

UMBC WINS 1998 PAN AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County won its second Pan American Intercollegiate team title in three years, besting twelve other colleges that competed, Dec. 26-29 in Dallas, Texas. With one of the strongest teams ever assembled for the event, the UMBC A-team scored a resounding 6-0 victory, surpassing its earlier championship result in 1996. The University of Pennsylvania placed clear second with 4½. Four teams tied for 3rd-6th; in tiebreak order, they were Harvard University, the University of Chicago, Stanford University, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, all with four points.

This year's UMBC A-team had former World Junior Champion GM Tal Shaked (2556) on first board, IM Florin Felician (2580) on second, IM Eugene Perelshteyn (2496) on third, and William Morrison (2364) and Erez Klein (2391) taking turns on fourth. With a 2477 average rating, they were 100 points above their nearest "powerhouse" rival from the University of Toronto. Having a Russian trainer doesn't hurt either: Igor Epshteyn from Belarus, who once coached at the National Olympic Reserve School in Minsk, has been UMBC's coach since 1994.

BOARD PRIZES

Board prizes went to Jacob Chudnovsky (Board 1 for Harvard, with six points), Peter Minear (Board 2, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, five points), Eugene Perelshteyn (Board 3, UMBC, six points) and Kit-Sun Ng (Board 4, University of Toronto "B", five points).

Twenty-one college teams competed in the event, sponsored by the University of Texas at Dallas, the Dallas Chess Club, and the United States Chess Federation. A total of 92 players represented 13 schools from as far as Toronto, Canada and Lima, Peru.

In addition to the collegiate team event, there was an open tournament with 48 players and a scholastic with 64 players. The Pan American Open ended in a three-way tie, with Bosnian IM Rade Milovanovic, WIM Alexey Root, and expert Rudy Tia all scoring 5-1. Milovanovic, who moved to Dallas last August, lost in Round 2 to Texas high school co-

champion Justin Shih.

The Pan American Scholastic was won by Jonathan Walsh (1791) with 5½ out of six. A high school sophomore in Dallas, Walsh scored a surprise win in the last round over heavily favored Andrew Whatley (2259) from Alabama. Whatley scored 5-1 to finish second on tiebreaks over Andrei Dokoutchaev (2170) of Missouri and Kris Littlejohn (1566) of Dallas.

SCHOLARSHIPS

All four players were awarded full scholarships (assuming they meet entrance requirements) at the University of Texas at Dallas. Three cheers for UTD undergraduate Dean Michael Coleman, who added three scholarships to the prize fund midway through the tournament.

USCF's College Chess Committee chair (and former USCF president) has been an effective advocate for chess at UTD, where he teaches in the English department. UTD-Dallas is a low-profile but high-caliber honors school in the UT system. All four of the top players were awarded full scholarships at the University of Texas at Dallas. Three cheers for UTD Undergraduate Dean Michael Coleman, who added three scholarships to the prize fund midway through the tournament.

Unexpectedly absent from the intercollegiate competition was last year's Pan Am champion, Borough of Manhattan Community College. The organizers were disappointed by the turnout, down by five teams from the 1997 event in Kentucky.

During the Fischer boom years of the 1970s, a typical Pan Am would have had anywhere from 50 to 100 teams. In the last decade a 30 to 40 team turnout has

been the norm, at least when the event was in driving distance of East Coast schools. Excuses, excuses! The lack of representation from any Texas college besides UT-Dallas is at odds with the phenomenal participation in K-12 scholastic chess here. College chess development at the state level clearly offers a big challenge.

The chief tournament director was Gary Gaffe, who had to pair teams by hand after learning his pairing program, Swiss-Sys version 2.04, had trouble with fixed roster teams plus alternates. (Swiss-Sys designer Thad Suits has since addressed the problem, and a fix can be downloaded at his website. TDs with version 2.06 need not worry.) The assistant TDs were George C. John, Manuel Espino, and Celia von Merling.

The co-organizers were Luis Salinas of the Dallas Chess Club and UTD sophomore Katie Stone, a natural promoter who added a nice touch with flowers on the stage by the top boards. News coverage was excellent, with three local TV stations and two papers running features. The playing site at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas was first-rate.

At a meeting of the USCF College Chess Committee on Dec. 28, a bid on the 1999 Pan Am by the University of Toronto was approved. The event will be held Dec. 26-29, and FIDE rules will be used.

