

Yerminator Terminates Competition at State Championship!

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State Champion GM Alex Yermolinsky

Class B: Vincent Rubianes
Class C: Thomas E Boyd
Class D: Kamil Azhar

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By NM Michael Aigner

The 2005 edition of the CalChess State Championship was held over Labor Day weekend at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco. A total of 185 players competed in six sections for the titles of state champion and a prize fund of over \$5000. The field ranged from the 76-year-old veteran IM Walter Shipman (2.5/6 in the master section) to the energetic 7-year-old Nicholas Nip (4.5/6 in the C section).

Organizer Richard Koepcke and his assistant directors John McCumiskey and Bob Blatt ensured that the tournament ran smoothly and fairly.

Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky dominated the master section with a score of 5.5, a full point clear of second place. The competition was fierce with four IMs and a couple of other 2400+ rated players, but Yermolinsky steered clear of trouble. He merely gave up a draw to FM Dmitry Zilberstein, who remained tied for first until losing to IM Ricardo DeGuzman in the last round. Thus, Zilberstein and DeGuzman shared second place honors at 4.5. The top under 2400 prize was awarded to NM Shivkumar Shivaji, who ended up with 4.0 points.

State champions were crowned in five other sections. Congratulations to the following winners:

Expert: Batsaikhan Tserendorj and Philipp Perepelitsky
Class A: Michael Da-Cruz



FM Dmitry Zilberstein draws Yermolinsky



IM Ricardo DeGuzman



76-year-old IM Walter Shipman



7-year-old Nicholas Nip