

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 as such, awards the official Minnesota State Champion Titles as recognized by the USCF.

Current Minnesota State Champions

Open: Sean Nagle
 Senior: Dan Voje (2020)
 Blitz: Jackson Wahl
 K-12: Samrug Narayanan
 K-8: Alice Lee
 K-5: Ahmed Ilyasov
 GK-12: Nastassja Matus

MSCA Board of Directors

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Nagle wins 10th MN State Championship!!

Sean Nagle secured a last round draw with Frank Johnson to win the 2021 Minnesota State Championship with 4.0/5.0 points. Johnson and Ashton Jin tied for second with 3.5 points. Similar to the 2020 Championship (also won by Nagle) the event was filled with master-level “fighting chess” as there were only 3 draws in the 15 games played.

Johnson bolted out of the gate with wins in his first three games. That set-up a critical fourth round match with the surging Ashton Jin (2-1 at that point) who was playing in his 4th consecutive state championship. Jin knew he needed a decisive result with the white pieces against Johnson and chose to sacrifice a piece for pawns plus space/initiative. Although Jin’s attack eventually fizzled out, a blunder by Johnson in the unbalanced endgame allowed Jin to secure the win and pull even with Johnson at 3 points heading into the final round. Nagle had thus far only given up a round two draw to Okey Iwu and was leading with 3.5 points entering the last round.

Jin drew with Tim Radermacher in round 5 which made it clear the Nagle-Johnson game would decide the championship. Nagle had the white pieces and only needed a draw. That combination proved too much of a hill for Johnson to climb and when the draw was agreed Nagle had his 10th State Championship.



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:

To be announced
at the MN OPEN
in February 2022.

Congratulations to Sean Nagle who becomes the 4th player in Minnesota chess history to have reached double digits in State Championships. Sean joins Curt Brasket (16), Victor Adler (11), and George Barnes (11). Sean entered the play-offs with an astonishing .766 lifetime winning percentage in state championships. That stat only improved as Sean finished with an 80% result (4/5 points).

It is noteworthy that Troy Cavanah was playing in his first state championship at the age of 14! While Troy scored just 1 point this year...we can all be sure that more play-off appearances and points are in store for Troy in future years.

Radermacher played in his first state championship in 1984 and this marked the 12th time he qualified for the play-offs. The 37-year span between the 1984 (first) and 2021 (most recent) play-off appearance is second only to Curt Brasket who experienced a 38-year span.

All of the games from the play-offs are available for viewing [here](#) on lichess.

Following is a round-by-round synopsis provided by Minnesota chess historian and superfan Joe Longen who was present for most of the play-off action. Many thanks to Joe for contributing this play-by-play article.

Round 1:

Iwu v Johnson started out with a Colle-like system. Iwu managed to build up some pressure by planting a bishop on d5 and pushing e5 after Frankie's strong f5 move. Eventually, showing great patience, Frankie sacrificed the exchange and won with a direct attack.

Radermacher surprised Cavanah with an English Opening which was quickly countered by Cavanah with a Keres-like system. The action was slow but steady. When Troy finally managed to play d5 he was met by d4!, forcing an isolated d pawn. Tim's pressure mounted, Troy gave up the weak d pawn for active play. Being down a pawn in the rook endgame was tough and Troy put up great resistance, but Tim's technique proved too much.

Nagle v Jin was a solid double QP set-up which led to Sean placing a knight on e5 along with his queen to a3 and pressure on the b-file. Later on Sean gained the two bishop vs. two knights middle game edge. After 22 moves the time on the clocks was even. Sean's queen started to invade. Each move seemed to cause a new pressure. Yet Jin fought tough. He countered with sound tactics. Sean was not to be denied and earned the win.

Round 2:

Nagle fell behind Iwu with the white pieces in this game and seemed to be in some rare trouble - but managed to draw.

Johnson v Radermacher saw Frank putting up pressure early from the white side of a Philidor. In the Minnesota Open both players played this same opening in the last round with a draw result. This time Johnson played excellent chess to secure the full point.

Round 3:

Radermacher essayed a rare e4 and Nagle countered with an equally rare ...c6. A Caro-Kann! The queens left the board early. The rooks and minor piece endgame presented each player with problems. Some spectators may have thought this endgame would lead to a draw. With great patience and skill, Nagle overcame Radermacher for the point.

Johnson v Cavanah continued their Sicilian debate with another sharp line. Then, Frank forced the action with an offer of his knight at a5. In return his queen would invade the kingside. Troy did not accept the piece sacrifice and later the pressure was too much. Frankie wins again to start 3-0!

Jin v Iwu featured a solid opening with Jin building up a strong central pawn formation (e5, d4, e3) and putting his two rooks and queen on the semi-open f-file. With this much pressure it is reasonable to seek compensation and Iwu captured a wayward pawn (...Qxa4). In the meantime, Jin placed his opposite-colored bishop on d3 and queen on h6. The pressure on Iwu's king was immense. Tough to defend was Ashton's super move Rf6!! Win for Ashton.

Round 4:

Cavanah v Nagle featured a tough game played by Troy despite his 0-3 start to the championship. Even as this queen and rook endgame was going on Sean had two passed pawns on e4 and d4. It looked bad. However, Troy created as many roadblocks and counters as possible. Nagle remained calm and accurate and overcame the tactics. Nagle wins.

Iwu v Radermacher featured a positional struggle that transitioned into a piece sacrifice by Radermacher for a promising king-side attack. Iwu's position after 28 moves had both bishops on their original squares after each of the bishops had moved several times! At one moment in the game heavy pieces occupied the diagonal from c7-g3. Very artistic! Soon Radermacher "sacked" a piece. Pressure mounted as time dwindled. When Iwu was within one good move of holding off the attack Radermacher's queen found a way to get through the defenses and force a win.

Jin v Johnson was a slugfest from the start of their Kings Indian. Both players went all out! An endgame was reached with Jin having three pawns for his sacrificed piece. A few moves later Jin looked in trouble. His king was boxed in and under heavy stress. A draw could be forced by Johnson. Then he played a move....Bb5, that looked decisive. However, Jin countered by f8=Q+, Rxf8, R(b)e6+ winning the rook and soon the game. A tough loss for Johnson as this was his only measurable inaccuracy of the tournament!

Round 5:

As the last round is upon us, Cooper High School dominates! Three chess players are in the room who graduated from Cooper High School (Frankie Johnson, Tim Radermacher and Joe Longen).

