

2023 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:

Leonard Johnson

When Leonard Johnson burst upon the Minnesota Chess scene in the early 1990's, one could see he would be a great player. Early on he showed great desire, original thought, and a total professional attitude.

Over the years he has gained the FIDE master title, a peak USCF rating of 2445 and many tournament victories: Trans-Mississippi (twice), Minneapolis Open, Northern Open, Region Six (twice), Glacier Vending, Winter Carnival, Catfish Days, Minnesota Open (3 times!) and the Rochester Open.

While attending the University of Minnesota he also turned in great results while in a team setting: The Pan-American tournament. While playing fourth board at the 1991 event, his result of 5/6 helped the team to a 3rd place finish. During the 1992 event Leonard played 2nd board and scored 4.5/6 helping the University of Minnesota to win the championship.

Twice he reached the top of the mountain: Minnesota State Champion. Ten times he played in the closed playoffs. During those closed playoffs he scored 55% against tough competition.

Over the years his most popular tournament was the Minnesota Open. Covering 13 tournaments from 1992-2022, Leonard compiled 35 wins against only 13 losses and 11 draws.

Because of these accomplishments I nominate Leonard Johnson for the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame.