

MINNESOTA CHESS JOURNAL

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Minnesota State Chess Association

The Minnesota State Chess Association (MSCA) is the designated state affiliate of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and awards the official Minnesota State Champion Titles recognized by the USCF.

Current Minnesota State Champions

Open: Sean Nagle
 Senior: Tim Radermacher
 Blitz: Jackson Wahl
 K-12: Linden Lee
 K-8: Troy Cavanah
 K-5: Alan Xu
 GK-12: Alice Lee

MSCA Board of Directors

Dane Zagar - President (2024)
 David McNeil - VP (2023)
 Tim Radermacher-Treasurer (2024)
 Jenny Bourne - Secretary (2024)
 Nels Truelson - At Large (2023)
 Chris Kalina - At Large (2023)
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* Jackson Wahl -
 Scholastic Coordinator

Nagle Defeats Narayanan in Tiebreaker to Win 11th MN State Championship!!

On June 4th Sean Nagle and Sammy Narayanan met at the Castle Chess Club in Bloomington to decide the state championship. Both players went undefeated while scoring 4/5 points in the traditional round-robin playoff format in late April. Thus, the official MSCA tiebreaker process was deployed. The tiebreaker consists of two classical time control games, followed by two rapid games, and a winner-take-all Armageddon game if necessary. Sean had the black pieces in Game #1 and prevailed when Sammy chose an aggressive line in the Pirc that had his king on h4 by move 21. 12 moves later it was all over and Sean had jumped to an early 1-0 lead. In the 2nd classical time control game Sammy faced the monumental challenge of needing to best Sean with the black pieces. In the generally quiet French Exchange Variation, Sean sacked a bishop on h6 on move 13 to bust open Sammy's kingside. A somewhat surprising approach with Sean having the white pieces and needing only a draw to clinch the championship. Sean pressed and Sammy defended expertly...preserving the piece advantage into the endgame with Sean resigning on move 39.



Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Members

Original Inductees:

Curt Brasket
George Tiers
David Kuhns
Dan Voje
E.P. Elliot
Louis Uedemann

Class of 2018:

George Barnes
Eduard Zelkind
Larry Lampert

Class of 2019:

Sean Nagle
John Bartholomew
Victor Adler
Brian Ribnick

Class of 2020:

Nels Truelson
Ted Haugan
Alex Balandin
Ed Conway

Class of 2021:

Roger Rudolph
Milt Otteson
Russ Erickson
Jacob Harris

Class of 2022:

Roger Hale
Marv Mattson
Tim Radermacher
Mike Valvo

The match then moved to the rapid time control of G/25 + 3 second increment. Sean had white in the first game and played an interesting variation of the Ruy Lopez marked by 4. Qe2. When the middle game arrived Sammy was up a doubled b-pawn. Perhaps pressing for the win...Sammy may have overlooked Sean's devastating 32. Qf6 move and Nagle had once again seized a 1-0 lead. In the 2nd rapid game Sammy had white and the game followed along the Pirc line of the first classical game for 11 moves. At that point Sean deviated by trading queens and sacking the exchange for a valuable pawn + pressure. Sammy battled bravely but eventually Sean's minor piece pressure and advanced central pawns stationed on e3 and d3 proved too much. By move 42 it was all over and Mr. Sean Nagle had secured his 11th Minnesota State Championship!

Congratulations to both Sean & Sammy. Sean's dominance of the Minnesota State Championship over the last 15 years has been amazing to watch. Sammy is one of the youngest to ever compete for the State Championship and he played great chess. We can all be sure that Sammy will be back and it is very likely just a matter of time until he wins an "outright" state championship.

[2022 MN State Championship Tiebreaker](#)

1st Tiebreaker: Classical Games

IM Sean Nagle 2519 1 0 = 1 point
FM Sammy Narayanan 2394 0 1 = 1 point

2nd Tiebreaker: Rapid Games

IM Sean Nagle 2412 (Quick) 1 1 = 2 points
FM Sammy Narayanan 1926 (Quick) 0 0 = 0 points

In the U2200 Tiebreaker Ethan Hunt defeated Cub Noble 1 1/2 points to 1/2 point to claim 1st prize for this tough section of players.

Cavanah & Zagar Share May Think Title

Troy Cavanah & Dane Zagar tied for 1st prize with 5.5/7.0 points at the May Think Tournament. This represented the first significant event at the new (now old) Castle Chess Club location in Bloomington. Dane was upset by Eric Gahlon in round 2 but stormed back by upsetting Troy in round 5. Dane's rally from early round losses is becoming so common that it has now been dubbed the "Zagar Gambit". In the last round the always-tough-to-beat Bill Murray was able to draw Dane and prevent him from clear 1st.

Notable performances included Eric Gahlon scoring 4.0/7.0 points and raising his rating 33 points to 1813. In addition to his win against Dane in round 2, Eric also beat Eddie Wasserman in round 5. Also noteworthy was Vihaan Pendse scoring 4.0/7.0 points, gaining 23 rating points, and only losing one game... to Bill Murray of course. The underrated Ryan Shiroma scored 4.0/7.0 points and gained 118 rating points to land at 1700. Ryan is still underrated at this new level...but at least now his rating is in the same zip code as his chess talent level! Finally, John Blomer scored 3.5/7.0 to pick up 133 points, landing at 1485.

Many thanks to Chief TD Elijah Tramm & Asst. TD Jack Bellinger for their good work at the May Think.

May THINK: May 21-22, 2022 @ Bloomington Castle Chess Club

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Total Pts</u>	<u>RD1</u>	<u>RD2</u>	<u>RD3</u>	<u>RD4</u>	<u>RD5</u>	<u>RD6</u>	<u>RD7</u>
1-2	Troy Cavanah	2177	5.5	W11	W5	W4	H	L2	W6	W10
	Dane Zagar	2025	5.5	W16	L6	W14	W10	W1	W5	D3
3-4	Bill Murray	2009	4.5	D9	W7	W6	H	L5	W12	D2
	E. Wasserman	1984	4.5	W14	W19	L1	D7	L6	W13	W12
5-9	Tony Schläger	1945	4.0	W12	L1	W13	H	W3	L2	H
	Eric Gahlon	1780	4.0	W18	W2	L3	H	W4	L1	D9
	Vihaan Pendse	1777	4.0	W20	L3	W19	D4	D10	D9	H
	Theodore Su	1716	4.0	H	H	U	U	W18	W16	W13
	Ryan Shiroma	1582	4.0	D3	W17	L10	H	W11	D7	D6
10-12	Elijah Tramm	1807	3.5	W15	H	W9	L2	D7	H	L1
	Irene Fei	1759	3.5	L1	L12	W18	D17	L9	W15	W14
	John Blomer	1352	3.5	L5	W11	W17	D15	W16	L3	L4
13-15	Stephen Lockhart	1627	2.5	L19	W15	L5	H	W14	L4	L8
	Jack Bellinger	1484	2.5	L4	W20	L2	H	L13	W18	L11
	A. Singamsetty	1181	2.5	L10	L13	W20	D12	D17	L11	D18

16	Roger Redmond	1600	2.0	L2	W18	H	H	L12	L8	U
17-18	Dan Voje	1904	1.5	H	L9	L12	D11	D15	U	U
	Ksenija Matus	762	1.5	L6	L16	L11	W20	L8	L14	D15
19-20	Jordan Timm	2102	1.0	W13	L4	L7	U	U	U	U
	Praseed Balaji	363P	1.0	L7	L14	L15	L18	H	H	U

New Truelson wins June FIDE Event @ Old Castle

The name Truelson is synonymous with Minnesota Chess. For decades brothers Roy & Nels Truelson have been active in every facet of the chess scene (playing, serving on the Board, working on the Journal, etc.). Now their nephew Joseph is the “new” Truelson on the block. Joseph is a National Master and won the June FIDE Event with an undefeated score of 4.0/5.0 points. This strong performance was foreshadowing for the result Joseph would turn in at the World Open in July when he beat his first GM in round 1 with the black pieces. Taking second place with 3.5/5.0 points was Okey Iwu who had won the last 3 FIDE events. Truelson and Iwu played to a draw in their big round 3 match-up. However, Truelson had position on Iwu going into round 5 as Okey had been nicked for a 1st round draw by the talented Vihaan Pendse. When Okey drew with Bill Murray in round 5, Truelson was able to take home clear 1st prize with a draw against Eddie Wasserman. Tying for the bronze with 3.0/5.0 were castle regulars Dane Zagar & Bill Murray. There was a relatively small turn-out for the event with 10 participating in the 1800+ FIDE section and only 6 participating in the OPEN section. In the Open section, Aidan Sneller & Ajay Singamsetty tied for 1st with 3.5/5.0 points. A special thanks to Dane Zagar who directed these events.

2022 FIDE Event Premier Section: Held June 4-5, 2022 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Joseph Truelson	2234	4.0	W4	W7	D2	W3	D5
2	Okey Iwu	2235	3.5	D8	W5	D1	W7	D4
3-4	Dane Zagar	2023	3.0	H	W9	H	L1	W7
	Bill Murray	1987	3.0	L1	W8	D5	W6	D2
5-6	E. Wasserman	1945	2.5	D10	L2	D4	W9	D1
	Dan Voje	1905	2.5	H	W10	L7	L4	W9
7	Jordan Timm	2046	2.0	W9	L1	W6	L2	L3
8	Vihaan Pendse	1826	1.5	D2	L4	L9	Bye	U
9	A. Hortillosa	1900	1.0	L7	L3	W8	L5	L6
10	Troy Cavanah	2146	0.5	D5	L6	U	U	U

Twin Cities Chess League: 2021-2022 Season Recap

This year the Twin City Chess League (TCCL) featured its famous team match-ups for the 7th consecutive decade! The event featured 7 rounds...one each month starting in October 2021 and continuing through May 2022.

