

CalCHESS Journal

Spring 2014

Northern California Juniors Dominate at National Scholastic Events



Gomes Wins at National Elementary

Aksithi Eswaran and Weibel Win at All-Girls Nationals

Callaghan McCarty-Snead Wins at U.S. Junior Chess Congress

CalChess Journal



Spring 2014

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Cover Photos by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D. (top left, bottom left), G. Julie Xie, Ph.D. (top right) and Richard Shorman (bottom right)

CalChess President's Message

From Tom Languard



RATING FIXATION

No, this isn't about fixing ratings, but about players and (more often) parents obsessing about USCF ratings. I cannot tell you how many times I get questions about ratings and more often a parent asking me as soon as a tournament is over what their child's new rating will be. My question should be, what is the big deal? For 99% of the players, a change in their rating is not a life changing event. Your eight year old will not lose out on getting admitted to Berkeley someday, because they lost 20 rating points at the tournament today. There are maybe a few players that a few rating points raises their ranking in the top 100 list, or maybe qualifies them for a spot on a National Team. Those I can understand. In a recent tournament, we had a player near the 2200 rating level before the event started and after winning three games, he came up to me. I knew what he was going to ask. I was afraid to tell him, knowing the answer would mean he would withdraw from the tournament. I gave him the answer he wanted, which was his rating was going over 2200 and he was now a Chess Master. He withdrew from the tournament. That I understand. That I can deal with.

Since I run at least two to three tournaments a week, mostly with players under 1300, I constantly see a serious preoccupation with ratings. Ratings are simply a prediction of how well your child is playing at that single moment in time. Ratings can fluctuate at this level maybe 100-200 points per tournament! Ratings at this level are not even a really good predictor of the outcome of a single match. Upsets are quite common! Yet, I still get questions about the opponents rating, or asking us to update their players rating in the tournament based upon their new rating from a tournament last weekend. Does it really matter? The kids themselves are barely concerned, unless their parents redirect their paranoia upon them! The child just wants to play chess. They just want to have fun. If your child should be rated 1100, then the rating formula will get them there. One of my college degrees is in Quantitative Business Analysis, and looking at the newer Glickman formula, it is clear that the best way to have your child's rating reflect their true chess talents is to play more rated games. If they are supposed to be 1100, they will get there. If not, then they won't, yet. If you want your child's rating, or more importantly their chess skill) to improve, then let them practice more, send them to chess camp, get them an instructor. In fact, having them play higher rated player and lose is a very good way for players to advance. Let them learn. That will improve their inner ability and their rating will soon follow!

But remember, rating is still just a number. Do you really want to teach your child that how you feel about them, or how they are valued is based upon some relatively meaningless number? Let them know it is OK to lose sometimes. Reflect more upon did your child learn something from the loss, not how many rating points a game cost them. Teach them the value of learning from their mistakes. That is a skill that might actually get them into Berkeley someday, not their USCF rating!

Tom Languard
CalChess President

Recent Events

Best of the West Championship

Every year on Memorial Day Weekend the “Best of the West Class Championship” is held. It is one of the larger tournaments held in Northern California and attracts some of the strongest players from all over the state. This years event took place from May 24th to May 26th, 2014 drawing 190 players competing in five sections over six rounds.

Winning the event with 5 points each were Grandmaster Samuel Shankland and FIDE Master Konstan Kavutskiy each winning \$1500. Tied for third through sixth and winning \$188.75 each were International Master Roman Yankovsky, Grandmaster

Melikset Khachiyani, National Master Craig Hilby and International Master Ricardo De Guzman. Three players tied for the best under 2300 rating prize earning \$186 each. They were NM Robert Hatarik, Ladia Jirasek and NM Movses Movsisyan.

The “A” Section for players rated between 1800-1999 was won outright by Alexandre Birguer scoring 5.5 points and earning \$1335. Taking clear second place was Samir Alazawi. Tied for third and fourth were George Wi Jeffers and Teodoro Porlares. Four players tied for fifth place. They were Om Chichwadkar, Damon Moskaoyama, Michael

Best of the West Championship

Open

1-2	GM Sam Shankland	5
	FM Konstan Kavutskiy	
3-6	IM Roman Yankovsky	4.5
	GM Melikset Khachiyani	
	NM Craig Hilby	
	IM Ricardo De Guzman	
U2300	NM Robert Hatarik	4
	Ladia Jirasek	
	NM Movses Movsisyan	

Section A

1	Alexandre Birguer	5.5
2	Samir Alazawi	5
3-4	George Wi Jeffers	4.5
	Teodoro Porlares	
5-8	Om Chichwadkar	4
	Damon Moskaoyama	
	Michael S Ho	
	Joji Escoto	

Section B

1	Chris Xiong	5.5
2	Seaver Dahlgren	5
3-4	Brian C Wen	4.5
	Kevin Lin	
5-6	Sos Hakobyan	4
	William Sam Johns	

Section C

1-3	Aleksan Kozminski	5
	Joshya Grabinsky	
	Kr Gopalakrishnan	
4	Annapoo Meiyappan	4.5
5-9	Srinivas Suarla	4
	Arijit Banerjee	
	Kia Sadeghi	
	Steven Hwang	
	Raymond Tan	



190 Players Participated.

Photo by Richard Shorman

Section DE

1	Fujia Guo	5.5
2-4	Michael Byan Alexander Tian Hu Karen Ke Minasyan	4.5
5-6	Kayvon Sadeghi Satvik Singireddy	4

U1200

1	Alexander Nishio	5
2	Ahyan Zaman	4
3-6	Jaisu Kaleeswaran Anirudh Poranki Cairo Sodersten Ratnakar Yedal	3.5

S Ho and Joji Escoto.

Section “B” (ratings 1600-1799) also had a clear winner. He is Chris Xiong scoring 5.5 points and winning \$1335. In second place was Seaver Dahlgren with 5 points. Tied for third and fourth were Brian C Wen and Kevin Lin. Two players tied for fifth place. They were Sos Hakobyan and William San Johns.

In the “C” Section (ratings 1400-1599) three players tied for first each scoring 5 points. They were Aleksan Kozminski, Joshya Grabinsky and Kr. Gopalakrishnan. Taking clear fourth was Annappoo Meiyappan with 4.5 points. Five players tied for fifth place with 4 points each. They were Srinivas Suarla, Arijit Banerjee, Kia Sadeghi, Steven Hwang and Raymond Tan.

The “DE” Section was won by Fujia Guo with 5.5 points winning the top prize of \$670. Alexander Nishio won the first under 1200 prize with 5 points. Tied for second to fourth were

Michael Byan, Alexander Tian Hu and Karen Ke Minasyan. Taking clear second under 1200 was Ahyan Zaman. Tied for fifth in the section were Kayvon Sadeghi and Satvik Singireddy. Four players tied for third under 1200. They were Jaisu Kaleeswaran, Anirudh Poranki, Cairo Sodersten and Ratnakar Yedal.

The tournament was organized by Salman Azhar and Bay Area Chess with John McCumiskey and Tom Langland directing.

Special thanks to FM Andy Lee for annotating two of his games for us. The first is his win from round three.

White: FM Andy Lee (2335)
Black: Trung Nguyen (2127)
A45 Trompowsky Attack

Notes by FM Andy Lee

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5

As it turns out, a kind of a bluff, as I never end up taking on f6.

2... c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Qd2

Another bluff – I want black thinking about his kingside as he considers how to finish his development. That said, the d2 square should really be reserved for the knight on its path to c4.

5... Nbd7 6.Nf3 a6 7.a4 b6?!



GM Shankland tied for first in the event. Photo by Richard Shorman

Black’s troubles can really be traced to this move – it’s dangerous to adopt such a passive setup.

8.e4 Bb7 9.h3

An important finesse. It’s best not to allow black to trade anything without incurring weaknesses.

Bg7 10.Bc4 O-O 11.O-O Qc7

My young opponent was already using a great deal of time. It’s not obvious what black should be doing, but he doesn’t want to wait for white to pick the right time to break in the center.

12.Rad1 Rfd8 13.Qe2 Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Qf3!

I was happy with this move. Now 15... Ne8 is met by 16 Qxf7+ Kxf7 17 d6+, winning back the queen and shattering black’s pawns.

15... Qd6 16.Nb1

If black does nothing the knight will be transferred to c4, so he is forced to take action.

16... h6 17.Bh4 Bc8 18.g4?

A bad mistake: immediately after playing this move, I realized that I had blundered a pawn. Fortunately, white still has some positional compensation.

18... g5 19.Bg3 h5!

Suddenly there's no good way to protect the kingside pawns.

20.Qe3 hxc4 21.hxc4 Bxc4 22.f3 Bh3 23.Rf2 Nh7 24.Rh2 Bd7 25.Nc3 f6

His knight is headed via f8 and g6 to f4, followed by a transfer of the bishop to g6. I decided to take immediate action.

26.Qd3!

Attacking a6, but more importantly, h7.

26... Bc8 (diagram)



27.f4! gxf4 28.Bxf4 exf4

29.e5 Qxe5? (diagram)

Alternatively, my computer claims that after 29... fxe5 30 Qxh7+ Kf7 31 Rg2 Qh6 32 d6+ e6 33 Qf5+ Ke8 the position is equal, which is a hilarious evaluation, even if it turns out to be correct.



30.d6+?

And a mistake in return – I assumed it was good to give as many checks as possible, but it's bad to open the second rank for black's rooks to join the defense. Instead, 30 Qxh7+ Kf8 31 Rg2 f5 32 d6 e6 33 Rd5! is the magnificent winning idea.

30...e6 31.Qxh7+ Kf8 32.Re2

I stopped to think a bit here, as it occurred to me that I might not be winning.

32... Qg5+ 33.Rg2 Qh6 34.Qe4 Ra7 35.Qc6 f3?!

Natural, but the cold-blooded 35... f5 36 Qxb6 Rad7 37 Qxc5 Bb7 turns the tables – all of black's pieces are now active and his king is quite safe.

36.Qxf3 Bb7 37.Qe2 e5

Again, my computer suggests 37... f5, but it's much trickier than before.

38.Qg4 Bc8

A product of time pressure – neither of us noticed that Qh7 would defend g8 quite nicely.

39.Qg3 Rad7?

Right before time control, black finally makes a fatal mistake.

40.Rh2 Qf4 (diagram)

This makes it simple, but 40... Qg5 41 Qxg5 fxc5 42 Rf1+ Ke8 43 Be2! also wins in the end.



41.Rh8+ 1-0

In the other game annotated by FM Andy Lee, he shares his final round draw with Grandmaster Walter Browne.

White: GM W. Browne (2477)
Black: FM Andy Lee (2335)
C77 Ruy Lopez

Notes by FM Andy Lee

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 6.Bb3
Bc5 7.a4 Rb8 8.axb5 axb5
9.Nc3 d6 10.Nd5**

Although it make look strange, white is happy to initiate an exchange of the best defender of the black kingside.

10... h6

The coffeehouse part of my brain decided that 10... Nxd5 11 Bxd5 Ne7 12 Bxf7+ was dangerous – it's not. However, black is likely to play h6 at some point soon anyway.

11.c3 O-O 12.O-O Bg4?!

I was concerned that after 12... Nxd5 13 exd5 Ne7 14 d4 exd4 15 Nxd4 white would have an annoying initiative, but the text gives away the bishop pair for nothing.

**13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nxd5
15.Bxd5 Ne7 16.Bb3 Ng6**

Black's position is solid, but white holds all the cards. I spend the next bunch of moves trying to devise something to do while white improves his position.

**17.Rd1 Bb6 18.d4 Qe7
19.Bd5!**

Demonstrating white's superiority on the light squares.

**19... b4 20.Be3 bxc3
21.bxc3 Nh4 22.Qg4 Kh8
23.g3 Ng6 24.f4?**

White decides to take action, but this is premature.

24... exd4?!

Missing 24... c6! 25 Bxc6 Rfc8 26 Bd5 Rxc3 with an improved version of the game.

**25.cxd4 c5 26.dxc5 Bxc5
27.Bxc5 dxc5 28.Qe2**

The position is looser than white would probably like, but there is no obvious way for black to take advantage.

**28... Rb4 29.Kh2 Rfb8
30.Ra2 Nf8**

Planning on getting the knight into the game at last via e6 and d4.

31.Qh5 Ng6?

Completely giving up the initiative – it was absolutely essential to play 31... Ne6 32 Qe5 Qd7 since 33 Bb3 Qc8 34 Bxe6 Qxe6 is just equal.

**32.Qf5 Rf8 33.Rc2 Rd8
34.Rdc1 Rd4! 35.Rg2!?**

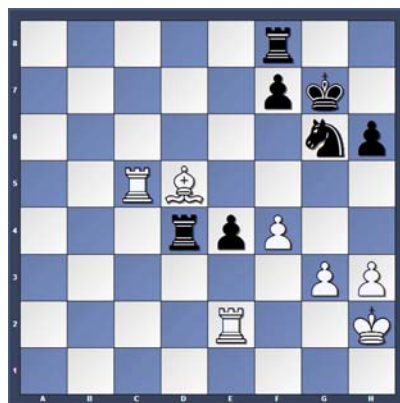
Things are not so clear after 35 Rxc5 R8xd5! 36 Rxd5 Rxe4.

