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UT-DALLAS

Chess team repeats as champ

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In the world of chess, the University of Texas at Dallas has earned some serious bragging rights.

A six-person team from the school beat out three other top national squads Sunday to become the Intercollegiate Chess Champion of the Final Four for the second year in a row.

In December, the team won the Intercollegiate Pan-American team championship for another second consecutive title.

Jim Stallings, UT-Dallas chess program director, said staying on top isn't easy in a sport with strong competitive rivalries and a steady flow of student participants.

"It was no minor feat to win this," Mr. Stallings said Sunday. "That has never happened before where one university has been able to dominate these two events two years in a row."

The UT-Dallas victory was by no means a sure thing when the school started the three-round tournament Saturday at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus. Miami Dade College, New York University and the host school all have strong chess programs.

The UT-Dallas squad brought six players to rotate among the rounds, which consist of four matches at a time.

"We keep people rested because these games are draining," Mr. Stallings said.