

# THE ARTS Overnight

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## CHESS

### Students to compete

Pan American event  
being held in Dallas

By Olin Chism

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Players from throughout the Americas will gather in Dallas this month to compete in the Pan American Intercollegiate Year Chess Championships. Dr. Tim Redman of the University of Texas at Dallas, a former president of the United States Chess Federation, calls the event "the Super Bowl of College Chess."

Around 40 teams from the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Central and South America will compete Dec. 26 through 29 at the Westin Park Central Dallas Hotel, which is at LBJ Freeway and Coit Road. The event will be open to the public without charge.

Also to be held are three other competitions: an open tournament for nonstudents, a scholastic tour-

nament for high school players and a one-day competition for elementary school students from the Dallas Area Chess in Schools Program, which teaches the game to students at inner-city schools.

The winner in the scholastic competition will be offered a four-year scholarship to UTD valued at approximately \$12,000.

Dr. Redman expects the collegiate players to include the world junior chess champion, Yu Shaked, who plays for the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Other strong teams include Harvard, Yale, the Borough of Manhattan Community College, the University of Chicago, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Toronto and Dr. Redman's UTD team, which finished second at last year's Pan American Championships.

For more information, call Ken Stepe at UTD, (972) 853-2898 or e-mail [kstepe@dallas.edu](mailto:kstepe@dallas.edu)

43A

# Chess team prepares for international competition

## Nationally-ranked players contribute to team's successes

ANNA BARBER  
MERCURY CONTRIBUTOR

Only in its second year, the UTD chess team has already established national prestige and now looks to place in the top five at the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship in late December.

The team placed ninth in this championship last year, despite being a first-year chess team with only one master chess player. This year the team includes four master players and is "much stronger," said Dr. Tim Redman, UTD's chess team adviser and former president of the U.S. Chess Foundation.

UTD is currently under close scrutiny by the Federation because it is heavily recruiting nationally-ranked chess players and swiftly advancing within the world of collegiate chess.

"We're intensely committed to getting to the top, and we're setting the standards for collegiate chess," UTD Chess Club President Katie Stone said.

This year's Pan American Championship takes place Dec. 26 through Dec. 29 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and consists of colleges from across the nation and Canada. According to Stone, the team to beat is the University of Maryland Baltimore County, who won the championship last year. UTD will also be competing against Harvard, the

University of Toronto and the University of Pennsylvania.

The team will be led by Nouredine Ziane, who has recently been selected to play in the 1998 Chess Olympiad, a type of world championship in the chess community. Ziane was selected as one of six players from Morocco, to play in the Olympiad, which will take place in Kalmykia, Russia.

Ziane, who played on UTD's team last year, also recommended chess masters James Dean and Jason Doss for membership on this year's team.

"These two additions [Dean and Doss] are major improvements on the team," Stone said.

Dean and Doss both became chess masters by accumulating a certain number of points from chess tournaments. There are only about 400 master chess players in the U.S. as selected by the U.S. Chess Federation. Both players have been ranked in the top 50 list of best chess players under 21 in the U.S. Dean and Doss, called the "Big D's," have been playing chess together since they attended the same middle school in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"We motivate each other to play better because we are such good friends," Doss said.

In addition to playing for the team, Dean and Doss are also teaching chess in "economically disadvantaged" schools across the Dallas Independent



Photo by Jason Abraham

Jim Dean, a Senior Master in the United States Chess Federation is part of a six person team training for the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship on Dec. 26 in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

School District. This chess teaching assistantship is in its first year at UTD. This is the first time this program has been attempted anywhere, according to Redman.

Studies have revealed chess might be beneficial to reading

development in children. Chess also helps children learn to select the best solution for a problem and aids in logical thinking.

"Anybody can move the pieces, but how to think is more of an issue," Doss said.