**35... Rf8 36.Rb1 Qf6
37.Qxf6 gxf6 38.Rb7 Kg7**

39.Re2

It's hard for white to avoid a transition into a drawish ending now – for example, 39 Rd7 f5! 40 exf5 Ne7 41 Rxe7 Rxd5 42 Rc2 Rxf5=

**39... f5 40.Rc7 fxe4
41.Rxc5?! (diagram)**



41...Rd8!

Perhaps white expected 41...f5, when black's position is still awkward. Now the e-pawn is immune: 42 Bxe4 Re8 43 Bf3? Rxe2+ 44 Bxe2 Rd2 winning.

42.Bb3 Rd2 43.Rc2 Rxe2+

43... e3 doesn't seem to accomplish much after 44 Kg2

44.Rxe2 f5

This doesn't mess anything up yet, but it sets the stage for future mistakes. It's easier to defend with 44... Rd4.

45.Ra2 Re8?!

Deactivating the rook.

**46.Kg2 Re7 47.Kf2 Rc7
48.Ra5 Ne7 49.Re5 h5**

It's risky to put another pawn on the light squares, but I was worried about g4.

**50.h4 Rb7 51.Bd1 Kf6
52.Bxh5 Rb2+ 53.Kg1 Nc6**

Finally, the knight is moving back towards d4!

54.Rd5 Nb4?

Completely stupid – I can only blame the short second time control for not playing 54... Ke6 first.

**55.Rd6+ Ke7 56.Rb6 Nd3
57.Rxb2 Nxb2**

Now I have to count on some kind of makeshift blockade in order to hold the draw.

58.Kf2?

I can't say for certain at which point the position becomes definitively drawn, but this helps black get the knight back to the best blockading square, h6. 58 Bc4 would have been much tougher to face, but we were both very low on time at this point.

**58... Nc4 59.Be2 Nd6
60.Ke3 Nf7 61.Kd4**

This might have been the best opportunity for 61 g4, but it's tricky with the wrong rook pawn – all black needs is to find a way to sacrifice the knight for the f-pawn.

**61... Kf6 62.Kd5 Nh6
63.h5 Nf7 64.Kd4 Nh6
65.Bd1 Nf7 66.Ke3 Nh6**

**67.Kd4 Nf7 68.Bc2 Nh6
69.Bxe4**

The last try, but it is not terribly dangerous.

**69... fxe4 70.Kxe4 Ke6
71.f5+ Nxf5 72.g4 Ng3+
73.Kf4 Nxf5+! 74.gxh5
1/2-1/2**

Finally, we have tournament winner FIDE Master Konstan Kavutskiy's final round win over NM Kesav Viswanadha. Analysis computer assisted.

White: NM Viswanadha(2372)
Black: FM Kavutskiy (2388)
C78 Ruy Lopez

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3
Bc5 7.a4 Bb7 8.c3 d6 9.d4
Bb6 10.Re1 0-0 11.Bg5 h6
12.axb5**

Alternately, White could keep the tension on the queenside with 12.Bh4 as seen in Gashimov – Godena, Reggio Emilia 2010.

**12...axb5 13.Rxa8 Bxa8
14.Bh4 exd4 15.cxd4 g5
16.d5!?**

Previously played here was 16.Bg3 in Grego – Dunlop, Corr. 2013. With the text, White gives up the bishop pair.

**16...gxh4! 17.dxc6 Bxc6
18.Qc2**

18.Nc3 b4 19.Nd5⁺ would be another option, but Black is still better with the extra pawn and two bishops.

**18...Qa8! 19.Nc3 Ng4
20.Nd1 Re8**

Keeping pressure on the e-pawn.

21.h3

White wants to prevent ...b3. An alternative is 21.Qd2 Kg7 22.h3 Ne5 23.Nxh4[∞]

**21...Bxe4! 22.Rxe4 Qxe4
23.hxg4**

23.Qxe4 Rxe4 24.hxg4 Rxg4 25.Kh2 trading off the queens might have been a safer option than in the game White's King isn't currently the safest.

**23...Qxg4!-+ 24.Qc6! Re7
25.Kh2 Qf4+ 26.Kh1 b4
27.Bc2!? Bd4!? 28.Qc4!?
h3! 29.Qd3 hxg2+
30.Kxg2 Qg4+ 31.Kf1?**

31.Kh2 Be5+ 32.Nxe5 Rxe5 33.Qg3 would make it more difficult for Black.

31...Qh3+ 32.Kg1 (diagram)



32...f6 0-1

(32...f5 also works)
And ...Rg7+ is crushing.

Berkeley Chess School 5th Annual Chess Festival

By Beth Slatkin

The Berkeley Chess School 5th Annual Chess Festival was on May 18th, and drew 350 children and adults who celebrated the game of chess in support of the Berkeley Chess School. Events at this popular annual fundraiser

included simuls with Grandmaster Jesse Kraai, BCS instructor and Master Roger Poehlmann, and BCS' state and national junior champions, including Callaghan McCarty-Snead and Josiah Stearman . Festival

guests also enjoyed bughouse, carnival games -- including a dunk tank and face painting -- and a chess-themed play about the history of the game. Below are pictures from the event taken by Richard Shorman.



BCS students test their skills against popular chess instructor Roger Poehlmann



BCS founder and president Elizabeth Shaughnessy



An actor suits up for "The Story of Chess"



BCS students were the stars of "The Story of Chess"

National Elementary Championship

The Bay Area is fortunate to have many, many strong young players. Quite a few teams competed in the

Return to Nationals

By G. Julie Xie, Ph.D.

Ever since the surprising win of the K-5 section National Championship at last April's Super National in Tennessee, all members of the Gomes Team were looking forward to the 2014 National Elementary School Championship this April. The four children, Joanna Liu, Ganesh Murugappan, Jason Zhang and William Sartorio, barely knew each other last spring when one invitational email from Joanna's father, Jay, connected them in January 2013. Without any head coach, pep talk or even team shirt, they headed for Tennessee after just one meeting last May. Weibel Chess Director Dr. Kirshner kindly let them use his team room at Nashville but even there each member needed to find their own way to persist under the frustration of a mere 0.5 point out of 4 after the first round. That was why the victory of the K-5 championship felt so special when they added the name of "Gomes," an unknown in the scholastic chess circle, to the list of Weibel, Mission San Jose and Regnart, as the 4th Northern California

National Elementary Championship in Dallas, TX. We were fortunate enough to receive two reports on the

elementary schools that had won a national title over the past 10 years.

"The only thing harder than winning a championship is repeating it." So said Dominic, William's father, at the celebration dinner in 2013. He spoke from his experience during his youth when he participated in debate and academic teams that won championships but never repeated. "The competition

event from different teams. Both articles follow.

will be stronger and more prepared, and others are more motivated to beat you. You can do it, but it won't be easy, each of you must be committed."

Each of our children worked hard over the past 12 months and their ratings steadily improved. Joanna broke 2000 after her third World Youth tournament, a big milestone that made her one of the youngest Experts



Gomes Elementary team and their trophies. (L to R) Jason Zhang, Ganesh Murugappan, Joanna Liu and William Sartorio. Photo courtesy of G. Julie Xie

around the country. Ganesh broke 1900. Both Jason and William broke 1700. I am very grateful that last year's Super National reignited William's passion for chess at a time when he was ready to quit. I'm amazed to see how he learned to focus more and slow down his game, with 3+ hour games becoming more common recently, which is night and day from his 15 or 20-minute games two years ago.

Last year, this team came together just three months before the Super National unsure what to expect, but this year there was a sense of mission. Last year, they barely knew each other, but this year they were friends and supportive to each other in local chess tournaments. They felt and acted like a team.

With Dallas as their home-field advantage, 789 out of the 2229 registered players, or 208 out of 604 teams, for the 2014 National came from Texas. They were trailed by the 611 players, or 84 teams, from New York. Only 77 players were from Northern California. While the more organized teams, such as Weibel and Mission San Jose Elementary, always come with their Directors and Head Coach, Gomes continued to have only the four players with their parents. There were no additional players if one of the four wasn't playing well. We did remember to

bring a Gomes School spirit wear with us instead of scrambling right before the award ceremony for a uniform last May. Dr. Kirshner kindly opened Weibel Chess team room door to the Gomes players again. He had written on his famed chess blog in April that Gomes should win the K-6 section based on them having the highest average rating of all schools registered at the time.

Will Gomes team be able to meet the expectations?

* * *

The trip to Texas started with delayed or cancelled flights due to bad weather in Dallas on Thursday, May 8. Our family waited at the San Francisco airport with quite a few well-known scholastic chess players' families, including Joanna, David Pan from Mission San Jose Elementary and Pranav from Stratford. I joked with them that all children would play very well at this tournament because, as an old Chinese saying states, "all things that have good endings start with troublesome beginnings."

When we finally got to Dallas four hours behind our original schedule, William's grandparents were already waiting there with their van. They had driven from Reno for two and a half days to cheer for William and his 6-year old brother David.

Grandparents have always been very supportive to the boys' interest in chess. Grandpa used to enthusiastically offer dollars for winning games until we shared how material promises often diminish children's joy in what they do. His presence, smiles and hugs are priceless rewards for them.

The Hilton Dallas – Anatole possesses the grandness that matches a national event. The unique Asian-designed atrium lobby is complemented by reflecting pools, a majestic moving chandelier and convenient seating areas. Home to one of the largest Asian art collections in the world, Hilton Anatole displays more than 1,000 pieces of fine art throughout the hotel, giving me the illusion of a museum. They also boast over 349,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting space. The Trinity, Chantilly and Cortez Ballrooms where the K-5/K-6, K3, and K-1 sections were playing respectively still looked spacious after the 2229 players were seated.

The Weibel Chess team room offered a sanctuary for our players before and between rounds as all the public areas were buzzing with excited children with their more excited parents. Chesskid.com was again a popular stop-by with laptops to encourage children play puzzles to win prizes. The hotel does not offer free access

to internet in the guest rooms so we had to sit close to restaurants to get online. That proved very inconvenient for those parents who were planning to work while their children were in each round, and for children who used online chess sites to analyze games or practice tactics.

Everywhere I went on Friday morning, I heard parents' conversations about how difficult it was to get to Dallas with the delayed and cancelled flights from all over the country. However, I rarely saw any weary faces on children. On the contrary, our children truly amazed us. Anthony Zhou, a 6th grader from Weibel Chess, for example, had to get up around four a.m. that day to catch a flight after his original one on Thursday was cancelled. He arrived at the Trinity Ballroom half an hour into the first round and still won it as well as the following round that night. He continued with another win Saturday morning and two impressive draws with two top seeded players over 2100. I was so happy to see Anthony that day, with the bright sparks of passion in his eyes. Another Weibel play, Serafina Show, also played well after missing her first round due to a cancelled flight and won 4 out of 6 rounds.

Unlike last year, Gomes team started strong. K-6 had regular pairings so all four

were paired against lower-rated opponents, and won. But for the second round, William was paired with the top rated player in this section, Brandon Nydick (2235) from New York Collegiate School. It was novel for him to sit in Board 1 at a national tournament and Dominic got a good picture for him there. He did play slowly but lost with 22 moves in two hours. That round proved tough for both Ganesh and Jason as well as both drew an opponent in the high 1300's from other states. If anything, we've learned that never to underestimate any lower rated players from other states as chess ratings can have broad discrepancies across states. What really woke us up was when we saw that the New York Collegiate School team, which passed us to the top, had two players over 2100.

A national title is indeed hard to defend.

Saturday started early as the 3rd round began at 9 a.m. local time, or 7 a.m. California time. Joanna, Jason and William won their lower rated opponents but Ganesh drew again. Ganesh was with his mother, Siva, as his father, Muru, had told us last April that pressure was difficult for him to handle when rounds had unexpected outcomes. But Siva, on the other hand, has been used to working under pressure at her job. Ganesh had not been able to

eat or sleep well since he got to Dallas. Siva calmly went out to get food for him after the third round.

All three boys won their 4th round. Jason was especially excited as he had won an 1800 player within 90 minutes. His eyes were brighter than ever and his smile shone with confidence. Joanna faced a tough 1800 opponent and drew that game. Our team standing was back to the top at that point but everyone knew that the more challenging rounds were yet to come.

William was paired with an 1800 opponent for the fifth round on Saturday night. He lost in 27 moves in two hours. William had this game analyzed by Coach Demetrius from Weibel. He felt William's game was uncharacteristically conservative, as if playing not to lose, instead of playing to win. "If you play an opening gambit and your opponent accepts it, you should attack! You have only a short window of advantage while he is still developing his pieces." Instead of planning an attack, he played defensively, as if overthinking what his opponent might do.

"I better win my last two rounds, or I'm dragging my team down," William told himself before going to bed that night.

“Please just focus on your next game. One game at a time.”
Reminded Dominic.

After Jason also lost the fifth round while Joanna and Ganesh drew, the team got one point between the four of them and stood at the second place, 0.5 point below the New York Collegiate School team before the last day started Sunday morning.

Sunday came with bright sunshine and sweet greetings of “Happy Mother’s Day” everywhere we went in the hotel. Dominic surprised me with a dozen beautiful red roses before David came out from the sixth round of the K-1 section with a win and a hug as his gifts. As I shared one rose with each chess mom that I knew around the hotel, the fragrance filled my heart with happiness. What a special way to celebrate being a mom when our children played their hearts out on their favorite game at a national tournament!

