

Northern California Team Places 2nd in Nation

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by Tom Langland

The yearly National Invitational Tournament of State Champions was held online this year due to the COVID-19 concerns. Each state was allowed to send their individual state champion for K-5, 6-8, High School, Girls and Senior. Typically, we hold separate tournaments to determine our state representatives, but again because of the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we selected the highest rated player eligible in each group who would play. Our team of players were again seeded amongst the top players.

In the Rockefeller K-5 Championship, Jacob Chiang was our last-minute replacement seeded sixth and turned in a brilliant performance of 5.0 out of 6 games, finished in 2nd place. Next up in the Barber (6-8) Championship, our top-rated IM Christopher Yoo was nicked for a draw in round 3 and a loss in round 4, still managing a 4th place finish. The Denker Championship of High School Champions was the first tournament of the invitationals to be established, dating back to 1984.



IM Christopher Yoo



IM Andrew Hong

Our IM Andrew Hong with a rating of 2533, started out in 3rd place behind two 2600+ players. Andrew beat one of those 2600 players, but lost to the other, finishing tied for 2nd place. The newly named Haring Championship for girls, named after our own Ruth Haring, Rochelle Wu also tied for 2nd place, losing only to top rated Annie Wang rated over 2400 and drawing with the other 2nd place player Martha Samadashvili. Those over age 50 were eligible for the Senior Championship. This year we were again represented by IM Elliot Winslow. This was the



Rochelle Wu

strongest event, with six Grandmaster vying for the national title. Elliot finished in a tie for 10th place among many other master level players, only losing to two of the GMs.

In the overall team championship, where the scores of each state representative is added up, Northern California with an average rating of 2322 came out in 2nd place with 22.5 points, just behind the top team from New York averaging 2420 scoring 24.0 points.

Final Standings:

<https://new.uschess.org/senior>

<https://new.uschess.org/haring>

<https://new.uschess.org/denker>

<https://new.uschess.org/barber>

<https://new.uschess.org/rockefeller>

<https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-State-Team-Standings.pdf>

