

Chamber VP, UTD student to play speed chess in opening ceremony

John Jacobs, senior vice president for economic development for the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, will take on one of UTD's top chess players in two games of speed chess during the half-hour opening ceremony of the Grandmaster Invitational at the Richardson Civic Center.

Jacobs will play grandmaster Magesh Chandran Panchanathan in a version of the game also known as blitz chess, during which moves are made in rapid succession.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Jacobs is respected throughout DFW for his business acumen, but most people do not know he is a rated FIDE master and is a five-time Texas state chess champion. Jacobs played "first board" on the University of Texas at Austin chess team from 1969 to 1973 and is

president of the Dallas Area Chess In Schools Foundation.

Panchanathan, 22, earned the grandmaster title this year and was the star of UTD's win in the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship last year.

In that event, he shocked the chess world by upsetting the top-ranked player in the United States, 29-year-old grandmaster Alexander "Alex the Invincible" Onischuk of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

UTD has had four grandmasters on its team during the program's 10 years, but Panchanathan is the only player ever to earn the rating while a UTD student.

Chess program officials hope to make speed chess part of the annual tournament and to name the award that goes to the winner the Richardson Cup.

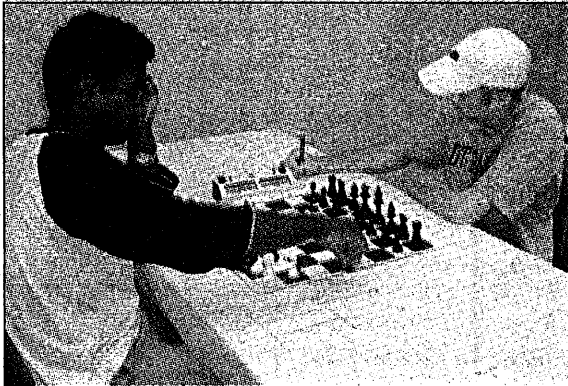


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMES STAHLING OF UTD

MASTER CLASS: International chess grandmaster Magesh Panchanathan of India, left, a UTD senior, works out with master John Bartholomew, a freshman.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Locations, rounds, times and dates for tournament play in the UTD Grandmaster Invitational are:

Richardson Civic Center —

Round 1, 5:30-11 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Rounds 2-4, 3-8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 7, Thursday,

Dec. 8, and Friday, Dec. 9.

Round 5, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10.

Round 6, 6-11 p.m. Saturday,

Dec. 10.

First Bank of Canyon Creek (community room) —

Round 7, 1-7 p.m. Sunday,

Dec. 11.

Round 8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 12.

Round 9, 6-11 p.m. Monday,

Dec. 12.

Round 10-11, 1-7 p.m.,

Tuesday, Dec. 13, and

Wednesday, Dec. 14.

■ For more information, contact Luis Salinas, president of the UTD Chess Club, at 972-883-2898 or las018400@utdallas.edu.