The Best Scholastic Players in California Collide at State Championship

The annual California event took place April 21st through April 22nd in Santa Clara. The tournament resulted in a record number of entries. A total of 879 players from high school seniors to kindergartners from schools from around the state attended the scholastic event. The event was organized by TD Salman Azhar, Ph.D. who wishes to thank all the players, parents, everyone who attended, volunteered and supported the annual state scholastic chess event. The weekend of Saturday, April 21 through Sunday, April 22, 2012 was another beautiful day in Santa Clara, California. The sun was shining and the sky was clear - it was truly a perfect weekend that many chess players were waiting for all year: The 2012 California Scholastic SuperStates Championship Tournament.

The young players are receiving instructions prior to beginning of round one.

All players received a participant medal. Trophies were given to the top 20 players and teams of each division, with the top 5 players awarded distinguished trophies based on their respective placing. The first place winners in each division were awarded the grand trophy of almost 4 feet high.

The most amazing accomplishment was that by Ridgeview High School in Bakersfield who brought seven unrated players and amazingly took 4th place in the High School Championship Division. Team captain Daniel K. Nguyen, who played in the 9-12 Championship division, said that even though his team didn't expect to win the main reason they came was for the great experience and the challenge to play against some of the best players in the state. Next year, he said, they will be ready and prepared to play a much stronger game, and obviously with higher USCF ratings. The unrated Ridgeview High players now have USCF ratings ranging from 902 to a high of 1607 - belonging to their team captain Daniel K. Nguyen. Congratulations Ridgeview High School and their chess coach Brad Keller!

The first place winners in the Individual Standings were as follows:

9-12 Championship Division: **Joshua Cao**, rated 2050, from Capolindo High School in Moraga, won first place with 5/6.

9-12 Junior Varsity Division: **Jasper Deng**, rated 997, won first place with a perfect score 6/6.

6-8 Championship Division: **Neel Apte**, rated 2093, from Kennedy Middle School in Cupertino, won with first place with 5.5/6.0.

6-8 Junior Varsity Division: **Katherine Xia**, rated 887, from Egan Middle School in Los Altos, won first place with 6/6.

4-6 Championship Division: **Siddharth G. Banik**, rated 2051, from Bowditch Middle School in Foster City, won first place with a perfect 6/6.

4-5 Championship Division: **Ben Rood**, rated 1654, from Contra Costa Jewish Day School in Lafayette, won first place with a perfect score of 6/6.

4-6 Junior Varsity Division: **Jwalin Shah**, rated 871, won first place with 5.5/6.0.

4-6 Booster Division: **Theodore Jedi Pei**, rated 421, from Foster City Elementary School, won first place with 5/5, with one default.

4-6 Unrated Division: **Vishal Sodem**, unrated, Home-Schooled, won first place with 5/5.

1-3 Championship Division: **John Andrew Chan**, rated 1384, from Mission San Jose Elementary School, won first place with 5.5/6.0.

K-3 Junior Varsity: **Steven Camacho**, rated 776, from American Elementary School won first place with a perfect score of 5/5.

1-3 Booster Division: **Kasyap Vepachedu**, rated 299, from Sutter Elementary School in Santa Clara, won first place with a perfect score of 5/5.

K-3 Unrated Division: **William Shih**, unrated, from Millikin Elementary School, won first place with a perfect score of 5/5.

Kindergarten Rated Division: **David Iglesias**, rated 560, from Vallejo Mill Elementary School in Fremont, won first place with a perfect score of 5/5.

Steven Camacho, 3rd grader at American Elementary School in Bakersfield, was the first place winner in the K-3 Jr. Varsity Division with the only perfect score of 5/5 in his division. Steven's victory at this tournament resulted rating increase from 776 going into the tournament to 1081 after his victory at the SuperStates.

Daniel K. Nguyen, team captain of the Ridgeview High School team who played in the 9-12 Championship Division and tied against Taylor McCreary, rated 1850, stands next to Steven Camacho, the first place winner of the K-3rd Jr. Varsity Division and Daniel's protégé.

The first place School/Team winners were as follows:

9-12 Championship Division: Mission San Jose High School, San Jose, CA

9-12 Junior Varsity Division: Gunn High School, Palto Alto, CA

6-8 Championship Division: Kennedy Middle School, Cupertino, CAElementary School,

6-8 Junior Varsity Division: Egan Middle School, Los Altos, CA

4-6 Championship Division: Mission San Jose Elementary School, San Jose, CA

4-5 Championship Division: Mission San Jose Elementary School, San Jose, CA

4-6 Junior Varsity Division: Regnart Elementary School, Cupertino, CA

4-6 Booster Division: Mission San Jose Elementary School, San Jose, CA

4-6 Unrated Division: Freedom Kings Chess Club, Visalia, CA

1-3 Championship Division: Mission San Jose Elementary School, San Jose, CA

K-3 Junior Varsity Division: Mission San Jose Elementary School, San Jose, CA

1-3 Unrated Division: Neil Cummins Elementary School, Corte Madera, CA

K-3 Unrated Division: Garden Gate Elementary School, Cupertino, CA

Kindergarten Rated Division: Mission San Jose Elementary School, San Jose, CA

Kenneth Dollar (left), unrated, from Ridgeview High School, plays against Joseph Larson, rated 1647, from Hillcrest High School in round 1 of 6. Joseph Larson won the game.

Daniel K. Nyugen (left), unrated, from Ridgview High School plays against Taylor McCreary, rated 1850, from San Luis Obispo High School in round two of six. The game was a draw.

Chief tournament direct Salman Azhar oversaw another smooth tournament. As a chess parent it's always nice to see old friends. I was glad to see my good friend Richard Peterson with his children Mick, Dante, Gia and Jayani playing at the event.

Bernardo Toledo (left), unrated, from Ridgeview High School in Bakersfield, plays against Jansen Berryhill, rated 1632, from Pittman High School in round 1 of 6. Jansen Berryhill won the game.

Find complete tournament results with complete individual and team standings please go to http://bayareachess.com/events/12/states.php. For upcoming tournaments and general information please go to http://bayareachess.com/index.php. For more info. please email ask@bayareachess.com. Phone number: **408-786-5515.**