Joanna rose above her disappointing draw the night before and gained a smooth win in the sixth round. Both Ganesh and Jason won too. But William drew a 1400 player from Texas. He was noticeably worried, even after seeing the team returning to the first with 0.5 point ahead of New York Collegiate. Instead of napping in-between rounds as he did the previous days, he practiced tactics for

the next hour before the seventh and final round started.

Chess, as an individual sport, is indeed unique as a team event. While each win is enjoyed four-fold by all four members, each loss, instead of being shared like in a baseball team, also four-folds. Each point or half a point counts. They had won their last national championship by a mere 0.5 point. Could they hold the lead this time?

William was paired with a player in his high 1300’s from Delaware. But his score in this tournament so far (3.5) was a better indicator of skill than his rating. William looked ready and confident. We left him and our prayers at his board in the massive Trinity Ballroom.

For this last round, Ganesh had the toughest opponent as he was facing Brandon Nydick (2235), the top rated player from the New York Collegiate School.

Joanna ended her game first with another draw within two hours. We were a little taken back because she usually likes playing long games. But again, this was the last round. After three days, everyone was tired.

We were relieved after William finally came out with a win after almost three hours. Being the youngest and most inexperienced, he continued to have difficulty playing

consistently. We were very happy to see that he took his time when it’s really critical for the team.

Then another win from Jason! He was very happy after winning against a higher-rated opponent that he had struggled against in the past.

2.5 points. Now it’s up to Ganesh’s game to make the difference between the two top teams.

Siva saw my eyes and calmly told me that Ganesh would do well because he entered this round with excitement. “You can tell how he’d play on his face before the round even starts.”

At 5:47 p.m., over 4 and a half hours since the round started, Siva texted me: “Ganesh drew.”

We could finally jump up and down again. With this draw, New York Collegiate School team could only get a maximum of 3.5 points for this round, which would mean a tie with us as the champion. If they got anything below 3.5, it’d be a clear win for us.

David was not that happy. When he had entered last April’s K-1 section at the Super National as an unrated player, without any formal class, he won 4 out of 7 rounds, surprising all of us. He was disappointed that his little “participant” trophy looked ignorable next to the Gomes team trophy last year, which

was why he was determined to get a bigger one this year. With 4.5 points under his belt before the last round, his confidence was at all-time high knowing that another 0.5 would give him a 30th place trophy out of the over 300 players.

In spite of his enthusiasm at his board before the last round, David was no match for his opponent in the 1200's. He sat outside of the Cortez Ballroom with a cloudy face until he saw me. Then the rain came down his face uncontrollably.

I was not surprised that David couldn't win out. As much as he loves the attention that comes with chess, unlike his older brother, David only practiced sporadically each day. He liked playing online games but disliked the module work of solving puzzles, ignoring William's advice that tactic practice is the key for beginners. Although David's rating started with an impressive 638 after his first rated tournament last April, he has not improved much since then. He did amaze me with his ability to focus at the chess tournaments as he had no problem playing hour-long games at age 6 when William could hardly sit for more than 15 minutes at that time. But without proper training and willingness to work hard, that's as far as a little "talent" can carry him.

It is clear to see the effect of proper training on Erin Law, a Weibel first grader. Last April, David had met her at Super National and was able to win against her at that time. But following another year of systematic instructions, weekly tournament-style game playing and analysis by professional coaches under Weibel Chess' structured team, Erin has been improving steadily and is now rated over 900. Both Joanna and William have benefited from Weibel Chess training in their early years. With Erin's calm demeanor and strong attention skills, I will not be surprised if she becomes another Joanna in the near future.

As we were waiting for the final results, I saw another California player, Andrew Zhang Hong, analyzing his own last game with the kind of focus and ease that's beyond his age in Weibel Chess team room. Only 9 years of age, he has risen to approach a Master title within less than two years. "Geniuses are made, not born." Although Grandmaster Susan Polgar's father, László Polgar's thesis was proved not only by his three master daughters but also many researches, one has to recognize that some children are born with more gift from the get go. Andrew received 5.5 points and a fifth place in the K-6 section, confirming his place as one of

the strongest scholastic chess players in the country.

Right before the award ceremony at 7 p.m., we saw our team being listed at the top of the K-6 section again. Although this was more expected than last year's, the excitement was fresh for everyone.

What a proud moment when our children got on the stage to receive their second national championship trophy Sunday night! With the courage and persistence at each round, they did it again! The scholastic chess school championship has been dominated by NY teams over the past ten years. Based on the USCF data, 25 out of the 43 school team championships in 4 sections (K-1, K-3, K-5, K-6) since 2005 were from NY. The children were very proud that they had left "Gomes" on the champion map.

We are proud of our Gomes kids for having worked hard to prepare for and win another championship. It is really gratifying to see their hard work pay off. This is also a story of these four kids staying together through another year with their love and dedication for chess. This more than anything is what we hope they take with them as important lessons for success into their adult lives.

Although their combined

attendance was small compared to Texas and New York State, all 77 players from Northern California did amazingly well. In the K-3 championship section, they took 7 out of the top 15 spots, including the individual champion and team champion (Mission San Jose Elementary).

#1 | BALAJI DAGGUPATI
#4 | MILIND MAITI
#5 | ANDREW PENG
#10 | CHINGUUN BAYARAA
#11 | CALLAGHAN
MCCARTY-SNEAD
#12 | OLIVER WU
#14 | RISHITH SUSARLA

Anvi Surapaneni, a fifth grader from Weibel, won the K-6 U1000 section with a perfect 7.0.

Aaron Hu, a second grader from Weibel, got 5.0 and his rating jumped almost 300 points.

David Pan, a fifth grader from Mission San Jose Elementary,

won the 7th place in K-5 section with 6.0.

Those made us feel very fortunate to live in a supportive community where chess is a respected extracurricular activity. For example, Weibel and NorCal House of Chess scheduled two tournaments in April with the same time control as the National and opponents with similar ratings to prepare Fremont players. Jason's father, Haifeng, credited that as the best preparation for Jason before they headed for Dallas.

We were very happy to be part of the 2014 National. It takes a big, knowledgeable staff of experienced personnel to run the nine sections smoothly. We were all amazed at how punctual each round was. K-1 section was ran with special care for the little ones as parents were seated across the Cortex Ballroom while children who finished their

games were announced promptly. The Chief TD, Bill Snead, and his right-hand man, Wayne Clark, as well as the cadre of 26 other directors and dozens of volunteers deserve a standing ovation.

Sitting in the Media restaurant after the award ceremony, the celebration was mixed with a bittersweet feeling. With their age differences, this is the last time that our four children could play on the same school team for a while as Joanna and Ganesh are moving on to Junior High in fall. We'll certainly miss each other and the friendship that had built during those two national tournaments. May their passion for chess persist so they can meet again as a team in high school.

Will they be able to defend their national title as a team again?

We'll find out in spring 2020!

Report on Weibel Chess at the Elementary School Nationals 2014

By Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

I am waiting for my plane to leave Dallas. I thought I might as well get a report out to the Weibel Chess parents or at least that one person sitting on the edge of his chair waiting for this information. ;-)

The Weibel news is mixed. The good (almost great news) is that all but one person wore their Weibel Team T-shirts all weekend. It helped the players and parents bond as a team. Our spirit was high even if our scores weren't as high as we would have liked. I was excited to see our elite players take pride in their jackets. They wore them during most of the rounds.

On the positive side:

I was happy that I invited Gomes (Fremont) and Bret Harte (Modesto) to share our large Team Room. We felt a brotherhood/sisterhood of being from Northern California. Success and accomplishment come not just from trophies, but from being a part of a community.

Demetrius Goins, our coach, amazed people in his staying power. He had few breaks during the day as he threw all his energy and extensive chess knowledge in preparing our players and some of the Gomes players for their next

games.

There were few negatives. One impacted our team and caused some unwanted tension and lack of sleep. Almost all flights were cancelled Thursday due to thunderstorms, hail and tornados in Dallas. Flights had to be rearranged to get to Dallas. A number of our players had to take byes the first round for fear of not arriving in time on their re-booked flights. Anthony Zhou, our highest rated player, decided to gamble and try and make the hour deadline before being forfeited. He made it with about five minutes to spare and went on to win his game.

Almost everything went smoothly at the tournament. The Chief TD, however, apparently made a decision based upon his philosophy that reversed two years of a peace that had occurred between many teams and Washington State players. Washington State has its own rating system. When Washington State players enter at Nationals their USCF ratings are quite deceptive. Some feel that is intentional. For example, a Washington team in the K3 Under 800 section had players rated by their system over 1700 and others 1500 and 1300 and



One of the Playing Halls with parents watching. Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

they had played dozens of competition chess games. Their USCF ratings were way under 800 due to having played these games years ago. The Chief TD informed the large group of protesters that as far as he was concerned all non-USCF rating system and activities were illegal. Obviously, this was a business power ploy on his part that lacked any ethical considerations. He had, in my opinion, absolutely no concern for the players. I loved watching my brethren and sisters from New York come down on the Chief TD whom they viewed as arrogant. I personally felt he was just a snot. I think it is truly ugly when those in a leadership structure disregard the young chess players so they can maintain their power and protect their egos.

How went the tournament for



Bret Harte Team from Modesto

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

Weibel? I was excited that all our players were taking their time before moving. Only once or twice did a player return from his/her game in under 20 minutes. A few years ago a dozen players would have been back in the Team room in that amount of time. Many of our players went three hours and a couple even lasted almost to the end

of the time control. Shivangi Gupta seemed to do this in almost every round. She, like a number of other Weibel players, found themselves playing higher rated players in every round. I do want to provide my special kudos to second grade student Dharsahan Vetrivelan as he used his full time during one of his games.

Another second grade student who deserves Kudos is Aaron Hu. He played a slew of people 400 to 500 points higher and finished the tournament with 5 out of seven points in the K-3 championships. He was by far the big surprise of the tournament and deserved his trophy and loads of accolades.

Anvi Surapaneni was the heroine of the team as she won the K-6 Under 1000 competition with a perfect score. While winners of any of the Under or non-rated



Anthony Zhou (1842, 6th grade) from Fremont going over a game with Andrew Zhang Hong (2038, 3rd Grade) from Saratoga. Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

sections cannot use the title Champion, I would definitely call her a champion even if I must use a small c.

In the K-6 Under 1000 competition Sashrika Pandey also came home with a trophy for her five wins. Our Team took third in this section only a ½ point out of first. We had 20 points and the first place team had 20.5 points.

I believe in this year's National Championships our players confronted their most difficult competition ever. Despite this challenge the Weibel players fared better than last year. Our players may have failed to come home with many individual awards this year, still all four Weibel teams won trophies and were in contention for first place in their sections.

The Weibel Team results:

Based on the initial rankings of the teams in the sections we entered our final results were good. Translation—we placed higher than we entered. Yet, I had hoped we would do better. The K-3 Championships provided our best chance for a title. Through most of the rounds seven teams including Weibel were within one point of first place. In the sixth round Mission San Jose took its turn in first by half a point and held on to its lead in the seventh to gain the victory. Once again Mission has proven that their players can



Weibel's Fourth Place K-3 Team in the K-3 Championship Division (one point out of first)
Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

finish strong. Weibel placed fourth only one and a half points behind. As expected, Oliver Wu led our players and finished with 5.5 points. As noted earlier, Aaron Hu with a rating 600 points below Oliver was our second place player. In the last round Louis Law fought a player rated much higher than himself to a draw and obtained 4.5 points. The four highest scoring players count for team point no matter how many players on a team. If a team finishes in the top five the four players get plaques. Our final plaque was awarded to Vincent Wang who obtained 3.5 points.

Despite our K-5 Championship Team being seeded eleventh in the country, I truly felt that we had the talent to finish in the top five. We had no heroes but we had a lot of depth. Through most of the tournament, we were in the top five. The bane of Weibel Chess' existence in recent years, not finishing strong, raised its ugly face

again when we dropped our position in the last two rounds and ended tied for ninth place. To be fair our players defeated a number of higher rated players, just not enough of them. While there were not any plaques for our K-5 players, I would like to personally thank all of them for their team spirit. I think this group enjoyed themselves a lot. I am sure some might say too much, but I can't help but get a warm feeling when a group of students are laughing together while playing chess in the Team Room. They were like comrades in arms. Next year, I hope the comrades in arms hit the target more directly. Our highest rated play Atri Surapaneni (1496) obtained the most points—4.5. Prithvi Nagamanivel (1163), showed he could still play chess as he did in second grade. He destroyed many higher rated players and received 4 points. I think the tension in the delayed flights and Jeremy Chen's (1423) lack



Weibel at Nationals

Photo courtesy of Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

of sleep hit him more than any other Weibel player. We were all incredulous when he lost his first three games. With the help of Demetrius Goins, our onsite coach, he made a comeback winning the next four games. Enya Mistry, another of our players that can play three to four hour games, added 3.5 points to our team. Suryateja Mandadi and Rahul Ravishankar also had 3.5 points in the K-5 tournament.

