Northern California Kids Shine on All-America Team

The United States Chess Federation (USCF) is pleased to announce the **2012 All-America Team** sponsored by Trophies Plus. Team members were announced at the 2011 National K-12 held this past November in Dallas, Texas. Each member of the 2012 All-America Team receives a team jacket and plaque.

The All-America Team was created in 1987 to honor the very best players ages 18 and under. The team, one of the highest national honors attainable by a young chess player, is selected on the basis of age, rating, and activities during that year, similar to the selection process of "all conference" sports teams. This year's candidates were **selected based on their age as of January 1, 2011, and their peak post-tournament rating from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011**. Since this award is a "post-season" selection, the minimum rating limits in each age group are reviewed annually by the USCF staff and the USCF Scholastic Council.

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2011 All Americans from California

Age 17 (minimum peak rating 2400):

- Steven Zierk, CA-N

Age 15 (minimum peak rating 2300):

- Daniel Naroditsky, CA-N

Age 13 (minimum peak rating 2250):

- Yian Liou, CA-N
- Varun Krishnan, CA-S
- Michael William Brown, CA-S

Age 11 (minimum peak rating 2100):

- Kesav Viswanadha, CA-N

Age 10 (minimum peak rating 2050):

- Samuel Sevian, CA-N
- Cameron Wheeler, CA-N

Age 9 (minimum peak rating 1900):

- Albert Lu, CA-S
- Michael Wang, CA-N

Age 8 & Under (minimum peak rating 1800):

- Rayan Taghizadeh, CA-N

Commentary: *This may be old news to many, but the official Press Release came out only a week ago. It can't hurt to congratulate these talented juniors again. The local names should be familiar to those who read this blog regularly. Note that they are all a full year older now. One sharp observer pointed out that there are 11 players from California (8 from the Bay Area), 9 from New York and 8 from Texas. No doubt, we have witnessed a westward shift over the past decade.*