - known as the A class. The ratings I mention are USCF standard ratings; Internet and international ratings are different.

### What about Chess Curriculum?

Searching for more than some simple guidelines, I wanted to get into the details of a Chess curriculum, that is, to find someone who has a plan to fully teach how to be a good Chess player. So, we traveled to Ballwin to meet up with one of Missouri’s own Masters, Loal Davis of the Davis School for Chess, to learn how he teaches Chess. From our observations, the Davis School lives up to the level of detail and quality we were looking to find. Loal Davis is a strong master, who agreed to let us interview him for this article and share some insights on the Davis School, and here are some of the major points:

**MCB:** Loal, please tell us what material you use to teach Chess?

**Loal:** From the first lesson, we stress chess notation by using specially formatted scoresheets with plenty of room for suggestions and annotation. We go through every move of every game of every student, whether it’s in class or a tournament we run. Assigning points for each game a student plays allows us to measure his or her progress. Students get points for tactics, initiative, not hanging pieces, and other such contributors to winning games; the scoresheets are kept in individual binders or notebooks. We also go over Master games, as in Reti’s Masters of the Chessboard, with the more advanced students. If you focus on the basics like getting your pieces out and control of the center, the results kind of take care of themselves.

**MCB:** When did you start teaching chess?

**Loal:** We started here in Missouri with some private students in 1998 and picked up more through the Rockwood schools in 2006, but I have been teaching since 1970. We don’t charge parents to play, but the focus is on students age six and above, that want to be there and learn. Elaine [Davis] takes the beginning students through some intermediate students, while I [teach] the intermediate to advanced.

**MCB:** Do you observe the games?

**Loal:** Yes, as often as we can (as they're happening) in a class of 12 students. For more precise evaluation, after the fact, we rely on each student's notation. The USCF requires notation in tournaments, but [the notation] allows us to go back and show the student: You did this here, and he or she can improve his or her game from there.

*Continued on next page*

**MCB:** How do students find you?

**Loal:** We rely almost exclusively on the positive referrals of our continuing students. In August of 1998, we had about 85 - 90 students coming weekly, before I went to Washington in 2008, but enrollment dropped about 80% by the time I returned. Going from only private students to groups of 35 students in Rockwood schools in 2006. We needed to revamp our system to better track the progress of so many students. We evaluate students constantly to match students with similar abilities and temperament to get them moving together and maximize their abilities.

**MCB:** What constitutes a Beginner as opposed to an Intermediate student?

**Loal:** A beginner knows nothing, is completely new to chess, or thinks they have been playing for a few years. As soon as they are introduced to taking notation and getting point values up (on their scorecards) to where we can see they are controlling their development, not hanging [pieces], that sort of thing...we start moving them up to an intermediate level. When their tactics get a little better and they become more cognizant of being in control, they move up to advanced classes.

*Continued on page 14*

### Certified USCF Chess Coaches in Missouri

According to the USCF website, Missouri has no Level V Professional Chess Coaches. Only two (Bob Holliman and C J Armenta) of the seven Level IV National Chess Coaches and no Level III Advanced Chess Coaches are listed for Missouri. Ben Finegold, Bill Thompson, and Alex Vergilsov are Missouri's Level II District Coaches, and the four Level I Local Chess Coaches in Missouri are: Tim Campbell, William Collin, Ken Fee, and Mike Smalley. The standards for being a chess coach are outlined at USChess.org.

<b>Professional Level V Chess Coach</b>	<b>State</b>
Bachler, Kevin	IL
Mehler, David	MD
Phillips, Rene W	LA
Ritter, Mark	FL

<b>National Level IV Chess Coach</b>	<b>State</b>
Armenta, C J	MO
Holliman, Bob	MO

<b>District Level II Chess Coach</b>	<b>State</b>
Finegold, Ben	MO
Thompson, Bill	MO
Vergilsov, Alex	MO

<b>Local Chess Coach</b>	<b>State</b>
Campbell, Tim	MO
Collin, William	MO
Fee Jr, Kenneth	MO
Smalley, Mike	MO

# Teaching: Internet versus In-Person ~ Ron Luther ~

Does it matter if your teacher is in the room with you or only on the Internet? With the advent of the Internet, many have turned to it for learning how to play better chess, but there are advantages and disadvantages to learning that way. Here are some observations to help you see both sides of the coin.

The first thing to remember is that every person (student) is different. What works well for one, may not work well for another. Plus each student learns at a different pace. Some pick up on things quickly, while others take more time to grasp concepts.

## Internet

Many strong players, including GMs and IMs, use the internet to increase their customer base. In fact, since so few can make a decent living playing Chess, and most don't have regular jobs, they need as many students as possible!

The sheer number of students many of these strong players have and the fact that the lessons are delivered via the internet make it very un-likely they are giving "Personalized" lessons to each student. However, due to the relatively low costs, convenience, as well as sometimes the name or title of the person giving the lesson, they remain popular. A stronger student, those over 1800, would probably benefit the most from lessons over the internet.

Here are some suggestions when looking for an internet Teacher:

Do they customize the lessons to you, or do they give the same lessons to everyone?

How much time do they spend looking at your games and how you play now?

Do they give you homework, for you to do between lessons?

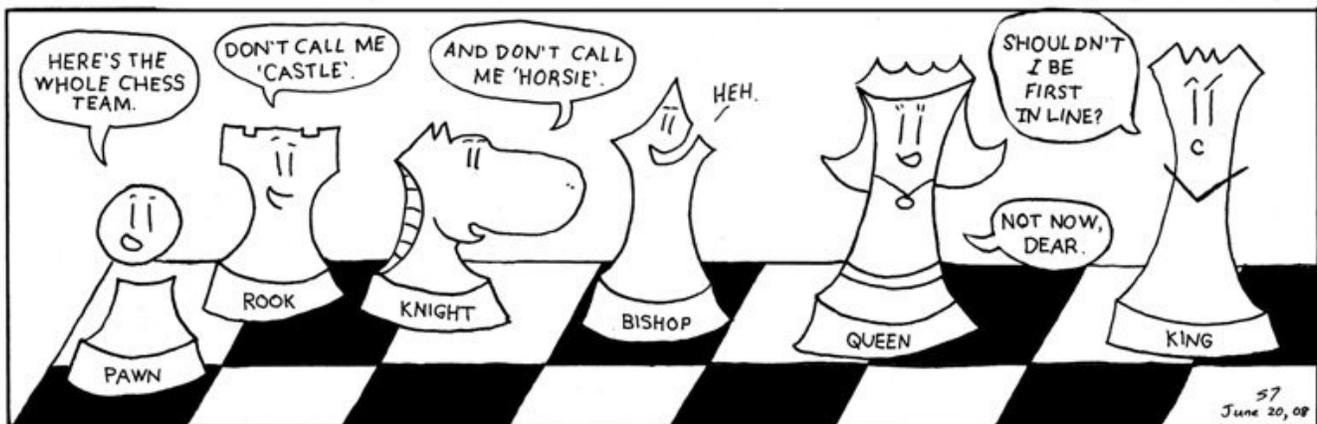
Is there a reference list of books, material they suggest specifically for you?

Do they use Skype or some other face to face via the internet program?

There are probably more things that could be added, but this would be a great starting point.

## In-Person

For many people under 1800 this would be the most used version. While it is not as convenient as the internet, it has its advantages. Because many of the people who give personal lessons, do it as a side venture, they are not tied to running through the lesson to get on to the next client. The main problem here is finding a reputable teacher. Keep in mind, that just because a teacher is titled e.g.: IM, GM, does not mean they are good at translating their strength to the student. Some non-titled teachers offer excellent insight at a less expensive rate than the titled players.



From Internet at : <http://readcomics.org/2008/09/03/board-game-webcomics/>

**You may learn much more from a game you lose than from a game you win. You will have to lose hundreds of games before becoming a good player."**

- Jose Raoul Capablanca

Obviously, talking to those who have been taught by certain teachers, as well as seeing what their results have been in your area, are good ideas. An ideal teacher should be able to put things into easily understandable terms, which the student can remember as well as apply at the board. He should also have patience, be able to motivate, and have you reaching farther than you thought possible.

Here are some of the main advantages of an In-Person Teacher:

Can see your facial expressions during the lesson or during games.

Can watch you play, either casual or tournaments, and see how well you use your time, and see if you have any bad habits at the board.