Cavanah v Iwu had Cavanah playing the white places and placing his knights on c3 and e2. Soon Iwu takes on a doubled f-pawn. Troy took on an isolated pawn in return for serious king-side attacking chances. The attack was growing. And growing. Soon there was nothing left to stop the attack. Point Cavanah. Troy's first of what will likely be many points scored in the MN State Championship Play-Offs.

Jin v Radermacher held championship considerations as Jin was in the running for a first place tie if he could finish with this fourth consecutive victory. Ashton played a newer line against Tim's English. 2....Bb4 followed by an unprovoked taking of the knight. 3.....Bxc3. That led to a dynamic and double-edge position. It looked really dangerous when Ashton had a pawn center of (f5, e4, d5). Tim countered with aggressive queenside play and neutralized the pressure. Finally, in a position in which both players had reservations about their positions, Jin offered a draw. Result draw.

Nagle v Johnson...Sean only needs a draw; Frankie needs a win. The game goes from an English opening into a Kings Indian. Many exchanges occur and Frankie gains control of the e-file, yet no point of entry can be gained into Nagle's solid formation. Sean remains calm. Frankie continues to push the small edge. Sean remains calm. Eventually, Frankie offers a draw. Draw accepted.

Sean Nagle wins his 10th state title! Simply amazing. These games were some of the most fighting chess I have seen in my time of watching games from the closed championship. *Reporting by Joe Longen.*

A special thanks to Dane Zagar for directing this event.

2021 Minnesota State Championship Play-Offs: September 24-26, 2021 @ Plymouth Crowne Plaza

<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	S. Nagle	2523	4.0	W3	D6	W4	W5	D2
2-3	F. Johnson	2351	3.5	W6	W4	W5	L3	D1
	A. Jin	2242	3.5	L1	W5	W6	W2	D4
4	T. Radermacher	2109	2.5	W5	L2	L1	W6	D3
5	T. Cavanah	2202	1.0	L4	L3	L2	L1	W6
6	O. Iwu	2214	0.5	L2	D1	L3	L4	L5

Linden Lee & Okey Iwu share Top Prize at Castle's June Fide Event

This was a very strong tournament featuring 6 masters and an average USCF Rating of 2040 among the 17 participants in the Premier Section. Linden Lee and Okey Iwu came out on top with undefeated performances that netted 4.0/5.0 points. Both drew with Andrew Titus who also had a 1st round draw with Eddie Wasserman. Lee's performance was stellar as he had wins against Masters Troy Cavanah and Alex Richter in addition to the draw with Titus. The stand-out performance of the tournament was Bill Murray (3.5/5.0 pts) who shared 3rd place with Titus by finishing with 3 consecutive wins...including a brilliant 4th round victory over Alice Lee. Murray's performance zoomed his rating up 51 points!! Right behind Murray with 3.0/5.0 pts and a fantastic 50 point rating gain was Wasserman.

Dane Zagar directed this well attended event. In the reserve section strong new player Benjamin Vanorny dominated and took home top prize with 4.5/5.0 points.

2021 FIDE Event Premier Section: Held June 26-27, 2021 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1-2	Okey Iwu	2223	4.0	W4	D7	D3	W12	W6
	Linden Lee	2204	4.0	W15	W14	W13	D6	D3
3-4	Andrew Titus	2335	3.5	D6	W17	D1	W7	D2
	Bill Murray	1900	3.5	L1	D10	W17	W8	W12
5-7	Dane Zagar	2045	3.0	W11	H-	H-	H-	H-
	E. Wasserman	1991	3.0	D3	W9	W8	D2	L1
	Daniel Deutsch	2022	3.0	W12	D1	H-	L3	W11
8	Alice Lee	2214	2.5	W10	D13	L6	L4	W15
9-12	S. Konezny	1975	2.0	L13	L6	D15	D10	W17
	Michael Muff	1900	2.0	L8	D4	L11	D9	W16
	T. Olofinboba	1852	2.0	L5	D16	W10	D14	L7
	Jay Chaudhary	1810	2.0	L7	W15	W14	L1	L4
13-15	Alex Richter	2326	1.5	W9	D8	L2	--	--
	Troy Cavanah	2196	1.5	W16	L2	L12	D11	--
	Elijah Tramm	1875	1.5	L2	L12	D9	W16	L8
16-17	Barry Lazarus	1919	1.0	L14	D11	H-	L15	L10
	Eric Gahlon	1884	1.0	H-	L3	L4	H-	L9

Dan Voje Repeats as Minnesota's Senior Champion

When it comes to the Minnesota Senior Championship you can always count on Dan Voje to play his best chess. This year was more of the same as Dan, the defending champion from October 2019, was finally able to successfully defend his title in July 2021 when the long-delayed 2020 Championship was conducted at the Castle Chess Club.

There was an excellent showing for this event as 17 seniors (must be age 50+) competed. This was a tournament of "fighting chess" as there were only 4 draws in the 32 total games. Mr. Voje can chalk his championship up to strong endgame play. In round 3 he held a draw against Nathan Hoover with a rook against a knight and 2 pawns. Then in round 4 he beat Tim Radermacher in a rook/pawn endgame. Dan finished with 3.5/4.0 points and clear 1st!

There was a pile up for 2nd place as five players finished with 3.0/4.0 points. An excellent performance was turned in by Paul Kinion of Rochester. Paul was seeded 15th of the 17th players yet managed to win 3 games, gained 201 rating points, and tied for 2nd place!

Many thanks to Dane Zagar for directing this event.

Results from Lee Side Event held during the Minnesota Senior Championship

This 6-person tournament was held at the Castle Chess Club at the same time as the Minnesota Senior Championship. It featured several of Minnesota's top young talents. Andrew Titus took 1st place with 3.0/4.0 points. Andrew bounced back from a first round loss to John Talghader. Talghader continued his recent run of excellent chess (his rating is now up to 2146) and was on the cusp of winning the event from the 4th seed position until Alice Lee derailed his generally reliable Benko Gambit in Round 4. Alice Lee, John Talghader, and Dane Zagar tied for 2nd place with 2.5/4.0 points.

Dan Voje Directs & Wins Catfish Days Tournament in Franklin, MN

Dan Voje rejuvenated the traditional Catfish Days Chess Tournament in Franklin by both directing and winning the event! Dan continued his summer of strong play by scoring 6.5/7.0 points. Only long-time rival Bill Murray was able to nick Dan with a 7th round draw. Nate Hoover helped out as Assistant TD and also claimed 2nd prize with 6.0/7.0 points. Andres Hortillosa came third with 5.0/7.0 points.

The tournament was a success with 22 participants and Dan's efficient TD'ing.

Ashton Jin wins Castle's August FIDE Event

This was a very strong tournament featuring 5 masters and an average USCF Rating of 2002 among the 19 participants. Ashton Jin took 1st prize with 4.5/5.0 points. This pushed Ashton's rating up to 2244 powered by 4 victories and one draw with the always tough Alice Lee. Well done Ashton!

2021 FIDE Event Premier Section: Held August 7-8, 2021 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

<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	Ashton Jin	2222	4.5	W12	D3	W9	W2	W6
2-4	Linden Lee	2205	3.5	W18	W5	D3	L1	W8
	Alice Lee	2212	3.5	W7	D1	D2	W13	D5
	Aditya Gupta	2190	3.5	W7	D1	W8	H	H
5-7	Okey Iwu	2216	3.0	W16	L2	D13	W9	D3
	Dane Zagar	2099	3.0	H	W10	H	W12	L1
	Bill Murray	1903	3.0	L3	D11	H-	W14	W12
8-11	Troy Cavanah	2180	2.5	D10	L4	W17	W11	L2
	Charles Wynn	2073	2.5	D14	W17	L1	L5	W13
	Mike Schecter	1894	2.5	D8	L6	L11	W16	W14
	Jay Chaudhary	1855	2.5	L4	D7	W10	L8	W16
12-13	E. Wasserman	1917	2.0	L1	W18	W16	L6	L7
	I. Wijetunge	1808	2.0	W19	H	D5	L3	L9
14	Samarth Ram	1782	1.5	D9	L16	W18	L7	L10
15-17	Daniel Deutsch	2021	1.0	U	U	U	U	W17
	Jordan Timm	2001	1.0	L5	W14	L12	L10	L11
	Eric Gahlon	1797	1.0	H	L9	L8	H	L15
18-19	A. Hortillosa	1960	0.0	L2	L12	L14	U	U
	Vihaan Pendse	1702	0.0	L13	U	U	U	U

IM Erik Santarius Dominates 2021 MN Masters FIDE Invitational

Article submitted by Andrew Titus

The Minnesota Masters FIDE Invitational was held from August 10th through 15th at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth. The Minnesota Masters is usually a five-round weekend invitational tournament, and this is the first edition held as a 10-player Round Robin across 6 days. The tournament was originally planned to be played along with the 3rd Minnesota GM Norm Tournament, but due to technical reasons, the GM event had to be cancelled. The show went on for the MN Masters, which sported a strong playing field with average ratings of 2247 USCF and 2101 FIDE, and included 3 players from Wisconsin, 1 player from Illinois, and 1 player from Canada.

IM Erik Santarius (FIDE 2367) of Wisconsin entered the tournament as a 200 FIDE rating point favorite. This is Santarius's second time playing in the Minnesota Masters. While Santarius led the tournament from start to finish, the road to victory was not easy as NM Troy Cavanah, NM Nicholas Ladan, and WCM Alice Lee all appeared to have Santarius in a bit of trouble. Cavanah and Ladan were able to secure draws, with Santarius playing two quick draws against FM Alex Betaneli and NM Andrew Titus en route to a dominating 7.0 points, a full point ahead of his nearest competitor.

NM Andrew Titus (FIDE 2143) finished in clear 2nd with 6.0 points. After an early loss to NM Oke Iwu, Titus notched 3 wins in a row from rounds 5 to 7 to leap back into tournament contention. FM Alex Betaneli (FIDE 2187) of Wisconsin finished in clear 3rd with 5.5 points. Betaneli and Santarius were the only two players to finish the tournament undefeated, as Betaneli drew 7 of his 9 games. These games were not without a fight, however, as Betaneli's first round draw against NM Ashton Jin lasted 150 moves and his win against WCM Alice Lee lasted 109 moves. Additionally, Betaneli pressed for hours in his last round game against Canadian NM Isaac Wiebe. NM Troy Cavanah (FIDE 2006) had an excellent tournament and finished in clear 4th with 5.0 points. Despite entering the tournament as one of the lower rated players, Cavanah scored 4 wins against WCM Alice Lee, NM Ashton Jin, Susanna Ulrich of Wisconsin, and NM Isaac Wiebe.

Special thanks to IA David Kuhns for directing the tournament. Additionally, thanks to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Chess Club, Andrew Titus, James Titus, and Patrick Tang for helping organize the event. Finally, thanks to the Wayzata High School Chess Club and Jiten Patel for their additional support throughout the event.

MinnesotaMasters FIDE Invitational: August 10-15, 2021: Plymouth Crowne Plaza Hotel

Place	Name	Rating	Total	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9
1	Erik Santarius	2428	7.0	W7	D4	W6	W5	D3	W8	W10	D9	D2
2	Andrew Titus	2329	6.0	W4	D6	L5	D3	W8	W10	W9	D7	D1
3	Alex Betaneli	2304	5.5	D8	W10	D9	D2	D1	D4	W6	D5	D7
4	Troy Cavanah	2162	5.0	L2	D1	W7	W6	L5	D3	W8	W10	L9
5	Okey Iwu	2209	4.5	D10	D9	W2	L1	W4	L6	W7	D3	L8
6-7	Alice Lee	2217	4.0	W9	D2	L1	L4	W7	W5	L3	L8	D10
	Isaac Wiebe	2173	4.0	L1	W8	L4	W10	L6	W9	L5	D2	D3
8-9	Ashton Jin	2244	3.5	D3	L7	D10	D9	L2	L1	L4	W6	W5
	Nicholas Ladan	2240	3.5	L6	D5	D3	D8	D10	L7	L2	D1	W4
10	Susanna Ulrich	2160	2.0	D5	L3	D8	L7	D9	L2	L1	L4	D6

Over-the-Board Scholastic Chess Returns to Minnesota

Article submitted by Andrew Titus

March 7th-8th, 2020. That's the date of the last over-the-board scholastic chess tournament in Minnesota since the start of the pandemic. Just one week later, the whole country shut down and we began a period where all over-the-board tournaments were nonexistent. While over-the-board chess has returned in the last few months, most scholastic tournaments across the country have remained online.

One and a half years later, on August 14th and 15th, over-the-board scholastic chess returned with the Wayzata Chess Actions. The tournament was split across two days to allow for more social distancing, with the older kids playing on Saturday.

The K-12 section had a strong field with several players rated above 1500. US Chess Expert Ethan Li entered the tournament as the top seed but lost to David Schabert in the fourth round. While Schabert may have been lower rated by US Chess, he boasts an online rating of 2500 on lichess. In the last round, Schabert just needed a draw to clinch clear first. However, after declining a draw against Ben Vanorny, and then losing, Schabert had to settle for a three-way tie for first with Li and Vanorny with 4.0 points. Vanorny took first on tiebreaks. Wayzata High School took top team honors.

In the K-8 section, Harrison Stage led from start to finish with 4.5 points out of 5 games after a last round draw against 3rd grader Katie Lu. Joshua Rajadurai was clear second with 4.0 points and Katie Lu took clear third with 3.5 points. Nicollet Middle School took top team honors.

On Sunday, Minnesota's Rockefeller representative Ahmed Ilyasov cruised to 5.0 points out of 6 games, only losing his last round game against Tony Cheng when the tournament was out of reach. Aarti Kannan came in clear second with 4.5 points, while Cheng and Katie Lu tied for third with 4.0 points.

Thanks to James Titus and the Wayzata Chess Club for organizing this event, and thanks to Jiten Patel for directing. Hopefully we will be able to see more over-the-board opportunities for scholastic players in the near future!

Minnesota Scholastic Players Excel at North American Youth Championships in Chicago

Minnesota's scholastic players had an outstanding performance at the North American Youth Championships held in Chicago in mid-August. Samrug Narayanan tied for 2nd in the U18 open section with 6.5/9.0 points and became a FIDE Master (FM). 11-year old Alice Lee won the Girls U18 with 7.5/9.0 and became the youngest ever Women's International Master!! Alice had to win her last 5 games to accomplish this victory & title. Linden Lee also scored well with 6.0/9.0 to finish in 5th place in the U16 open section. Other Minnesota scholastic players included Troy Cavanah with 5.5/9.0 in the U14, Nastassja Matus with 5.0/9.0 in the Girls U18, and Ashton Jin with 4.5/9.0 in the U18 open section.

Minnesota has a history of scholastic chess excellence at the national level and it is wonderful to see our next generation of talent continuing the tradition - and taking MNCHES success to a whole new level!

*** Update *** Shortly after this event Alice Lee also won the FIDE Online Rapid World Cup Cadets and Youth in the girls U12 section. This is Alice's 3rd world title, after winning two gold medals from World Cadet Championships in 2019 (girls U10 section) and in 2020 (girls U12 section). Congratulations Alice!!

Jin & Talghader Share Northern Open Title

MSCA Over-the-Board chess returned at the Northern Open held Labor Day Weekend at the Roseville Skating Center. This represented the first over-the-board MSCA chess tournament since the 2020 Minnesota Open...a span of 560 days!! The event was well attended and expertly directed by Jackson Wahl and his supporting TDs. There were 65 players in total competing in three sections.

Ashton Jin & John Talghader shared 1st prize by both going undefeated with 4.0/5.0 points. The Open section presented excellent competition as 14 of the 24 players were masters/experts. Jin continued with his strong finish to the summer chess season and now has his rating up to 2262 after the recent State Championship Play-Offs. Talghader took a half point bye on Saturday night and drew with Jin in the last round to continue his streak of excellent chess. Talghader beat this editor in the 1st round of the 2020 Minnesota Open and I noticed a step-change in his chess. That momentum has continued and he has now emerged as one of Minnesota's elite scholastic players with a rating of 2146. Jackson Wahl, Dane Zagar, and Charles Wynn were just off the pace scoring 3.5/5.0 points to tie for 3rd-5th place.

Results in Other Northern Open Sections

Harry Breheim was the surprise winner of the U1900 section with 4.5/5.0 points. Harry entered the event rated 1474 and then walked out the door with 1st prize and a rating of 1623!! An astonishing 149 rating point gain as the reward for his excellent performance. Top-seeded Ivan Wijetunge was clear second with 4.0/5.0 points as he was unable to overcome a first round draw with Nathaniel Pesklo and then also drew with Breheim in the third round. In the U1400 section Gurulakshmi Kaliappan and Luke Schroeder tied for 1st prize with 4.5/5.0 points, outclassing the field by a full 1.5 points.

2021 Northern Open Top Section: Held September 4-5, 2021 @ Roseville Skating Center

<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	A. Jin	2230	4.0	W17	D4	W7	W12	D2
	John Talghader	2126	4.0	W24	W15	H	W4	D1
3-5	Jackson Wahl	2243	3.5	W9	D7	D12	W14	D6
	Dane Zagar	2041	3.5	W21	D1	W6	L2	W13
	Charles Wynn	2061	3.5	L15	W24	D10	W20	W12
6-11	Okey Iwu	2217	3.0	W19	D14	L4	W9	D3
	Nastassja Matus	2091	3.0	W18	D3	L1	W19	D8
	Daniel Deutsch	2037	3.0	W16	L12	W11	D13	D7
	Dan Voje	2003	3.0	L3	W18	W15	L6	W17
	Yuval Shemesh	1989	3.0	W22	D13	D5	H	D14
	Cub Noble	1900	3.0	L13	W16	L8	W22	W19
12-16	Ethan Hunt	2214	2.5	W20	W8	D3	L1	L5
	Nels Truelson	2200	2.5	W11	D10	D14	D8	L4
	T. Radermacher	2110	2.5	W23	D6	D13	L3	D10
	A. Ladhani	1770	2.5	W5	L2	L9	D16	B
	Alan Xu	1502	2.5	L8	L11	B	D15	W21
17-18	David McNeil	2037	2.0	L1	H	H	W21	L9
	Kevin Gaustad	1821	2.0	L7	L9	L19	x23	W22
19-21	E. Wasserman	1932	1.5	L6	D23	W18	L7	L11
	William Murray	1927	1.5	L12	D21	W22	L5	U
	Eric Gahlon	1781	1.5	L4	D20	W23	L17	L16

22	A. T. Kandalam	1126	1.0	L10	B	L20	L11	L18
23	A. Thiagarajan	1864	0.5	L14	D19	L21	F18	U
24	Jay Chaudhary	1884	0.0	L2	L5	U	U	U

