

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS 2601 N. FLOYD ROAD, RICHARDSON TX, 75080

U.T. Dallas News

CONTACT INFORMATION: TIM PARETI, U.T. DALLAS NEWS AND INFORMATION: 972-883-2293
(FAX 863-2368; E-MAIL: PARETI@UTDALLAS.EDU ; HTTP://WWW.UTDALLAS.EDU)

UTD recruits two chess masters under TA program *Pilot project to aid Dallas schools*

Sept. 24, 1997 (UTD) - James Dean is getting paid to make his moves at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Dubbed the "Big D's," Dean, a sophomore, and freshman Jason Doss, have accepted chess teaching assistantships to play on UTD's nationally ranked chess team. Both Dean and Doss, who graduated from the same high school in Indianapolis, Ind, are master-level players ranked in the top 50 list of best chess players under 21 in the United States.

Under the new chess teaching assistantship program at UTD, Dean and Doss will teach chess several times each week to students at various schools in the Dallas Independent School District. UTD is the only university that offers a chess teaching assistantship, according to Dr. Tim Redman, a professor of literary studies and the team's advisor

"This is a new program that is experimental this year," Redman said. "If it works out, we'll continue it next year."

Dean and Doss will begin teaching chess next week at "economically disadvantaged" schools under the Dallas Chess in the Schools program.

Meanwhile, the addition of Dean and Doss has bolstered UTD's highly-respected chess team which now includes four master level players. Last year, UTD, with only one master player on the team, finished ninth in the Pan

American Intercollegiate Chess Championship – the Super Bowl of chess competitions. But with the move to add Dean and Doss to the team this year, UTD hopes to checkmate the competition.

“The addition of James and Jason to our team is really significant,” Redman said. “We’re very excited about our prospects of winning.”

So confident about the new addition, the UTD chess team this year expects to make a run at the perennial powerhouse University of Maryland Baltimore County, a team that won the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship last year and is known to heavily recruit top-ranked foreign chess players.

“They’re certainly the team to beat,” Dean said of UMBC. “But other than that, we should beat just about anybody.”

Redman, a former player on the 1970s University of Chicago national championship chess team, made a more modest prediction of this year’s Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship, which begins Dec. 26-29 in Bowling Green, Ky.

“This year our team is much stronger but the competition is better too,” Redman said. “I’m predicting we’ll get fifth place or better.”

Redman was recently named the national coordinator of collegiate chess for the U.S Chess Federation, a national organization with 85,000 members.

UTD has applied to host the 1998 Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship.

For more information, call Redman, (972) 883-2775; Dean, (972) 454-4561; or John Jacobs, president of the Dallas Chess in the School program, at (972) 234-4141.