Easy to ask questions of, and have the responses, explained to the student.

Much easier to get hold of via phone, as well as e-mail.

It is a huge bonus, if the teacher gives printed or chess base material, that can be referred to later to refresh and ingrain the subjects later at home. Homework and reference material can help raise the playing strength between lessons; look for someone who does these things.

Avoid those who berate, intimidate, or have a bad disposition, no matter what their rating or title.

Finally

**It is the Student who does the work**

**It is the Student who chooses when and where to play**

**It is the Student who makes the moves on the board**

**It is the Student who chooses how to use their time**

Questions or Comments?

ronaldluther@yahoo.com

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## Supernationals V

This year's SuperNationals V at Nashville, TN with 5,335 young tournament players marked the largest rated chess tournament in history. The sheer numbers of students, parents and coaches caused some technical difficulties, but it was nice to be able to lookup your pairing online.

The State of Missouri was very proud to have the top 4 spots out of 70 schools in the team standings for the K-12 under 1200 section. Vianney High came out victorious with 21.5 points to take a clear 1st place with the help from top scorers, Tim Ellebracht, Alex Moellering, Jack Lyons, Andrew Krekeler and Jordon Hoover. The second through fourth place teams all produced 20.5 points with only tie breakers determining their places. Second place went to Rockhurst High School from Kansas City, MO consisting of Christian Gamble, Kevin Corpeny, Justin Vince and Barry Cody. Third place went to St. Joseph Academy consisting of Benjamin Hart, Cecilia Tackett, Matthew Howe & Caleb Mohn. Crossroads College Prep from St. Louis settled for fourth place with their strong team consisting of Armand Gauda, August Gremaud, Benjamin Williams, Benton Birch, Reid Doctor and Noah Dromgoole. As a special note, twelve Missouri students took home trophies in the K-12 section rated under 1200.

For the individual K-12 section, Kevin Cao took a 35th place trophy with 5 points. Honorable mention goes to William Nesham, Matthew Larson and Andrew Parkerson all receiving 4 points during the tough competition.

Luke Herbst did very well placing 8th in the K-12 under 1600 individual section. Honorable mention goes to Josiah Weeks of St. Joseph Academy with 5 points. In the team standings for this same section K-12 under 1600, St. Louis Metro placed 36 out of 65 teams led by Jesse Felix, Houston Miller, Rio Pimentel and Kislay Bishupuri.

*Continued on page 17*

## Passing on the Chess Torch, Cont'd

**MCB:** Now we are in the age of the Saint Louis Chess Club. How does this affect your school?

**Loal:** Occasionally our students attend a downtown tournament, but they don't go there regularly. They don't like the long drive. And, now that we are sponsoring rated tournaments, like the next one coming up on August 10, they have even less reason to go downtown.

**MCB:** Does your School have a curriculum or just a measurement system?

**Loal:** Yes, we have a very definite curriculum. We introduce every beginning student to basic tactics, strategies, and position evaluation as we review their games and, occasionally, master level games, in each class. Students then finish their 90 minute class by playing a game.

We repeat the same concepts in our intermediate level classes while introducing more depth and increasing the number of master level games for them to analyze. Our points system, based on information gathered after we analyze their games, gives us accurate feedback as to how well each student has been able to apply the lecture material in their own games.

In our advanced classes we do review student games but we give greater focus to the analysis of master level games.

**MCB:** As I also asked GM Ronen, What value do you see in teaching gambits?

**Loal:** Absolutely, this is a good way to improve because you learn tactical lessons really quickly, or you get burned really quickly. There's no faster way to learn some things than with gambits. I feel the use of gambits gives great returns in chess growth, personal enjoyment and tournament points. Gambits generate volatile tactical situations that will spur you on to learning your chess lessons faster than any other tool. If you think gambits are "unsound", "played out" or "figured out" I would strongly disagree. If you think gambits are "laughed at", "ridiculed" or "not respected" I would add, only by some and more often than not, these people are scared to death of them. At the master level, there is a reoccurring philosophical snobbery of "I've got it figured out". Those players who do not respect gambits will generally try to avoid playing against them. I feel that gambits are not "refuted" but only "out of fashion" – for some. Bronstein, Spassky, Fischer and Kasparov are just a few who have brought them into respectable view. I think they sound like good company.

Loal can be contacted for lessons at: [thedavisschool@yahoo.com](mailto:thedavisschool@yahoo.com)

**To Summarize,** children can begin learning to play Chess as early as four or five years old, and there are classes, trainers and coaches available at local chess clubs, community rooms, and online. Although there are only a few Chess curricula, there are more books about Chess than any other sport, and experts agree that Chess is a sport: it requires discipline, a healthy body, practice, and a patient coach. More than just a game, Chess targets short attention spans, builds focus and self-esteem, and develops higher level thinking skills: a challenge worth achieving for the next generation. Chess can make learning fun and wipeout at least some summer complaints of boredom. By all means, if you don't know how to play but want to help your child play Chess, learn to play!

~ Molly Nesham  
[molly.nesham@gmail.com](mailto:molly.nesham@gmail.com)

# Inducted into Missouri Chess Hall of Fame

Zeb Fortman started playing USCF rated chess in 1971 at the age of 22. The following year, 1972, he played on a U.S. amateur chess team (2<sup>nd</sup> Board) that took on an amateur Russians chess team in Kansas City that was televised at the Glenwood Manor. While active, Zeb maintained a USCF Expert rating for over a decade. Playing on a regular basis, he reached a high of 2122 USCF rating in 1988. Zeb won the Missouri State Class A ('84) and Missouri State Expert ('95) titles. In addition to actively playing chess, Zeb organized many chess clubs in Kansas City, including the Inner City Chess Club and the Rockhurst Community Chess Club. Zeb was President of the Kansas City Chess Club in the 70's and Executive Director of the Regional Chess Council, which brought the 2001 Super National Scholastic Championships to Kansas City. Zeb has been recognized many times in the Kansas City Star newspaper.



**Zeb Fortman II**

Two of the articles were: "These 25 people make KC a better sports town" (Kansas City Star, December 03, 2002) and "Teacher and coach to stars of chess in Kansas City" (Kansas City Star, May 10, 1998). Zeb created and developed "Be Your Best Play Chess," a chess-in-the-school program, which has brought chess in over 20 schools each year for the last 10 years in the Kansas City, Missouri schools. Zeb has been a scholastic coach for over 30 years, and he coached the winning K-5 Missouri Scholastic Championship team five consecutive years in row (2002-2006) with three different teams (Pembroke Hill, Mt. Washington, and Barstow). Many of his students have won state and national championships. Zeb also has run several chess camps in the Kansas City Area over the last 10 years. Zeb teamed with the Kansas Chiefs running back, Priest Holmes, to teach chess to inner-city kids through the Police Athletic League (PAL) Center. Priest's chess program was the Checkmate Chess Club. Zeb also teamed with GM Yuri Shulman and Dr Mikhail Korenman in 2003 as a coach at the at the World Champion Karpov School of Chess (Anatoly Karpov International School of Chess). Two girls that Zeb coached were: Avery May, Missouri K-5 State Champion, and Stephanie Klimczak, who placed 5<sup>th</sup> at US Chess K-5 Open Section at the Nationals in Nashville, Tenn.

## Loal Davis vs Arthur Bisguier

At the 1978 US Open in Phoenix, AZ Loal Davis won the brilliancy prize for his gambit win over GM Arthur Bisguier:

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 d6 5. Bc4 c6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. Be3 Ngf6 8. Qb3 Qe7 9. O-O Ng4 10. Bd4 Nde5 11. Bxe5 Nxe5 12. Nxe5 dxe5 13. Rad1 Be6 14. Nd5 cxd5 15. Bb5+ Kd8 16. Rxd5+ Bxd5 17. Qxd5+ Kc7 18. Rc1+ Kb8 19. Ba6 g6 20. Bxb7 Bh6 21. Rc3 Rd8 22. Ba6 1-0

# District Tourney Brings Parkway Students to Chess Club

~ Mike Wilmering ~

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis had one of its busiest weekends of the year last month, hosting Parkway students of all grade levels for the annual Parkway Chess Championship. The tournament was split over two days with primary students competing on Saturday, April 20 and secondary students on Sunday, April 21.

