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U.T. Dallas News

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Beats Cornell in Internet League Finale

UTD Wins National Chess Championship

RICHARDSON, Texas (April 12, 1999) – The University of Texas at Dallas was crowned U.S. college chess team champion yesterday as it completed an undefeated season in a new, national Internet-based chess league with a win over Cornell University.

U.T. Dallas beat Cornell, 2.5 to 1.5, in its narrowest victory in the National Collegiate Chess League's (NCCL) inaugural season. UTD's number one board, Jason Dess, lost to the top Cornell player, Don Boyce. However, two other UTD players, Nouredidine Ziame and Taras Odushkin, beat their opponents, while a fourth, Steven Grubbs, played to a draw.

In earlier contests, U.T. Dallas defeated Bryn Athyn College, 4-0, Princeton University, 3-1, University of Illinois, 4-0, and the U.S. Air Force Academy, 4-0.

"I'm pleased with this historic result," said Dr. Tim Redman, UTD professor and coach of the university's chess team. "It's another milestone in the university's effort to field top-notch teams in major fields of intellectual competition, including chess, debate, Odyssey of the Mind and College Bowl."

This was the first season for the NCCL, which was sponsored by the U.S. Chess Federation and hosted on the World Wide Web by the Internet Chess Club. Some of the nation's top college chess teams played each other in Sunday afternoon matches via the
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Internet, with members of the public able to follow the competition live by visiting a website.

The new league was conceived and implemented by Dr. Redman for the U.S. Chess Federation, a national organization with 85,000 members. He is a former president of the federation and was a member of the University of Chicago's national championship chess team in the 1970s.

According to Dr. Redman, competing via the Internet permits top collegiate chess programs across the U.S. to play each other without the time and expense of travel. He believes that the league will become a fixture in the world of chess and ultimately attract hundreds of teams in different divisions.

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