Below is the crosstable from the event as well as a recap by TCCL editor Nels Truelson.

TCCL: October 2021 - May 2022 @ Roseville Skating Center

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Match Pts</u>	<u>Game Pts</u>	<u>RD1</u>	<u>RD2</u>	<u>RD3</u>	<u>RD4</u>	<u>RD5</u>	<u>RD6</u>	<u>RD7</u>
1-2	Had to Do It*	2081	6.0	22.0	W11	W4	W7	L2	W3	W8	W9
	Back from the 80's	2144	6.0	19.5	W13	W7	W3	W1	W9	L4	W6
3-4	The A Team	2093	5.0	19.0	W10	W6	L2	W4	L1	W7	W12
	Twin Knights	2164	5.0	18.0	W9	L1	W11	L3	W8	W2	W5
5-10	Lake Monsters	UNR	3.0	14.0	L8/15	W10	D13	L9	D14	W11	L4
	Pawn Island of Misfits	1425	3.0	13.5	W12	L3	D9	L8	D7	W14	L2
	Rabid Rooks of White Castle	1428	3.0	13.0	W14	L2	L1	W11/14	D6	L3	D8
	Ham Saemisch	1416	3.0	12.0	D5/15	L9	W14	W6	L4	L1	D7
	The Brain Trust	1198	3.0	11.0	L4	W8	D6	W5	L2	D10	L1
	Weenie Trades	931	3.0	11.0	L3	L5	W12	D14	D11	D9	H
11	Uptown Funk	826	2.5	10.5	L1	W12/14	L4	L7/14	D10	L5	W13
12-13	The Other Team	779	2.0	8.5	L6	L11/14	L10	D7/11	W5/14	D13	L3
	SPA Chess Team	1026	2.0	5.5	L2	H	D5	H	U	D12	L11
14	The Chestnut Cookies	779	1.5	7.0	L7	D11/12	L8	D10	L5/12	L6	H
15	Xmus Jaxon Flaxon Waxon	2245	1.0	4.0	W5/8	U	U	U	U	U	U

TCCL Resumes Over-the-Board Play

Article by Nels Truelson

The 2021-2022 TCCL Season saw the return of normalcy to this beloved institution in two respects. It went back to the October – April schedule that had long defined the League's term, and it again embraced over-the-board play as an essential part of its emphasis on the social aspects of Minnesota chess. However, there is still work to be done. The drop in participation that had accompanied the covid pandemic has yet to be restored, necessitating a second year of employing a Swiss System format, instead of the multiple divisions that had existed for decades. As discussed in the TCCL article from last October's MCJ, this divisional format may be the key to the League's future survival, but it can only be achieved with the participation of more teams. Such increase in participation will naturally result in the awarding of more prizes, and hopefully a better experience for everyone involved. It's not too late to form and enter teams for the season beginning this month. Don't let this opportunity pass!

The coming TCCL season's announcement on the MSCA website lists the trophies and medals to be handed out at the awards ceremony/party/casual chess evening to be held on April 7th. This will include prizes for the top overall teams, top under 1500 team (using average rating), biggest upset game, and top two players at each board level as well as top at each board from under 1500 teams. While the 2021-2022 season came with no promise of such hardware, due to the haste and uncertainty involved in the last-minute assembly of the League, this article will recognize the performances of those who would have earned the same distinctions as will be offered in the coming year.

A quick glance at the cross-table above reveals a more than 600 point gap between the top-five rated teams and the teams rated under 1500, making a good justification for using this marker in prize distributions. Unsurprisingly, none of the under 1500 group succeeded in upsetting the higher teams for match points, but they did shave a lot of game points off such teams, thus affecting the final top results. The battle for the top spot among the under 1500 was fiercely contested. When the smoke had cleared, six teams emerged tied with 3.0 match points: Rabid Rooks of White Castle (1428), Pawn Island of Misfits (1425), Ham Saemisch (1416), The Brain Trust (1198), Weenie Trades (931), and Lake Monsters (Unrated). Using game points as the first tie-breaker resulted in the top three under 1500 places going to Lake Monsters (14 game points), Pawn Island (13.5 game points), and Rabid Rooks (13 game points). It may be noted that with Pawn Island and Rabid Rooks being the only two of these three who had faced each other, and that match being a 2-2 draw, the limits of this system in a Swiss System team event are being tested. One could point out that using traditional Swiss tie-breaks, the order would be reversed with Rabid Rooks having had to play against the top three finishing teams overall, and Lake Mobsters having had to play only the 4th finishing team.

Individually, the under 1500 group included many fine performances, one of the most dominant being the 4.5 points earned on board 1 by 1365 rated Stuart Strack (The Other Team). This included his 7th round draw against 2220 rated Bert Wilson (The A Team), which also won Stuart the biggest upset distinction. One could argue that in this final round match Bert's team was in no danger of losing or drawing the match, but a National Master is not going to be held to a draw without some resistance, and judging from Stuart's other results, he was offering plenty of it.

On board 2, both Jeremy Keillor (Ham Saemisch) and Duane Peterson (Pawn Island) managed a very respectable 3.0 points, while on board 3, Harry Breheim (The Brain Trust) closed out with 4.0 points. On board 4, Zane Umsted (Lake Monsters) would take the under 1500 honors with 5.0 points. Worth mentioning is John Bloomer (SPA Chess Team) being the runner-up for not only Board 4, but for the biggest upset prize as well. John was then rated 919. A year later, he is now in the 1700s so that result would no longer be considered an upset today.

The fight for the League title involved the four top teams all drawing blood against each other, with no one team establishing clear dominance. The first match-up of the top guns appeared in round 2 between Twin Knights and last year's champion, Had To Do It. But with Twin Knights's top board Samrug Narayanan being unavailable, the result was an anticlimactic 3-1 win by the defending champs. The next to fall was The A Team, whose first board Wilson played the decisive game against Nels Truelson (Back from the 80's). These two were not only battling for their team's position, but they were also the only two remaining board 1 contestants with perfect scores. The game was jammed with complexities but eventually distilled into a rook-pawn endgame with Truelson holding the extra pawn, but characteristically in serious time pressure as well. At this point Bert generously joined Truelson with his own time pressure crisis, resulting in a game-deciding error.

Then came round 4, the only one in which the top four teams all played each other. With the Knights again missing its heaviest hitters, The A Team took control of the top boards and finished 3-1. The contest between the two remaining teams at 3-0 went back and forth. On board 4, the 80's Arkady Shemyakin at first steamed ahead of the defending champs' Dane Zagar, but then faltered and appeared almost as lost as he had previously appeared won. The 80s Joe Longen was battered into near hopelessness early on board 3 against David McNeil. A pawn down with a horrible position, the only respite being that everyone knows Joe is really, really hard to beat. Tim Radermacher, the newly self-morphed daredevil, carried out a promising attack on board 2, until Dane Mattson proved otherwise, and Tim appeared to be in desperate straits. And while Truelson initially obtained a brief edge with the black pieces on board 1, Okechukwu Iwu carved the position back to a rook-pawn endgame that was drawn on the board, but with Truelson again far behind on the clock. It is still a bit unclear just how it happened, but Arkady fought to a draw, Radermacher snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, and Truelson would not let the clock win. This brought all eyes to board 3, where McNeil would once again be able to testify to a certainty: Joe is really, really hard to beat.

Well, now it must be pretty much over, right? The 80s was a full point ahead of the remaining field, with clear sailing having beaten both of those teams head-to-head. Not so fast; that's not how the title is decided. Remember that the 80s still had to face Twin Knights, and it was behind on game points against the defending champs. Of course, all would be well if Had To Do It drew The A Team in their 5th round match, but it was not to be. After the defending champs dispatched The A Team in round 5 (more on that later), it was up to the 80s to hold on to a draw in round 6. Didn't happen. Although the team's top three boards had all been undefeated at this point, it's top two boards this time succumbed to the whims of Caissa. Arkady prevailed on board 4, and Joe remained undefeated throughout the League's term on board 3. On board 1, Truelson was not only struggling to hold the draw for the team's League title, but he was also fighting to hang on to his lead over Okey for the board 1 honors. He even got it down to a rook and two pawns each, where he once had the opportunity to sacrifice one of the pawns to achieve a book draw. But the clock again entered the picture, and Sammy Narayanan was not going to be denied the victory. Sammy would

probably call it the natural result. Had To Do It probably calls it poetic justice. Let's just call it: "See you next year."

Thus, Had To Do It did it, defending their TCCL title. Back from the 80s demonstrated that they weren't yet completely over the hill, tying with 6 match points, but losing on the game point tie-break. The A Team and Twin Knights finished 3rd and 4th respectively. On board 1, Okey Iwu took top honors (6.0 points), with Nels Truelson coming in 2nd (5 points). Board 2 saw the perennially successful Nate Hoover prevail with 5.5 points, followed by Tim Radermacher with 4.5 points. Board 3 resulted in a tie between Eric Bell (Twin Knights) and David McNeil with 4.5 points each. And on Board 4, Dane Zagar topped the field with 6.5 points, and Ed Dieter (The A Team) close behind with 6.0 points.

One of Dane's victories was especially critical for his team's defense of its title. In round 5, the team's board 2 was sick, and the substitute was losing on board 4. With Dan Voje having to move up to board 3, and with both Dan and Okey on board 1 playing the black pieces, Dane figured a win against eventual board 2 champion Hoover would likely be required. The following game is how he responded, delivering Nate his only loss of the League's term.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks is due Jackson Wahl & Dane Zagar, who took on the duties of League director on various evenings throughout the season.

Dane Zagar 2040 - **Nathan Hoover** 2125 1-0

TCCL, Roseville Skating Center (5), 2022.03.11

D34: QGD, Tarrasch, Prague variation, normal position

A key match-up from the 2021/2022 TCCL Season. Notes by Dane Zagar. **1.d4 d5**

2.c4 c5 3. ♖c3 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5. ♗f3 ♗f6 6.g3 Often the kingside fianchetto

leads to nice positions when black's d-pawn can't be protected by another pawn

on c6 or e6. **6... ♗c6 7. ♕g2 ♕e7 8. O-O O-O 9. ♕e3 c4 10.h3 ♖e8 11. ♗e5 ♕f5**

12.g4 ♕e6 A passive placement of the bishop, but other squares lead to the loss

of the bishop pair. The engine assessment of the position after 12...Be6 is equal.

13.f4 h6 14.g5 I spent over 30 minutes on this move calculating all variations

after Nd7 to checkmate or a huge loss in material. **14...hxg5 15.fxg5 ♗d7** 15...Nh5

would have saved black from certain disaster. **16. ♗xf7 ♕xf7 17. ♖xf7 ♔xf7**

18. ♕xd5+ ♔f8 19. ♖c2 The start of my evil schemes. **19... ♕xg5** 19....Nf6, 20.Rf1

Nb4, 21.Qh7 Nbd5, 22.Nd5 Qd5, 23.gf Bf6, 24.Rf6+ gf, 25.Bh6# **20. ♖f1+ ♕f6**

21. ♖h7 ♔e7 21....Re3??, 22.Qg8+ Ke7, 23.Qf7+ Kd6, 24.Nb5# note that b5 is an

important square where my knight and queen could meet later. **22. ♖xf6 ♔xf6**

22....Nf6, 23.Qg7 Kd6, 24.Bf4+ Ne5, 25.de Kc5, 26.Be3+ Kb4, 27.Qb7+ Ka5, 28.

Qb5# it is only fitting that the queen is reunited with her noble steed to finish the

game! **23. ♖h4+ ♔g6 24. ♖g4+ ♔h7 25. ♖h5# 1-0**

US Amateur North Tournament is Big Success!!

"Plan it and they will come". That approach worked well in late June as the Minnesota State Chess Association hosted what is believed to be the largest June chess tournament ever held in Minnesota. 164 players competed in 4 sections in Bloomington as part of this national event. Winners included Ashton Jin in the Masters Section, Peyton Smith in the U2200, Mikhail Dossenko in the U1600, and Brandon Welter in the U1100. Big congratulations are in order for Dane Zagar, the main planner for this event, and Bill Broich & Sarah Emmons, the primary TDs.

The tournament was held at the new Cambria Hotel in Bloomington in a refreshingly modern space for a chess event. The playing room was somewhat crowded due to the greater than expected attendance...but the players & spectators did not seem to mind and were energetic and excited for chess throughout the weekend.

The successful hosting of this national event shattered two long-standing paradigms in Minnesota chess. First, that chess "takes the summer off" in Minnesota. Second, that hosting national events is not "fiscally possible" in Minnesota. These paradigms were shattered and the event was a big success! Below are summarized tables of the top performers. Full crosstables for each of these 5-round sections are available online at the MSCA Website.

Master		Section		U1600		Section	
Place	Player	Rating	Points	Place	Player	Rating	Points
1	Ashton Jin	2285	4.0	1	M. Dossenko	1474P18	4.5
2	Sammy Narayanan	2400	3.5	2	Paul Sackaroff	1323P24	4.0
3	Kyler Weatherspoon	2193	3.0	3-10	8 Players Tied	Various	3.5

U2200		Section		U1100		Section	
Place	Player	Rating	Points	Place	Player	Rating	Points
1	Peyton Smith	2001	4.5	1	Bran. Welter	UNR	5.0
2-5	T.Radermacher	2102	4.0	2-3	Blake Barnard	UNR	4.5
	Bill Murray	2022	4.0		Royce Zhang	1052	4.5
	Ben Vanorny	2028	4.0				
	D. Schabert	1798P13	4.0				

Rochester Open is Chess Planning Masterpiece!

Headline by Tim Radermacher & Article by Dennis Mays

The 2022 Rochester Open was a huge success. 110 chess players converged on the Rochester Civic Center on July 9 & 10 to play in their first tournament (30) and in their N+1 tournament (80). The tournament was expertly directed by Dane Zagar and sponsored by Rochester Chess, Rochester Math Club, Mayo Civic Center, Experience Minnesota's Rochester, and ChessGoals, a chess improvement organization dedicated to helping players improve their chess. Mayor Kim Norton and other local dignitaries made the ceremonial first moves in the top sections.

When the dust settled, the winners were:

Open Section: Andrew Titus & Michael Takahashi (4/5)
Top U2100 Prize: Nastassja Matus (3.5/5)

U1900 Section: 1. George Paulik (4.5/5), 2. Larry Jaspersen (4/5)
Top U1600 Prize: Jack Bellinger (3.5/5)

U1400 Section: Ethan Zhang, Charles Johnson & Jake Schoenbauer (4/5)
Top U800/UNR Prize: Jacob Arroyo & Will Cunningham (3.5/5)

U1000 Section: 1. Nicholas Touchette (4.5/5), 2/unr. S. Singh, S. Chakravartha & B. Binu (4/5)

Novice/Unrated Section:

1-2, Renzen Kidd Caughey & Carter Weinzierl (4/4)

3-7, Sam Blocksome, Collin Schmit, Andrew Ott, Jacob Bosely & Michael Speck (3/4)

We were very happy to see many local players and players from other areas of the state and beyond participate in the 2022 Rochester Open. We were especially happy that more than 30 individuals participated in their first ever in-person chess tournament. How great is that!

Below is the crosstable for the Open Section. Full cross tables for all sections are available online.

2022 Rochester Open: Held July 9-10, 2022 @ Mayo Civic Center in Rochester

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Total Pts</u>	<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>	<u>Round 3</u>	<u>Round 4</u>	<u>Round 5</u>
1-2	Andrew Titus	2316	4.0	W5	W2	D6	W15	D3
	Michael Takahashi	2159	4.0	W20	L1	W12	W7	W6
3-5	Okey Iwu	2238	3.5	W9	D7	D4	W8	D1
	Matthew Jensen	2237	3.5	W11	W8	D3	D6	D5
	Nastassja Matus	2068	3.5	L1	W20	W9	W12	D4
6-9	Ashton Jin	2307	3.0	W17	W10	D1	D4	L2
	Tim Radermacher	2109	3.0	W19	D3	D15	L2	W10
	Eric Bell	2071	3.0	W18	L4	W17	L3	W11
	Dan Voje	1922	3.0	L3	W19	L5	W18	W15
10-13	Kyler Weatherspoon	2210	2.5	W16	L6	D11	W13	L7
	Cassidy Noble	2004	2.5	L4	W18	D10	W14	L8
	Vihaan Pendse	1803	2.5	D15	W13	L2	L5	W16
	Irene Fei	1738	2.5	D14	L12	W20	L10	W18
14-15	Nels Truelson	2200	2.0	D13	L15	D16	L11	Bye
	Dexter Thompson	2200	2.0	D12	W14	D7	L1	L9
16	A. Hortillosa	1900	1.5	L10	L17	D14	W19	L12
17-18	Henry Hutton	2016	1.0	L6	W16	L8	U	U
	Alejandro Decaire	UNR	1.0	L8	L11	Bye	L9	L13
19	Riaz Khan	1400	0.5	L7	L9	H	L16	U
20	Joshua Rajadurai	1676	0.0	L2	L5	L13	U	U

Castle Club Dominates at 27th Annual Catfish Days

James Kanne worked his magic and 37 chess players appeared in the small town of Franklin, MN (population ~ 500 people) the weekend of July 22-24 to compete in the Annual Catfish Days Chess Tournament. Most of the players had strong ties to the Twin Cities Castle Chess Club - including the Top 8 finishers who all had 4.5 points or better.

This year's co-champions were Dane Zagar and Eddie Wasserman who scored 6/7. Eddie & Dane faced off in Round 4 when they were both 3-0 and Eddie got the win! Dane stormed back with wins in the last 3 rounds and pulled even with Eddie who gave up draws in 2 of the last 3 rounds. Tying with 5/7 for 3rd-6th place were Bill Murray, Dan Voje, Andres Hortillosa & John Blomer. The young Mr. Blomer had an outstanding event which was sparked by his 2nd round upset of Bill Murray. Mr. Blomer's rating jumped 121 points to 1697!! 7th-8th place went to Judson Girton & Jack Bellinger with 4.5/7.0 points.

A good time was had by all as there was street music, sports tournaments, food trucks, a parade, and of course the traditional Friday night potluck dinner. Many thanks to James Kanne for his decades of dedicated organizing of this event. Dan Vote directed with an assist to our emerging new MN TD Jack Bellinger. Top scorers are highlighted below and the full crossable is available for viewing on the Castle Chess Club's website.

Place	Player	Rating	Points
1-2	Dane Zagar	2021	6.0
	Eddie Wasserman	1965	6.0
3-6	Bill Murray	2043	5.0
	Dan Voje	1936	5.0
	Andres Hortillosa	1912	5.0
	John Blomer	1576	5.0
7-8	Judson Girton	1701	4.5
	Jack Bellinger	1605	4.5

Jackson Wahl Repeats as State Blitz Champion

On August 13th 58 players gathered at the beautiful new Plymouth Community Center for the 2022 Minnesota State Blitz Chess Championship. After 4+ hours of play, 507 games, and an estimated 20,280 moves made by the collective players...Jackson Wahl was once again crowned the best at the blitz!

Jackson scored 14 points in the 18 rounds to finish clear 1st in a challenging field that included 7 titled players. WIM/FM Alice Lee finished 2nd with 13.5 points. Tying for 3rd place were the college-bound tandem of Linden Lee and Ashton Jin with 13.0 points.

In the U2000 category it was Tony Schlaeger, Michael Perry and Ryan Shiroma tying for 1st-3rd place with 11.5 points.

In the U1600 category Akash Dhotre scored a remarkable 11.5 points to take clear 1st. Tying for 2nd prize in the U1600 with 11.0 points were the Alexander's (Screaton & Augustine).

In the U1000 there was once again a 3-way tie for the prizes between Joel Larson, Dominic Mak and Vignesh Subramanian who all scored 9 points.

Who Knew; Beer & Chess are Big Hit at the Brewery Blitz!

One ending becomes another beginning. When COVID cut short the run of cribbage tournaments at local Breweries, Rich Carlson sensed an opportunity for one of his other passions - blitz chess. With some help from Eric Bell (Uptown Chess), Jiten Patel (Long-Tenured Minnesota TD), and his network of connections to some brewery owners, Rich was able to start the "Brewery Blitz Series". The general format is blitz chess at a local brewery once per month on a late Sunday morning that trickles into early afternoon. The series has been well attended with generally 20-40 chess players participating. There are prizes, pizza, and purpose...as the Brewery Blitz has been raising money to contribute to an inner-city school to help them start a chess program.

Rich is a long-time chess player but has only participated in 1 USCF rated event. The cribbage tournaments helped him see the niche for casual chess players who were interested in playing over-the-board chess but without the higher cost, administration, and time investment associated with traditional USCF rated chess. Rich says the players find the format fun, less intimidating, and more social than a regular chess event. There is an entry fee to participate but this sounds well worth the investment for those who would like to try it out. Congratulations to Rich on a job well done! It is always exciting to see more people gain exposure to the wonderful world of chess!

MN-grown GM Andrew Tang shares 1st at Int'l Chess Festival

Article by Dane Zagar

Thanks to Glenn Panner, FM Alex Betaneli, James Hodina, Jiten Patel, and Chris Wainscott for hosting an excellent event of 162 players at this years Minnesota International Chess Festival.

Special congratulations to Minnesota-grown GM Andrew Tang & GM Elect Viktor Gazik of Texas for tying for first with 7/9 points in the Open Norm section. This section featured 7 GMs and multiple IMs/FMs.

In the U2200 tournament it was the emerging Andrew Sheehan taking clear 1st prize with 4.5/5.0 points.

In the U1600 there were a record 64 players and 3 of them tied with 4.5/5.0 points for 1st prize. The winners were Andrew Ticao IL, David Rokhinson MN, and Josh Kizilos MN.

Finally, it must be noted that Samrug Narayanan of MN scored a big win when he beat GM Christopher Yoo with the black pieces in round 2.

Last but not least, the fun story of the event was the very dedicated travels of a couple of chess players...one who walked 3 miles to attend the event and another who came from Hawaii!! Thanks to all the Minnesota players for attending!

Chess Castle Club Report – May through September 2022

The summer months of 2022 have been very eventful for the Chess Castle. At the beginning of May, the Club moved from its location of over a year to the International Plaza building in Bloomington. The intent was for this to be a temporary stopgap while a more permanent location was found. In the end, the Club was able to come to an agreement to move to a location in Edina's Southdale mall! The Club was closed during the month of August to move and prepare the Southdale location for the grand reopening in September. While many were involved, a truly special thanks goes out to Dane Zagar and Brandon RichardWebster for all their hard work in finding locations and moving the club around.

– submitted by Ethan Hunt

Results through 9/22/2022

Monday Action Quad Leaders Wednesday Knighter Winners Thursday Knighter Winners

Jordan Timm	4.5	May – Eddie Wasserman	May – Nathan Hoover
Perry Zentner	4.5	June – John Baker	June – Joseph Truelson
Tony Schlaeger	4.0	July – Kevin Landman	July – Nathan Hoover
Dan Voje	2.5	August – Club Closed	August – Club Closed
Ethan Phua	2.5		

Exerciser Quad Leaders

Joshua Rajadurai	1.5
Many others!	1.0

Other Club Events

May Humid Rapid	Jackson Wahl, Joseph Truelson, and Dane Zagar	4.0/5.0
May Think	Troy Cavanah and Dane Zagar	5.5/7.0
May Prize Quad A	Adriel Agam	2.5/3.0
May Prize Quad B	Ryan Shiroma	2.5/3.0
June Sunny Rapid	Jackson Wahl	4.5/5.0
July Rapid	Henry Hutton and Tony Schlaegar	4.0/5.0
July Think	Eddie Wasserman	6.0/7.0
September Rapid	Tony Schaleger	4.5/5.0

Rochester Chess Report

The Rochester club has been busy with their regular monthly swiss events. Below are the crosstables from the spring and summer editions.

Slow Spring Swiss, April/May 2022

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5
1	Timothy Schimke	1582	4.5	W19	W13	W9	B-	D2
2-3	Michael Kern	1783	4.0	W15	W14	H-	W4	D1
	Kevin Gaustad	1706	4.0	L13	W21	W15	W6	W9
4-5	Isaac Sellon	1447	3.5	W21	W7	D8	L2	W14
	Charles Johnson	1272P	3.5	H-	H-	H-	W15	W11
6-7	Steve Lange	1232	3.0	W20	L8	W22	L3	B-
	Robert Richardson	764	3.0	W12	L4	W17	L9	W16
8-14	Daniel Garrett	1952	2.5	W11	W6	D4	U-	U-
	Roy Knuth	1700	2.5	D18	W22	L18	W7	L3
	George Paulik	1661	2.5	H-	W18	H-	H-	U-
	Erik Flynn	1327	2.5	L8	W20	H-	W18	L5
	Paul Kinion	1300	2.5	L7	W19	L13	H-	W18
	Jake Hallstrom	1251P	2.5	W3	L1	W12	D14	U-
	Jai Knuth	1174	2.5	W17	L2	W16	D13	L4
15-17	Bob Frisby	1145	2.0	L2	W17	L3	L5	W20
	Venkatesh Bellamkonda	626P	2.0	H-	H-	L14	W22	L7
	John Noseworthy	303P	2.0	L14	L15	L7	B-	W22
18-20	Shourya Toshniwal	1023P	1.5	D9	L10	W21	L11	L12
	Luke Sellon	717P	1.5	L1	L12	L20	D21	B-
	Mark Tompkin	270P	1.5	L6	L11	W19	H-	L15
21-22	Wilson Wang	812P	1.0	L4	L3	L18	D19	H-
	Claire Nui	152P	1.0	B-	L8	L6	L16	L17

Slow Summer Swiss, June/July 2022

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5
1	Timothy Schimke	1660	4.5	W7	B-	D4	W2	W5
2-3	Roy Knuth	1701	3.5	W12	W6	D5	L1	W4
	Paul Kinion	1370	3.5	W11	D5	W12	L4	W9
4-7	George Paulik	1727	3.0	H-	W7	D1	W3	L2
	Kevin Gaustad	1700	3.0	W10	D3	D2	W9	L1
	Steve Lange	1250	3.0	W13	L2	H-	H-	W11
	Wilson Wang	922	3.0	L1	L4	W13	W12	W10
8	Luke Sellon	770P	2.5	H-	H-	H-	L10	W12
9-11	Isaac Sellon	1419	2.0	H-	H-	W10	L5	L3
	Jai Knuth	1120	2.0	L5	W11	L9	W8	L7
	Robert Richardson	769	2.0	L3	L10	B-	W13	L6
12	Bob Frisby	1059	1.0	L2	W13	L3	L7	L8
13	Sanvitha Vallurupalli	374P	0.5	L6	L12	L7	L11	H-

Twin Ports Report

In the northern areas of the state, the Twin Ports club is running strong with weekly events, primarily of quick time controls. Events are always competitive and there isn't much separation in the crosstables. Special thanks to Andy Grube, who has been the primary event director this summer. Below is the "Land of the Free" crosstable, the quick event held on June 27th.