A total of 78 K-5th graders came to the Chess Club for the tournament on Saturday. The competition was compartmentalized into six separate sections, one for each grade.

In the Kindergarten section, Sam Jerauld of Sorrento Springs won four out of five games in a round-robin to claim first place. In the 1st-grade section, Jason Tsao went undefeated to clinch the victory. This was a repeat victory for Jason, who won the Kindergarten division last year. Michael Pugachev scored an impressive four wins and a draw to beat out the competition of the 2nd-grade section. The 3rd-grade champ, Aiden Johnson, a student of National Master Spencer Finegold, went undefeated in the tournament, and in the biggest section of the tournament, 20 4th graders could not defeat Michael D'Alfonso, who went undefeated after five games. In the 5th-grade section, Sandeep Yanamala, also undefeated, was crowned the Parkway champion! Shenandoah Elementary School defended their 2012 title and won the tournament with an overwhelming result of over 40 combined victories.

Chess Club staff returned to the tournament hall the next day to run the 6th-12th grade sections. The attendance at the event was polarized, and sections needed to be adjusted prior to the games. Tournament Director Mike Kummer decided to create two sections for the participants, a 6th grade-only section and a 7th-12th grade section.

The sixth graders played five rounds of heated matches featuring checkmates, piece captures, blunders and busts. When the dust settled, Amy Zhang was crowned the 6th-grade champion.

The secondary section was one of the most competitive in years as National Master Kevin Cao dominated the field to win the tournament. Kevin was paired against Expert Tom Polgar in the final round. The game was a tactical nightmare, but, in the end, Kevin navigated the complications to earn the full point and secure the overall championship.

Parkway West Middle School, led by Coach Joe Regenbogen, secured the overall school championship.



Thanks to all of the 108 participants, parents, coaches, and the Parkway School District administration for making this tournament possible here at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis!

## Supernationals V - cont from pg 13

Two MO teams placed in the top 10 in the K-12 under 800 section. Vianney came in 7th place with Dan Owensby, Matt Kleine, Nathan Mittenzwey & Nick Kreitner as their top scorers. Meanwhile, Andrew Kowalkowski, Homer Dula, Solomon Cooper & Alex Ponchot led Crossroads College Prep to finish in 9th place. St Joseph Academy placed 21st with Ben Johnson, Meggan Kaster, and Conrad Morris, while Willow Springs ended up in 24th place with Jesse Ryan, Dillon Walker and Ethan Hale.

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In the K-9 individual Championship, Margaret Hua was the top MO student with 3.5 points.

In the K-8 individual Championship, the top 3 MO students were 7th grader Nathan Phan and 8th graders, Clark Berry and Julian Proleiko, all from the St. Louis area.

*Continued on page 29*

# Regional Chess Clubs

### Heart of America Chess Association

Noland Baptist Church  
4505 S Noland Rd. Independence, MO 64055  
Meets: Friday nights 7-11pm  
Community Club, No fee to play  
Contact Bob Holliman: chess\_entries@comcast.net

### Westport Chess Club

Westport Flea Market 817 Westport Rd. Kansas City, MO  
Meets: Tuesdays 6:30 to 11:00 PM  
\$2 for adults, \$1 for Students and under 18  
Contact Ray Birt: westportchessclub@gmail.com  
Website-http://www.westportchessclub.org

### Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis

4657 Maryland, Saint Louis, Missouri 63108  
Club open Tuesday-Sunday  
Weekly Blitz, Bughouse, Lessons, and Tournaments  
Contact Tony Rich: trich@saintlouischessclub.org  
or call 314-361-CHESS  
Website-http://saintlouischessclub.org

### St. Louis Chess Club

St. Louis Bread Company 6630 Delmar Ave. (U-City)  
Chess played every night 6-9pm, most players come week-ends  
Contact Joesph Garnier: chessoholic@sbcglobal.net

### Game Nite

South County Center mall, 30 South County Center Way  
St. Louis, MO 63129  
Meets: Every Monday evening 6pm-9pm  
Free to play  
Contact: Chris Prysock (gameniteshop@gmail.com)  
(314) 894-2684 www.gameniteshop.com

### St. Peters Chess Club

Liberty Classical School, O'Fallon, MO 63366  
Meet on Friday: 4:30—6pm  
Membership: \$75 yearly. Private Lessons: \$20 per hour  
Contact Tim Nesham: tim.nesham@gmail.com

### Univ. of Missouri Chess Club

Memorial Union (518 Hitt Street) Room S203, Columbia  
Meets: Mondays 7 to 10 PM August-May  
Contact Steve Brieztkes [brieztkes@health.missouri.edu](mailto:brieztkes@health.missouri.edu)  
Website: <http://muchess.students.missouri.edu>

### Missouri S&T Chess Club

Havener Center, Shamrock Room Missouri S&T  
1346 N. Bishop, Rolla, MO 65409  
Meets: Thursdays 7 to 9 PM  
Contact Thomas Rehmeier: trrthf@mst.edu

### Springfield Park Board Chess Club

Southside Senior Center 2215 S. Fremont Ave., Springfield  
Meets: Fridays 6:30 to 11:00 PM  
Contact Joe Brozovich: jmbroz@att.net or call 417-882-3992  
Website: <http://www.springfieldparkboardchessclub.com>

### Mineral Area Chess Club

McDonald's (Columbia and Hwy 67)  
1700 W. Columbia St. Farmington, MO 63640  
Meets: Monday nights 6:30-11pm  
Contact: James Lyons: jaalyon@sbcglobal.net

### Your Club Here!

*Email [molly.nesham@gmail.com](mailto:molly.nesham@gmail.com) to have your club advertised in the MCB and the MCA Website.*

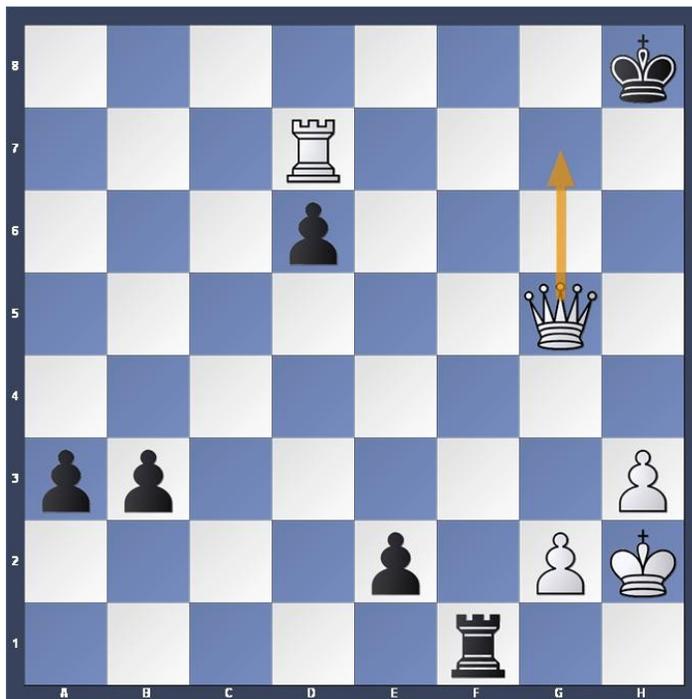
## MISSOURIANS ON THE USCF TOP 100 LISTS — June 2013

<b><u>Overall</u></b>		GM Hikaru Nakamura (2867)	1st		
		GM Ray Robson (2698)	5th		
		GM Ben Finegold (2578)	36th		
<b><u>Age 18</u></b>	GM Ray Robson (2698)	1st	<b><u>Age 14</u></b>	Tom Polgar-Shutzman (2091)	24th
				Margaret Hua (1929)	51st
<b><u>Age 17</u></b>	Isaiah Gadson (2062)	36th			
	William Nesham (1950)	69th	<b><u>Age 11</u></b>	Jason Zhou (1836)	34th
	Vikram Arun (1929)	71st			
<b><u>Age 16</u></b>	Kevin Cao (2249)	10th	<b><u>Girls U16</u></b>	Margaret M.Hua (1929)	21st
	Jialin Ding (2224)	12th		Zoe Lemon (1714)	55th
	William Tong (2003)	44th	<b><u>Correspondence:</u></b>	Barry Walker (2164)	72nd
<b><u>Age 15</u></b>	Matthew Larson (2037)	43rd	<b><u>Senior:</u></b>	Selden Trimble (2029)	83rd
	Ansar Lemon (2035)	44th		James Davies (2018)	92nd