We tied for fourth in the K-6 Championships. This was a respectable finish. Yet once again we would have been higher if our players had better conditioning to finish off the tournament as strong as they started. The Nationals are grueling event with seven four hour games in three days. There is little doubt in my mind that our elite players and even varsity players need to play longer time controls over two or three days. Most

of all they need to attend more tournaments. Every coach wants to put his sport first. I just hope I can get some of the parents to do this. In no other sport do the controlled studies show the academic improvement that studying and playing chess does. I hear all these worries about studying for tests and test scores. Yet, critical thinking developed through chess is a prime mover in education. Having sat on college admissions committees and speaking from the experience of my own boys, becoming a standout chess player will get more attention from most college selection committees than the scores your child received on any Star test. Our two top players, Anthony Zhou (1842) and Serafina Show (1590) both brought 4.5 points to the team score. Shivangi Gupta who I moved up from fifth grade due to her fighting spirit obtained 3.5

points as did Daniel Emmanuel. They all received plaques for their accomplishment.

Fremont's Gomes Elementary was the winner of the K-6 Championship group. They had been last year's National K-5 Champions. Weibel was happy once again to share our Team Room with the Gomes players. I hold a special place in my heart for Gomes since it was the second school I taught at. I left Gomes when I turned Success Chess over to Bela Evans. Gomes, in the years I was there, mirrored Weibel. They had great students who were a pleasure to work with plus loads of parent volunteers. I even held tournaments there and felt as much thrill when they won State Championships as I did when Weibel came out on top. I may have left Gomes in 2005, but my ties remained. Gomes' number one player, National Expert Joanna Liu (2016) started her chess during her three years at Weibel. She was one of the best students I ever had and telling her parents this inspired them to continue her in chess. Gomes fourth player in their K-6 Championship Team is William Sartorio (1603-now close to 1800) who played and interacted with our coaches at Weibel for two years. I felt honored (I had tears in my eyes) when the Gomes parents asked me to be in a picture with their Team. The other

two outstanding players who were part, not only of Gomes' National Championship team this year, but last year's as well, were fourth grader Jason Shuhe (1708) and sixth grader Ganesh Murugappan (1835). KUDOS!

We did not have a team in the K-1 Championship section, but I hope to have one next year. Erin Law was the lone player in that section this year.

I want to finish this article on Weibel at the 2014 Elementary School Nationals with a bit of information on

other Northern California winners. Balagi Daggupati, a student of Ted Castro and his famous NorCal House of Chess, stood alone in first place in the K-3 National Championships. Northern California has the most amazing group of third grade chess players ever. Seven of the first 15 positions were held by our players: Balaji Daggupati (1919) in first; Maiti Milind (1836) and Andrew Peng (1775) tied for second; Callaghan McCarty-Snead, Chingun Bayaraa (1778), Rishith Susarla (1701) and Oliver Wu(1713) tied for

seventh. In K-5 David Pan (1839) tied for second. In K-6, third grade student Andrew Zhang Hong (2038) tied for fifth along with Joanna Liu(2016) and Jason Shuhe Zhang (1708). This was a great year for Northern California players. They continue to show that they are once again a force to be reckoned with.

Mechanics' Institute Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

By John Donaldson

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The Spring Tuesday Night Marathon had an exciting finish, as FM Andy Lee of Berkeley defeated NM Romy Fuentes in the last round to take home first place with a score of 7-1, good for \$600. IM Elliott Winslow and Expert Steven Gaffagan also won, to finish at 6½, taking home \$300 apiece for their second place tie.

Three women finishing among the prize winners is likely a record for the

TNM. Congratulations go to Uyanga Byambaa (best under-2200), Enkhjin (Cindy) Gomboluudev (best under-1400) and Renate Otterbach(best under-1200) The latter started 0-4, but won her last four games.

Bryan Hood was the top raining gainer, picking up a whopping 166 points. Other big gains were achieved by

Renate Otterbach +125
Robert Reyes +107
Jamyandagva Zulkhuu +86
Togtokh Oyuntseren +81
Enkhjin (Cindy)
Gomboluudev +79
Craig Yamamoto +77
David Flores +74

Mechanics' Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

1	FM Andy Lee	7
2-3	IM Elliott Winslow Steve Gaffagan	6.5
U2200	Uyanga Byambaa	
U2000	Ozgur Sahin Michael Askin Jason Ochoa Robert Drane	
U1800	Sos Hakobyan James Cohee	
U1600	Craig Yamamoto	
U1400	Enkhjin Gomboluudev	
U1200	Renate Otterbach	

CalChess Super State Championship and Joe Lonsdale Elementary Championship

Each year as the school year nears an end the CalChess Scholastic State Championship takes place. It is an opportunity for all the schools and students from around Northern California to meet and compete for the State Champion titles.

This year the event took place from April 25th through April 27th and drew 774 players. It was held at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Because of a conflict with the National Junior High Championship, those titles were awarded two weeks before this event (see next article). Because of the large number of participants, the event is broken up into a number of sections to keep the skill levels fair and increase the likelihood of a clear

winner for each title.

In addition to individual titles, each school or club can field a team and compete for the team titles based on the total scores of the best scoring members of the team.

Special thanks go to Joe Lonsdale who was a platinum sponsor of the event. The Elementary State Championship is now named after him.

Three students tied for the title of High School State Champion. They are FIDE Master Cameron Wheeler, National Master Kesav Viswanadha and Jack Qijie Zhu. The winning school team was Monta Vista High School from Cupertino and

39th CalChess Scholastic Super State Championship

Individual Champions

High School Championship(1600+)

FM Cameron Wheeler
NM Kesav Viswanadha
Jack Qijie Zhu

High School JV(800-1599)

Blake M. Wong

High School Beginner(u800)

Zi Chuan Tan
Akhilesh Yeluru

High School Rookie(unrated)

Nathan Kline

Elementary Championship 4-6(800+)

David Pan

Elementary Championship 4-5(800+)

Dani Mendelevitch

Elementary JV 4-6(500-799)

Winbert Zhang
Siddhar Mukherjee

Elementary Beginner 4-6(u500)

Nicholas Wall-Feng
Sanjana Das

Elementary Rookie 4-6(unrated)

Saharsh Goenka

Primary Championship 1-3(800+)

Maurya Palusa



Photo Courtesy of Bay Area Chess

Primary JV 1-3(500-799)
Ruthvi Singireddy

Primary Beginner 1-3(u500)
Daniel Lief
Vaibhav Wudaru

Primary Rookie 1-3(unrated)
Vihaan Shetty
Alex Tholeen
Sandeep Salwan

Kindergarten Championship
Sriram Krishnakumar
Nicholas A. Boldi

Blitz 7-12 Championship
FM Cameron Wheeler

Blitz 4-6 Championship
Bryce M. Wong

Blitz K-3 Championship
Robert Reyes

the winning club team was Berkeley Chess School.

In the High School Junior Varsity Section for players rated between 800 and 1599, the clear winner was Blake M. Wong. The top school team was Los Altos High School and the top club was the Liu Chess Club.

Two students tied for the title in the High School Beginner section for students rated under 800. They are Zi Chuan Tan and Akhilesh Yeluru. Winning the school team title was Evergreen Valley from San Jose. The top club team was Bay Area Chess.

In the rookie high school section, Nathan Kline took

clear first place. The winning school team was Miller Middle School from Cupertino.

The Elementary Championship for grades four to six was won by David Pan. The top school team was Mission San Jose from Fremont and the top club team was Norcal House of Chess.

In the Elementary Championship for grades four and five, the winner was Dani Mendelevitch with Mission San Jose from Fremont winning the school team title and Berkeley Chess School winning the club team title.

For the Elementary Junior Varsity title for grades four to six and rated between 500 and 799 there were two winners. They are Winbert Zhang and Siddhar Mukherjee. Winner of the school team title was Bret Harte from



FIDE Master Cameron Wheeler.
Photo by Richard Shorman

Modesto and Chess Mates won the club title.

Two players tied for the title in the Elementary Beginner section for grades four to six and a rating below 500. They are Nicholas Wall-Feng and Sanjana Das. Farmersville Elementary won the school team title and Chess Mates



774 Students Competed.

Photo by Richard Shorman

won the club title.

Saharsh Goenka won the Elementary Rookie section for unrated players in grades four to six. Winning the school title was Mission San Jose from Fremont and winning the club title was Chess Mates.

Winning the Primary Championship title for grades 1 to 3 was Maurya Palusa. The title for top Primary School Team went to Mission San Jose from Fremont and the top club was Norcal House of Chess.

In the Primary Junior Varsity for students between first and third grade and rated between 500 and 799, Ruthvi Singereddy won the title. Top school team was Mission San Jose from Fremont and top club was Norcal House of Chess.

Two players tied in the Primary Beginner Section for grades first to third and ratings below 500. They are Daniel Lief and Vaibhav Wudaru. The winning school team was the St. Mark School from San Rafael and the top club was Chess Mates.

The Primary Rookie section for kids between grades one and three was a three way tie for the title between Vihaan Shetty, Alex Tholeen, and Sandeep Salwan. Winning the school team title was Mission

School Team Champions

High School Championship(1600+)
Monta Vista High, Cupertino

High School JV(800-1599)
Los Altos High School

High School Beginner(u800)
Evergreen Valley, San Jose

High School Rookie(unrated)
Miller Middle School, Cupertino

Elementary Championship 4-6(800+)
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Elementary Championship 4-5(800+)
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Elementary JV 4-6(500-799)
Bret Harte, Modesto

Elementary Beginner 4-6(u500)
Farmersville

Elementary Rookie 4-6(unrated)
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Primary Championship 1-3(800+)
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Primary JV 1-3(500-799)
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Primary Beginner 1-3(u500)
St. Mark School, San Rafael

Primary Rookie 1-3(unrated)
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Kindergarten Championship
Mission San Jose, Fremont

Blitz 4-6 Championship
Coalinga Elementary

San Jose from Fremont and winning the club title was the Norcal House of Chess.

Two players tied for the title in the Kindergarten Championship. They are

Club Team Champions

High School Championship(1600+)
Berkeley Chess School

High School JV(800-1599)
Liu Chess Club

High School Beginner(u800)
Bay Area Chess

Elementary Championship 4-6(800+)
Norcal House of Chess

Elementary Championship 4-5(800+)
Berkeley Chess School

Elementary JV 4-6(500-799)
Chess Mates

Elementary Beginner 4-6(u500)
Chess Mates

Elementary Rookie 4-6(unrated)
Chess Mates

Primary Championship 1-3(800+)
Norcal House of Chess

Primary JV 1-3(500-799)
Norcal House of Chess

Primary Beginner 1-3(u500)
Chess Mates

Primary Rookie 1-3(unrated)
Norcal House of Chess

Kindergarten Championship
Norcal House of Chess

Blitz 7-12 Championship
Coalinga Chess Club

Sriram Krishnakumar and Nicholas A. Boldi. The top school team was Mission San Jose from Fremont and the top club team was Norcal House of Chess.

In addition to the regular tournament, there was also a Blitz event. The winners were Fide Master Cameron Wheeler for grades 7 to 12, Bryce M. Wong for grades 4 to 6 and Robert Reyes for grades Kindergarten through 3rd. The winning teams were Coalinga Chess Club for grades 7 to 12

and Coalinga Elementary for grades 4 to 6.

The tournament was organized by Salman Azhar and Judit Sztaray with Bay Area Chess. The Chief Tournament Director was National Tournament Directors Tom Langland, assisted by computer TD's

John McCumiskey and Jordan Langland. Richard Koepcke directed the High School sections. A large event such as this takes a number of helpers to make it go off smoothly. Thank you to all those individuals who volunteered their time to assist with the event.

CalChess Junior High School Championship

Usually the CalChess Junior High Championship is held on the same weekend as the Super State. Unfortunately this year the National Junior High Championship was on the same weekend so CalChess opted to hold the tournament for the Junior High state titles on a difference weekend. The tournament took place on the weekend of April 13th and 14th,

2014.

There were 121 participants in the event. The event was held at the Hyatt Regency by the San Francisco Airport.

In addition to the individual state titles, the players could also play on school or club teams and compete for those titles as well.

Ladia Jirasek was the clear



CalChess Junior High State Championship

Individual Champions

Junior High Championship(1200+)
Ladia Jirasek

Junior High JV(800-1199)
Charles Clark Smith

Junior High Booster(u800)
Harrison Wan Chen

Junior High Rookie(unrated)
Ding Yaan Lim
Donghyun Jeong
Sai Satya Pr Sura

Elementary Open
Eeswar Sree Kurli

School Team Champions

Junior High Championship(1200+)
Mission San Jose Elementary

Junior High Booster(u800)
Fresno

Junior High Rookie(unrated)
Thomas Hart Middle School

Elementary Open
Garden Gate Elementary

Club Team Champions

Junior High Championship(1200+)
Marin Scholastic Chess

Junior High JV(800-1199)
Marin Scholastic Chess

winner of the individual
Junior High State Champion
title. He is also the current

Eighth Grade State
Champion. The school team
state title was won by
Mission San Jose
Elementary and the winning
club team was Marin
Scholastic Chess.

Winning the junior varsity
section for those rated 800
to 1199 was Charles Clark
Smith. The winning club
team was Marin Scholastic
Chess.

In the booster section for
those with ratings below 800
the state title was won by
Harrison Wan Chen. The
top school team was Fresno.

Three players tied for the
title in the rookie section.
They are Ding Yaan Lim,

Donghyun Jeong and Sai
Satya Pr Sura. The top rookie
team was Thomas Hart
Middle School.

In addition to the Junior High
sections, there was also an
elementary school section. It
was won by Eeswar Sree Kurli.
The top elementary team was
Garden Gate Elementary.

