

## **2022 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:**

### **Mike Valvo**

Mike Valvo had an amazing chess career. At a young age he excelled at speed chess and was considered, by 1962, as one of the top blitz players in the United States. He even played a very competitive speed chess match with Bobby Fischer. In 1963 he won the U.S Intercollegiate Championship. The next year he was a part of the United States team sent to the 11th Student Olympiad.

He continued to play in many tourneys and was eventually awarded the IM title by FIDE in 1980. Three times he tied for 2nd place in the World Open (1976, 1977, and 1981). His overall record in these three events was 22-5. During this period his highest FIDE rating was 2530. In 1986 he won the New Jersey State Championship.

From 1980 to 2004 Valvo was a huge part of the World Computer Chess Championship as an organizer, moderator, or as a commentator.

By 1991 he found his way to Minnesota. Before reaching Minnesota he had won games against the following titled players: GM's Michael Rhode, Andrew Soltis, Harold Plaskett, and Lev Alburt. IM's Mark Diesen, John Peters, Jeremy Silman and John Watson and FM Curt Brasket.

While in Minnesota he won three straight state titles from 1992-94 going 10W 1L 4D in the closed playoffs. He also won the Region Six, Glacier Vending, St. Cloud Open and the MN Open (2 times). Valvo also finished in a 2nd place tie at the 2000 U.S Open which was held in St. Paul, scoring 7.5/9.0 points.

Playing in five Budget Paper/Glacier Vending tourneys from 1991-1995 his lowest finish was a tie for 3rd place.

Three times he was a winner of the Boulder Open (1996, 1997, 2000).

Joe Longen covered one of Valvo's earliest tournaments in Minnesota for the MCJ, the 1992 St. Cloud Open. Ironically, in the last round of the 2004 MN Open, which was to be Mike's last rated game, Joe Longen was playing on the board next to him.

Mike Valvo's outstanding chess career and brilliant success during the decade+ he spent in Minnesota make him very deserving of this induction into the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame!