

2021 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame of Inductee

Milt Otteson

Milt Otteson was a great chess player. He was one of the few Minnesota chess players to win three state championships (1949, 1965, and 1966). Milt accomplished this during two of the most competitive chess periods in Minnesota history: 1949 (George Barnes era); and 1965/1966 (Curt Brasket era).

At his peak, Milt made the MN closed play-offs six times in seven years (1964-1968 and 1970). The results of these play-offs were (2) 1st, (2) 2nd, (1) 3rd, and (1) 4th-5th. When you add up Milt's total record in the closed play-offs it is an excellent 20.5 – 9.5 (+11).

While these are great accomplishments, the event that magnifies Milt's Minnesota chess legacy happened at the 1957 Western Open. Playing with the White pieces, Milt Otteson defeated Bobby Fischer in a brilliant game—the most famous game in Minnesota chess history.

Overall, Milt Otteson had some super tournament results:

1958 - 2nd Western Open Championship. Tied for 1st with GM Pal Benko.

1960 - 7th Annual North Central Open. Results of most notable players (7 rounds).

1.	Raymond Weinstein	6.0
4.	Hans Berliner	5.5
5.	Curt Brasket	5.5
6.	Milt Otteson	5.0

1965 - 12th Annual North Central Open. Results of some MN players (7 rounds).

Milt Otteson	5.0	(Tied for 8th place)
Curt Brasket	4.5	
Laszlo Fiscor	4.5	
Charles Weldon	4.0	
James Young	4.0	

Also during this period of the mid-50's to early 60's, Milt played in several US Opens and accumulated a +13 score which included a draw with Fischer's coach Bill Lombardy.

According to the June 1970 USCF rating list, Milt was rated 2212, making him the 110th highest ranked player in the United States.

The Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame is honored to welcome Milt Otteson.