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5
1	Brent Gudowski	1758	4.5	W10	W5	W3	W4	D2
2-3	Brenton Decker	1655	3.0	L9	W10	D4	W6	D1
	Trever Ewert	1619P	3.0	H-	W9	L1	W5	D7
4-7	Andy Grube	1790	2.5	W8	H-	D2	L1	D5
	Cody Roberts	1600	2.5	W7	L1	W9	L3	D4
	Shawn Roberts	1526	2.5	H-	U-	W8	L2	W10
	Nicholas Susi	1355	2.5	L5	D8	W10	D9	D3
8-9	Donald Nygard	1532	2.0	L4	D7	L6	W10	D9
	Adam Graupe	1371	2.0	W2	L3	L5	D7	D8
10	Allen Hawley	1322	0.0	L1	L2	L7	L8	L6

ON THE ROAD THIS SUMMER WITH MN CHESS PLAYERS

Chicago Open - May

Open Section:

Okey Iwu	5.0/9.0
Sammy Narayanan	4.5/8.0
Nastassja Matus	3.0/8.0
Troy Cavanah	2.5/9.0

U2300 Section:

Matt Jensen	4.5/7.0
Joseph Truelson	4.5/7.0
Saumik Narayanan	3.0/6.0
Tim Radermacher	2.5/6.0
Jackson Wahl	2.5/5.0

U2100 Section:

Bill Murray	4.0/7.0
Vihaan Pendse	3.5/7.0
Ahmed Ilyasov	2.5/7.0

UNR Section:

Ksenija Matus	4.0/7.0
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National Open in Las Vegas - June

U2300 Section:

Dane Zagar	4.0/7.0
Andrew Sheehan	3.5/6.0

Midwest Chess Congress in Des Moines - June

Major Section:

Okey Iwu	3.5/5.0
Ky. Weatherspoon	3.0/5.0
Andrew Titus	2.5/5.0
Bill Murray	2.0/5.0
Dane Zagar	2.0/5.0

U2000 Section:

Tony Schläeger	3.0/5.0
John Blomer	3.0/5.0
Brett Fuller	2.5/5.0

U1200 Section:

S. Chakravarthula	3.0/5.0
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Philadelphia International - JuneOpen Section:

Alice Lee	5.0/9.0
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World Open in Philadelphia - JulyOpen Section:

Andrew Tang	6.0/9.0
Sammy Narayanan	6.0/9.0
Joseph Truelson	4.5/9.0

U2200 Section:

Ahmet Shapiro-Erciyas	7.5/9.0	Tied for 2nd Place!!
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Green Bay Open - JulyOpen Section:

Dane Zagar	3.5/5.0
Alan Xu	2.5/5.0

US Girls Junior Closed Championship in St. Louis - July

Alice Lee	5.5/9.0
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US Senior / Junior Open in Elmhurst, Illinois - July

Nels Truelson	3.5/6.0	Senior
Joseph Truelson	4.5/6.0	Junior U21
Aidan Sneller	3.5/6.0	Junior U15

National Tournament for State Champions in Palm Springs, California - July/Aug

Denker K-12:	Linden Lee	3.5 / 6.0
Barber K-8:	Joshua Rajadurai	2.5 / 6.0
Rockefeller K-5:	Alan Xu	4.0 / 6.0
Irwin Age 50+:	Tim Radermacher	4.0 / 6.0
<u>Haring Girls K-12:</u>	<u>Alice Lee</u>	<u>4.5 / 6.0</u>

Total: **Team Minnesota** **18.5 / 30.0 points (10th place of the 50 states!!)**

Minnesota Team has Strong Performance at USCF National Tournament for State Champions

Minnesota scored 18.5 points on their way to a 10th place finish at the USCF's National Tournament of State Champions held in Palm Springs, California July 30 - August 2.

The event was 6 rounds and the state point totals represented the combined results of their players in the 5 separate sections. In the Denker for K-12, Linden Lee scored 3.5 points against very tough competition (Linden played 3 of the top 5 finishers in the event). In the Haring for girls K-12 it was Alice Lee posting a team-leading 4.5 points. In the Barber section for K-8 Joshua Rajadurai posted a solid 2.5 points and played competitive chess throughout the week. In the Rockefeller K-5 Alan Xu had an excellent showing by scoring 4.0 points and gaining several rating points. In the Irwin section for 50+ year old seniors it was Tim Radermacher scoring 4.0 points to add to the Minnesota team total. Tim was thrilled to play in the Irwin section after having played in the Denker back in 1986.

Team Minnesota's performance was much improved from 2021 when they scored 10.0 points and took 37th place among the states.

Following are annotated games from the event for some of the Minnesota Team Members.

Alice Lee - Kelsey Liu 1-0

Haring Games: Alice Lee - Kelsey Liu,

E17: Queen's Indian, anti-Queen's Indian System

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♠f3 b6 4.g3 ♠b7 5. ♠g2 ♠e7 6. ♠c3

6.O-O O-O 7. ♠c3 ♠e4 8. ♠d2 f5 9. ♠e5 ♠f6
9... ♠xc3 10. ♠xc3 ♠xg2 11. ♠xg2 ♠f6 12. ♠d3
10. ♠xe4

6... ♠e4 7.O-O

7. ♠d2 O-O 8. O-O

7... ♠xc3 8.bxc3 O-O 9. ♠d3

9. ♠e1 f5
9...d6 10.e4 ♠c6
10. ♠e5

9...f5 10. ♠d2 ♠xg2 11. ♠xg2 ♠c6 12. ♠f3 ♠c8 13.h4

13. ♠e1

13... ♠a6 14. ♠f4 ♠a5 15. ♠d2 ♠f6?!

15... ♠d6 This is a good move for black because now she can try to take on f4 and attack on the kingside as a possibility, and also if I traded dark-squared bishops, it'd open the c-file which wouldn't be very good for me. 16. ♠ab1

16. ♠xd6? cxd6 17. ♠ab1 ♠ac8 18. ♠b4 ♠c6 19. ♠bb1 ♠e7 20. ♠b5 f4
16... ♠xf4 17.gxf4 ♠f6 18. ♠g1

16.f3 ♠ac8

16...d6 17.e4 e5 18. ♠g5 fxe4

17. ♠g5

17.e4 fxe4 18.fxe4 d6

18...d5 I think I might have been worried about this at some point, but this is much better for me if I can find a few accurate moves. 19.exd5 exd5 20. ♠f3 dxc4 21. ♠e4 The extra pawn doesn't matter for black as my pieces are so much more active while black's are sidelined on the queenside.

19. ♠g5 ♠xg5 20.hxg5 ♠c6 21.e5 d5 22.g6 h6 23. ♠f7! ♠ce8 24. ♠af1

17... ♠xg5

17...h6 18. ♠xf6 ♠xf6 19.g4

18.hxg5 d5 19.cxd5 ♠xd3 20.exd3 exd5 21. ♠b3 ♠c6?! I think with this move she was hoping to prevent Re5, but my knight can also still reroute to e5 and her knight is slightly misplaced, especially as it blocks the c7-pawn from the c5 advance.

21... ♠xb3 22.axb3 a5 23. ♠fe1 I guess she didn't want to go for this as it looks like I get Re5 in and control over the e-file. 23...f4 24. ♠e5 c6 25. ♠f2 ♠f7 26.gxf4 ♠xf4 27. ♠ae1

21... ♠b7 22. ♠ae1 f4 23.gxf4 ♠xf4

22.f4 ♠ce8 23. ♠f2 ♠e6 24. ♠fe1 ♠fe8 25. ♠xe6 ♠xe6 26. ♠d2 ♠d8 27. ♠b1 ♠b7 28. ♠f3 c5?!

28...h6 29. ♠e5 hxg5 30.fxg5 ♠d8 this is still holdable for black. 31. ♠f3 g6

29. ♠e5 h6 30.g6 ♠d6

30... ♠f8 31. ♠f3 ♠e7 32.g4 fxg4+ 33. ♠xg4 cxd4 34.cxd4 ♠d6 35. ♠c1

31. ♠e1 ♠f8 32. ♠h1 ♠e7 33. ♠h5 ♠f6

33... ♠f6 34. ♠xh6 gxh6 35.g7 ♠g6 36. ♠xg6+ ♠f7 37. ♠e7 ♠xg7 38. ♠xf5+ I was

planning this if she played Rf6.

34.g4 fxg4 35.f5 cxd4 36. ♖xg4+ ♕e7 37.cxd4 ♖d8? She didn't have very much time when she played this move, so her defense in this position was not the best.

37... ♕f8 I think I was planning to play Ke3. 38. ♕e3

38. f6?? ♗d8 39. ♖xh6 ♖xf6+

38... ♗d8 39. ♕f4 ★ 39... ♗c6 40. ♖h1 I always have f6 ideas and I'm going to play Rc1 next in which black's position is way too passive.

38. f6+ gxf6

38... ♕f8 39. f7 I was planning to play this.

39. ♗xh6 ♕f8 40. ♗f5 ♕g8 41. ♖h7 ♗d6 42. ♗h6+ ♕f8 43. g7+ With promotion next move. **1-0**

Linden Lee 2260 - **Jason Wang** 2447 1-0

Denker 2022 (3),

D31: QGD,3.Nc3

After started my tournament with 2/2 against lower rated opponents,I was paired against the higher rated FM Jason Wang from Ohio in the third round.**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♕b4 4. ♗f3 dxc4 5.e3 b5 6.a4 c6** Already out of prep and not knowing the theory,I decide to go for energetic play.**7. ♗e5?!** An inaccuracy.Black can now hang onto his extra pawn with proper play.