## MISSOURI'S TOP 100 (July 2013)

1 GM Hikaru Nakamura	2880	36 Robert F Sutter Jr	2058	71 James Larkin Smith	1944
2 GM Ray Robson	2713	37 Steven J Rand	2050	72 Jason Fredericks	1937
3 GM Anatoly Bykhovsky	2625	38 Abhishek Mallela	2048	73 Kenneth E Fee Jr	1935
4 GM Benjamin P Finegold	2561	39 Bronik Matwijkiw	2040	74 Zebedee Fortman Jr	1929
5 GM Denes Boros	2555	40 Zebedee Fortman	2037	75 Margaret M Hua	1929
6 IM Priyadarshan Kannappan	2508	41 Matthew W Larson	2034	76 Vikram Arunachalam Arun	1929
7 IM Levan Bregadze	2469	42 Alexander Vergilesov	2031	77 Yomi Toba	1921
8 IM Vitaly Neimer	2450	43 Scott R Moore	2029	78 Mark A Cogley	1921
9 IM Michael A Brooks	2419	44 Julio J Santiago Jr	2026	79 Jason Zhou	1921
10 Charles Lawton	2327	45 Peter E Moscatelli	2026	80 Gary Freeman	1920
11 Wgm Anna Sharevich	2324	46 Tony D Rich	2020	81 Carl M Bender	1915
12 FM Paul Hoainhan M Truong	2310	47 Joseph Anton Garnier	2017	82 Walt D Ressimyer	1911
13 Kevin Y Cao	2289	48 Alex Marler	2016	83 Jacob Wilkins	1909
14 Iskandar Aripov	2267	49 Andrew W Amelung	2011	84 Albert Damont Howlett	1903
15 FM Doug D Eckert	2237	50 James A Davies	2011	85 Dwight P Beasley	1898
16 Kenneth Eugene Jones	2225	51 William M Tong	2003	86 Timothy S Killian	1898
17 Loal W Davis	2224	52 Riley M Sheffield	2001	87 Mark James Barber	1893
18 WIM Inna Agrest	2220	53 Frank H Smith	2001	88 Darius Masuhud	1889
19 Thomas G Gossell	2213	54 Gary Michael White	2001	89 Daniel J Coryea	1889
20 Spencer Finegold	2212	55 Kevin Dale Johnson	2000	90 Shane C Evans	1888
21 Ronald Luther	2200	56 Fred Roper	2000	91 Chris Fieber	1885
22 Bob Holliman	2200	57 Paul W Cornelison	2000	92 Rodney Vaughn	1879
23 Alan J Erlebacher	2162	58 Fredrick Sadoogi	1998	93 Matthew C Hosler	1873
24 Mark Joeffrey Ferber	2154	59 Thurman L Newbill	1995	94 G N Thompson	1864
25 Andrew Joseph Witte	2149	60 David W Scott	1983	95 Steven D Bange	1857
26 Nick W Karlow	2140	61 Richard Harper	1978	96 Dan M Walker	1854
27 Dan Pobre Ranario	2128	62 Barry Manthe	1976	97 Jay Lewis Iii	1853
28 James R Voelker	2124	63 David Benjamin Askin	1972	98 Jonathan Patrick Schrantz	1850
29 Nathaniel S Fast	2115	64 Stephen E Randoll	1967	99 Paul J Goddard	1848
30 James McLaughlin	2101	65 Daniel R Huff	1965	100 Andrew R Menown	1846
31 Benjamin M Gradsky	2100	66 Tim B Blaco	1963		
32 Robert Merton Jacobs	2100	67 Selden Trimble	1960		
33 Tom Polgar-Shutzman	2069	68 Matt Barrett	1957		
34 Isaiah Gadson	2062	69 Bryan F Clair	1952		
35 Aaron S Dubin	2059	70 William Nesham	1950		

# Black to Move and Win!



~ by Selden Trimble

Black's position appears to be desperate. White threatens mate-in-one two different ways. Using this and assuming the statement underneath the diagram is true, it is not hard to guess what Black's first and second moves must be. The third might be a little harder to find. The point is that it's really vital to know certain endgame principles. The one here is that a lone rook cannot stop two connected passed pawns on the 6th rank.

Solution: 1. ... Rh1+ 2. Kxh1 e1 (Q) + 3. Kh2 Qe5+ 4. Qxe5 dxe5 and one of Black's pawns must queen. Or 2. Kg3 e1 (Q) + 3. Kg4 Qe6+ 4. Qf5 Qxf5+ 5. Kxf5 a2 and one of Black's pawns must queen. The reader is invited to verify this for both cases.

<b>MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS</b>	<b>COST (1 Yr)</b>
<b>Regular</b> <i>Ages 25+; Includes hard-copy MCB.</i>	\$15.00
<b>Scholastic</b> <i>Under 25; Includes hard-copy MCB.</i>	\$10.00
<b>Electronic (Economy)</b> <i>Provides online MCB access. **Email address required.</i>	\$5.00
<b>Family</b> <i>2 Adults &amp; children under 25 Provides one hard-copy MCB.</i>	\$20.00
<b>Scholastic Family</b> <i>All children under 25.</i>	\$10.00

If you would like to join the MCA, please fill out a membership form (*available at [mochess.org](http://mochess.org)*) and mail it along with dues to the MCA Membership Coordinator:

**Thomas Rehmeier**  
5217 Denice Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65109 .  
573-291-0852 . [t.rehmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:t.rehmeier@yahoo.com)

Be sure to include your E-mail address to receive tournament announcements and notices when the new issue of the MCB is released.

# Games from the Don Oswald Memorial

~ Frank Smith ~

**Hajiarbabi, Mohammad (1875) - Smith, Frank (2018) [B23] 27.04.2013**

This is the first round of the Don Oswald Memorial. A G60 event with several good players. G60 is quite fast and often times requires more feel and trust. I had a tough matchup in my first round. I had played him twice, and had good positions in both games only to draw them. I was confident that wouldn't happen again.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 Nge7 5.Bb5 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0-0 g6** I mixed up two ideas here. This gives white some chances he didn't have before. Better is something like **Be7. 8.d3 Bg7 9.e5 d5! 10.Qe1?! Not a blunder, but exd6 seems to put more pressure on me. Now I control the game I think. 10...b5 11.Qf2 Qe7 12.Bd2 Bb7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4** I have gotten out of the opening with a slight advantage, now it's a matter of opening the position for my pieces. **15...0-0 16.Ne2 Rfc8 17.Bb4 Qd7 18.c3 a5!** The start of a plan that I am pretty proud of. **19.Bd6 [19.Bc5 Ra6 20.b4 axb4 21.cxb4 Bf8 22.Bxf8 Rc4 23.Qb2 Kxf8<sup>3</sup>; 19.Ba3 b4 20.cxb4 axb4 21.Bxb4 Ba6 22.Qd2 Qa7+ 23.Rf2 Bxe2 24.Qxe2 Rc4<sup>3</sup>] 19...Qxd6 20.exd6 Bxd4+ 21.Nxd4 Ba6 Bc6** is the best way to gain an advantage. **22.Rfc1 Rd8 23.Nc6?!** This was white's chance to take advantage of my error of not playing **Bc6** by playing **a4!** **23...Rxd6 24.Nxa5 f6** In a game 60 one cannot search too long for a move in a position like this. I played a solid move quickly. Just trying to get my pawns rolling in the center and get my king in the game. This is an example of feel and intuition. I knew the position would be difficult for white to play even though I couldn't see any concrete plan of winning yet. **25.b4 Kf7 26.Nb3 Rg8 27.Nc5 g5 28.f5 exf5 29.a4 bxa4 30.Rxa4 Bc4 31.Ra7+ Kg6 -+** Through some precise play and some not so precise play from white I have managed to gain a clear advantage. **32.Re1 f4 33.Rb1 Re8 34.b5 Rb6 35.Rb7 Rxb7 36.Nxb7 Rb8 37.Nd6 Rb6! 38.Nxc4 dxc4 39.Kf2 Kf5 40.Rb4 h5 41.Kf3 g4+ 42.Kf2 Ke5 43.h3 Kd5 44.hxg4 hxg4 45.Rb1 Kc5 46.Re1 Rxb5 47.Re4 Rb2+ 48.Kg1 g3! 49.Rxf4 Rb1+ 50.Rf1 Rxf1+ 51.Kxf1 Kb5 52.Ke2 Ka4 53.Ke3 Kb3** Black always has an extra tempo with **f4** when he needs it. He will win the pawn and queen. Good start to the tournament against a good player. **0-1**

