

UT Dallas chess team takes on all challengers

BY JANET VANCE

The program room floor of the Richardson Public Library became a giant chess board on a recent Saturday, with a duo from the renowned UT Dallas chess team exhibiting their award-winning skills.

International master Puchen Wang, a freshman business administration major from New Zealand, dazzled the crowd of about 50 people by playing and winning games against all challengers without looking at the chess board.

Jim Stallings, head of the UTD program, called out the opponents' moves and Wang responded from his chair turned with his back to the game board.

Meanwhile, Wang's teammate, FIDE master Keaton Kiewra, a senior psychology student from Nebraska, took on 20



PHOTOS POSTED BY JIM STALLINGS

Above, Trevor Duncan, left, takes on UTD's Puchen Wang, who was seated with his back to the board. **Right,** UTD senior Keaton Kiewra plays a "simul" against 20 opponents at once.

challengers in games played simultaneously, winning all games in less than two hours. Stallings called the event "a two-ring circus" with rising stars from the chess world providing the show.

"The Richardson citizenry

gave it their all for two hours... but the two masters prevailed,"



Stallings said. "The main thing is that everyone had a good time."

"We thought this was a great

example of cooperation between the university and the library for the benefit of the public," Stallings said. "I have already received e-mails from participants saying how much they enjoyed it."

It was the first time the UTD chess program had held such an event.

Janet Vance is the community services supervisor at the Richardson Public Library.

MORE INFO

On UTD chess program, contact Jim Stallings at james.stallings@utdallas.edu