TCCL's 2021 Online Resurrection

by Nels Truelson

Along with chess clubs and tournaments, the Twin Cities Chess League has long served as one of the three main pillars constituting organized chess activity in the state of Minnesota. Now in the seventh decade of operation, its vital role in maintaining continuity of chess-playing opportunities has never been so accentuated as during the current pandemic. Fitting snugly between the more rigid structure of tournament chess, where USCF or FIDE rules may dominate, and the more casual atmosphere of chess clubs, with their inherent social connection, the League has provided important elements of both these counterparts. While it offers competitive play and potential prizes, both team and individual, the League's environment is both more informal and less demanding. The annual Minnesota State Open event is well known for bringing otherwise inactive players "out of the woodwork," to re-connect with old friends and make some new. However, not everyone is able or inclined to participate in the grueling three-day schedule that is part of determining such state-wide titles. The League, on the other hand, with its team format, flexible substitution rules, and one-night-per-month schedule, is a burden to few, resulting in the greatest intergenerational mixing of chess players in the state. I myself am a former director and participant in the League dating back to 1967, and I continue to make the trip from South Dakota largely for these same reasons. Many a Minnesota chess icon has participated in the League long after giving up on tournament chess and right up to the year of his passing. Hey, that could be me some day. When my time comes, I can think of worse ways to check out.

It was therefore with the greatest concern that I witnessed the pandemic's disruption of the 2019-2020 TCCL season, with the final two matches being unceremoniously cancelled. There are still some unresolved issues with respect to the implied promise to the paid participants to somehow make an attempt to finalize standings and grant recognition for fine performances to those deserving of it. However, this article will not further address such past matters. Instead, after the inability to resume the in-person League last fall, I am now only grateful to the organizers who conceived and implemented its online resurrection from March to September of this year.

Allow me to be clear on one point. I do not believe that an online League should or even can adequately replace the face-to-face version. A recent poll of Minnesota chess players taken by Tim Radermacher seems to indicate that I am widely supported in this belief. In addition to the social factors cited above, and the enhanced experience of competing “up close and personal,” there are and inevitably always will be logistical problems associated with getting sometimes unidentified players possessing different hardware and software of different reliability to simultaneously come together at an appointed time and engage in a game of chess according to a set of rules and conditions not preset beforehand. Couple that with the difficulty of a team event, where the uncertainty of whether one game is even going forward may adversely affect the results on other boards.

This year’s online League included all of these scenarios going south at some point. There were computer crashes during games; there were misidentifications of opponents with the resulting failures to connect; there were mistakes in the appropriate color choice; and there were many, many miscommunications between the players and the respective team captains. In a particular case, one of my teammate’s opponents, who was tasked with making the challenge, inadvertently left out the 15 second time increment in his settings. My teammate only discovered this when he was down to a couple of minutes left in what I later reviewed to be a rather easily won endgame. But my teammate had little experience with fitful time scrambles, and had relied on the 15-second increment to pull himself through. He frantically attempted to contact his opponent, who of course was busy playing the game and didn’t notice the messages. As a result, without even a time delay to forestall the inevitable, he helplessly had to watch his remaining seconds erode away with each move, and thereby suffered the loss.

I offer the above examples simply to underscore the fact that online team chess will probably never be perfect, and if you read these observations as a complaint, you are missing the greater point. For the most part, the players responded to these controversies with grace and good sportsmanship, and I know for a fact that everyone on my team came away thinking it was great fun. So yes, online is not the ideal way to conduct the TCCL, and yes, we should all look forward to the League going back to in-person this October 1st, but meanwhile, remember that IT WAS FAR, FAR BETTER THAN HAVING NO LEAGUE AT ALL! Again, I give thanks to the organizers for making this happen.

Finally, my trepidation with the League’s future has not been fully assuaged. Major change typically results in hesitation and reconsideration, which in turn results in decreased participation. This year’s online substitute did not generate sufficient entries for all four divisions to be continued as before. Fortunately, they succeeded in filling three divisions, and the fourth “Open” division was thus eliminated with all the entries compressed into the remaining Bronze, Silver, and Gold divisions. This worked reasonably well, but there is still a cost to such compression, and an associated danger here. What if the

change back to the in-person League similarly now results in a further drop in participation? Essential to the lifeblood of such leagues is the concept that all players can find a particular board in a particular division where they will not feel distantly outclassed by their peers, or vice versa. This requires a certain critical mass of participation to succeed. Upon my arrival in Sioux Falls 22 years ago, I established a city chess league in the vision of the TCCL. We struggled for years to raise the participation to the point that we could maintain at least two divisions, but it was never to be. The league ended up collapsing under its own weight, with too wide a disparity of skills on the four boards in the lone division. In the event that this October's TCCL experiences another reduction in entries, I would propose, instead of compressing divisions further, a maintenance or even expansion back to four divisions, possibly converting their formats to a double round-robin, with maybe a "position night" match-up for the final round. We can always build back the numbers later; but undermining the League experience in the interim could precipitate its gradual decline and ultimate downfall.

In the meantime, I strongly encourage our readers to support the rebuilding of the TCCL in any way possible, the best being the formation of new teams. While this issue of MCJ will not be published until after Round 1 on October 1st, the second round on October 22nd will be arriving quickly, and there will probably still be time to enter a team before then. Please help uphold this proud tradition of Minnesota chess. Do yourself a favor as well and join a team!

Following is a summary of this year's competition in the three divisions:

The Bronze Division

The average rating of the Bronze Division's eight teams ranged from 849 to 1425, the widest disparity of the three divisions, but if you had placed your bets based on this criterion alone, you would have left the track emptyhanded. The top three finishing teams were ranked by rating, respectively, 7th, 5th, and 8th. The top rated Pawn Island of Misfits initially charged into the lead with a 4-0 thrashing, but being held to a draw by Nokomis Nemeses in Round 2 allowed the Nicollet Knights to ascend to first place with the sole 2-0 match point score. Nicollet then continued to dominate, expanding its match point lead to a full point with a perfect 5-0 score entering the penultimate Round 6.

