

Tracy Summer Scholastic Tournament

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High School Section Players

By Tom Langland

On Friday evening, July 22nd, Art Freiler School in Tracy played host to 22 scholastic chess players from local schools, each looking to win a guaranteed prize of either a trophy or a medal. Art Freiler School is Tracy's Science and Technology Magnet School for K-8 students and its chess club meets once a week after school, where the children practice while under the supervision of their advisor Mr. Tiger Azama.

The tournament was run by Tom Langland, a certified United States Chess Federation (USCF) Tournament Director, and an expert level chess player himself. Play was governed by USCF official rules, including "touch-move". Prior to the tournament, the children were invited to play warm up games, and were given coaching by Mr. Langland while he observed their play. Several of the players also

played a variation of chess called Bughouse where players team up in pairs and can exchange captured pieces between themselves. It makes for some exciting games!

After pizza was delivered tournament play got started, and the kids got down to serious business. The players were broken into 5 sections of 4 players each (called Quads) with the last section included 6 players. Each player was scheduled to play everyone in their section twice (once with the white pieces and once with the black pieces).

The top section (A) included all high school students and was won by James Wang of Tracy High. James has played in the two previous tournaments held at Art Freiler, winning the first one out right, but placing second when Garrett Dong of cross town rival West High played in the second tournament. This time Garrett was not up to par, conceding one loss to each player in his section, attributing his play on his rigorous history course work, but still won a playoff game for the second place trophy. James has submitting some of his games which Mr. Langland will review and post on the Tracy Chess website (www.tracychess.org).

The next section (B) ended in a tie after 6 rounds with both Brandon Manchester and Michael Carrillo finishing with 4.5 point. Although this was Brandon's first chess tournament at Art Freiler, he has played in several tournaments in Stockton representing his school's chess team. His experience playing in Stockton certainly showed for Brandon today, as he won the playoff game between him and Michael for the 1st place trophy. Michael played in some of our tournaments a couple of years ago, but missed our first two this year. We are glad to see Michael back.

Steele Langland dominated the section C, winning all of his games, raising his winning streak at Art Freiler tournaments to 18 in a row. Tyler Jackson was happy with his second place result coming home with his first trophy in three tournaments.

A new face to our Art Freiler tournaments was Caleb Rebar winning the D section. The Rebar brothers had been showing up at the club involved occasionally, and obviously had been practicing at home as well! The second place trophy went to Zack Debo, another member of the Art Freiler team that has won trophies in various tournaments in Stockton.

Miguel Patrick Turac won the E section that dominated by some very tough competition throughout. Every player in the section suffered at least 2 defeats, and the games were becoming so long that we had to end the section early. Sam O'Brien has been playing very consistently, finished half a point behind Miguel for second place.

Applebees's of Tracy donated \$10 gift certificates and these were given out as door prizes. Jeane Glenn Turac, and Tyler Jackson will now be expecting a desert when their parents take them to Applebees!

For more information about chess in Tracy, California and some of our upcoming events go to www.tracychess.org.



Tournament Hall



Janine Chua, Brandon Manchester and Michael Carrillo checking the standings



Section E Players (L-R): Nick Christian, Jacob Rebar, Jeane Glenn Taruc, Sam O



Section C Players (L-R): Tyler Jackson, Steele Langland, Brandon Spoulos, Janice Chua