The tournament was
organized by Salman Azhar
and Judit Sztaray with Bay
Area Chess. The Chief
Tournament Director was
National Tournament
Director Tom Langland,
assisted by computer TD
Scott Mason. Thank you to
those individuals who
volunteered their time to
assist with the event.

Hans Niemann Wins Mechanics' Imre Konig Memorial

By John Donaldson

*Reprinted with permission.
From the Mechanics' Institute
Newsletter. For games and
additional details about the
event please visits:*

www.chessclub.org

Hans Niemann became the
youngest winner of
a Mechanics' Institute Chess
Club tournament when he
won the 14th Annual Imre
Konig Memorial, held April 12.
The 10-year-old from Orinda
defeated IM Elliott
Winslow in the last round to
top the 25-player event with a
5-0 score. Second place was
taken by 12-year-old Tanuj

Vasudeva, who raised his
rating over 2200 for the first
time with his 4-1 score.
Congratulations, Tanuj!

This event was truly
dominated by youth, as two
of the three players who tied
for third at 3½, Callaghan
McCarty-Snead and
Chinguun Bayaraa, are only
eight years old. The third
player in the tie,
veteran Arthur Dembling, is
almost twice the combined
age of the four youngsters,
which might just be a record.

14th Annual Imre Konig Memorial

1	Hans Moke Niemann	5
2	FM Tanuj Vasudeva	4
3-5	Chinguun Bayaraa*	3.5
	Callaghan McCarty-Snead*	
	Arthur G. Dembling*	

U1600 Aaron Thompson
U1400 Vincent Wang

*These players also tied for U2200,
U2000 and U1800

Weibel Girls Dominate the Under 12 Division of the All-Girls Chess Nationals

By Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

Nineteen CalChess girls attended the 11th Annual All-Girls Nationals the weekend of April 11 through the 13. Due to high hotel prices and a lack of available space in downtown Chicago where it had been held in past years, this year's All-Girls Nationals took place in Northbrook, IL. The organizers of the tournament ran a very successful event despite the limitations they faced in a second choice location.

For the second straight year the Weibel girls took a first in the Under 12 division. This was accomplished even before the last round started. Weibel girls proved unquestionably that they were the best in the country in the Under 12 category. Weibel's Team finished with 14.5 points



Weibel takes First in under 12.

Photo courtesy of Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

compared to the second place team from Florida with 9.5 points and the third place team with 8 points from Connecticut. Weibel Elementary School Chess has now won four National girls titles.

three players scores count. The organizers awarded 15 trophies in each section. In the Under 12 section there were 74 entries. This years Championships were the



Serafina Show with USCF President Ruth Haring.

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

In the individual competition this year, four of the Weibel girls brought home trophies. I could claim a fifth trophy going to Weibel due to the fact that one of our girls, Aria Lakhmani, moved to Warm Springs Elementary School last year even though she continues her chess at Weibel. Obviously, her points could not count for the Weibel Chess Team. I might note that no matter how many people you have on your team only the top



Prisha Jain enjoys her trophy (tied for 6th)

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.



Aksithi Eswaran with her coach Ted Castro. Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

largest to date with 322 players. Last year the event drew 238 competitors.

All the Weibel girls did well. They are wonder girls. The youngest of our wonder girls, and the only girl from Weibel to compete in a non-under 12

section at All-Girls National, Prisha Jain, tied for sixth in the Under 8 section. In the second round she was paired with the only other Fremont girl in her division, Allyson Wong from Fremont's Mission San Jose Elementary School. Prisha won the game, but Allyson bounced back to win her other games and tied for third in the Under 8. This division was won by a seven year old Women's Candidate Master from Silver Oak Elementary in San Jose, Aksithi Eswaran. This was Aksithi's second time as Champion in this division. Ted Castro, who runs the NorCal House of Chess in Fremont where most of the young chess champions in the Bay Area train, is her coach.

The wonder girls from Weibel were:



Allyson Wong (tied for 3rd) and her mom. Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

Serafina Show, Weibel student school president and number one Wunder Kind, went undefeated. She drew two and won four. Her two draws were against the two highest ranked players. In the last round she fought hard for the National title and a trip to the World Youth Championships in the Fall. Her draw placed her in a tie for second place so the World's will have to wait until next year.

Enya Mistry, with five wins and one lose, also tied for second. She had, perhaps, the best tournament of her life. Enya came in ranked 24th in the competition.

Raisah Khan went 4.5-1.5 and tied for eighth. Raisah defeated a 1731 rated player in her way to winning a trophy. Raisah came into the completion ranked



DO IT GIRL!

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

29th..

Shivangi Gupta had a great day as well. If she had won her last round she would have tied for second rather than 10th. Shivangi's rating was 1308 and that of her last round opponent, 1711. Shivangi ranked 19th in the beginning of the competition.

Aria Lakhmani, from Warm Springs, moved out of the Weibel attendance area last year. Aria continued her training at Weibel this year. She tied for 10th. Aria entered the Championships ranked number 20.

Sashrika Pandey, Amirah Mohamed Rafi, Ambika Tiwari and Anvi Surapaneni finished the weekend close to the rankings they entered with.

Other CalChess girls attended the All-Girls Nationals: Arya Bhat from New Horizons in Fremont, Nivita Reddy, a Weibel alumna who now lives in San Ramon, and Sindhuja Dasari from Pleasanton competed in the Under 10 division. Hiya Ghosh from Cupertino, who trained with the Weibel girls before this year's event, tied for second in the Under 12 section. Simona Nayberg of the San Francisco Academy also took home a trophy tying for tenth in the Under 12 section. Chenyi Zhao, a World youth competitor from Chadborne in Fremont, missed out on a trophy by half a point in the Under 12 competition. Another Weibel alumna and World Youth attendee, Alisha Chawla from Stratford Middle

School in Fremont was in the Under 14 Section.

I am convinced that while the girls' excellent training under the Weibel chess instructors and their own private tutors helped, the inspiration provided by many other chess teachers and family members placed the finishing touch to their victories. We often see one person taking credit for the achievements of another, but in reality it takes a village within which a child lives to create their success. So Kudos to all those who helped the Weibel and other CalChess girls learn to finish a competition in style.

Black Dragon Spring Tournament

East Bay afterschool enrichment program Black Dragon Chess held its Spring Invitational Tournament on April 5th at the Walnut Creek Library. There were 62 first to fifth graders participating in the event.

The champion at the end of the day was Adi Pradhan from Walnut Grove Elementary School.

The tournament was organized by J.B. McCann and Black Dragon Chess.

Black Dragon Chess provides afterschool enrichment programs to schools in the San Ramon valley, Walnut Creek and surrounding areas. For more information visit the Black Dragon website: <http://blackdragonchess.blogspot.com/>

Black Dragon Spring Tournament

- 1 Adi Pradhan
- 2 Julia Szambelan
- 3 Jessica Holstein
- 4 Jon Carlo Romo
- 5 Vincent Wu
- 6 Jonathan Castagnini
- 7 Vishok Manoharan

San Francisco Scholastic Championship

By John Donaldson

Reprinted with permission. From the Mechanics' Institute Newsletter. For games and additional details about the event please visits: www.chessclub.org

Nearly three hundred school kids descended on the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on March 22 to contest the 2014 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship organized by the Mechanics' Institute and sponsored by Robert W. Baird & Co., a wealth management and investment banking firm with \$117 billion in assets under management and over

2900 employees on three continents. Baird not only provided financial support, but also manpower, as many of its employees volunteered their time to make this a successful event.

NM Cameron Wheeler won the 2014 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship. The 13-year-old Cupertino youth, who will soon be rated over 2400 USCF, scored 4-0 in the 43-player top section, as did Hans Niemann and Jaysen Shi. In the playoff Cameron emerged triumphant, and won an

expense-paid trip to the 2014 Nationals. Hans and Jaysen won free entry to the 14th Annual Mechanics' Institute Chess Camp for Advanced Players, which will be held July 14-18, with GMs John Fedorowicz and GM Nick De Firmian as the lead instructors.

GM Daniel Naroditsky, who will play in the U.S. Championship this May, gave a simultaneous



Photo by Richard Shorman

2014 San Francisco Scholastic Championship

Championship

- 1 FM Cameron Wheeler
- 2 Hans Niemann
- 3 Jaysen Shi

High School

- 1 Brandon Moren
- 2 Jacky Kwang
- 3 Pierro Vo

Grades 6-8

- 1 Zachary Agenbroad
- 2 Noah Heller
- 3 Jade Greer

Grades 4-5

- 1 Steven Hwang
- 2 Silas Grout
- 3 Ling Feng Ren

Grades K-3

- 1 Sophia Yang
- 2 Philip Bluer
- 3 Aria Saluja

exhibition.

The event was organized by the Mechanics' Institute, under the direction of GM Nick DeFirmian, with Stephen Brandwein as the chief tournament director.

Below is a list of the top finishers.

First section - Championship -
U.S. Chess Federation rated,
open to all K-12
First place - Cameron Wheeler
Second place - Hans
Niemann
Third place - Jaysen Shi
41 Players

Section 2 - unrated high
school (grades 9-12)
First place - Brandon Moren

Second place - Jacky Kwang
Third place - Pierro Vo
16 players

Section three - grades 6-8
First place - Zachary
Agenbroad
Second place - Noah Heller
Third place - Jade Greer
32 players

Section 4- Grades 4-5
First place - Steven Hwang
Second - Silas Grout
Third- Ling Feng Ren
42 Players

Section 5 - kindergarten-
third grade
First - Sophia Yang
Second - Philip Bluer
Third- Aria Saluja
111 participants

2014 National Junior Chess Congress Win

By Callaghan McCarty-Snead

Berkeley Chess School student Callaghan McCarty-Snead took clear first in the age 8 and under section of the 2014 National Junior Chess Congress held Feb. 28th-Mar. 2nd in Irvine, CA. Cal won all ten of his games winning his section by a margin of 1.5 points. He is one of Northern California's up and coming players, last December representing the U.S. at the World Youth Chess Championship held in the UAE.

This was a tough tournament as I am used to playing long time controls. For some odd reason, the organizers thought K-3 should play 10, G/30 games in 2 days. I played 5 opponents as black and white. I drink Gatorade at every tournament. It is my secret weapon to give me energy and it helped me stay energized.

Although my opponents were much lower rated, I was worried I would make a



Photo Courtesy of Beth Slatkin

mistake playing so many games. I got very tired. I was super happy I won all 10 games and got to ride the carousel after the tournament at the Great Park in Irvine.

The trophy I won was the tallest I had ever won!

White: Callaghan McCarty-Snead (1774)
Black: Ethan Pau (1537)

Notes by Callaghan McCarty-Snead

1.Nf3

After studying some of Bobby

Fischer's games, I thought I would try the Kings Indian.

1...d5 2.g3 c5

Controlling more of the center.

3.Bg2 e6 4.d3 Nc6 5.0-0 Bd6
6.Nbd2

Preparing e4.

6...b6 7.e4 Nge7 8.Nh4

Getting ready to play f4.

8...Bb7 9.f4 Nd4 10.c3

Kicking his great knight away.

10...Nb5?? (diagram)



A terrible blunder losing a piece.

11.a4! Nc7 12.e5! Nf5 13.Nxf5

Doubling his pawns and winning an open file.

13...exf5 14.exd6 Qxd6
15.Re1+ Ne6 16.Nf3

Trying to come to g5.

16...f6

Stopping the knight.

17.d4 c4 18.Qe2 Kf7 19.Bd2
Rhe8 20.Qf2

Getting out of the pin.

20...a5 21.Nh4 g6 22.Nf3 Re7
23.Re2

Both of us doubling rooks.

23...Rae8 24.Rae1 Bc6 25.Ra1
Qd7 26.Bh3 h5 27.Bf1 Bxa4

Winning a pawn.

28.h3 Bc2 29.Be3 Bb3 30.Bd2
Bc2 31.Nh2

Getting ready for g4.

31...Bd3 32.Ree1 Bc2 33.g4
Rg8 34.Be2 hxg4 35.hxg4 Rh8

Controlling the file.

36.Bd1 Be4 37.Bf3 Bd3 38.Qg2

Attacking d5.

38...Be4 39.Bxe4 dxe4 40.Be3
Kf8 41.Kf2 Reh7 42.Rh1 Qb5
43.Kg1 Qd7 44.g5 fxg5 45.fxg5
f4 46.Rf1

Pinning the pawn.

46...f3

Improving his pawn.

47.Qg3 Ke7 48.Qe5 Rf8 49.d5

Winning the pinned piece.

49...Rf5 50.Qxe6+ Qxe6

51.dxe6 Kxe6 52.Ng4 Rh5
53.Rxh5 gxh5 54.Nf6 h4
55.Kf2

Blocking everything so my rook and knight are good.

55...Ke5 56.Ng4+ Ke6 57.Rh1
Rb5 58.Bc1 a4 59.Rxh4 Kf5
60.Nh6+

Getting my knight to a good place.

60...Kg6 61.Rxe4

Tearing apart his pawns.

61...a3 62.bxa3 Rb3 63.Re3
Kxg5 64.Rxf3+ Kg6 65.Nf5 b5
66.Nd6

Locking the king and bringing my knight to the pawns.

