



Chess Team Battles Tough Competition at Meet

UT Dallas Invitational Makes for Stiff Challenge Before Pan-Am Tournament

Dec. 1, 2009

The chess team grappled with tough competition at the [UT Dallas Invitational Tournament](#) last week but scored a couple of solid gains in the push to move players higher in the World Chess Federation rankings.



Tautvydas Vedrickas (right), shown squaring off against fellow UT Dallas chess team member Mihail Bantic, advanced to the rank of FIDE Master in the tournament.

valuable experience before the upcoming Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship but failed to achieve grandmaster norms. Finishing on top were visiting grandmasters Giorgi Kacheishvili and Zviad Izoria, both from the Republic of Georgia.

"GMs Kacheishvili and Izoria in the GM section were the top seeds and finished tied for first," said Jim Stallings, director of the UT Dallas chess program.

To become a titled player, such as a Grandmaster or International Master, a competitor needs to achieve three norms, which are strict tournament criteria that a player must meet to advance in the ranking system

Four grandmasters were invited to the tournament: Izoria, Kacheishvili; Babakuli Annakov of Texas; and Ildar Ibragimov of Connecticut.

"We expect the hardest competition ever this year at the Pan-Am," said UT Dallas chess coach Rade Milovanovic. "The other teams have recruited more GMs than ever before to go up against us. I do not think that either UMBC or UTD can expect an easy road to the championship."

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Grandmaster Standings

Place	Title	Competitor	Rank	Score
1	GM	Zviad Izoria	2589	6.0
2	GM	Giorgi Kacheishvili	2583	6.0
3	GM	Alejandro Ramirez	2547	5.5
4	IM	Puchen Wang	2466	5.0
5	IM	Marko Zivanic	2472	4.5
6	IM	Daniel Ludwig	2461	4.5
7	IM	Jacek Stopa	2493	4.5
8	IM	Salvijus Bercys	2439	3.0
9	IM	Julio Sadorra	2478	3.0
10	GM	Amon Simutowe	2467	3.0

International Master

Place	Title	Competitor	Rank	Score
1	NM	Tautvydas Vedrickas	2272	6.0
2	GM	Babakuli Annakov	2451	5.5
3	FM	Daniel Yeager	2259	5.5
4	FM	John Bryant	2359	5.0
5	GM	Ildar Ibragimov	2577	5.0
6	WFM	Bayaraa Zorigt	2194	5.0
7		Artur Artur Safin	2115	4.5
8	NM	Mihail Bantic	2216	3.5
9	NM	Tyler Hughes	2281	3.5
10	WIM	Karina Vazirova	2187	1.5