

2019 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:

Sean Nagle

Sean Nagle is the ultimate chess competitor. Winning 8 consecutive state championships from 2009-2016, Sean established a level of consistent excellency that has only been bested by Hall of Famer Curt Brasket during his 1967–1975 streak of 9 state championships. Sean’s practical play, competitive spirit, will to win, and innate ability to optimize in-game situations regardless of opponent, bring to mind the legendary methods of the great world champion Emanuel Lasker. Like the great Lasker, Sean does not play the board – he plays to win!!

Sean’s chess prowess emerged in the fortuitous circumstance of Russ Erickson’s Zachary Lane Chess Club - augmented by private lessons from Ed Zelkind. By the age of 15 Sean was a National Master in the midst of winning 7 scholastic state championships. Sean was also a key cog in national championship teams at Zachary Lane and Plymouth Middle School from 1992-1995.

After high school Sean attended the University of Chicago before attending law school at the University of Michigan. After practicing law full-time from 2007-2013, Sean has settled in to the important full-time work of raising his young family of 3 children while still working as a lawyer on a part-time basis. Sean’s chess continues, albeit at a more infrequent pace these days, but his expertise grows as evidenced by his attainment of his 3rd and final IM norm in 2014.

Sean Nagle has dominated the Minnesota chess scene during the last decade, adding his name to the list of prestigious Minnesota players who have had both the talent and tenacity to dominate for extended periods of time. For example, George Barnes (1931-1951), Curt Brasket (1957-1975), Ed Zelkind (1982-1991), Victor Adler (1998-2008), and Sean Nagle (2009-2016). These 5 amazing chess masters have won an astonishing 60% of the State Championships over the last 9 decades!!

The Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame is very excited to welcome Sean Nagle!