66...Rb1 67.Be3 Rb3 68.Bc5
Rb2+ 69.Ke3

Bringing my king to c6.

69...Rb3 70.Kd4 Rb2 71.Kd5
Rb3 72.Kc6 Rb2 73.Nxb5

Now the b5 pawn is eliminated and I win c4.

73...Rb3 74.Nd6 Rb8 75.Nxc4
Ra8 76.Kb5 Rc8 77.a4 Ra8
78.a5 Rb8+ 79.Nb6 Ra8 80.a6
Rb8 81.a7 Ra8 82.Nxa8 Kg7
83.Nb6 Kg6 84.a8Q Kg7
85.Qf8+ Kh7 86.Rf7+ Kg6
87.Qg8+ Kh5 88.Rh7# 1-0

Record Turnout for Mechanics' Institute Winter Marathon

By John Donaldson

Reprinted with permission. From the Mechanics' Institute Newsletter. For games and additional details about the event please visits: www.chessclub.org The Mechanics' Institute in San Francisco had their largest turnout ever for the Winter Tuesday Night Marathon with 100 players participating in the event. Quite an amazing feat for a mid-week event spanning eight weeks!

International Master Ganbold Odondoo won the Winter Tuesday Night Marathon last evening. The former member of the Mongolian Olympiad team defeated 10-year-old Expert Hans Niemann in round eight to finish with 6½ points, good for \$650.

Expert Steven Gaffagan, who like Odondoo and Niemann entered the eighth round with a 5½–1½ score, drew a hard-fought game last night with top seed NM Hayk Manvelyan. This result enabled IM Elliott Winslow and Class A players Ashik Uzzaman and Sergey

Ostrovsky to join Gaffagan in a tie for second at 6–2. Uzzaman, who has played very well the last two TNMs, is now 2147, while Ostrovsky picked up 98 rating points and is almost an Expert (1983).

Dramatic as both these players rating gains were, they were not the largest among the 100 participants. Top honors for biggest rating gain goes to Perry Rosenstein, who moved up an impressive 179 points (1546 to 1725) with Enkhjin (Cindy) Gomboluudev right behind, advancing 157 points (1275 to 1432). Cindy's mom, Enkhmaa Nyangar, also had a fine result, improving from 1739 to 1825. Young Adam Vichik picked up 127 points and is now rated 1609. Congratulations also go to veterans (age 60+) Mike Anderson and Steven Krasnov, who regained their Expert titles.

Mechanics' Institute Winter Tuesday Night Marathon

1	IM Ganbold Odondo	6.5
2-5	IM Elliott Winslow	6
	Ashik Uzzaman*	
	Steve Gaffagan*	
	Sergey Ostrovsky*	
U1800	Zolboo Lkhagvasuren	
	Enkhmaa Nyangar	
U1600	Perry Rosenstein	
U1400	Adam Vichik	
	Enkhjin Gomboluudev	
U1200/U1000	David Ross	
	Mark Schlosberg	
Unrated	Ozgur Sahin	

*These players also tied for U2200 and U2000

The CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level—2014

By Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

The 7th Annual CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level was held Sunday, February 9, 2014. I created these championships six years ago to celebrate my 70th birthday. For the last few years I have held this popular tournament at the Newark Pavilion--a family friendly venue.

In 2000, NM Sunil Weeramantry, the father of GM Hiraku Nakamura presently the number one US player, told me an interesting story. When Hiraku was 12 years old Sunil told him that he felt it was time to get him a Grand Master as his coach. Sunil reported that Hiraku told him that he definitely did not want a coach. Sunil, surprised, asked him why. Hiraku said, "Well, then he



Oliver Wu with the Kirshner Cup
Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

will take credit for my greatness."

The moral of the story is that while we as parents, friends, teachers and coaches can inspire and provide opportunities to our children their ultimate success comes from within. A few weeks ago I had two of our Weibel coaches patting themselves on the back for training one of our students. I had to step in and tell them of the long successful history this young girl had in chess before she entered any of their classrooms. She took the best from each of them and succeeded because she was the talent. I get sick to my stomach when someone in the business of chess exploits the talents of a player who took one lesson from them, went to their camp one summer or shook their hand. Granted, I know they are making a living at chess or have a need to assuage their own ego, but I say, let the results speak for themselves. My Kudos go out to all those young chess players who attended this year's CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level. While the event was a roaring success, they made it so.

The CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level Championships, continues to be one of the largest youth chess events

CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level 2014

Individual Champions

Open Age 4-9

Oliver Wu

Age 13

Justin Hsu

Age 12

Ryan Yao
Sauray Raghavendra
Jason Zhong

Age 11

Ajay Sunkara
Gordon McNeil
Pratheek Sankeshi

Age 10

Jeremy Chen
Daniel Hwang
Tal Gaffan

Age 9

Vikram Iyer
Andy Liu

Age 8

Stephen Kwok
Artul Thirumalai
Sasha Prakir

Age 7

William Chui

Age 6

Samik Pattanayk

Age 4-5

Shreyas Jay

Team Champions

Age 13

Hopkins Junior High School

Age 12

Tierra Linda Junior High School

Age 11

Weibel Elementary School

Age 10

Weibel Elementary School

Age 9

Weibel Elementary School
Chadborne

Age 8

Weibel Elementary School

Age 7

Weibel Elementary School

Age 6

Weibel Elementary School

based solely on age in the nation. This year Carl Moy, the Weibel Chess parent coordinator, skillfully organized the event.

I was asked a few weeks back by a chess program director as to how all the CalNorth Youth events draw so many players—over 550 signed up this year for these championships and we averaged over 200 players in the three Fall Quads. Sadly, due to sickness and other reasons many players withdrew at the last minute from the Age Level Championships. The final tally for this year's Age Level on the U.S. Chess Federation site was 517. However, this

includes players who forfeited the first round. The actual count was a bit under 500. My response to this chess organizer was that many parents, players, schools and programs have selected to come to the CalNorth events to test their mettle in a comfortable location. Added to these numbers are the players who love good competition wherever they can find it.

Weibel Elementary School took first place Team trophies in the 6, 7, 8, 9 (here Weibel tied with Chadborne), 10, and 11 year old divisions. In the 12 year old Team division Tierra Linda Junior High School of San Carlos won and in the 13 year old division (the oldest age competing) Hopkins Junior High School took first. There was no Team trophy in the 4-5 Age Group or the 4-9 Special Open competitions.

The 4-9 age group was established to give the top

young players longer time controls. This year Carl Moy decided to create a special award called the Kirshner Cup for first place. He felt this would be a special legacy award for my creation of this event and my six years at its helm. I felt thankful that one, it did not yet have to be called the Kirshner Memorial Cup and two, he did not ask me to pay to create this legacy cup.

Let me begin the individual awards with the 4-9 Special Open. I worked a computer in the younger players hall. Due to the longer time controls of the 4-9 Special Open Division they played in the 10 through 13 year-old building. After we were done I walked over to the other building and was met by an excited third grader Oliver Wu who shouted out, "I think I have won the Kirshner Cup." I felt great for this was another birthday award for me—Oliver is Weibel's top third grade player and one of the best in the country. I felt



Parents watching from the Kitchen

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner Ph.D.



A little bit of color

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

honored to give him the trophy at the awards' ceremonies.

Second place in this Special Open division was a four way tie between William Sartorio(Gomes), Steven Hwang (Corte Madera), Annapoorni Meiyappan (Mission San Jose), and Jeffery Zang (Warm Springs).

Carl awarded 15 plus trophies in all the sections. You can check out all the winners and view photographs from the links at:

<http://www.CalNorthYouthChess.org/photographs.html>

Carl awarded logo chess medals to all participants.

The 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 year olds played 5 games. The 10, 11, 12, 13 year olds played 4 games. Here are the trophy winners:

FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLDS (23 entries):

Shreyas Jay (Mission San Jose) 1st
Aakash Koneru (Weibel) 2nd
Davis Gao (Weibel) 3rd
Yiyang Zheng (Rushkin) 3rd
Jonathan Hwang (Corte

Madera) 3rd
Akash Guntamadugu (Kolb) 3rd

SIX YEAR OLDS (51 entries):

Samik Pattanayk (Delphi) 1st
Sean Evans (New Horizons) 2nd
Amar Dhami (Chadborne) 3rd
Andrew Liang (Faria) 3rd
David Sartorio (Gomes) 3rd
Alex Luo (Sunflower) 3rd
Arnav Lingannagari (Mission San Jose) 3rd
Rutansh Pathak (Weibel) 3rd

SEVEN YEAR OLDS (79 entries):

William Chui (St. Marks) 1st
Ethan V. Boldi (Heather) 2nd
Dharshan Vetrivelan (Weibel) 2nd

EIGHT YEAR OLDS (109 entries)

Steven Kwok (Stockland) 1st
Artul Thiraimalai (Mission San Jose) 1st
Sasha Prakir (Weibel) 1st

NINE YEAR OLDS (76 entries)

Vikram Iyer (Chadborne) 1st
Andy Liu (Vintage) 1st
Aaron Lee (Weibel) 3rd -- there was a nine way tie here

TEN YEAR OLDS (75 entries)

Jeremy Chen (Weibel) 1st
Daniel Hwang (Corte Madera) 1st

Tal Gaffan (Fair Meadow) 1st

Jeremy Chen, Daniel Hwang, and Tal Gaffan tied for 1st. Daniel Hwang won the 1st Place trophy in a blitz playoff, Jeremy Chen won the 2nd place trophy, and Tal Gaffan won the 3rd Place trophy. All 3 players are declared CalNorth Age 10 Champions

ELEVEN YEAR OLDS (45 entries)

Ajay Sunkara (Oak) 1st
Gordon McNeil (Unknown) 1st
Pratheek Sankeshi (Mission Valley) 3rd
Daniel Emmanuel (Weibel) 3rd

Ajay Sunkara and Gordon McNeill tied for 1st. Gordon McNeill won the 1st Place trophy in a blitz playoff, and Ajay Sunkara won the 2nd Place trophy. Both players are declared CalNorth Age 11 Champions

TWELVE YEAR OLDS (25 entries)

Ryan Yao (Matsumoto) 1st
Saurav Raghavendra (Hopkins Jr. H.S.) 1st
Jason Zhong (Bowdit) 1st



Carl Moy needs a stronger voice

Photo by Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.

THIRTEEN YEAR OLDS (10 entries)

Justin Hsu (Tierra Linda) 1st
Hireh Jain (Hopkins) 2nd
Kyle Wu (Russell) 2nd

Carl informs me that the tentative date for my annual birthday bash--The CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level-- is

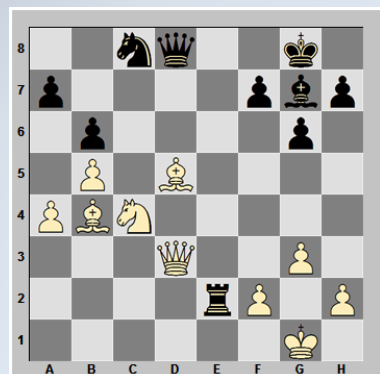
February 8, 2015. The tentative location is Ohlone College at the Newark campus. I hope you will be there to see me blow out 77 candles on 77 cupcakes with 77 deep breaths.

The CalChess Journal accepts submissions pertaining to chess, especially chess in Northern California. All Organizers are encouraged to send in a story, pictures and games (with or without notes) from their events. Articles, games and photographs should be submitted in electronic form to tom@calchess.org

IM John Grefe Tactics

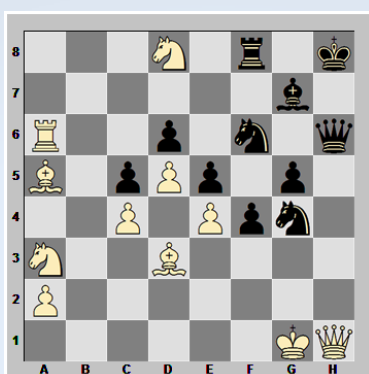
International Master John Grefe (1947-2013) was known for his tactical prowess. The below positions are from his games. Solutions on page 46.