**Smith, Frank (2018) - Rebohlz, John (1650) [C16]**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 c5** is by far the most popular, but this is playable. I played a less popular move as well. **5.Bd2 b6** I am already out of book now, but this is why it is important to know ideas about openings instead of just book lines. I have to trust I have a good enough feel for these positions, and make sure I don't fall for any traps. **6.f4 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ba6 8.Bxa6 Nxa6 9.Qd3!** The computer recommended move. Shows I have at least some idea what I'm doing. **9...Nb8 10.Nf3 Qd7 11.g4** Going to get him! **11...c5 h5** holds the balance. **12.Rf1 Nbc6 13.0-0-0** Another example of G60. I simply developed all my pieces, and directed them at his king. Now I say "Good luck finding the right moves in a G60". **13...Rc8 14.f5** Very aggressive. **14...cxd4?! 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Qa4 17.Kb1 Nc6 18.fxe6!+-** Another computer pick. Opening up the f-file, giving him king safety issues forever. **18...fxe6 19.c3 Nxd4 20.cxd4** Of course the king problems are only relevant with the queens on the board. **20...Qc4 21.Qf3 Qc2+** Only move. **22.Ka1 Qg6?** **Rc7** gives black a fighting chance. Now he is toast. **23.Qa3 Rc7 24.Qa4+ Ke7 25.Qb4+ Ke8 26.Qd6 Rd7 27.Qb8+ Rd8?** Amazingly black can play **Ke7!** After **Qxh8** he has **Rd8!!** White will have two rooks for a queen, hardly an easy win. **28.Qxa7 Rf8 29.Qa4+! Ke7 30.Qb4+ 2-0** so far so good. **1-0**

**Kelly, Joey (1956) - Smith, Frank (2018) [D08]**

My next opponent has been on a really hot streak. I think I played him about 3 months ago and was rated several hundred points above him. Now I am about 60 above him! A young player getting better. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5** A psychological decision to throw off my young opponent. I got everything one could want out of the opening so this was a great decision. **3.cxd5** This is not the main line, but as an Albins-counter gambit player... I think this is a good move from white. **3...Qxd5 4.dxe5** However, it's only a good move if he

plays something like Nc3 here, and then protects his pawn on d4. This gives black the initiative. **4...Qxd1+ 5.Kxd1 Nc6 6.f4 Bf5 7.e3?! White's plan has been bad so far. He desperately needed to develop. 7...0-0-0+ 8.Ke1 Nh6 9.Nf3 Nb4 10.Na3 Bc5 11.h3 Nd3+ 12.Bxd3 Rxd3 13.Nc2 Rhd8** Once again I have played simple chess and put the pressure on my opponent to make good moves. **14.Bd2?! It's hard to fault any individual move, like I said his strategy at the beginning has given him a tough position to play. 14...Be4+ 15.Bb4 Bxb4+?** The most disappointing move in the whole tournament. I had everything I could want. All I have to do is play Bb6 and say "you're move". White is in huge trouble. I struck before the iron was hot, and that is typically a strength of my game. I can build up a position until it collapses. Frustrating move. **16.Nxb4 Rxe3+ 17.Kf2 Nf5** What I missed when I went into this line is that my rook is in a very bad spot on e3 and it's not as easy to get it out as I thought. **18.Rhd1 a5? Bd3!** Saves the day. I looked at it, but for some reason didn't like it. This position was tough for me, especially after having an advantage just a few moves ago. **19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Rd1+ Kc8 21.Nd5?! I have life again! Nd4 would have given white a solid advantage going into and endgame. 21...Bxd5 22.Rxd5 Re4 23.g3 Rc4 24.Rd2 h6!?** Taking a move to keep his knight out. **25.g4!? Ne7 26.Ke3 c6!** Finding computer moves in these positions is something to be proud of. **27.Rd4 Nd5+ 28.Ke4 Rc2 NO DRAW.** I was offered a draw here, but declined. I want to pressure my opponent, but I have also learned you have to watch how far you take that. These positions can turn nasty in a hurry. I want to win, but can't press too hard. I was REALLY grinding in this game. Fighting spirit at it's finest. **29.Rd2 Rc1 30.a3 Kc7 31.h4 Rc4+ 32.Rd4 Nb6** Creating some imbalance. This gives white an advantage, but I felt his play was slipping a little bit and went for it! **33.h5 c5 34.Rxc4 Nxc4 35.Kd5** My feel was right. This move makes things equal and gives black the initiative. **35...Nxb2 36.Kxc5 Nd3+ 37.Kb5 Nxf4 38.Kxa5 Nh3?! After fighting back from near death, I had my chance to take control with Kc6! Shutting off his king. Unfortunate to be so close to climbing all the way back over the top and miss it. 39.Kb4 Nf2 40.g5 Ne4 41.gxh6 gxh6** And I ran low on time, but after a few knight moves we agreed to a hard fought draw. Good game. ½-½

### Smith, Frank (2018) - Wagner, Jacob (1993) [B23]

Ok, board 1 for the last round. Tied with Joey on board two, but my focus was solely on my game and gaining rating points. **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 d5** The grandprix attack gets a bad rap I think. Yes, black has several ways to equalize with correct play, but I think it is tricky. I know I don't feel comfortable playing against it, and I have a great record with it as white. This is a variation that books give. They just say black is equal, but I love playing against this line. White's play is easy. Glad to see it. If only I had studied this line before Yermolinsky played it against me several years ago. **5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5** The point is that black's pieces will be a bit tangled up, and if he solves that he will have a pawn weakness that is really hard to protect. **6...Nf6 7.Ne5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.b3 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 12.Ba3 Rb8** I was glad to see this move. I think Bd6 gives black a very playable position. **13.Na4 c4 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Qf2!+-** Another computer move. A nice subtle move that causes serious problems for black. He has pawns hanging, and my rook can come to e1 if i want. **15...cxb3 16.axb3 Ne4 17.Qxa7 Rbd8 18.d3 f6 19.Nf3** There were alternatives, but in a g60 I just made the practical choice to move out of the attack. My opponent was using too much time so I just made a safe move. **19...Nd6 20.Rae1 Qf7 21.Nc5! Nb5 22.Qb7 Nd6 23.Qb4 Bg4 24.Nd4 Qc7 25.h3** I missed the very subtle and beautiful move... f5! **25...Bd7 26.Na6 Qa7** Black is getting critically low on time. I am just keeping the pressure on and making solid moves fast. **27.Qxd6 Qxd4+ 28.Kh2 Rxe1 29.Rxe1 Qb6 30.Qc7 Qxc7 31.Nxc7 Kf7 32.Na6 Ra8 33.Nc5 Bc8 34.Kg3 Ra5 35.b4 Rb5 36.Rb1 d4 37.Kf3 f5 38.Ra1!** I thought I played this a bit sloppy just trying to play somewhat quickly and keep the pressure on, but the analysis shows I have done well so far. This last move leaves black in big trouble with about 10 seconds and a 5 second delay left. **38...Rxb4 39.Ra7+ Kf6 40.Rc7 Rb8 41.Rxc6+ Ke7 42.Kg3 g6 43.Nb3 Bd7 44.Nxd4! Rb2 45.Rc5** Why leave a piece hanging??? No nonsense. **45...Kd6 46.Ra5 Rb6 47.c4 Rb2 48.Rd5+ Ke7 49.Re5+ Kf7 50.Nf3 Rb3 51.Rd5 Be6 52.Ng5+** I stopped taking notation here because I was getting low on time too. White has an easy win. Proud of my play from the tournament. I missed that easy move against Joey, but besides that I played well. Looking forward to more of that this summer. 1-0

# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



## ● **5 SS G/25 August 10 August Action**

Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO  
Free entries for GMs and IMs. EF: \$10, \$5 for annual members of the club if registered by 8/2. PF: \$200 in Gift Cards  
Unconditionally Guaranteed!! 1st-\$50, 2nd-\$40, 3rd-\$30. 4th Place-\$20. Top U1700-\$ 25. Top U1300-\$20. Biggest Upset-\$15. Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes. Reg: 12-12:45.  
Rds: 1, 2, 3, 4:15, 5:30. Each player will start with 25 minutes and have a 3 second delay. Two Half point byes available if declared before Round 2. Ent: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108, or online at [saintlouischessclub.org](http://saintlouischessclub.org) Info: 314-361-CHESS  
[info@saintlouischessclub.org](mailto:info@saintlouischessclub.org). WCL

## ● **3 SS G/70 August 24 Emanuel Lasker Open**

UMC Memorial Union room S203, 518 Hitt St., Columbia MO  
Directions: From I-70 exit 126, south on Providence, east on Rollins, north on Hitt.  
Reg: 9:30-10:15. Rds: 10:30, 1:15, 4:00. EF: \$5,  
no prizes -- just the satisfaction of playing well.  
Two ratings-equivalent sections if 18+ players.  
Info: [czar8196@gmail.com](mailto:czar8196@gmail.com). W.

