

## Cal Chess Players Take on Vegas in National Open

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Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas

By Eric Hicks

Many Calchess players young and old (mostly young) converged on Las Vegas this year to play in the National Open, one of the biggest adult tournaments on the west coast. I say adult tournament but in case anyone has not noticed chess is really transforming for the positive. I remember when I first became a calchess board member there was a lot of controversy on whether to emphasize "kiddie" chess or adult chess....now the line is becoming blurred between the two.

At the national open this year I could not help but notice that a large number of kids from across the nation have infiltrated what used to be a primarily adult tournament. I have been coming to this tournament for 12 years and never noticed more than a handful of kids. This year there was a scholastic section...but besides for that...the supposed adult sections were littered with tons and tons of kids.

Chess is changing at a national level...and new exciting blood is coming in. And it is a fortunate thing for calchess that we are hosting a whole bunch of these new and exciting players....who cares if they are little in size.

The Tournament was held in the Riviera Hotel, the same place it has been held for as long as I can remember. But this time a billiards tournament took the main halls where the chess tournament was held, so the chess tournament was moved to some back rooms. Luckily for chess these rooms were pretty big...but at some point the tournament was competing with some noise from the billiard room, and especially smoke from the pool players who would smoke in the hallways outside the chess arena.

Some top calchess performers I will list here..I really did not keep up with all the calchess players so please post a reply in the comment section if I have missed anyone:

Charles Sun was the big calchess winner...tying for 1st place in the under 2000 and winning over \$1000. Not bad for a weekend's work.

U1200 - Daniel Ho 2nd

u1800 - Arthur Liu 6th; Jason Gurtovoy 8th

u2000 Charles Sun (tied for 1st)

Larry Snyder 16th

Complete Tournament Results and ratings can be found here:

[US CHESS WEBSITE National Open 2006](#)

Special mention goes to Michael Aigner who finished 35th in the open section ( a very tough section). In his last game he had a valiant draw against GM Dermen Sadvakasov, a top 100 player in the world!!

The wierdest result comes from 8 year old Nicholas Nip playing in his very first B section. The Good news is Nicholas went undefeated...however the bad news is he did this with 1 win and 5 draws...Nicholas has been on a draw streak in the month of June drawing 2 experts, 2 A players and 1 master . Add 5 B players to that June draw streak!! I hope the drawing is just a summer phase.