7. ♕d2 is the main line,after which theory gives White a small edge after 7...a5

8. axb5 ♕xc3 9. ♕xc3 cxb5 10. b3 ♕b7 11. bxc4 b4 12. ♕b2+=

7... ♗f6 8. ♕e2 ♕b7 9. O-O a6 10. ♕f3 ♖b6 11. ♕d2 ♕e7 Here,I spent almost half an hour of my clock on my next move.**12. ♗e4**

12. axb5 cxb5 13. ♗xb5 was the crazy line I was calculating.13... ♖xb5 14. ♖a5 ♖b6 15. ♖a4+ ♗bd7 16. ♗xc4 ♖c7 If I decide to go all in with 17. ♖c5 ,Black can calmly refute it with 17... ♕xc5 18. ♕a5 ♖b8 19. ♕xb7 ♖xb7 20. dxc5 O-O 21. c6 ♖b5! And White comes out a piece down at the end of the sequence.22. ♖xb5 axb5 23. cxd7 bxc4 24. d8=♖ ♖axd8 25. ♕xd8 ♖xd8-+

12... ♗bd7?! My opponent gives me the opportunity to equalize from a worse position.

12... ♗xe4 13. ♕xe4 O-O 14. ♖c2 f5 15. ♕f3 ♕d6=+ White is under lots of pressure due to Black's extra pawn and dominance on the queenside.

13. axb5 axb5 14. ♖xa8+ ♕xa8 15. ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 16. b3 cxb3 17. ♖xb3 O-O The tide is turning in White's favor.Black retains his extra pawn,but his pieces are somewhat immobile,and his dark squares look vulnerable.**18. ♖a1!** Preventing Black from liberating his camp with ...c5,due to the hanging a8 bishop.**18... ♖c8 19. ♕b4 ♖c7?!** Objectively,Black had one last chance to free his position.However, the idea is extremely difficult to find.

19...c5! 20. dxc5 ♖c7!! Ignoring the recapture.Black has given up his extra pawn, White has a protected passer on c5,and the bishop on a8 is hanging,but Black is completely fine! Now that White's pawn is no longer on d4,his knight is unprotected,and the threat of Qxe5 means that White has nothing better than 21. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 22. ♕xa8 ♖xe5 23. ♖a3=

20. ♖c1 Putting pressure down the c-file.**20... ♕xb4 21. ♖xb4 ♗d7?** Black calculates that the pawn on c6 is poisoned,due to the subsequent pin on the c-file. However,he overlooks my reply: **22. ♗xc6! ♖h8** Sidestepping Ne7+ ideas.

23. ♖c2!! The only move that gives White any advantage.**23... ♗b8 24. d5 exd5**

25. ♗d4 Now,the idea behind Rc2 is clear. The knight calmly retreats to the cleared-out d4 square,where it defends my rook.**25... ♖d7 26. h3!** The best move in the position.It's a multipurpose move that clears out the h2 square to alleviate any back-rank issues while simultaneously threatening the Bg4 skewer.My c2 rook is taboo because any black rook move off the eighth rank is met with Qf8#

26... ♖d8?? Black crumbles under the pressure.

26... ♖e8 was the only move that did not immediately lose for Black.27. ♖e7 An annoying move,taking advantage of Black's back rank weaknesses.27... ♖d8! Another only move.28. ♖c7 Tying up Black's minor pieces.28... b4! It is necessary to sacrifice the b-pawn to deflect White's pieces from their posts,in order to free up Black's minor pieces.29. ♕e2 b3! Once again,the only move.

30. ♖xb3 ♕c6! Only move. 31. ♖d4 ♕d7! Only move. Black prepares a liberation with Rc8. White is still close to winning (+2) but Black hangs on by a thread.

27. ♖a5!! Now, no matter what Black does, I win a piece, as there's no adequate way to defend the a8 bishop. **27... ♖c6**

27... ♕b7 runs into 28. ♖c7!

28. ♖xc6 ♕xc6 29. ♖xc6! The final blow. Black cannot recapture because his own rook is hanging on d8. **29... ♖b8 30. ♖b6** Black resigned. **1-0**

Thomas Diep 1570 - **Joshua Rajadurai** 1652 0-1

Barber National Tournament of K-8 State Champions, Rancho Mirage, CA (5), 2022.08.01

D37: QGD, Hastings variation

Notes by Joshua Rajadurai. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗f6 4.♗f3 ♕e7 5.♕f4 c6**

6.e3 O-O 7.♚b3 ♚b6 As long as the pawns don't get isolated, black still has a fine

pawn structure. **8.♚xb6 axb6 9.cxd5 exd5** It would be a big mistake to take with

the c-pawn as it would isolate the doubled b-pawns. **10.♕d3 c5 11.O-O ♗c6**

12.♖fe1 ♕e6 13.♗e5 White should have played h3 before Ne5 because now

black improves the pawn structure after 13...Nh5, 14.Nc6. **13...♗h5 14.♗xc6 bxc6**

15.♕e5 cxd4 16.♕xd4 c5 17.♕e5 ♗f6 18.♕b5 ♖fc8 19.♖ed1 ♖a5 20.a4 ♖a7

21.h3 h6 22.♖d2 ♗e4 23.♖dd1 ♗xc3 24.bxc3 f6 25.♕g3 c4 26.♖d2 ♖f8

27.f3 ♕c5 28.♖f2 ♖e7 29.♖e1 ♕f7 30.♖f1 ♖xe3 31.♕d6+ ♖g8 Black could

have also played 31...Bd6, 32.Re3 Bf4 and maintained the pawn advantage.

32.♖xe3 ♕xe3 33.♖e2 ♕c5 34.♕xc5 bxc5 35.♖d2 ♖f8 36.a5 ♖e7 37.♖e2

♖d8 38.a6 ♕e8 39.♕xe8 ♖xe8 40.♖e3 ♖e7 41.♖f4 d4 42.a7 d3 43.♖f5 ♖f7

44.g4 g6+ 45.♖e4 ♖e6 46.f4 f5+ 47.♖f3 ♖d5 48.gxf5 gxf5 49.♖g3 This

move blunders the game as it allows black to get the a-pawn and moves white's

king outside the square of black's protected passed d-pawn. **49...♖c6 50.♖h4**

♖b7 51.♖h5 ♖xa7 52.♖xh6 ♖g8 53.♖b2 ♖h8+ 54.♖g6 ♖xh3 55.♖xf5 ♖e3

56.♖g6 ♖e2 57.♖xe2 dxe2 58.f5 e1=♚ 59.f6 ♚e8+ 60.♖g7 ♚e5 61.♖h7 ♚f5+

62.♖g7 ♚g5+ 63.♖f7 ♖b7 64.♖e6 ♚g6 65.♖e7 ♚e4+ 66.♖d6 ♚e8 67.♖d5

♖b6 0-1

Tim Radermacher 2120 - **John Readey** 2286 **1-0**

2022 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, Rancho Mirage, California (4), 2022.08.01

B07: Pirc, Bayonet (Mariotti) Attack

After an opening round loss against GM Tarjan I was coming off back-to-back victories as I entered this Round 4 match-up. My opponent was from Washington state - one of Minnesota's key competitors in our quest to finish in the Top 10. As it turned out, Washington finished in 8th place with 19.5 points, and Minnesota did accomplish its goal with a 10th place finish (18.5 points). **1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 g6 4.♕e2 ♕g7 5.h4** An interesting attempt to gain space and push for a decisive result. One of my goals for this tournament was less draws - and I am happy to report I finished the 6 rounds with 0 draws! **5...c5 6.dxc5 ♖a5 7.♕d2** Playing 7. Qd3 is another option. **7...♗xc5 8.h5 gxh5 9.♗h3 ♗g4** A somewhat natural continuation to pressure the soft spot at f2, open up the dangerous diagonal for the dark-squared bishop, and capitalize on the g4 hole which results from white's h-pawn sacrifice. However, the engines prefer 9...Nc6 and we will see why after white's aggressive follow up. **10.♗d5** The h-pawn sacrifice and focus on development have suddenly yielded white a +1 position according to the engines. The primary advantage of Nd5 is black's queen is now in tight quarters with only the d4 and c6 squares presently available to the queen...and both of those squares have potential for landing the queen in tactical traps. **10...♕e6 11.♕b4 ♗c8 12.♗xe7** Boom! Regains the pawn and blows apart black's pawn structure. Taking the knight is poison as black will either have to give up his queen or be checkmated after...13.Qd6+ Kf6, 14.Bc3+ Kg6, 15.Nf4+ Kg5, 16.Rh5 checkmate. **12...♗d7 13.♗f5** A weak move. White gives away most of his advantage. 13.Qd6 was fine..the knight did not have to move. **13...♕xf5 14.exf5 ♗c6 15.♗xd6 ♗xd6 16.♕xd6 ♕xb2 17.♖d1 O-O-O 18.♗g5 ♖he8 19.♕f1 ♖xe2 20.♕xe2 ♗d4+** Although this sequence of moves seems to get black back into the game..the enduring weakness of his king-side pawns proves ultimately to be too much to overcome. The h-pawn idea dating back to move 5 will yield a winning endgame for white. **21.♖xd4 ♕xd4 22.♕g3 ♗h6 23.♖xh5 ♗xf5 24.♗xf7 ♗xg3+ 25.fxg3 ♖d7 26.♖xh7** As seems to be the case all too often in endgames..the knight is problematic. While pinned...it controls key squares which restrict the black king's ability to approach. It also serves as both shield and support for the doubled pawn to quickly advance towards promotion. **26...♕c3 27.g4 b5 28.g5 b4 29.g6 ♖d2+ 30.♕f3 a5 31.g7 ♕xg7 32.♖xg7 ♖xc2 33.♗d6+** The pesky knight is once again disrupting black's plan to create his own passed pawn on the queen-side. **33...♕b8 34.♖b7+ ♕a8 35.♖b5 ♖xa2 36.♗c4 ♕a7 37.♖xa5+ ♖xa5 38.♗xa5 ♕b6 39.♗b3 ♕b5 40.♕e4 ♕c4 41.♗d4 1-0**