However, the drama was just getting started. Lightning Strikes Twice was a late entry to the League, and was given a half-point bye for Round 1. Its large roster of players also had the appearance of an afterthought, and such late-entering teams historically don't do particularly well in league. But somebody forgot to tell them that bit of news. After their first round bye and a 2-1 standing after Round

3, lightning struck thrice, the latest time being a 3-1 conquest of Nicollet in Round 6. With the smoke clearing, Nicollet and Lightning were locked in a virtual tie with a 5-1 match point score, but with Nicollet maintaining a razor-thin $\frac{1}{2}$ point edge in game points. Meanwhile, the Wayzata Trojans had also come back from an indifferent $1\frac{1}{2}$ match points after Round 3 to win three in a row and match Nicollet's game points although still $\frac{1}{2}$ point behind in the more important match points. Anything could happen.

These three leaders all went on to win their final round, but Nicollet went 4-0, securing first place. No Lightning was able strike past that result, and while Wayzata also concluded with a 4-0 trouncing, it had to settle for third place, even though it still matched Nicollet's 21 game points. Interestingly, these top three finishing teams, all of whom were initially ranked in the lower half, recorded a two point gap or greater between themselves and 4th place. The only other result of note is that The Other Team, after struggling in last place throughout the first six rounds, finally managed to escape from the cellar in Round 7, ascending to 7th place.

To qualify for individual board honors, the rules generally require that: (1) The player has played on that board for the majority of his matches; and (2) That while results on any higher boards can be counted, results on lower boards cannot. On board 1, both Jake Schoenbauer of Nicollet and Justyn Fine of JustGo4it scored 5 points (Jake actually finished the league with a perfect 7-0, but two of these victories were on board 2). As Jake defeated Justyn head-to-head, he earns the top board 1 honor.

On board 2, Duane Peterson of Pawn Island distanced the competition with 5 points. On board 3, both Achyuta Telekicherla Kandalem of Wayzata and Joe Erjavec of Pawn Island scored 4 points. Achyuta defeated Joe head-to-head, thus earning the top honor. Joe has submitted one of his victories, which is posted below. On board 4 both David Santos of Nicollet and Alex Pike of The Other Team scored 5 points. As these two did not play head-to-head, they share the top honor. It might be noted that it was Alex's effort in Round 7 that finally rescued his team from last place.

White: Joe Erjavec Black: Rynaldo Mejia
 Pawn Island of Misfits Nicollet Knights

Round 3, Board 3 (Notes by Joe Erjavec)

1.e4 e5...

Being team captain for this online chess league has been challenging. Unlike meeting at the Roseville Skating Oval, it is not always clear who is available. Before each match, my attention is

divided among the pairing sheet, a call with one teammate, and preparation for my own game in the hour before the match. If the lineup for the opposing team is not finalized, I will also be emailing the other team captain and texting some of my teammates. By 7:00 p.m., I am not generally centered and my play is often too quick.

2. Nf3 Nc6

3. Bb5 a6

4. Ba4 b5

5. Bb3 Nf6

6. d3 d6

7. c3 g6

8. Ng5 d5

9. exd5 Na5

10. 0-0...

I felt okay losing my bishop, since my king is now protected and his pawn at e5 is not currently protected.

10. ...Nxb3

11. Qxb3 Qxd5

12. Qxd5 Nxd5

13. Re1...

My first bit of pressure on that pawn.

13. ...Bd6

14. Nf3...

My second piece to pressure e5.

14. ...f6

15. d4...

Now my third.

15. ...Bg4

16. dxe5 Bxf3

He miscalculated.

17. exd6+ Kd7

18. gxf3...

Now I'm up a piece.

18. ...cxd6

19. Bd2 Rhe8

20. Rxe8 Rxe8

21. Na3 Re2

22. Rd1 h5

23. Kf1 Re8

24. Re1 Rxe1+

25. Kxe1...

I'm happy to exchange pieces down

25. ...Ke6

26. Nc2 Ke5

27. Nb4 Nc7

28. f4+ Kf5

29. h3...

I want to keep his king out of my side of the board.

- 29. ...g5
- 30. f3g5 f3g5
- 31. f3 g4
- 32. f3g4+ hxg4
- 33. hxg4+ Kxg4
- 34. Ke2...

My king is better placed.

- 34. ...Kf5
- 35. Nd3 Ke4
- 36. Bf4 Kd5
- 37. Ke3 a5
- 38. b3 Ne6
- 39. Bh2 Nc7
- 40. Nf4+ Kc6
- 41. Kd4 Ne8
- 42. Nd5 Kd7
- 43. a4 Kc6
- 44. axb5+ Kxb5
- 45. c4+ Kc6
- 46. Bg1 Ng7
- 47. Ke4 Ne6
- 48. Bb6 Ng5+
- 49. Kd3...

I'm getting my king out of any unnecessary checks.

- 49. ...Ne6
- 50. Kc3 Nc5
- 51. Bxa5 Ne4+
- 52. Kb4 Nc5
- 53. Ne7+ Kd7
- 54. Nd5 Kc6
- 55. Nc3 Nd3+
- 56. Ka3 Nc5
- 57. Nb5 Kd7
- 58. Bb4 Nb7

I'll be able to simplify the position and will be up two pawns.

- 59. Nxd6 Nxd6
- 60. Bxd6 Kxd6
- 61. Kb4 Kc6
- 62. Ka5 Kc7
- 63. Ka6 Kd8
- 64. Kb7 Kd7
- 65. b4 Kd8
- 66. b5 Kd7
- 67. b6 Kd6
- 68. Kc8 Kc6

69. b7	Kc5
70. b8=Q	Kc4
71. Qb6	Kd3
72. Qc5	Ke4
73. Kd7	Kd3
74. Ke6	Ke4
75. Qd5+	Kf4
76. Qe5+	Kf3
77. Kf5	Kf2
78. Qc3	Ke2
79. Ke4	Kf2
80. Qe3+	Kg2
81. Kf4	Kh1
82. Qe2	Kg1
83. Kg3	Kh1
84. Qh2++	
1-0	

The Silver Division

A more straightforward outcome was achieved in the Silver Division, although the top rated team (Law and Worms) again had to settle for 4th place. While the Rochester Knights went into an early game point tiebreak lead over the field, which held up through Round 3, in Round 4 the Kilopawns took charge and never looked back. Expanding its match point lead by 1½ points in Round 5, they continued to dominate, and finished with a perfect 7-0 match point score, and 22 game points. A more interesting struggle occurred for second place, where Eastview Lightning and Law & Worms were tied at 3½ match points and 12 game points after Round 5, with Rochester following only 1 tiebreak game point behind. Eventually, Eastview pulled away, finishing in second with 5½ match points. Meanwhile, Rabid Rooks of White Castle, which had started slowly with two draws and a loss, hit the pavement and scored 3½ in the last four rounds to finish in third place with 4½ match points, leaving Law & Worms just behind at 4 match points.