## ● **5 SS G/120 Aug 31-Sept 1 Saint Louis District Championship**

Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO  
Free entries for GMs and IMs.  
EF: \$60, \$50 for annual members of the club if registered by 8/30.  
One Section(FIDE rated). PF: \$2,525 GTD \$600-\$400-\$200.  
U2000 \$300-\$200-\$100. U1600 \$225-\$125-\$75. U1200 \$150-\$100-\$50.  
Top 2 finishers qualify for 2014 Club Championship.  
Reg: 9-9:45. Rds: 10, 2:30, 7. Sunday: 10, 2:30.  
Two 1/2 point byes available if declared before round 2.  
August Supplement Ratings will be used for pairing and prize purposes.  
MCA Membership required from \$5. OSA.  
Ent: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108, or online at [saintlouischessclub.org](http://saintlouischessclub.org) Info: 314-361-CHESS  
[info@saintlouischessclub.org](mailto:info@saintlouischessclub.org). WCL JGP.

\*\*Beginning with 2013 event, the Missouri Open and Chess Festival will begin a rotation cycle throughout the state. This year's event is will be held in Saint Louis, with additional side events, lectures, simuls, etc. Be on the lookout on the MCA website, [mochess.org](http://mochess.org), and the Missouri Chess Bulletin for further details.\*\*

## 5 SS G/120 September 27-29 Missouri State Chess Championship

Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO

\*A State Championship Event\* - \$3000 Guaranteed Prize Fund, 20 GPP.

2-sections:

**OPEN:** Overall Prizes: \$500-1st \$400-2nd, \$300-3rd. Class Prizes: \$150-1st in each: Master (2200-2399), X, A, B.

**RESERVE (U1600):** Overall Prizes: \$250-1st, \$200-2nd, \$150-3rd. Class Prizes: \$125-1st in each C, D, E, U1000/Unr.

Upset Prizes: \$50 for highest upset in each section.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 9/22, \$60 on site.

Special Discounts: \$10 off entry fee for: Seniors (50+), New/Unrated, and Players traveling 100+ mi one-way, only 1 special discount can be applied.

Registration: Sat-9-9:45am. Rounds: Sat-10/2:30/7, Sun-10:30/3.

Max one 1/2-pt bye if declared by Rd. 2.

**MISSOURI QUICK CHAMPIONSHIP:** 4SS, G/29 d0 (QR).

Prizes: b/20, \$75-1st Overall, \$50-1st U1600.

Reg: 6:30-7pm Friday. Rounds: 7/8/9/10pm.

EF: \$10 by 9/22, \$15 on site.

**MISSOURI BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP:** 5SS, G/5 d0 (BR).

Prizes: \$75-1st, \$50-2nd, \$25-3rd.

EF: \$10. Reg: 8-8:15am Sunday.

Rounds paired ASAP, ending by 9:30am.

State Championship plaques to highest finishing Missouri resident in each event.

MCA membership req'd, available on site from \$5, OSA.

Entries/Info: Thomas Rehmeier, 210 N. Olive, Pacific, MO 63069.

JCChess89@yahoo.com, 573-291-0852.

## Learning from ICC Videos

The following game was inspired by Ronen Har-Zvi's video lectures on the Internet Chess Club, which is an excellent source for learning the intricacies of chess. More of Ronen's videos are on the internet at <http://www6.chessclub.com/chessfm/index/ronen/index.html>.

The video I watched sold me with the tag line:

"Easy to play and often can resemble a Ruy Lopez - not what Black is looking for. Even players such as Anand, Carlsen and Svidler regularly use it - and with excellent results". So in this series "New Ideas In..." GM Ronen Har-Zvi examines the Anti-Sicilian Bb5 lines.

I gambited a pawn away as indicated by one of the video's covered lines. The interesting thing is that in blitz, no one ever takes the pawn because it's not so obvious, but in slower games people can see they can win a pawn, but it's very risky. So I was thrilled when someone finally took the pawn!

**Nesham, Tim - Franklin, Dan [B52]**

**Sicilian: Moscow Variation**

Louisville, 18.09.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 Qg4 6.0-0 Qxe4 7.d4 e6 8.Re1 Qg6 9.dxc5 dxc5 10.Qa4+ Ke7 11.Nc3 Nc6 12.Nd5+ Kd8 13.Nf4 Qf5 14.Be3 Nf6 15.h3 Kc7 16.Rad1 g5 17.Ne2 g4 18.Ng3 Qg6 19.Bf4+ Kc8 20.Ne5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Bg7 22.Qb5 Ne4 23.Qd7# 1-0

# Scholastic Schedule

## August 17 Back-to-School Bash

**4SS, G/30. Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108.**

**Open to students enrolled in Elementary or Middle School in Spring 2013.**

**EF: \$5 if received by 8/16, \$10 on-site.**

**One Section: Trophies to 1st-5th Place, Top Under 800, Top Under 600, Top Under 400, Top Unrated and Top Female.**

**Rds: 10, 11, 12:30, 1:30. Award Ceremony: 2:45-3.**

**One 1/2 point bye if declared before round 1.**

**USCF Membership required.**

**Ent: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108,  
or online at [saintlouischessclub.org](http://saintlouischessclub.org) Info: 314-361-CHESS  
[info@saintlouischessclub.org](mailto:info@saintlouischessclub.org). WCL.**

## Missouri Scholastic State Championships

Missouri's finest, young chess players turned out for the 2013 Missouri Scholastic State Championships chess tournament at Capitol Plaza Hotel on Saturday, March 9, 2013. The drive to Jefferson City was rainy for most, but the weather cleared up by mid-day.

Underdog St. Louis Metro H.S. consisting of Jesse Felix, Rio Pimentel, Adrian Marley-Weaver and Houston Miller came up on top beating the powerhouse Vianney team. St. Louis Metro's Board 3 and Board 4 players, Adrian Marley-Weaver and Houston Miller, had perfect 4-0 scores; both of them placed first on their respective boards. 1st Board Jesse Felix with his 1317 USCF rating was impressive in defeating the talented Matthew Larson of Crossroads rated 2049, and Jesse only lost to Isaiah Gadson (rated 2033) of Pattonville.

Second Place went to Vianney with a solid 3 points from each of its top 3 boards and a perfect 4 point score from their 4th Board, Andrew Krekeler, who tied for First on Board 4. Watch out for this team next year, since all the members are returning and only their first board, Tim Ellebracht, graduates this year. Top scoring team members include Tim Ellebracht, Alex Moellering, Jack Lyons and Andrew Krekeler.

Third Place went to Rockhurst who delivered a solid 3 points performance from all of their boards. Teammates included Garrett McMIndes, Matt Tierney, Matthew Tran, & Kevin Corpeny.

Fourth Place had a four-way tie with 11.5 points for each team. Crossroads moved up in the last round dramatically grasping 3.5 points out of 4 in the last round to be the leader on tie breaks, bumping past Parkway West, Rock Bridge from Columbia, and St. Joseph Academy. Coach Howard Granok wasn't sure they would be in the top eight after their third round results. Crossroads College Prep is another team to keep an eye out for, since they are a young team with no graduating seniors this year. Top Crossroads team members include Matt Larson, Reid Doctor, Armand Gauda & August Gremaud.

The Fifth Place plaque went to Parkway West maximizing points with William Tong, Stephen Zhang, David McKnight and Samuel Wait.

