

2022 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame of Inductee:

Marv Mattson

Marvin Mattson is the man responsible for making the Twin Ports, Duluth MN & Superior WI, chess community what it is today. I first met Marv and his son Dane Mattson, who would become my chess coach, back in 2002 almost 20 years ago. The Twin Ports chess club was open on Mondays from 6-10pm. Unlike the Green Bay chess club where I had grown up, the Twin Ports chess club hosted weekly tournaments and fostered competition among all of the chess players. We were all guaranteed the opportunity to play strong opposition each week. Marv always encouraged the new chess players to continue...even if they lost games for several weeks in a row at the start of their Twin Ports chess career.

For many rising young chess players, facing better opponents each week in the professional chess atmosphere Marv provided was a dream come true. Marv continued to make the 2-hour round trip drive from his home in Brule Wisconsin to the Twin Ports chess club every week rain or shine for 30 years until 2020 amid the COVID shutdowns. His selflessness inspired this writer to take up directing and organizing chess events. Without Marv Mattson, I would have never become a tournament director, MSCA president, or been able to run the Chess Castle chess club as I do today. Marv provided chess opportunities to hundreds of players in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Brent, one of Marv's regular players, reopened the Twin Ports chess club in 2021, and chess in Northern Minnesota continues because of Marv's dedicated efforts. One additional lasting tribute to Marv is the MLK tournament that still takes place in mid-January and will happen again in 2022 for the 16th time.