In the board honors contests, William Murphy of the Kilopawns prevailed on board 1 with his take no prisoners (no draws in his seven games) 5 points scored. Obviously, this performance was key to his team's success. Most remarkably, in Rounds 5 and 7 he upset the division's only two participating masters, Dexter Thompson of Rochester and Andrew Titus of Pin mightier than Sword.

On board 2, George Berg of Rochester took the top honor with 4 points, while on board 3, Patrick Drigans of Rochester scored 5½ points, with Matt Krusack of Kilopawns close behind at 5. Necessary to

mention is the stellar 6½ point performance by David Schabert of the Kilopawns, who unfortunately fell between the cracks. Because he played the majority (four) of his games on board 2, David was only eligible for that board's honors, but this made his other three wins on board 3 unusable. The board 4 contest was a runaway, with Mike Senn of Rabid Rooks scoring the division's only 7-0 perfect score, helping his team in its final charge into third place.

The Gold Division

The League's top division was a story of dominance. The highest rated team, HadToDoIt!!!!, stormed into first place in Round 1, and never let go. Being held to a draw only in Round 7 by the Truelsons, HadToDoIt did it, and finished with 6 ½ match points, far outdistancing the competition. Meanwhile, the Truelsons, a team exclusively composed of our extended family members, climbed into second place in Round 2, and continued to hang onto that spot until the final round, while other teams, in particular Twin Knights and The A Team brutally battled to muster a challenge. Being rated in the bottom half, we were delighted to be in that position, and my own early results gave me hope for the board 2 top honors. But this was not to be. I was on the road for my last two matches, and various distractions contributed to my playing poorly and dropping both of those games. This allowed for both the Twin Knights and The A Team to catch up so that we all three finished with 4 match points after the final round. We had all scored 1-1 against each other, with the Truelsons defeating Twin Knights, Twin Knights defeating The A Team, and the A Team defeating the Truelsons. However, Twin Knights and the A Team both edged out the Truelson by ½ a game point, and their tie would be broken in favor of Twin Knights due to their head-to-head victory over the A Team. Bunched this closely together, one extra half point for the Truelsons in most all of its matches would have secured clear second place, as was also the case with The A Team.

On board 1, Joseph Truelson took the top honors, going undefeated with a 6-1 record. Nate Hoover of The A Team matched this 6-1 score on board 2 to take that prize, in a go-for-broke performance without any draws. The board 3 contest saw Dane Zagar of HadToDoIt with 4 ½ points edge out Roy Truelson with 4 to capture the honor, and on board 4 nobody game close to Sean Higgins of Austin City Limits, who after dropping a game in Round 1, blasted through the rest of his competition to finish 6-1.

Sadly, nobody from the Gold Division submitted an annotated game, but we hope that this absence will be rectified in the new League year now beginning. I look forward to seeing everyone in October for another great TCCL experience!

Castle Chess Club Report - May thru September 2021

The Castle Chess Club has a new location in Bloomington and has already accumulated 62 paid members!! Many non-members are also regularly attending and playing in the Castle's chess events. Thanks to Jackson Wahl, Sarah Emmons, Jenny Bourne, Dane Zagar, Elijah Tramm, Nathan Hoover, and Norman Myrin for directing at the Castle. Below is a summary of results during May - September.

Monday Night Action Quad Win Leaders

Jackson Wahl	7 1/2
Philip Stevenson	6
Anthony Barrett	4 1/2
Zachary Johnson	4
Nathaniel Pesklo	3 1/2
John Blomer	3 1/2
Eddie Wasserman	3 1/2
Jordan Timm	3
Benjamin Vanorny	3
Andrew Titus	3
David McNeil	3

Wednesday Knighter Open Winners

May - Mike Schecter
June - Mike Schecter
July - Kevin Landman & Emiliano Bayer
August - Eddie Wasserman
September - Jordan Timm

Thursday Knighter Premier Winners

May - Ethan Hunt
June - Troy Cavanah
July - Elijah Tramm
August - Ethan Hunt / Nate Hoover Eddie Wasserman / Ben Vanorny
September - Dane Zagar & Arvind Thiagarajan

Saturday Exerciser Quad Win Leaders

Dane Zagar	1 1/2
Eddie Wasserman	1 1/2
Perry Zentner	1 1/2

Other Noteworthy Events @ Castle Chess Club:

May Think - Charles Wynn & John Talghader tied for 1st prize
 June FIDE - Linden Lee & Okey Iwu tied for 1st prize
 July Rapid - John Talghader & Jordan Timm tied for 1st prize
 July MSCA Senior Open - Dan Voje 1st prize
 July Lee Side Tournament - Andrew Titus 1st prize
 July Think - Andrew Titus 1st prize
 August FIDE - Ashton Jin 1st prize
 August MSCA Blitz Championship - Jackson Wahl 1st prize
 August Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize
 September Think - Ionatan Giurgiu 1st prize
 September Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize

Rochester Chess Report

Rochester Chess is meeting weekly in person on Tuesdays, 6 - 9 PM in a Mayo Clinic building. Being free of COVID symptoms and wearing a mask are required. Silicon chess pieces and vinyl boards are provided which are easy to disinfect.

The Rochester Club has also been hosting a slow USCF-rated swiss for more experienced players and an unrated swiss for novice players. The club also met monthly during the summer outside at the Olmsted County Farmers Market from 9 AM - noon on Saturdays. It is a mixture of casual chess and instruction. Finally, the Rochester Downtown Alliance has asked the club to provide chess downtown to Mayo Clinic Employees; including instruction and casual chess.

Below are the results from the July Swiss Event for the more experienced players. Note that 3 of the top 20 active rated players in MN participated in this event!! Overall there were 17 chess players in the two sections of the Swiss which was directed by Dennis Mays. ***Rochester is a vibrant chess community and represents an opportunity for Twin Cities chess players to make the drive down for chess!***

Rochester Swiss Event for Experienced Players: Tuesdays in July 2021 @ Mayo Clinic Building

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	M. Jensen	2228	3.5	D3	W8	W2	W5
2	D. Thompson	2200	3.0	W7	W5	L1	W4
3	Michael Kern	1761	2.5	D1	L4	W6	Bye
4	J. Kohlenberg	2180	2.0	H	W3	H	L2
5	Kevin Gaustad	1811	2.0	W6	L2	W8	L1
6	Roy Knuth	1700	2.0	L5	Bye	L3	Bye
7	George Paulik	1718	1.0	L2	H	H	F
8	George Berg	1551	1.0	Bye	L1	L5	U

**** UPDATE****

Dennis Mays has begun planning the revival of the Rochester Open for July or August of 2022. This is an exciting development and the MCJ will include information about the event as it comes available.