Sixth Place was Rock Bridge HS from Columbia, MO. Seventh Place was St. Joseph Academy from St. Joseph. The Eighth Place plaque went to Parkway North on tie breakers, squeaking by Pattonville HS of Maryland Hts and Lindbergh HS with the same amount of points.

The Missouri State competition is getting stiffer each year. This year eight players had USCF ratings over 1900: Kevin Cao 2261, Matthew Larson 2049, Ansar Lemon 2034, Isaiah Gadson 2033, William Tong 2006, Margaret Hua 1972, William Nesham 1934, and Vikram Arun 1929.

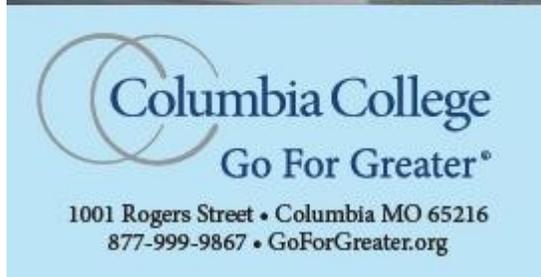
Other results can be found on the Gateway Chess League website.

[http://www.gatewaychess.org/1213/mosc\\_res.html](http://www.gatewaychess.org/1213/mosc_res.html)



## Missouri 2013 Chess Magnet Junior Grand Prix Top Standings

Name	JGP Points	Events
Rogers, Clark W	3177	2
Runge, Corbin C	2690	1
Kirumaki, Ronit	2597	3
Berry, Clark Zhang	2463	6
Brieler, Sophia T	2450	2
Crawford, Sarah D	2373	1
Gamble, Christian James	2301	2
Phan, Nathan Tu	2251	4
Xiong, Thomas	2180	1
Aripov, Iskandar	2055	4



Columbia College - sponsor of the 2013 Missouri Scholastic Championship!

# Top Winners of the Missouri State Title

John Ragan	12	1948, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977
Michael A. Brooks	12	1981, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2003, 2009
Ronald G. Luther	9	1993, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008
Kenneth E. Jones	8	1976, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1993, 2003
Robert H. Steinmeyer	5	1942, 1947, 1950, 1954, 1958
Elliot Winslow	5	1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975
Doug Eckert	5	1983, 1985, 1986, 1990, 2003
Robert M. Jacobs	5	1974, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2004
Bob Holliman	4	1998, 2003, 2004, 2005
James R. Voelker	4	1994, 1998, 2004, 2005



Certain years numerous players tied for the state title in which case the winner on tie breaks was awarded the plaque; however, all players tied for 1st place were considered to be State Co-Champions.

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**C**ontrary to many young colleagues I do believe that it makes sense to study the classics.  
- Magnus Carlsen

# Missouri State Champions

## Missouri Open State Champion



**Denker Champion**  
Kevin Cao



**Quick Champion**  
GM Fidel Corrales & IM Vitaly Neimer



**All Girls Champion**  
Margaret Hua

## 2012 Class Champions

<b>Master —</b>	Abhishek Mallela
<b>Expert</b>	Barry Manthe
<b>Class A</b>	Alex Esposito
<b>Class B</b>	Steve Goldschmidt
<b>Class C</b>	Khin Kyi
<b>Class D</b>	Daniel Raymon
<b>Class E</b>	David Reitz
<b>Novice</b>	Andrew Schauer

*For a complete history of Missouri Champions, visit [www.mochess.org](http://www.mochess.org) & click the Champions Link.*

## Festival, Scholastic Tourneys Grow Chess Interest across Saint Louis

The Chess Club had a busy weekend the last week of April with events designed to spread the love of chess to a broader student base. The club packed up the brand new Chess Club Mega Van and made the trek west to Saint Louis Priory School for a fun-filled chess festival. The Priory Chess Festival kicked off with titled players taking on area students in many types of exhibition matches. GM Yasser Seirawan was a fan favorite signing autographs for the kids, and GM Ben Finegold was so good, he crushed his four competitors blindfolded. IM Priyadarshan Kannappan got a workout playing a seven-player blitz simul, while fellow Lindenwood Lions WGM Anna Sharevich and IM Levan Bregadze exercised class and grace in their triumphs against the students.

After a free lunch, it was on to the main event, where 64 students competed in the four-round, G/15 tourney. The tournament featured seven players with a United States Chess Federation (USCF) rating. The highest seed, Wilson Gao, went down in flames at the hands of Luka Bassnett in the first round. With so many new players to the event, stalemates ensued. Syd Barnard was on the good end of the draw.

In round 2, Luka was paired with another pre-tournament favorite, Cedric Bruges. Luka was not intimidated and advanced his score to 2-0. Sandeep Yanamala knocked off tournament veteran Erik Ely. Despite having just a king versus a king and queen, Syd Barnard played on and with no checkmate in 50 moves the game was declared a draw.

In round 3, Luka Bassnett dodged a USCF member to easily improve to 3-0. Syd Barnard was again getting crushed by her opponent. But with her never-give-up attitude, she kept playing on. Her opponent called checkmate, but she was not dissuaded. She found a way out and a couple moves later she had none. With her king not in check, the precious stalemate was achieved.

In the last round, Luka blew his opponent off the board. He won the top 4th Grade Trophy. Eliot Blackmore's championship dreams fell to fellow USCF tourney player Derian Ryker. Derian finished with 3.5 points and won the Top 3rd Grade trophy.

Sandeep's game lasted the longest. Earlier in the bout, his queen was pinned to his king by his opponent's bishop. With his opponent smiling ear to ear, Sandeep calmly slid a pawn right into that diagonal line to block the attack. With that plan ruined, his opponent moved his queen around and around and around until it was ultimately captured by Sandeep. Sandeep racked up the queen, the king, and the first place 5th Grade trophy. Syd Barnard won the "Perseverance Award" by achieving her 4th draw of the tourney. After the event, the Chess Club put the chess boards back into the Mega Van and prepared for another tourney to be held the following day.

That Sunday GM Yasser Seirawan taught two high-caliber kids classes, before 66 kids packed into the tourney hall for Kirkwood District Championships. The event was divided into three sections: Kindergarten-2nd Grade, 3rd & 4th grade, and 5th & up. There were no surprises in the 23 player K-2nd section. The two Kid Beginner tourney veterans, Luke Conran and Alex Lundy, steamrolled the novices to finish perfect at 3-0. Luke won the first place trophy on tie-breaks. As a consolation prize, Alex won an old-time chess clock; it's not digital, but the analog clock can still get the job done.

In the highly populated 3rd and 4th grade section, 31 players vied for the first-place trophy. With only three rounds in the event, four players finished with a perfect score. Colin O'Rourke edged out the rest of the winners to take home the trophy. W. Nicholas Menzel, Nathan Lin, and Jack Edwards also went perfect 3-0. Jack Edwards won a membership to the club, where he enjoyed the live commentary of the U.S. Chess Championship.

In the 5th & up section, Mihir Shah was the only Kirkwood student to finish with a 3-0 score. Before the final round, he was shocked to learn that he was 2-0 and playing for the trophy. He wrongly assumed that since his opponent ran out of time in a better position, that he had drawn the game. In fact, he had won.

Tournament chess was introduced to many kids throughout the weekend. The students learned many rules, tactics, and checkmating patterns and went home happy; they all won medals for successful participation.

~ Mike Kummer ~



In the K-8 section under 1000, Thomas Palmer of St. Joseph Academy from St. Joseph, MO grabbed an 11th place trophy in the individual section, and he was one of the three players of the 13th place team: Thomas Palmer, Nathan Weeks, and Jack Weil scored 13.5 points for St. Joseph Academy. Honorable mention goes to McKinley MS from St. Louis coming in 19th place with the team of Luke Trask, Katlyn Miller, Isaac Zimmerman, Christopher Thorp, Emma Simpson, & Kyree Hamilton.

In the K-8 team section under 750, two MO teams placed in the top fifteen. In spite of a higher team average USCF rating, St. Joseph Academy edged out Crossroads College Prep by only a half a point. St. Joseph Academy's team was led by Maximillian Schieber, Caden Morris, Samuel Schonkwiler and Alexander Hall. Crossroads College Prep's team scored a solid 4 points from their top 4 players, where three of them had ratings in the 200 range. Fantastic effort! Their team consisted of Annmarie Tyson, Sarah Crawford, Joseph Black, and Blake Fondren.

