

Chess masters descend on Richardson

UTD will host Grandmaster Invitational

By JENNI HUFFENBERGER

The Richardson Civic Center will be a center of the U.S. chess world this week as the University of Texas at Dallas hosts a rare international tournament — the Grandmaster Invitational.

NEIGHBORS SNAPSHOTS: If you are attending an event such as this, send us your digital photos in JPEG form. We'll publish the best of them.

The event, which UTD has hosted the last three years, is expected to include some of the strongest competition this year in the United States.

The tournament is rated by the world governing body of chess, FIDE, the Federation Internationale des Echecs.

Tournament organizers decided to hold this year's UTD invitational at the Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Road, and the First Bank of Canyon Creek, 429 Belle Grove, instead of on the university campus, where previous events were held, to promote the university's chess program in the community.

The competition will run from Tuesday, Dec. 6, through Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Four grandmasters, including the co-winner of last year's tournament, Igor Novikov, 43, of the Ukraine, with a chess rating of 2580, will participate in the event, said Dr. Tim Redman, professor of literary studies in the university's School of Arts & Humanities and founder and director of the UTD chess program.

The three others are Alexander M. Goldin, 40, who was born in Russia but now lives in New York, 2600 rating; Varuzhan Akobian, 22, formerly of Armenia and Mongolia, now living in the United States, 2600; and Magesh Chandran Panchanathan, 22, of India, a senior at UTD majoring in computer science, 2496.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMES STALLINGS OF UTD
GAME THEORY: International chess master Drasko Boskovic of Serbia Montenegro, a UTD sophomore, considers his game options.

Richardson Mayor Gary Slagel, UTD president David E. Daniel and First Bank of Canyon Creek president Don Reavis are scheduled to attend a brief opening ceremony scheduled for 5 p.m. at the civic center. Tournament play will start at 5:30 p.m.

All of the other players entered in the UTD Grandmaster Invitational are students at the university. Six are international masters, the level just below grandmaster.

The international masters are Dmitry Schneider, 21, of New York, a senior majoring in finance (2490); Amon Simutowe, 22, of Zambia, a junior majoring in economics and finance (2458); Marko Zivanic, 21, of Serbia Montenegro, a sophomore majoring in computer science (2454); Drasko Boskovic, 23, of Serbia Montenegro, a sophomore majoring in business administration (2433); Peter M. Vavrak, 23, of Slovakia, a senior majoring in psychology (2387); and Davorin Kuljasevic, 19, of Croatia, a freshman majoring in business administration (2381). FIDE master John D. Bartholomew, 19, of the U.S., a freshman majoring in business administration (2407), and Michal Kujovic, 24, of Slovakia, a senior majoring in statistics

(2346), also will play.

Goldin and Akobian, with the highest ratings, are the top seeds in the tournament.

Each of the 12 players will face each of the others once in the round-robin competition, and the international masters will be able to earn "norms" toward elevation to grandmaster status if they perform exceptionally well in the tournament. Redman, a two-time past president of the U. S. Chess Federation, said that amassing the eight points required to earn a norm would be "extremely difficult," and he predicted that Marko Zivanic would have the best chance of achieving that.

The competition is free and open to the public, but seating will be limited.

"As it has in the past, the competition will provide excellent training for the members of our 'A' team as they prepare to defend their Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship during the last week of December," Redman said. UTD has won or tied for first in the Pan Am tournament four of the past five years.

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