

Nomination of GM Andrew Tang for the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame

by Patrick Tang

GM Andrew Tang became the first Minnesota-grown Grandmaster in 2017 right before his eighteenth birthday. On the journey to fulfill his childhood dream, Andrew competed in numerous scholastic, open and closed tournaments in Minnesota and around the country and the world. His major scholastic chess accomplishments include tying for first representing Minnesota at the Barber National Tournament of K-8 State Champions in 2013, winning clear first at the North American Junior Championship in 2014, tying for first at the Pan American Junior Championship in 2015, and becoming National High School Co-Champion in 2016 and at the 2017 Super Nationals VI. From 2017 to 2019 Andrew won the Minnesota State Championship three times in a row. He was a three-time participant in the US Junior Championship and also went to the FIDE World Youth Championships, World Junior and World Cup. He faced many opponents who would rise to be top players in their countries and the world. Andrew tied for first at the 2022 Washington International and the 2022 Minnesota International in back-to-back fashion. Most recently, Andrew won the 2023 US Open and competed in the US Championship for the first time!

Andrew was born in Naperville, Illinois and started learning chess at the age of four and half when he saw kids in his preschool attending chess classes. Andrew immediately found his passion, and it has been a non-stop journey since then. He was one of the most active young players in the Illinois scholastic chess scene. After moving to Minnesota with his family when he was eight years old, he attended camps and played as many tournaments as he could. He was often one of the very few kids at the time showing up at the Chess Castle. Andrew took lessons from FM Ed Zelkind, IM Victor Adler and IM John Bartholomew. Under their coaching Andrew went on to become a National Master and an International Master. Over time Andrew had grown out of a talented scholastic player who could spot brilliant tactics and through hard work and intense competition he had gained a deep understanding of positional chess which paved the way for him to reach the GM level and fight much stronger opponents. However, what distinguishes Andrew from other players is his ability to outplay his opponents under mutual time pressure. With a limited amount of time for each classical game, what his opponents fear the most about Andrew is when the game reaches near the end of time control Andrew is often

able to maintain his cool, make precise calculations during intense play and convert to a win or save a lost game.

Andrew is one of the few who could become a GM while maintaining an excellent academic record. He received a Top Ten Student award at Wayzata High School in Plymouth and regularly represented the school in state math competitions. To him, academic study is equally important as chess. The time and effort he spent on academic study has helped deepen his thinking ability in chess and vice versa. Ultimately, Andrew would not have achieved all the chess accomplishments without his passion for chess. No matter how busy with school work, you could count on seeing Andrew at almost every major Minnesota tournament before going to college out of state and competing everywhere during school breaks. He had been a frequent participant in Minnesota chess community activities as well.

While in college Andrew led the Princeton University Chess Team to compete in Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships and won a top board one prize. He also served as co-president of the Princeton University Chess Club.

Andrew is known as one of the fastest players in the world, frequently sparring with Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura and Alireza Firouzja in online speed chess. Along with GM Mauricio Flores, IM John Bartholomew and IM Sean Nagle, Andrew was part of the Minnesota Blizzard team competing in the prestigious US Chess League and Pro Chess League, promoting Minnesota in the global chess community.

Chess is Andrew's passion for life. He is working full-time as a quantitative trader in New York and won't be able to play in chess tournaments as actively as he was a student, but you will for sure see him come out to compete whenever he can and he will never stop playing chess.