The art of the square deal

Young players will test their concentration and reasoning skills at Bedford tournament

By TERRY LEE GOODRICH
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BEDFORD — They'll pace. They'll sweat. Some may even weep.

It's not the Olympics or even high school football. It's a regional chess tournament for young competitors expected to attract about 200 players to Bedford on Saturday.

"Chess can be intimidating, and you have to concentrate extremely hard," said Darrell Knobloch of Euless, a chess teacher and a tournament official. "Some of the older players can't eat breakfast the day of a competition. It's too stressful. Some pace the floor because they're so excited. With some young players, you'll even see their tears on the chessboard because they get so emotional."

Students kindergarten through 12th grade are expected to vie for trophies at the Texas Chess Association Region II tournament, said Knobloch, youth director of the Watauga Chess Club.

The region, with 33 counties, is one of eight in Texas that hold contests. Winners of the state tournament can get a four-year scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas, he said.

Chess, which calls for deliberation, is a sport that teaches patience and strategy. "It's not for everyone," Knobloch said. "But it can develop your thinking ability."

Sydney Black, 9, has a moment of relief after making her move in a game Wednesday at the Fort Worth Christian School library. The school chess club was practicing for the youth tournament Saturday in Bedford.
Chess Players practice focus, solving problems

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Chess is a game played in India for about 2,000 years. It is a strategy game with 64 squares on a chessboard, each square containing one of two pieces: a king and a queen. The goal is to capture the opponent's king. The game is played on a board divided into 8 rows and 8 columns, making a total of 64 squares. Each player starts with 16 pieces: one king, two rooks, two knights, two bishops, two pawns, and one queen. The game is played by two players, who take turns moving their pieces. The player who checks the opponent's king to a position where it cannot be captured wins the game.

The chessboard is divided into two sides, each containing 32 squares. The player with the white side starts the game. The game is played by moving the pieces on the board. The pieces can move in certain ways, such as the knight can move in an L shape, the rook can move horizontally or vertically, and the bishop can move diagonally. The queen can move any distance in any direction. The king can move one square in any direction. The pawn can move forward one square, and on its first move, it can move two squares forward. When a pawn reaches the opposite side of the board, it becomes a queen.

Chess is a game of strategy and tactics. Players need to plan several moves ahead to outwit their opponent. The game is played on a board with 8 rows and 8 columns, making a total of 64 squares. The goal is to capture the opponent's king. The game is played by two players, who take turns moving their pieces. The player who checks the opponent's king to a position where it cannot be captured wins the game.

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