The top two finishers in the K-6th Championship were Jason Zhou and Mitul Pandya from the St. Louis region.

In the K-6 Under 1000 division, Jason Schibler of Crestview (St. Louis region) won the 20th place trophy in the Individual section, and New City came in 14th place in the team section led by the team members: Nicholas Taghert, Corbin Runge, Sean Boschert and Paul Byrne.

In the K-6 Unrated division, St Joseph Academy placed 12th with the team of Emma Schieber, Daniel Wilson, James Kram & Sadie Wilson.

In the K-5 Championship section, Erik Tkachenko was the top MO student with 4 wins.

In the K-5 under 900 section, Benjamin Sheldon of Pembroke Hill scored a 16th place trophy. Honorable mentions go to Brandon Stanfield, Jonathan Pallotto of Pembroke Hill, Reza Mofidi of New City and Sarvesh Palaniappan.

In the K-3 Championships, Iris Zhou was the top MO student with 4.5 points, and Amit Kadan came after with 4 points.

For the K-3 under 800 section, Eliot Blackmoore of New City scored an impressive 5.5 points to snag the 30th place individual trophy. In the team standings for the K-3 under 800 section, Spoede ES took the 30th place team trophy led by team members, Domenic Fenoglio, Alex Rybak, Roshen Chatwal and Andrew Green.

In the K-3 Unrated team section, St. Joseph Academy took 4th place with the team of Samuel Carrillo, Micah Shonkwiler, Edmund Schieber and Andrew Wilson. Pembroke Hill of KC took 11th place with the team of Joshua Rubel, Joshua Shaw, and Brock Sullivan.

In the K-1 Championship, Bellerive Elementary in Creve Coeur was tops for Missouri led by the awesome team of Taylor Johnson and Jacqueline D'Alfonso. You go girls!

Although the last round was cancelled because Scholastic games are not allowed to start after 9:30pm, K12 Blitz Champions from MO were Garrett McMIndes and his teammates: Justin Vince, Ethan Gonzales, Peter Doran and Noah Boucher of Rockhurst High in KC.

In the K-6 Blitz Champion section, Jason Zhou of Chesterfield Day School did an outstanding job and placed 4th!

Overall, positive experiences abounded at SuperNationals V. Visiting the many attractions in Nashville, many families incorporated a family vacation with this huge tournament, which was well run considering the magnitude of the event.

We will see you next season! Have a Great Summer!

~ Sylvia Ryker



## Supernationals V - cont from pg 29

These are two very crucial games for Vianney that pushed them past their contenders. The Mittenzwey game ended in double check checkmate just days after the team reviewed the concept, and it was important in the Vianney JV team placing seventh. The Thompson game was also a pivotal turning point where the Vianney varsity team needed the win to place first.

### Supernationals V

W: Mittenzwey  
(Vianney),Nathan )

B: Khalief (Georgia),Kelly

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6  
4.f4 c6 5.Nf3 b5 6.Be3 Na6  
7.e5 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Bb7 9.Qf3  
Nb4 10.Bxb5 cxb5 11.Qxb7  
Nxc2+ 12.Kf2 Nxa1 13.Qc6+  
Nd7 14.Nxd7 Rc8 15.Nf6# 1-0

### Supernationals V

W: Thompson(Vianney),  
Nikita

B: Dromgoole(Crossroads),

1.c4 d6 2.d3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7  
4.Nf3 Nf6 5.h3 Be6 6.Bd2 c5  
7.Qc1 0-0 8.Bh6 d5 9.h4  
dxc4 10.h5 cxd3 11.exd3  
Nxb5 12.Rxb5 gxh5 13.Qg5  
f6 14.Qxg7#

### Individual Trophies in the K-12th grade section under 1200

4th - Tim Ellebracht, Vianney

9th - Alex Moellering, Vianney

11th- Armand Gauda, Crossroads

15th- Benjamin Hart, St. Joe Acad

23rd- Kevin Corpeny, Rockhurst

30th- Justin Vince, Rockhurst

30th- August Gremaud, Crossroads

30th- Jack Lyons, Vianney

30th - Cecilia Tackett, St. Joe Acad

30th- Matthew Howe, St. Joe Acad

30th- Caleb Mohn, St. Joe Acad

30th- Ben Williams, Crossroads



## Vergilesov, Eckert Win Show-Me Classic

~ Brian Jerauld ~

Alex Vergilesov not only topped the Show-Me Classic, he also capitalized on one last chance to cash in literally as a Class A player. When the USCF releases its June supplement next week, Vergilesov will be listed above 2000, making him an expert for the first time in his career.

I'm excited I've been class A for three or four years, it has taken me so long to get here, he said. There was even two years where I had the exact same rating from one January first to the next. My rating wasn't changing, but my win percentage was increasing. I think I'm up over 70-percent after this (tournament).

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Vergilesov went a perfect 4-0 on Saturday, May 25, matching the score of FM Doug Eckert, who shared top billing. The two split the cash prizes, but Vergilesov also earned entry into the 2014 Club Championship. Eckert has already qualified for the Club Championships from a previous tournament win at the Metro Class Championship.

The frontrunners of Saturday's open became clear after a third round that featured poisoned white pieces only four games out of 17 resulted in wins for the player with the first move. It set up a final round showdown between four unbeaten: Eckert (2253) paired off against Alex Marler (2012), the two-time defending champion of the Show-Me Classic, while Vergilesov (1997) was matched with Matthew Larson (2037).

Vergilesov was up to the task of proving he belonged in his new class. He commanded the white pieces for the first time against fellow expert Larson and chose the Wing Gambit as his method of attack. The early sacrifice allowed one of Vergilesov's knights a lethal outpost on d6, causing Larson's army to encounter serious mobility issues. In fact, not one of Larson's pieces even entered the opposing side of the board until late in the game, when Vergilesov already held clear winning chances.

(The Wing Gambit) is anti-Sicilian and can only be played in certain lines, Vergilesov said. It's a fun opening to play in a low time control because it is really active. It becomes very easy to play knight to b5, where it just waits to go to d6 even if they play a6, they still can't take because the rook is hanging. I've done that several times against experts they don't expect knight to b5. It's like a funny move.

The Show-Me Classic, now in its fifth year, also featured prizes for all classes. With Vergilesov claiming the overall tournament prize, James Pollitt (1944) took first in Class A with 3.5 points. Preston Smith (1646), the lowest-rated Class B player in the tournament, notched three wins to claim his section. Class C was split by Ronit Kirumaki (1444) and James Ivy (1409) with 2.0 points each.

Kirumaki, whose rating was just 676 as recently as January of this year, has been seemingly obsessed with breaking through ceilings of his own. The 11-year-old has become a familiar face in the youth movement of Saint Louis.

I should have drawn a 1900, but I messed up a king-and-pawn endgame against Al Howlett, Kirumaki said. I thought I had the distant opposition when he moved his king, but I just didn't see the stalling move f6 and so I lost the opposition.

Howlett (1888) agreed, understanding he was fortunate to grab the full point from his young opponent.

That game was tough, very tough, Howlett said. It was drawing, drawing, drawing the whole way through, and I eventually traded off queens in such a way that (Kirumaki) had to play that king-pawn endgame just right. He didn't, which allowed my king entry ... but I spent at least ten minutes just looking over that move to be able to do that. He could have easily gotten that draw.

Ronit is good, and I saw in analysis afterward that he is even better than I originally thought. I think he is probably around 1800 strength.

Class D featured a four-way tie between Mario Coronado (1279), Ken West (1269), Howard Granok (1364) and Brett Eckert (1320), each with 1.5 points. New member Michael Cranwill (1151) and Andrew Schauer (1137) split the U1200 prize.



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*Inducted: 2006*

*Chess, like any creative activity,  
can exist only through the combined  
efforts of those who have creative  
talent, and those who have the  
ability to organize their creative  
work.*

*-Mikhail Botvinnik*



*Mr. Michael A. Brooks*  
*Inducted: 2003*



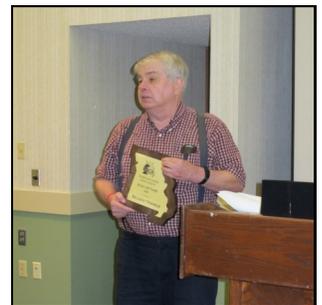
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