STAT CORNER

This recurring feature in the MCJ will be 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.

Most Years Between State Championships (3 or more titles won)

Player	# Years	1st Year	Most Recent Year
Curt Brasket	24	1957	1981
Jacob Harris	24	1911	1935
George Barnes	20	1931	1951
E.P. Elliott	20	1902	1922
Milt Otteson	17	1949	1966

It is interesting to note that all 5 of these players are in our MN Chess Hall of Fame!

Most 2nd Place Finishes in State Championships Play-Offs

Player	# 2nd Place	# 1st Place
Curt Brasket	6	16
Jim Young	4	0
John Bartholomew	4	4
Sean Nagle	4	10
Tim Radermacher	3	1
Roger Rudolph	3	2
Kevin Wasiluk	3	1
Ed Zelkind	3	6

Top 20 Active MN Players by Over-the-Board USCF Rating as of September 30, 2021

Rank	Player	Rating
1	Andrew Tang - GM	2588
2	John Bartholomew - IM	2534
3	Sean Nagle - IM	2520
4	Samrug Narayanan - FM	2383
5	Frank Johnson - NM	2357
6	Kevin Wasiluk - FM	2353
7	Andrew Titus - NM	2334
8	Ashton Jin - NM	2262
9	Jackson Wahl - NM	2253
10	Alice Lee - WIM	2241
11	Linden Lee - NM	2238
12	Matthew Jensen - NM	2231
13-14	Dexter Thompson - NM	2203
	Joseph Truelson - NM	2203
15-17	Okey Iwu - NM	2200
	Nels Truelson - NM	2200
	Ed Zelkind - NM	2200
18	Ethan Hunt - NM	2190
19	Troy Cavanah - NM	2185
20	Jacob Kohlenberg	2172

ON THE ROAD THIS SUMMER WITH MN CHESS PLAYERS

Chicago Open - May

Open Section:

Andrew Titus	4.0/8.0
Sammy Narayanan	3.0/8.0
Troy Cavanah	2.5/8.0
Okey Iwu	1.0/5.0

U2300 Section:

Saumik Narayanan	3.5/6.0
Stuart Konezny	2.0/6.0

U2100 Section:

Alexander Wolf	2.0/7.0
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U1900 Section:

Ivan Wijetunge	3.0/7.0
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U1200 Section:

Caleb Moy	5.0/7.0
Joshua Titus	3.5/6.0
Ahmed Ilyasov	3.0/7.0

Des Moines Open - June

Open Section:

Jackson Wahl	3.0/4.0
Dane Mattson	3.0/4.0
Dane Zagar	1.5/4.0
Bill Murray	1.5/4.0
Riaz Khan	0.5/4.0

Marked the return of OTB chess in Iowa. Bill Murray reported the event was well organized and over subscribed. Iowa can be a good option for strong midwest chess tournaments.

Reserve Section:

Sarah Emmons	2.0/4.0
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National Open in Las Vegas - JuneOpen Section:

Andrew Tang 4.5/7.0
 Sammy Narayanan 4.5/9.0

Also Tied for 2nd in Walter Browne Blitz Tournament

U2300 Section:

Jackson Wahl 4.5/7.0
 Tim Radermacher 3.5/7.0
 Dane Zagar 2.5/6.0

U2100 Section:

John Talghader 5.0/7.0
 Barry Lazarus 4.0/7.0

U1900 Section:

Ivan Wijetunge 4.0/7.0
 Evan Kelly 3.0/7.0

U1700 Section:

Jeremy Keillor 4.0/7.0
 Mark Derby 0.0/7.0

U1500 Section:

Marshall Tsai 4.0/7.0
 Nathaniel Pesklo 4.0/7.0
 Chaska Spears 2.0/7.0

Chicago Class - JulyMaster Section:

Andrew Titus 3.0/5.0
 Sammy Narayanan 3.0/5.0
 Ashton Jin 1.5/5.0
 Nastassja Matus 1.5/5.0

Expert Section:

Saumik Narayanan 3.0/5.0
 Dane Zagar 3.0/5.0
 Tim Radermacher 2.5/5.0
 Stuart Konezny 2.5/5.0

Class A Section:

Bill Murray 3.0/5.0

Class E Section:

Ksenija Matus 1.0/5.0

World Open in Philadelphia - JulyOpen Section:

Sammy Narayanan 5.0/9.0

US Junior Girls Championship Invitational in St. Louis - July

Alice Lee 3.5/9.0 An exceptional result as Alice was seeded 9th of the 10 players

US Senior/Junior Open in Illinois - July/August

Nels Truelson	4.5/6.0	3rd Place in Senior Division
Joseph Truelson	3.5/6.0	Junior Division
Aidan Ghylin	3.5/6.0	Junior Division

US Open Invitational Events in Cherry Hills, NJ - August

Denker:	Sammy Narayanan 3.5/6.0
Barber:	Troy Cavanah 3.5/6.0
Rockefeller:	Ahmed Ilyasov 1.5/6.0
Irwin:	Dan Voje 1.5/6.0
Haring:	No MN Representative
Total:	Team Minnesota 10.0/24.0 (37th place of the 50 states)

Des Moines Open - AugustOpen Section:

Bill Murray 3.0/5.0

Reserve Section:

Riaz Khan	1.5/4.0
Matthew Nissen	3.0/4.0
Thomas Richner	1.5/4.0

PNWCC Fide Masters in Redmond, WA - September

Sammy Narayanan 5.0/9.0

Iowa Open - September

Okey Iwu	3.0/5.0	
Dane Zagar	3.0/5.0	
Eddie Wasserman	2.5/5.0	
Bill Murray	2.0/5.0	
Riaz Khan	2.5/5.0	Reserve Section

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 Dave Kuhns & Tim Radermacher 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 2nd "MCJ" digital edition of 2021.

From your Minnesota Chess Journal Publication Team:

*Tim Radermacher
Joe Longen
Nels Truelson*