Northern Open Launches Another MN Chess Season

Labor Day Weekend has always represented the closing of summer, the beginning of a new school year, and the glorious renewal of the Minnesota chess calendar! This year the MSCA squeezed in a couple extra weeks of summer fun for its chess players by moving the Northern Open Chess Tournament back to mid-September. 97 players competed in 3 sections at the comfortable Roseville Skating Center. Winners included WIM Alice Lee in the Open Section, Nathan Kangas in the U1800, and Evan Anderson & Rishik Kondadadi in the U1200. Sarah Emmons and Jackson Wahl expertly handled TD duties.

For top finisher Alice Lee the tournament represented a warm-up for her participation in the US Women's Closed Championship which is being held in St. Louis in October. Alice was in excellent form. She finished 5-0 after masterly converting several drawish positions to wins. The Minnesota Chess Community wishes Alice the best of luck as she heads to St. Louis!!

Following is a recap of the top finishers in each of the Northern Open Tournament sections.

Open		Section		U1800		Section	
Place	Player	Rating	Points	Place	Player	Rating	Points
1	Alice Lee	2355	5.0	1	Nathan Kangas	1635	4.5
2-3	Okey Iwu	2228	4.0	2-3	Madhur Menghani	1528	4.0
	Josiah Jorenby	2101	4.0		Shrivatsa Malladi	1029	4.0

U1200		Section	
Place	Player	Rating	Points
1-2	Evan Anderson	1192P5	4.5
	Rishik Kondadai	952	4.5

STAT CORNER

This recurring feature in the MCJ is brought to you by MN Chess Hall of Fame Committee Member Joe Longen, who is the keeper of an impressive array of Minnesota chess history and statistics.

Leading Champions of the Winter Carnival / Winter Open during the Modern Era*

# Titles	Player	Years
8	Victor Adler	1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2012
4	Andrew Tang	2015, 2017, 2018 & 2019
4	Okey Iwu	2013, 2014, 2016 & 2020
3	Bill Murray	2000, 2006 & 2008
3	Alex Balandin	1995, 1997 & 2005
3	Sean Nagle	1998, 2000 & 2010
2	Robert Plunkett	2004 & 2008
2	Michael Yang	2007 & 2009
2	Ed Zelkind	1994 & 1999

* *Modern Era measured from 1992-2022. Tournament crosstables before 1992 are not available.*

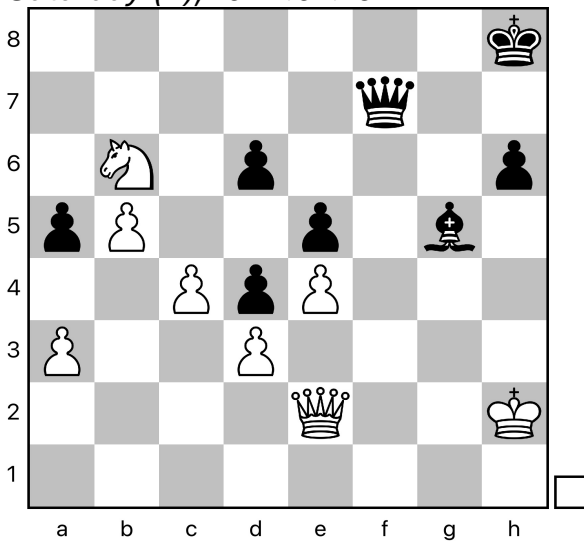
An interesting list! Note that from 2013-2020 Tang & Iwu split the 8 titles!

BILL'S ENDGAME CORNER

This editor originally met Bill Murray at Thursday Night Chess in the North Suburban Chess League back in 1981 when it used to meet at North Hennepin Community College. Over the last 40+ years that I have known Bill, it has been my observation that he has been a constant on the Minnesota chess scene and one of the most solid chess players I have encountered. In the last few years I have noticed Bill's unique talent for both getting into and succeeding with interesting endgames. This column features some of the interesting endgames Bill has encountered in recent chess events. Enjoy!

Wasserman - Murray 0-1

Saturday (2), 2022.07.16



With a faster time control neither player left enough time for the complex ending that transpired.**39. ♖d5** After some exchanges White puts his knight back on d4 where it controls things. Black is looking for endless checks as his only chance. Both players on increment.**39... ♜f4+ 40. ♔h3 ♜g5 41. ♔g2 ♜h4 42. ♚f3 ♚g6+ 43. ♔h3 ♜g5 44. ♚g4 ♚e8 45. ♖c7**

passed pawns must be pushed. A forced queen trade and the pawn would be unstoppable. 45. b6 ♚f8 46. ♚f5 ♚b8 47. ♔g4 Black has no moves. White's queen invades and it is over.

45... ♚f7 46. ♚c8+ ♔h7 47. ♚f5+?? it is unbelievable that it is equal.

47. ♔g2 ♚ wins as there are no checks and a queen trade is coming.

47... ♚xf5+ 48. exf5 e4 49. dxe4

49. b6 too late. 49... exd3 50. b7 d2 51. b8=♚ d1=♚ Black checks first and wins.

49... d3 Black is slightly better **50. ♖d5 d2 51. ♖c3 ♜f6 52. ♖d1 ♜d4 ★** the bishop finally gets to play. **53. ♔g4** Another one of those tricky endgame moves. This loses.

53. a4 the best move as we will see later.

53... ♔g7 we are back to equal.

53... a4 time for Black to play a4.

54. ♔f3? Black is slightly better.

54. a4=

54... h5 55. ♔e2?? h4 56. ♔f3 ♔f6 57. ♔g4 a4??

57... ♔e5 58. ♔xh4

58. ♔g5 h3 59. f6 ♔e6 60. ♔g6 ♜xf6 61. b6 h2 62. b7 h1=♚ 63. b8=♚

58... ♔xe4 59. f6

59. b6 ♜xb6 60. f6 ♜d8 61. ♔g5 ♔e5

59... ♜xf6+ 60. ♔g4 ♜d4

58. ♔xh4= ♜c5 59. ♔g4 ♜xa3 60. b6??

60. ♔f3= ♜c5+- White is winning

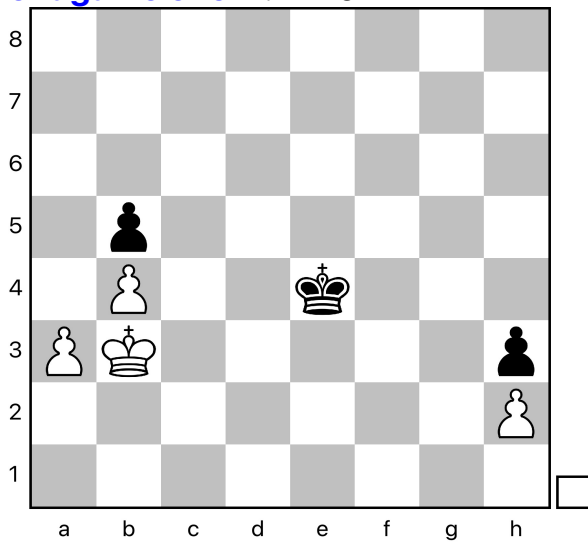
60... ♜b2= 61. ♔e2 a3 62. b6 d5 63. b7 ♜e5 64. ♖c3 dxc4 65. ♔xd2 ♔e7

66. ♔e3 ♔d7 67. b8=♚ ♜xb8 68. ♔d4=

61. ♔e2 a3 62. ♖c3 ♜d4 63. ♔xd2

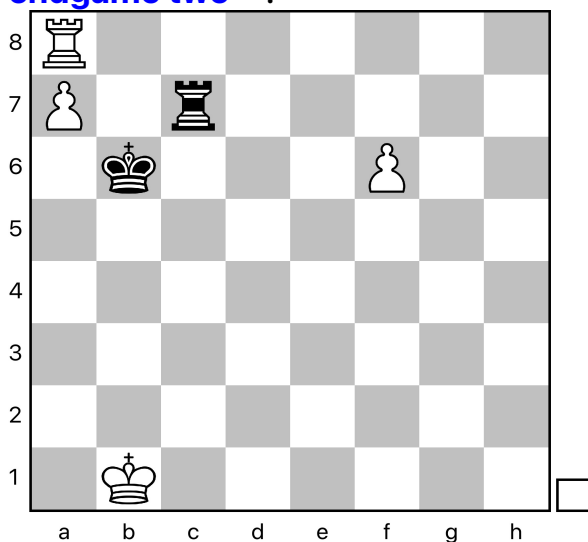
60... ♜c5 61. b7 ♜a7 62. ♔f3 a3 63. ♔e2 a2 0-1

endgame one - ? 1-0



[#] 1.a4 bxa4+ 2.♔a3 do not take the pawn.2...♔f3 3.b5 ♔g2 4.b6 ♔xh2 5.b7 ♔g1 6.b8=♚ h2 7.♚g3+ ♔h1 8.♔b4 a3 9.♚f2 a2 10.♚f1# 1-0

