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## Chess win brings in \$20,000

### T-M senior wins title, scholarship

By **Fanny S. Chirinos Caller-Times**  
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As the seconds turned into minutes, Paul Haney sat for half an hour contemplating not only his moves but those of his opponent, aware a single mistake could cost him his king. And a large scholarship was up for grabs too.

"Once I had thought of every possible move my opponent could make, I made my move," said Paul, as he described his winning round of the Texas State Chess Championship in Plano on Sunday. "The game lasted only a few minutes after that."



George Gongora/Caller-Times

Paul Haney, a senior at Tulo-so-Midway High School, earned his fourth state chess title and a scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas on Sunday during a tournament in Plano. Since learning to play chess in the fifth grade, he has won more than 50 trophies.

With the win, Paul, a senior at Tulo-so-Midway High School, earned his fourth state title and a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas.

His 24th move found Paul in the lurch after what he described as a sloppy start, but he said he never doubted he could get out of it.

"Thirty minutes on a move is quite a long time when you're only given 60 (minutes) to play the game," the 18-year-old said. "But I knew if I could get even with him, I had a good shot of winning."

Winning is something Paul has become accustomed to since learning to play chess in the fifth grade. He has earned more than 50 trophies.

Jim Shaw has coached Paul for more than five years and was ecstatic about the win. Shaw, who has coached seven state champions, knew Paul's potential within a month of meeting him.

"At first, most kids are excited and will climb Mount Everest for you," said Shaw, who accompanied Paul to Plano. "After a month, Paul was still climbing. In fact, he continues to climb Mount Everest."

Hard work and perseverance have paid off for Paul in several areas of his life, said his mother, Marie Haney.

"Paul used to be a C-minus student and now he's getting all As," his mother said. "He was real hyper as a child and the game has really settled him down. It's really kept him out of trouble."

Friend Richard Lopez, a freshman at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, has known Paul for seven years and has seen a real change in his behavior.

"Paul's more outgoing and responsible from when I first met him," said Lopez, who is at the university on a chess scholarship. "He's on task and I think chess had a lot to do

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with it."

Paul readily admits the game has taught him patience, the value of hard work and study skills.

"I couldn't read very well when I began playing chess, but I learned to really pay attention to what I was reading," said Paul, also a varsity tennis player at Tuloso-Midway. "With chess, you have read everything carefully."

Chess teaches a person conditional thinking and time management, Shaw said. "I teach my kids how to study for any subject, not just chess."

Although the final round of the tournament was nerve-wracking, Paul says he is never scared or intimidated. He goes into every game expecting to lose but confident he can win.

"It's just my way of preparing for a game," he said. "I do feel my nerves, though, especially when playing for \$20,000."

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