

UNIVERSITIES

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# UTD ties for No. 1 in chess tournament

World Series' draws 29 teams from U.S. colleges

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Once again, the University of Texas at Dallas has proven why it doesn't need a football team.

UTD's powerhouse chess program tied for first place Tuesday in the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Tournament, held in Irving. It shares the honor with perennial archrival the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The co-winners weren't decided until the last game of the four-day tourney, said James Stallings, director of UTD's chess program. UTD and UMBC each ended with four wins and two draws, for overall scores of 5-1.

UMBC's team had three grandmasters to UTD's one.

"This was not just any team we were going up against. This was going up against one of the

strongest teams we've ever seen," Mr. Stallings said. UTD sent four teams to the tournament.

Dubbed the "World Series of College Chess," the tournament drew 29 teams from schools across the country, including UT-Brownsville, Texas Tech, Harvard, Stanford, Miami Dade College and New York University.

"As usual, we had two very strong teams, the A team and the B team," Mr. Stallings said. "If one of them doesn't get you, the other one will."

UTD's Sal Bercys received a special award for winning 5.5 points out of a possible 6 points in the tournament.

UTD, UMBC and Tuesday's other top finishers — UT-Brownsville and Stanford — will battle in the President's Cup, also known as the "Final Four" of chess, to be held in April at UTD.