PAN AMERICAN SCHOLASTIC

The Pan American Scholastic drew 64 players, including some prominent out-of-state high school players vying for scholarships. The surprise winner was seventh-ranked Jonathan Walsh (1791), a sophomore at St. Mark's School in Dallas. In the last round Walsh, 15, defeated top-ranked Andrew Whatley (2259) of Pike Road, Alabama to finish in clear first with 5½ points out of six. Whatley placed second on tiebreaks over Andrei Dokoutchaev (2170) of Joplin, Missouri and Kris Littlejohn (1566) of Dallas, each scoring 5-1.

The top scholastic team was Porter High School of Brownsville, Texas. Team members Manuel Gonzalez (4½ points), Victor Flores (3½), Daniel Lopez (3-5) and Johnny Urbano (3) racked up a 14½ point score, well ahead of local teams from Berkner High School (second on tiebreaks) and St. Mark's School (a power duo — Jonathan Walsh and Matt Bradford), both of which scored 10 points. For the second year running, this

1998 PAN AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP Dallas, Texas • December 27-29

School	Team total
1. UMBC "A"	6 20½
2. University of Pennsylvania	4½ 15
3. Harvard University	4 18
4. University of Chicago "A"	4 15
5. Stanford University	4 13½
6. Worcester Polytechnic Institute	4 13
7. University of Toronto "A"	3½ 14
8. University of Toronto "B"	3½ 13½
9. University of Texas at Dallas "A"	3½ 13
10. University of Chicago "B"	3 15
11. UMBC "C"	3 12
12. New York University	3 11½
13. University of Toronto "C"	3 11

The Pan American Intercollegiate is one of over 20 national title events co-sponsored by the USCF and 600+ sponsoring affiliates.

except on top board, where Shaked drew Nouredine Ziane (2319), Team MVP Eugene Perelshteyn came through with his sixth straight win:

SICILIAN DEFENSE	[B71]
Dragon Variation	
W: FM Eugene Perelshteyn	
B: Shivkumar Shivaji (2230)	
<i>Pan Am Intercollegiate, 1968</i>	

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. f4

The Levenfish variation, which Perelshteyn played three times in this event, his second-round opponent, Nicolas Garcia from Catholic University of Peru, played the conventional 6. ... Nc6 7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. e5 Nd7 9. exd6 exd6 10. Be3 Be7 11. Qd2 Nf6 12. 0-0 Bf5 (better is 12. ... Be6) 13. Bd3 Bxd3 14. Qxd3 d5 15. f5 0-0 16. h3 Nd7 17. fxg6 hxg6 18. h4. Black managed to trade queens but fell into a mating net from White's rooks.

6. ... Bg7 7. e5 dxe5 8. fxe5 Nfd7

A trap which continues to catch the unwary is 8. ... Ng4? 9. Bb5-Kf8 10. Ne6+, in Round 5, Dimitri Karlin of NYC went down in short order with 8. ... Nd5 9. Bb5+ Kf8 10. 0-0 e6 11. Qe3 Qe7 12. Bg5. Black resigns.

9. e6 Ne5 10. exf7+!

The main move has been 10. Bb5+, when Black is supposed to equalize with 10. ... Nec6 11. exf7-Kf8.

10. ... Kxf7 11. Be2 Nbc6 12. 0-0+ Bf6 13. Nxc6 bxc6 14. Bf4 Kg7 15. Qc1 h6 16. Kh1!

White is avoiding the exchange of queens that would follow 16. Qe3 Qb6 or 16. Ne4 Qd4-17. Qe3.

16. ... Qb6?

It is essential to stop White's next move by playing 16. ... Bf5, answering 17. Rd1 with 17. ... Qa5. Perhaps "Shiv" was concerned about 17. Qe3 Qb6 18. Qg3, but 18. ... Nf7 leaves Black with an easy game.

17. Ne4! Be6 18. Be3

Black is being utterly dominated on his weak squares — first c5, and then e5 and e6.

18. ... Qe7 19. Ne5 Bf7 20. Bf4

This repeated diagonal switching is most irritating to Black's queen!

20. ... Qb6 21. Qe3 Ne4 22. Ne6+ Bxe6 23. Qxe6 Na5 24. Be5

This final move of the restless dark-square bishop is unanswerable.

24. ... Qb7 25. Ba6! Black resigns.