1



IM John Grefe – Sidney Rubin
Lone Pine 1971
White to play

2



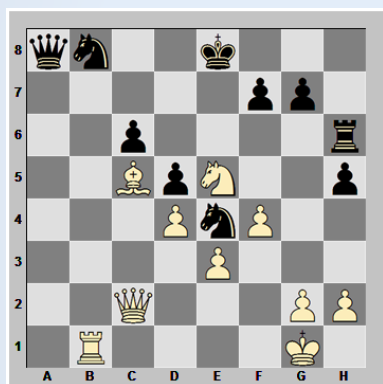
Kim Commons – IM John Grefe
U.S. Championship 1974
Black to play

3



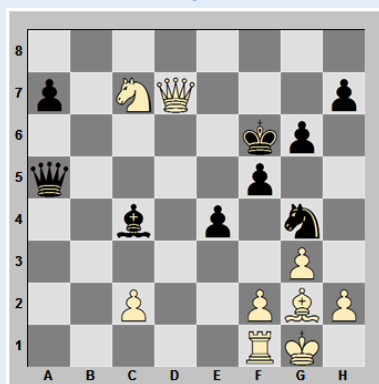
Eugene Levin – IM John Grefe
LERA 1998
Black to play

4



IM John Grefe – Jon Frankle
Bagby Memorial 1982
White to play

5



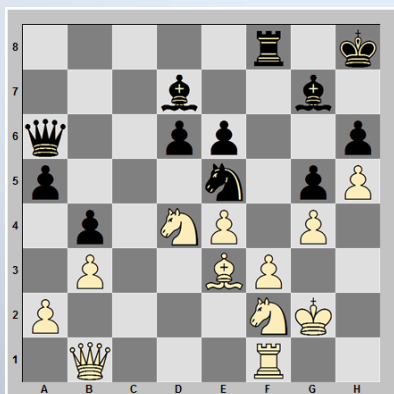
IM John Grefe – David Pruess
San Francisco 1998
White to play

6



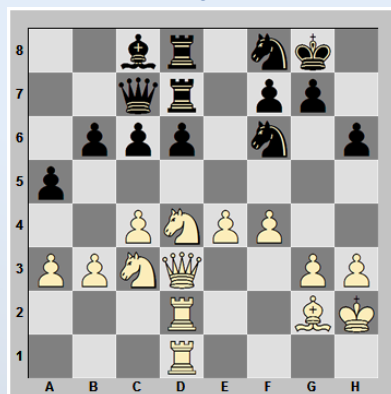
IM John Grefe – Michael Ewell
Paul Masson 1974
White to play

7



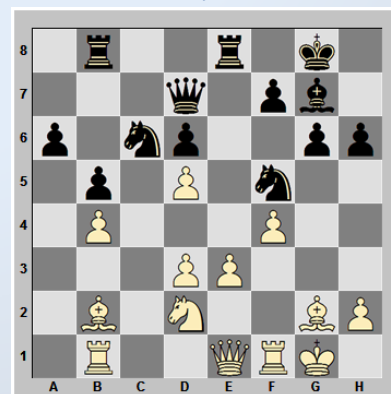
Gordon Taylor – IM John Grefe
Keres Memorial 1979
Black to play

8



IM John Grefe – Arthur Dake
Lone Pine 1976
White to play

9



Ron Henley – IM John Grefe
Lone Pine 1977
Black to play

Chess is Forever! - Reflection of an Amateur Chess Mom

By G. Julie Xie, Ph.D.

5:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2014, it was still dark outside but I was woke up by my son William.

“Mom, I’m burning up!”

Sure enough, he developed a fever of over 101. That was totally unexpected as he was as lively as ever the day before, looking forward to the highly anticipated CalNorth Age Level Championship, the largest youth chess event in Northern California.

“We have to withdraw from today’s tournament.” That was my first reaction.

“No, I want to go ... for the experience.” His voice was weak but his tone was strong before he passed out after a dose of Advil.

Trying to dry his sweaty head in bed, I couldn’t help but worrying.

* * * *

I still remember the first day when William was introduced to chess. It was his first day

of summer break after Kindergarten. I was busy cleaning up in the kitchen that morning so I showed him the website <http://www.chesskid.com> to kill time. To say that it was

“love at the first sight” is an understatement. William studied the rules and tried them out nonstop in the same chair for over 6 hours until I threatened to cut off the power.

That summer, William played chess with everyone in our neighborhood who was willing to join him. While his friends were complaining “that is so boring – why you like it so much,” his pursuit persisted. On our 11-hour flight to Germany that month, Dominic and his father got a headache by taking turns playing chess with William on a small magnetic board but he stayed alert and showed no sign of fatigue. During the three-week vacation with our extended family there, while we enjoyed all the sightseeing, he couldn’t wait to get back each day so he could play chess with his father’s cousin and uncle.

Dominic was enthusiastically playing with William until he started losing to him by the end of that summer. Luckily we live in Fremont, one of the hottest chess communities in the country. Experienced chess parents in our neighborhood directed his way on the journey of learning. William started with weekly

lessons at US Chess Mates that also offers monthly tournaments for beginners where every participant receives a trophy. Later he had studied at the Success Chess afterschool program at his elementary school. Then he played at NorCal House of Chess club where more advanced chess camps and group lessons are offered. William especially loved the Friday program at Weibel Chess where systematic instructions are only matched with a serious game with follow-up analysis in each session. Coaches there not only pass on chess knowledge but also love for the game, along with sweet Dove chocolate from Coach Shorman. There was one week in February 2012 when William was absent from school due to side effects of antibiotics. However, he insisted on attending his Weibel class that Friday afternoon where I had to stay around and remind him to use the bathroom every half an hour to prevent any accident of diarrhea while being too focused on chess. Coach Shorman was always patient when William argued with him at game analysis. He told me that William reminded him of himself when he was a child, “*wild and stubborn.*”

With that caring and supportive chess culture at Weibel, no wonder it has produced many star scholastic players for the country.

An avid reader since four years of age, William only read chess books during the entire year of first grade. Watching him burying himself in the thick "[How to Reassess Your Chess: 4th Edition](#)" each night, I couldn't help but wondering how much he understood. But he was not worried, reading that book from cover to cover several times that year. Every night was a struggle to negotiate when to turn off his reading light in bed.

William had also loved writing in Kindergarten. His teacher told me that she had never seen a boy rather giving up recess to write more in journal during her 27 years at work. What's more, his writing was always well organized and on topic. However, all of those were changed in first grade. No matter what topic the teacher gave, William consistently changed the subject to chess within the first two sentences. For instance:

My Best Vacation

This summer I had a great vacation in Germany. My father's cousin played chess with me every evening. He likes to move his pawn to d4 first when he is white and I ...

(followed by two pages of game notation). (Conclusion) What a great vacation I had!

(As if the historic castles, horseback riding, picking blueberries in forest and other interesting things on that vacation had never happened.)

My Favorite Person

My favorite person is my grandpa. Grandpa plays chess with me every time he visits. He always smiles and says "good game" even after he loses to me. Here is what we do at our games ... (followed by two pages of game notation). (Conclusion) That's why my favorite person is my grandpa.

(All the other nice things that Grandpa does for him, like practicing baseball and swimming with him, cooking his favorite pasta, etc., did not cross his mind.)

His first grade teacher told me in frustration, "Can he write about anything else other than chess?"

William often reminded me during that year, "if you are a good mom, please let me play chess every day." I asked him why he loves chess so much. He told me that it was because the learning is endless as one can never exhaust the possibilities on chess board. That makes the game so intriguing as players need to think, constantly thinking

deeply.

He was right. Based on available data on internet, there are 400 different possible positions after one move each, 72,084 different possible positions after two moves each, over 9 million different possible positions after three moves each and the number grows to 318 billion after four moves each.

I couldn't help but admiring William when I saw the focus, excitement and passion in his eyes while reading a chess book or playing a game online. Flow, the mental state of completely focused motivation, as described by one of the most prominent psychologists [Mihály Csikszentmihályi](#), the feeling of energized focus, full involvement, and enjoyment in the process of an activity that many adults are searching for but in vain, William was fully enjoying it in chess at age 6 and 7.

To find stronger opponents to play with, William started attending tournaments in fall 2011. I still remember his first rated tournament at Weibel Quad on November 19, 2011. Huge chess sets outside the tournament hall made the event look like a festival for chess lovers. Dr. Kirshner and Coach Shorman roamed around with their cannon-sized cameras, looking for memorable moments to catch. Seeing over two hundred children playing chess under

the same roof showered William with a sense of belonging as all of them shared the same excitement in their eyes as he did. Winning all three matches only made that experience even more joyful.

However, very soon we noticed that William couldn't win within a few minutes any more as he faced stronger and more experienced opponents at rated tournaments. What's more puzzling was that he often lost to players that he'd win during practice games. Seeing him walking out of the game room with tears in his eyes was frustrating to both him and us. His initial rating of 1048 dropped and lingered between the 800's and 900's for six months.

I consulted with several coaches from William's group lessons but no one could give me an answer why he performed poorly at games that actually count. I even regretted for starting him on rated tournaments. It seemed that the rating took away the joy of the game as we now drove to tournaments with doubts and fear, not excitement as before.

On May 19, 2012, at a Weibel Spring Quad, one of the most prominent Chess Dads, Mr. Moy, father of young Expert Kevin Moy, advised me that it might be a good time to find William a private coach. He recommended Mr. Bela Evans,

the president of Success Chess School. I called Mr. Evans that afternoon and shared my confusion about William's lack of progress. Mr. Evans responded that it was a result from too much stress over winning tournament games.

That message woke us up like an alarm in a foggy night. Dominic and I had only wanted to emphasize to William that he should have taken his time looking at his board instead of moving without planning ahead. We kept on telling him that we did not raise our voice because he had "lost" but because of the way he had "lost." We had meant for him to remember not to make careless blunders.

But the fact is, while he enjoys the thinking part of the game, our attitude had dumped in his head the worry for losing.

What a wrong message for a seven-year old! "Losing is so unacceptable!"

In her best seller, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success (2006), renowned Stanford Professor Dr. Carol Dweck divided people into two kinds, those with Fixed Mindset vs. those with Growth Mindset. While the former does things to prove how smart they are, the later sees things as ways to grow and develop continuously. An expert consultant for professional athletes and other fields, Dr. Dweck sees

first-hand how people interpret failure directly leads to how much they enjoy the process and how well they perform.

It was amazing how William continued to love chess so much under the pressure from us for him to win. Realizing how our fixed mindset had negatively affected his performance, I apologized to William that evening. I shared that we support his pursuit of chess only because that was his choice of interest. Winning or losing was also his choice, completely depending on how carefully he studied each board and how well he calculated his moves. From now on, mom and dad would never yell at lost games any more as they are neither parents' responsibility nor something that we could control.

I saw the sign of relief in his eyes.

And to be honest, I felt more relieved than he did. His win or loss is NOT going to define whether I am a good parent any more.

May 20, 2012, the very next day, William won 4 out of 5 games at Fremont K-6 Championship and his rating finally went back over 1000, ending that six-month drought. Within 5 other tournaments over the next 3 months, his rating went over 1300.

What's more important, taking him to tournaments became a joyful experience again for both him and us over the next few months now that we recognized that it's not the rating but how we interpret rating that affected our mood and his performance.

In November 2012, at his first tournament at Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, William buried himself in a chess book that he found in the library between his matches. Several experienced chess parents were amazed at his focus. When I mentioned how much William loved chess, Mr. Zhou, father of one of the strongest scholastic players in the country Anthony Zhou, commented that his interest would change with time. Anthony used to love chess too. But when I asked him that day, he said that he is good at chess but does not like it any more. How did that happen?

I was still suspicious of Mr. Zhou's prediction at that time: if anything, I was more worried about how to divert William's obsession with chess to other fields. He used to love piano and mental math, which had paled in front of chess.

However, by the end of that month, William proved that Mr. Zhou was correct. Chess was not the first thing that he rushed to any more whenever he found free time. He started

reading other books before bedtime and took a new interest in Pokémon. On January 12, 2013, after losing 4 out of 5 games at the 13th Bob Burger Open at Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, William cried to us and said that he would like to give up rated tournaments and only keep chess as a hobby.

I do not blame him for that decision. After 1300, more than half of his opponents at tournaments became people many years older than him. His experiences and ability to focus were no match for them. As his sense of competence was diminishing, so was his interest. Dominic and I respected his choice. I had thought that was the end of his chapter for chess.

Unexpectedly, two weeks later William received an invitation to join his school chess team for the SuperNational Tournament at Nashville in April 2013. I've documented his experiences over those three and a half months in my previous blog, [What Does It Take to Make A National Champion Team?- From an Inexperienced Chess Mom's Eyes](#). The rest was history. I am truly grateful that the invitation to the Gomes team reignited William's passion for chess at the very point when he was ready to quit.

What I also learned from that experience was that what weighs more than the

championship trophy is our children's passion for chess. Throughout those three days at Nashville, I've met so many players and their parents who participated in the SuperNational not for any trophy but for the joy of the game. There were hundreds of players in the unrated sections. Several of those parents told me that they take their children to national chess tournaments every year as they enjoy playing with other children around the country. They don't care about any rating or winning. They just love playing the game with fellow chess lovers. Many became friends who see each other once a year at this event. I am grateful for those parents who reminded me again how to keep the passion for chess last forever with an emphasis on the joy of the game by reducing the weight on the outcome.

I was also impressed by the 1,200 or so high school participants at this world record event with 5,000+ players. To me, every one of them is a winner for their persistence. There is an old saying in China, "*only long distance can test a horse's power and only long time can test a person's heart.*" As I stay in the chess circle longer, I've observed many children disappearing from tournaments as they grow older, including several former star players. With

increasing responsibilities at school and other extracurricular activities, it is indeed a struggle to manage those 1- to 4-day tournaments at higher grades. I applaud those high school participants, their parents and coaches for building a supportive environment that successfully kept their flame for chess burning.

While there are only about 1,300 grandmasters out of the 8 million registered chess players representing over 160 countries in the world, as a game that trains planning and attention while promotes sportsmanship, chess is well loved by the general population. Based on data on the internet, about 70% of the adult population in the U.S has played chess at some point during their lives. There are at least 605 to 700 million people worldwide who play chess, which is about 8.6% out of the 7 billion people on earth. There are as many as 200 million people playing chess on the Internet. I certainly prayed that William would grow into one of those adults who would use chess to bring joy and relaxation to his busy life in the future.

Since the SuperNational, William continued to enjoy studying and playing chess. He even started his own club "the-chess-studiers" on chess.com last summer and enjoyed sharing interesting puzzles and games with others.

