



# UTD



# Chess



# Club



# BIG



# at

CLEMENS REIDEM  
UTD CHESS CLUB PRESIDENT

In the distance, vague but ferocious sounds can be heard as a fast paced game nears its completion. Up close, vibrations of intensity can be felt as each player desperately tries to defeat the other, in an allocated time period; otherwise forfeiting the game. Soon, both players are making split second moves, analyzing hundreds of potential combinations in mere seconds. The game continues as both players feel the game drawing closer to an end; both knowing that there will only be one winner. The tension quickly escalates as observers try to keep up with the fast paced action. Both players feel the adrenaline rushing as they either try to press and advantage or stay alive. Then, there is a sigh of relief from one of the players as he ends the game with two simple words, "Check Mate."

It is a widely known fact that the UTD has an outstanding chess team. Last winter, our team had an excellent showing at the Pan-American Collegiate Tournament, placing second only to the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). The UTD Chess Team, however, defeated such distinguished schools as Stanford, Harvard, and Princeton. However, during the 2000 spring Semester, UTD went to UMBC and beat them in a two-game six board match by the score of 8 1/2-3 1/2.

In the spring, the team also won the National Collegiate Chess League, a match played on the Internet against other college teams in the country, with a match score of three points, while second and third place had one point. "It was interesting playing a match over the Internet," said participant and Chess Club Team public relations officer Andrew Whatley. "It added a new depth to the game."

This year, the team has become even stronger, with four new freshmen recruits joining the roster on the team. The President of UTD, Dr. Franklin Jennifer, was quoted in the Dallas

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Morning News, "I probably have the best chess team in the world here at UTD."

However, the UTD Chess Team is only a part of the large Chess Program that exists here at UTD. Beyond the chess team, UTD weekly houses the Chess Club, which actively participates at this school. The club, thus far, had three meetings, but it always opens its doors to chess players who are interested in playing and promoting chess at UTD. Every week, the club meets on Fridays from 3p.m.-6p.m. in Multi Purpose room 3.226.

One of the weekly activities that the Chess Club participates in is the ladder tournament, an ongoing tournament that will end on Nov. 17. Its structure is similar to a pyramid with one person on the top rung, two people on the next lower rung, three on the next, and so on. The object is to challenge players on the rung immediately above yours. If you win, you move up and the loser moves down. If challenged, you will maintain your position by winning and fall farther down the ladder by losing. The person on the top rung is the winner of the tournament. "It is a great way to promote chess here at UTD," said graduate student and Chess Club PR Osvaldo Charles. "Defending my status gives me an incentive to come and play every week."

UTD Chess Club members also volunteered at two Dallas area schools' chess tournaments (<http://www.dallaschess.com/dacis/>). Over two hundred inner city school students came to UTD on one Saturday last December. Last spring, another 200 participated in the DACIS/UTD tournament, and the sixth-grade winner, Chris Martin, earned a full four-year scholarship to UTD ([https://www.dallasnews.com/metro/64965\\_CHESS16.html](https://www.dallasnews.com/metro/64965_CHESS16.html))!

In the 1999-2000 events, chess club members acted as tournament directors for the event. Every aspect of event management from registering children at the start to ruling on game disputes to cleaning up at the end of the tournament involved UTD student volunteers. The Program plans a similar effort at the 00-01 events. First, the University Championship will be held Nov. 18-19. The tournament will be open to all UTD students and is free of charge. Secondly, the DACIS tournament at UTD is scheduled for Dec. 9.

UTD Program members also volunteered at the National Elementary Championship, held May 12-14 in Grapevine. The tournament required many volunteers to serve the 2039 youngsters who participated. The National Elementary winner, Hikaru Nakamura, earned a full four-year scholarship to UTD. UTD Program members acted as tournament directors and coaches.

Internally, the club is very active. The Club has a mailing list where club members can inform each other about upcoming events, or chat with each other. To register, drop a line on the chess club website at <http://www.utdallas.edu/orgs/chess/>. "The website has helped to make the Chess Club more active; it is a great way to keep up to date," said Michael Ferguson UTD Chess Club Web-Master.

The Chess Club is expected to be one of the busiest organizations this year. It is imperative that UTD students know that there are no commitments to join the club. Anyone is free to come by and just challenge people to chess games or even join an activity each and every Friday from 3-6 pm in the Multi Purpose room 3.226. For more information, please feel free to call Ken Elliott at (972) 883-2898.



# UTD



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Fredman is a Professor  
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