My favorite pairing, Proudfoot-Shin from Round 6, lived up to its billing.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE	[E90]
W: Nick Proudfoot (2196)	
B: David Shin (1885)	
<i>Pan Am Intercollegiate, 1968</i>	

1. d4 Nf6 2. e4 c5 3. d5 d6 4. Nc3 g6 5. e4 Bg7 6. h3 0-0 7. Nf3 e6 8. Be2

Steering for quiet waters. 8. Bd3 exd5

9. cxd5 b5 is a topical line of the Benoni. 8. ... exd5 9. exd5 Re8 10. Bf4 a6

Probably best is 10. ... Ne4, a common idea in such positions to relieve Black's piece clutter.

11. 0-0 Nb5 12. Bg5 Qb6 13. Qd2 Nd7 14. Rae1 Nf8 15. Bd3 Bd7 16. g4 Rxe1 17. Rxe1 Nf6 18. Qf4 Ne8 19. Ne4 f5 20. Ng3 fxe4?

This falls into a nice trap. Better is 20. ... Qxb2 21. gxf5 b5!, with counterplay.



21. Re7! gxf3 22. Qf7-Kh8 23. Bf6!

Black resigns.

There's a swift kick! An elegant double deflection forces mate.

This game determined the winner of the Scholastic.

REVERSED GRUENFELD	[A46]
W: Andrew Whatley (2259)	
B: Jonathan Walsh (1791)	
<i>Pan Am Scholastic, 1969</i>	

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 c5 3. c3 d5 4. g3 Ne6 5. Bg2 Bd6 6. 0-0 Nge7 7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. b4 Bd6 9. Bb2 0-0 10. Nbd2 f5 11. Re1 b5 12. a4 a6 13. Ra1 Rb8 14. axb5 axb5 15. Nb3 Ng6 16. Nfd4 Nxd4 17. Qxd4 f4 18. Qa7 Rf7 19. Qa3 Ne5 20. Nd4 Qd7 21. Qb3 Nc4 22. Rfd1 Qc7 23. Be1 fxe3 24. hxe3 Bxg3 25. fxe3 Qxg3 26. Rd3 Qf2+ 27. Kh1 e5 28. Nf3 e4 29. Be3 Nxe3 30. Rxe3 Qxe3 31. Ne5 Rf6 32. Qxd5+ Be6 33. Ng4 Rb6+, White resigns.

This game from the Open is a specula-

Observations of a First-time Organizer

As a first time organizer, I guess I should have been nervous about taking on such a large task of organizing the 1998 Pan American Championships. In fact, I'm Redman, my supervisor, told me I should be. But for some reason I wasn't. I had the help of Luis Salinas, so I guess that is what calmed me, along with the confidence that I personally had in myself. I had also attended the 1997 Pan American event in Kentucky, so this helped in my gauging what needed to be done in order to host a successful event.

I think we had it pretty easy compared to other organizers. Back in October of 1997, we literally had hotels bidding for this event, so finding a location was not a problem. And any printing we needed was done compliments of Larry Grubbs at Forest Printing in Dallas. Mr. Grubbs' son Steven is a part of our chess program at UT Dallas. I can't tell you how thankful I am and what a relief it was to not have to worry about printing costs. Mr. Grubbs even printed beautiful stationery, which we used all year long, with the UTD and Dallas Chess Club logos for the Pan American Tournament.

I was very pleased with the media turnout. With the help of the UTD News and Publications department, we were able to have Channels 4 (FOX), 5 (NBC), and 8 (ABC) shoot footage of the event that appeared on that week's news. Each channel ran the spot on several of their news shows, so we had 10 (3) TV spots that week-end, plus one radio spot on WBAP-AM's show "AM Drive." We also

had three articles appear in the Dallas Morning News and one in the Plano Star Courier. It seems that the Dallas media are very supportive of chess; as articles often appear about local scholastic events too.

Of course, the participation of a former world junior champion, GM Tal Shaked, didn't hurt in getting the media's attention! I was pleasantly surprised to learn what a humble and considerate young man GM Shaked is.

I was actually very surprised during this year's awards ceremony when UTD Dean of Undergraduate Studies Mike Coleman made a quick and unparalleled decision to give out four scholarships to UT Dallas to the winners of the scholastic section. As director of recruiting for UTD's chess program, I was very pleased to learn that two of the recipients are masters.

I am very proud of this year's Pan American in Dallas, but I am also glad that it is over! It took more than a year of work to ensure the success that we had. So while organizing this year's event was a wonderful experience, I think it will be some time before I think about organizing another national event. I think everyone who attended had a great time and thought it was very well organized. I look forward to next year's event in Toronto, Ontario. Hopefully though, the Pan American can come back to Texas in the coming years! ♠