I had no idea how he learned to post diagrams with annotations online. William has a more balanced take on his extracurricular activities now as chess does not take all of his free time any more. He took a break from tournaments between the end of July and mid-November 2013 due to time conflicts with Little League activities. Between the fall and spring baseball seasons, he continued to play at tournaments once or twice a month. I noticed that his duration of attention has improved as his games grew longer and longer. Two of his games in January 2014 lasted 4 hours, which was unimaginable comparing with his initial games at a few minutes each just two years ago. Although it has been a grueling uphill battle to improve after 1500, William does not talk about quitting any more. What's more, his enthusiasm has spread to his younger brother David who started taking an interest in chess too over the past year.

* * * *

When I finally woke up William at 8:30 a.m., his fever was under control but his nose became stuffed. He insisted on going to the Age Level Championship with full knowledge that any loss, which is very likely with his physical condition, would bring down his rating.

"I'm going for the experience." He reiterated.

William, David and I did not arrive at Newark Pavilion until 9:30 a.m. and had to park our car in the dirt after a frantic search as the lot as well as the roadside spots were completely full. The past two years, without any illness, we did follow the instruction and arrived at 9 a.m., which gave us a more relaxed mood before the first round. After rushing David to the 6-year old section in Hall 4 and William to the Open 4-9 section in Hall 1, I could finally look around and take the whole event in.

Weibel Chess Director Dr. Kirshner started the CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level Championship in 2008 to celebrate his 70th birthday as well as his legacy to young chess players in California. This competition remains unique in the State as no other major chess event in California has competition according to age alone.

Both William and David were excited about this tournament as all the other tournaments that they attend pair players by rating, which inevitably gave them opponents much older than them. Although it is critical for more serious players to learn from more senior opponents if they want to advance in chess, it could be intimidating for beginners like David who only enjoy it as

a hobby. That's why David basically skipped to his board with joy as he was surrounded by fellow six-year olds, which made him more comfortable.

William's first Age Level Championship in 2012 was also with the 6-year old group. Last year he joined the Open 4-9 section that attracted more advanced scholastic players from all over the Bay Area. Dr. Kirshner has also waived registration fee for those who made into the USCF Top 100 list for their age group in this section. They are side by side with older players between age 10 and 13, having a longer time control (45 minutes vs. 30 per round) and quieter tournament hall. This year, the new organizer, Mr. Moy, made the Open 4-9 competition even more attractive with the inauguration of a special crystal Kirshner Cup to honor Dr. Kirshner.

The signature gigantic white tent is still outside Hall 1. With young children's laughter mixed with older players checking various chess books and products while renowned coaches analyzing games between the matches under the same roof, it always reminds me of a joyful wedding with the perfect combination of passion and logic. I remember that last Age Level Championship fell on the same day as Super Bowl. As our players watched

Dr. Kirshner working hard to blow 75 candles on the 75 cupcakes for his birthday, smiles and cheers made that celebration so memorable.

The first round pairing was already online the night before, which helped to keep the beginning of the event as orderly as I ever remembered at Weibel Chess events over the past two and a half years. Staff and volunteers in blue shirts were friendly and helpful. Foods and drinks are plenty in the kitchen at a much lower price than hotels where most large chess events are held these days.

David won his first four rounds at about 10 to 20 minutes each and happily rolled around the yard on his new Heelys. He bought them with \$50 that he had won at an US Chess Mates tournament two weeks ago, which had boosted his confidence in chess to all-time high. "I want to win the first place!" he announced to me several times this week even though I kept on reminding him that there are 5 players in his section whose ratings are much higher than his.

I secretly hoped that David would lose his last round because he needs to learn the lesson that achievement only comes with hard work. As Wikipedia summarized, "*although the link between performance in chess and general intelligence is often*

assumed, researchers have largely failed to confirm its existence. For example, a 2006 study found no differences in fluid intelligence between strong adult chess players and regular people. There is some evidence towards a correlation between performance in chess and intelligence among beginning players. However, performance in chess also relies substantially on one's experience playing the game, and the role of experience may overwhelm the role of intelligence." Another interesting finding is that "a 2007 study of young chess players in the United Kingdom found that strong players tended to have above-average IQ scores, but, within that group, the correlation between chess skill and IQ was moderately negative, meaning that smarter children tended to achieve a lower level of chess skill. This result was explained by a negative correlation between intelligence and practice in the elite subsample, and by practice having a higher influence on chess skill."

"Geniuses are made, not born," was Grandmaster Susan Polgar's father, László Polgar's thesis. He sought to prove that children could make exceptional achievements if trained in a specialist subject from a very early age. He and his wife

Klara homeschooled their three daughters with chess as the specialist subject. With intensive practices each day, Susan became the first female to earn the Grandmaster title and broke a number of gender barriers in chess. Her younger sisters are also very accomplished as Judit is a Grandmaster and Sofia an International Master. Intelligence may not directly correlate with chess performance but the amount of practices sure does. This was shown through researches on Susan. What was found was that Susan could remember positions from games within seconds due to the repeated patterns that were drilled into her memory at a young age but her ability to remember random positions of chess pieces on board was no stronger than people who has never played chess.

This is the same message that New York Times bestseller author Daniel Coyle repeated in his book, "The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born. It's Grown." After researching top performers in different fields, Mr. Coyle concluded that the formula to create "talent" is the combination of Deep Practice, Ignition of Passion and Master Coaching.

As a school psychologist, I have a more reserved take on that belief as I have witnessed many children's development and progress being restricted

by their innate ability over the past 15 years at work. With that being said, there is no doubt that hard work and achievement has a positive correlation and no "talent" could be fully developed without effort. William experienced that first hand recently. He had the time doing 300 online chess tactics each day on our family vacation to Grandpa's home in Reno during winter break, which had resulted in his best performance at the Bay Area Amateur Championship between January 3 and 5, 2014 and pushed his rating over 1600. However, since school started again, he only had time to play a couple quick online games between his homework, piano, cub scouts, and regular Faith Formation class at church. That clearly showed in his more recent tournament results. We kept on reminding William to adjust his expectations accordingly as there is no need to compare himself with other players who take chess as the priority in their lives. While he only works with Mr. Evans two hours a month on average, there are other advanced players receiving coaching a few hours per week. While we highly respect chess as a great hobby, we have no intention to encourage William pursuit it as a profession unless he chooses to do so (which did not seem to be the case after

first grade).

David only enjoys playing online games but rarely practices tactics as we has suggested. He is lucky to get over 700 with little practice but that's as far as a little "talent" can carry him. I was relieved when he lost his last round to a player whom he was able to win a few months back. I hope that would be the beginning of two important life lessons for him. One, hard work is the only way to success, no matter what task is in his hand. Two, never underestimate opponents who had lost to him before.

For William, I was more worried about his health than performance that day. After winning the first two games, he had to lie down on a bench to rest and had a hard time getting up. He rejected my suggestion to go home and insisted on staying for the last two rounds. He took some non-drowsy medicine to control his returning fever after winning his third round.

William was exhausted after losing his last round and we needed to take him home right away and missed the award ceremony. I'm glad that the first Kirshner Cup was won by a member of Weibel Chess that carries on Dr. Kirshner's legacy. My only regret was that I had missed seeing Dr. Kirshner in front of the 76 cupcakes that I had baked for his birthday

celebration. Did he announce that “*everyone who win their last round will get a cupcake along with their trophy or medal*” like last year? To me, everyone who spent the day participating in this chess festival is a winner for their passion!

As soon as we got home, William, who had passed out in the car on our way, directly went to check his online chess club.

“Mom,” he excitedly announced to me, “I got a NM joining my club! And another member posted a puzzle on it!”

I looked in his eyes, full of wonder, love and hope. And I know at that moment, no matter what he decides to do with his life in the future, chess will always be part of it.

As Dr. Kirshner always reminds everyone at the end of his emails: Chess is Forever!

Upcoming Scholastic Tournaments

Sun, Jun 15th, 2014	Foster City Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Foster City
Sat, Jun 21st, 2014	Milpitas Chess4Less Kids Swiss & Quads	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sun, Jun 22nd, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sun, Jun 22nd, 2014	Berkeley San Ramon Quads	Country Club Elem., San Ramon
Sat, Jun 28th, 2014	Summer Quads	Hillside Elem., Berkeley
Sun, Jun 29th, 2014	San Ramon Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, San Ramon
Sun, Jul 6th, 2014	Fremont Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Fremont
Sat, Jul 12th, 2014	Foster City Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Foster City
Sat, Jul 12th, 2014	Sacramento Quads	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Sun, Jul 13th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sat, Jul 19th, 2014	Summer Swiss	Hillside Elem., Berkeley
Sun, Jul 20th, 2014	Young Peoples Swiss & Quads	Santa Clara Convention Center
Sat, Jul 26th, 2014	Milpitas Chess4Less Kids Swiss & Quads	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sun, Jul 27th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sun, Jul 27th, 2014	San Ramon Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, San Ramon
Sun, Jul 27th, 2014	NorCal House of Chess Quads	NorCal House of Chess, Fremont
Sun, Aug 3rd, 2014	Fremont Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Fremont
Sat, Aug 9th, 2014	Sacramento Quads	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Sun, Aug 10th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sat, Aug 16th, 2014	Milpitas Chess4Less Kids Swiss & Quads	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sun, Aug 17th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sat, Aug 17th, 2014	Foster City Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Foster City
Sat, Aug 23rd, 2014	San Ramon Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, San Ramon
Sat, Aug 30th, 2014	NorCal Kids u1000 Class Champ	Santa Clara Convention Center

For details please visit calchess.org

Upcoming Regular Tournaments

Sat, Jun 14th, 2014	Milpitas SuperSwiss	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sun, Jun 15th, 2014	Foster City LuperSwiss	Courtyard Marriott, Foster City
Sat, Jun 21st, 2014	William Addison Open G/45	Mechanics', San Francisco
Fri, Jun 27th-Sun, Jun 29th, 2014	Summer Champ	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Fri, Jul 4th-Sun, Jul 6th, 2014	Sacramento Champ	Holiday Inn Express, Sacramento
Sat, Jul 12nd, 2014	Charles Bagby Memorial G/45	Mechanics', San Francisco
Sat, Jul 12th, 2014	Milpitas SuperSwiss	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sat, Jul 12th, 2014	Sacramento SuperSwiss	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Sat, Jul 19th-Sun, Jul 20th, 2014	Hans Poschmann Memorial	Club Sport, Fremont
Fri, Jul 25th-Sun, Jul 27th, 2014	People's Tournament	Santa Clara Convention Center
Sat, Aug 2nd, 2014	14th Vladimir Pafnutieff Mem. G/45	Mechanics', San Francisco
Sun, Aug 3rd, 2014	Cupertino DuperSwiss	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Fri, Aug 8th-Sun, Aug 10th, 2014	August Champ	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sat, Aug 9th, 2014	Sacramento SuperSwiss	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Fri, Aug 15th-Sun, Aug 17th, 2014	5th Central California	Radisson Hotel, Fresno
Sat, Aug 16th-Sun, Aug 17th, 2014	9th Bernardo Smith Mem. (U2200)	Mechanics', San Francisco
Sun, Aug 17th, 2014	Foster City LuperSwiss	Courtyard Marriott, Foster City
Sat, Aug 23rd-Sun, Aug 24th, 2014	Exchange Bank Open	Exchange Bank, Santa Rosa
Sun, Aug 24th, 2014	Cupertino DuperSwiss	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sat, Aug 30th-Mon, Sep 1st, 2014	CalChess State Champ	Santa Clara Convention Center

For details please visit calchess.org

IM John Grefe Tactics – Answers

- White wins the queen: 1. Bxf8+ Kxf7 2. Qxd8 +-
- Black wins a piece: 1...Qxh1+ 2.Kxh1 Nf2+ 3.Kg2 Nxd3 --
- Black mates in three with 1...Bb2+ 2.Kb1 Bc3+ 3.K~ Qb2#
- 1.Qa4!! +-
- White mates in four with 1.Ne8+ Kg5 (1...Ke5 2.Qd6#) 2.Qe7+ Nf6 3.Qxf6+ Kh6 4.Qh4#
- White won after 1.Rxh5! gxh5 2.Nf5!! exf5 3.Nd5 1-0 Mate is unavoidable 3...Qd8 4.Nf6+ Qxf6 5.gxf6 Nxf3+ 6.Kf2 ~ 7.Qg7#
- Black wins a pawn and destroys the cover around Whites King with 1...Nxf3! 2. Nxf3 Qe2! 3.Qd1 Qxe3 --
- White wins material with 1.Nxc6!! Qxc6 2. e5 dxe5 (2...Nd4 3.Bxe4 Qc5 +-; 2...d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Bxd5 Qc5 +-; 2...Ng4+ 3.hxg4 Qc5 +-) 3.Bxc6 Rxd3 4.Rxd3 Rxd3 5.Rxd3 exf4 6.gxf4 +-
- Black won material by 1...Nxb4! 2.Bxg7 Nxd3! 3.Ne4 (3.Qe2 Rxe3 -- or 3.Qd1 Nxe3 4.Qe2 Nxf1 5.Qxd3 Nxd2 6.Qxd2 Kxg7 --) 3...Nxe1 4.Nf6+ Kxg7 5.Nxd7 Nxg2 6.Nxb8 Ngxe3 --