

## 2021 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame of Inductee:

### Jacob Harris

George Barnes, in an article in the Minneapolis Star Journal on October 28th, 1944, described Jacob Harris as the “Grand old man” of MN chess. A kindly man always soft spoken. He was not an aggressive player, rather he preferred to be a counter-puncher. He played many offhand games of chess at the Minneapolis Chess and Checker club. These games he loved because of interaction and tried not to focus on the result.

Yet powerful results Jacob Harris did have as well. He was an 8-time Minnesota State Champion. (1911, 1916, 1923, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1934, and 1935). The 24-year span from his first title to his last is tied with Curt Brasket (1957-1981) for the longest such duration in Minnesota chess history. Jacob Harris, George Barnes and Curt Brasket are the only players in Minnesota chess history to have won at least two state titles in each of three different decades.

Jacob Harris was always a team player. Besides the offhand games at the Minneapolis Chess and Checker club, he played numerous club matches in Winnipeg and team matches against Chicago, Milwaukee, and Green Bay.

One of his most impressive tournament results was a 4th place tie at the 1916 Minneapolis Open with an excellent score of 20.5-7.5, behind Wilfred Bland and Gordon with 24.5-3.5 and E.P. Elliott 23.5-4.5. Another great result was a 6th place finish at the 1932 Western Championship held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Just look at the field ahead of him in this 11-game round robin format)

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
1.	Reuben Fine	9.5
2.	Samuel Reshevsky	9.0
3.	Fred Reinfeld	8.5
4.	Herman Steiner	7.5
5.	George Barnes	5.5
6.	Jacob Harris	5.0

The big victory for Harris in this tournament was his win against Illinois State Champion Sam Factor.

The Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame is honored to welcome Jacob Harris.