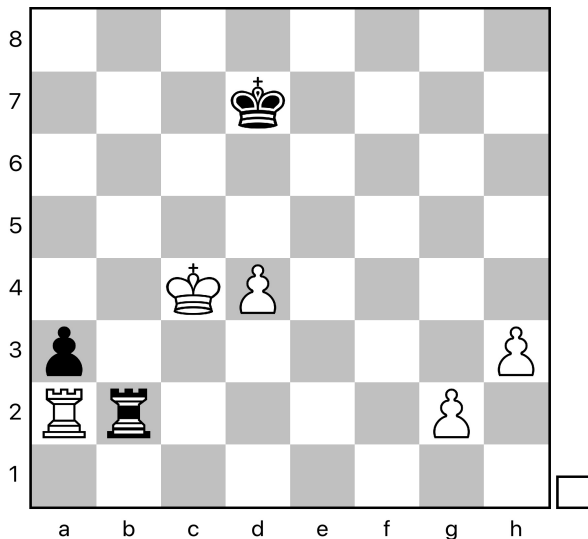
endgame two - ?



[#] 1.♖f8 ♔xa7 2.f7 White will check the King and Queen the pawn.Black can check a few times but then the King walks up the board.2...♖b7+ 3.♔c2 ♖c7+ 4.♔d3 ♖d7+ 5.♔e4 ♖e7+ 6.♔d5 ♖d7+ 7.♔e6 *

Zhou,Iris - Iwu,Okechukwu 1/2-1/2

Midwest Chess Congress,Des Moines,IA USA (3),2022.06.18



At the Midwest Chess Congress in Iowa this endgame appeared on a top board. It was late and I had finished my game was checking on NM Iwu who had beaten me earlier. To my eye I thought he was lost and it was just a matter of technique. But he never gives up without a fight. **56. ♖xa3 ♜xg2 57. ♕c5 ♜g6 58. h4** Now back to the game

58. ♖a7+ ♕d8 59. ♜h7 Normally you would want the Rook behind the h pawn but pinning the Black King to the edge of the board allows for mate issues in some variations. Restricting your opponents activity is just as important as being active yourself. **59... ♜g2 60. d5 ♜g6** The right idea if only the d pawn was left. The h pawn makes a difference. Black King well placed. **61. h4 ♕c8 62. h5 ♜f6 63. h6 ♜g6 64. d6 ♜g1 65. ♜c7+ ♕d8 66. h7 ♜c1+**

66... ♜h1 67. ♜a7

67. ♕d5 ♜d1+ 68. ♕e6 ♜e1+ 69. ♕f7 ♜f1+ 70. ♕g8 ♜g1+ 71. ♜g7

58... ♜h6 59. ♜h3 ♜h5+ 60. d5=

It does not matter to White which pawn Queens. **60. ♕c4 ♕d6 61. ♕d3 ♕d5 62. ♕e3 ♕d6 63. ♕f4 ♜d5 64. h5 ♜xd4+ 65. ♕f5 ♕e7 66. h6 ♜d8 67. h7 ♜h8 68. ♕g6**

60... ♕c7 61. ♜g3 Forced to give up the h pawn and a technical draw appears.

61... ♜xh4 62. ♜g7+ ♕d8 63. ♕c6 ♜c4+ 64. ♕d6 ♕c8 65. ♜g8+ ♕b7 66. ♕d7 ♜c7+ 67. ♕e6 ♜h7 68. ♜f8 ♜h6+ 69. ♜f6 ♜h1 70. ♕e7 ♜d1 71. d6 ♕c6 72. ♜e6 ♜d2 73. ♜e3 ♜h2 As noted above. **74. ♜c3+ ♕b7 75. ♜c4 ♜h7+ 76. ♕e8 ♜h8+ 77. ♕f7 ♜h7+ 78. ♕f6 ♜h6+ 79. ♕e5 ♜h5+ 80. ♕d4 ♜h4+** Agreed drawn. 1/2-1/2

Only in Chess...

By Joe Longen

1965-1966 TWIN CITY HIGH SCHOOL CHESS LEAGUE RESULTS:

WEST DIVISION LEADERS

TEAM	TOTAL MATCH RECORD	TOTAL GAMES
WASHBURN	6.5 - 0.5	31.0
ROBBINSDALE	6.5 - 0.5	27.5

EAST DIVISION LEADERS

TEAM	TOTAL MATCH RECORD	TOTAL GAMES
CRETIN	5.0 - 1.0	22.0
HIGHLAND PARK	4.5 - 1.5	19.0
ALEX RAMSEY	4.0 - 2.0	16.0

Top two from each division advance to the playoffs.

First round of the playoffs:

Cretin 3 - Ramsey 2

Washburn 4 - Robbinsdale 1

[I was like you; what happened to Highland Park?](#)

The crosstable of the results shows Highland Park in second place and losing a match against Cretin by 5-0 with an asterisk on forfeit. Why? Hold on to your hats for this explanation in the Jan-Feb 1966 Minnesota Chess Journal.

- * The Highland Park team actually played the match, winning 3-2. However, a player was used who had been absent from school that day. According to the school's athletic policy such a player is ineligible. Therefore, the school administration declared the match forfeited 5-0, withdrew the team from the Playoffs, and dissolved the chess club! Who knew the power of one missed day of school!

Top 20 Active MN Players by Over-the-Board USCF Rating as of October 1, 2022

Rank	Player	Rating
1	Wesley So - GM	2845
2	Andrew Tang - GM	2625
3	Sean Nagle - IM	2514
4	Samrug Narayanan - FM	2419
5	Alice Lee - WIM & FM	2373
6	Kevin Wasiluk - FM	2352
7	Andrew Titus - NM	2320
8	Ashton Jin - NM	2308
9	Linden Lee - NM	2263
10	Leonard Johnson - FM	2262
11	Matthew Jensen - NM	2244
12	Okey Iwu - NM	2243
13	Joseph Truelson - NM	2239
14	Jackson Wahl - NM	2237
15	Dexter Thompson - NM	2200
16	Kyler Weatherspoon - NM	2191
17	Ethan Hunt - NM	2185
18	Andrew Sheehan	2173
19	Tim Radermacher - NM	2139
20	Troy Cavanah - NM	2137

2022/2023 MSCA Event Calendar

Date	Event	Site	Status
February 25-27	Minnesota Open	Plymouth Crowne Plaza	Complete
March 11	TCCL Round #5	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
March 12-13	State Scholastics	University of St. Thomas	Complete
March 26-27	State Scholastic Playoffs	Castle Chess Club	Complete
April 2	Haring Qualifier	Castle Chess Club	Complete
April 8	TCCL Round #6	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
April 22-24	State Champ. Playoff	Plymouth Crowne Plaza	Complete
May 6	TCCL Round #7	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
June 25-26	US Amateur North	Bloomington Cambria	Complete
July 9-10	Rochester Open*	Mayo Civic Center	Complete
July 22-24	Catfish Days*	Franklin Community Ctr.	Complete
August 13	State Blitz Championship	Plymouth Community Ctr	Complete
September 17-18	Northern Open	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
October 14	TCCL Round #1	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
October 22-23	Senior State Champ.	Castle Chess Club	Scheduled
November 12-13	Class Championships	Castle Chess Club	Scheduled
November 18	TCCL Round #2	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
December 9	TCCL Round #3	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
December 17-18	Hall of Fame Classic	Castle Chess Club	Scheduled
January 13, 2023	TCCL Round #4	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
January 21-22, 2023	Winter Open	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
February 10-12, 2023	Minnesota Open	Plymouth Crowne Plaza	Scheduled
February 17, 2023	TCCL Round #5	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
March 4-5, 2023	State Scholastics	University of St. Thomas	Scheduled
March 10, 2023	TCCL Round #6	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
March 18-19, 2023	State Scholastic Playoffs	TBD	Scheduled
March 24-26, 2023	State Champ. Playoff	TBD	Scheduled
April 7, 2023	TCCL Round #7	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled

*Sponsored by local chess organization; not an MSCA event

A bit about the Minnesota Chess Journal History.

George Tiers was a long-time Minnesota chess player, organizer, TD, board member, editor, and archiver. George is of course in our Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame to recognize the immense contributions he made to the growth and success of chess in Minnesota over a period of about 7 decades.

*George recently passed away and several of us connected with his son Jerrold at the Tiers family home in St. Paul to receive generous donations of Minnesota Chess History. Among the many items George donated for display in the eventual permanent home of our Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame are **ALL** of the editions of the Minnesota Chess Journal from its inception in 1964 to its temporary sunset in 2011.*

This team of editors is very proud to honor George's legacy by reinvigorating the Minnesota Chess Journal with this our 5th "MCJ" digital publication.

From your Minnesota Chess Journal Team:

*Tim Radermacher - Lead Editor
Joe Longen - History Reporter
Nels Truelson - TCCL Reporter
Ethan Hunt - Club Reporter*