

Sizzling Sacramento Championship

Posted by fpawn on Tuesday, July 05 @ 19:16:19 CDT



By NM Michael Aigner

For an excellent pictorial story about this event please go to:

[fpawn's EXTRA! Pictorial Story](#)

The 2005 Sacramento Chess Championship attracted 90 players to the state capital on a hot 4th of July weekend. Although the event was advertised as an "adult" chess tournament, half of the players were juniors.

Tournament winner IM Ricardo DeGuzman. The family friendly atmosphere at the Best Western Expo Inn provided the adults a chance to relax and also gave the kids room to run around and play. Participants could choose between a 2-day schedule with three faster games on Sunday or a less hectic 3-day schedule on Saturday through Monday.

What might come as a surprise to some people is that two of the three sections were won not by kids but rather by seasoned veterans. IM Ricardo DeGuzman demonstrated a lot of skill and some luck to score 5.5/6 in the Master/Expert section. He defeated three masters and merely gave up a draw to NM Richard Koepcke. Second place went to NM Michael Pearson, a blast from the past who recently returned to the local chess scene after a 2.5 year layoff to finish high school. Pearson won five games, only losing a time scramble to DeGuzman. Sharing top under 2200 honors with 4.0/6 were Drake Wang, Larry Snyder and 1769 rated junior Ramon Qiu.

The one section truly dominated by juniors was the Reserve (under 2000) division. Three incoming 10th graders shared first place at 5.0/6: Daichi Siegrist, Matt Zavortink and Arnav Shah. Siegrist, who reentered in the 2-day schedule after two difficult rounds on Saturday, took the first place trophy on computer tiebreaks. Juniors Jeff Young and Kevin Gafni shared the under 1800 prizes with Sacramento old timer Bob Baker.

Eight of the nine prize winners in the Amateur (under 1600) section were under the age of 20, but the lone adult won the whole enchilada. Christian Dypoldt dominated his younger foes en route to a 5.5/6 result, merely surrendering a draw in the final round. Second place and top under 1400 went to incoming 6th graders Mukund Chillakanti and Arthur Liou, each scoring 5.0/6. Second under 1400 and the junior prize were split six ways by Albert Gu, Charles Sun, Avinash Kumar, Kartik Chillakanti, Daniel Linger and Caleb Toy.

Like every year, none of this would have been possible without the tireless effort of Sacramento organizer John McCumiskey and his assistant TD Steve Bickford. At the risk of sounding redundant, the author can report that the tournament ran very smoothly with no significant delays or disputes. The next Sacramento area weekend adult tournament will be a 2-day weekend swiss in December.

[Check out Complete Tournament Results](#)



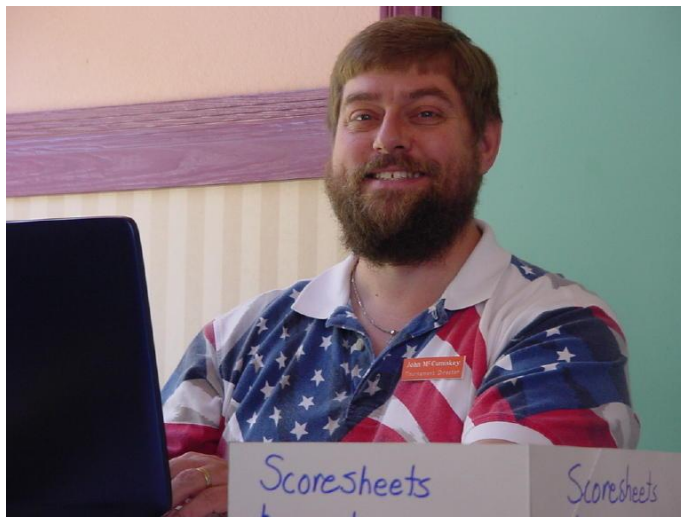
NM Michael Pearson took second place.



Daichi Siegrist won the Reserve section trophy.



Christian Dypoldt survived the kids in the Amateur section.



Organizer John McCumiskey smiles candidly.