

Report of the USCF College Chess Committee

May 31, 2001

The following points summarize the activities, suggestions, issues, and plans for College Chess Committee (CCC).

1. The CCC met at the 2000 Pan-Am in Milwaukee. The Committee felt the need for clarification or revision of the following Pan-Am rules: missing team players at the first round only, starting times for rounds, and time controls (*e.g.* 45/2 vs. 40/2).
2. The 2001 Pan-Am will take place December 26–29 in Providence, Rhode Island, organized by Seneca Nowland, President, Rhode Island College (RIC) Chess Club. The RIC Student Government awarded the event \$10,000 in support. Some schools expressed interest in the possibility of hosting the 2002 Pan-Am in the California Bay area and the 2003 Pan-Am in Chicago.
3. In accordance with prior agreements with the USCF, the CCC requests that USCF immediately release \$1,000 to the RIC Chess Club for use in advertising and promoting the 2001 Pan-Am.
4. The CCC nominates the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) for Chess College of the Year. UTD is Co-Champion of the 2000 Pan-Am and winner of the 2001 President's Cup. UTD has contributed greatly to college chess through chess scholarships and chess-in-the-schools programs in Dallas. In addition, UTD is hosting the Koltanowski Memorial Conference on Chess and Education December 13–17, 2001.
5. Among the issues facing college chess are few active clubs, declining USCF regular memberships among college-age people, continuity, and identifying chess-playing students and faculty. Experience has shown that the most successful college chess programs have a dedicated faculty advisor to complement student leadership.
6. The CCC recommends: (a) that USCF offer a reduced-price four-year college membership, marketed as a graduation gift to graduating high-school seniors. (b) that USCF add fields to its membership database to enable each member to specify a zip code of her college, and a zip code of her current place of chess activity. (c) that USCF devote at least one to two pages per issue of *Chess Life* to college chess. (d) that USCF lower or eliminate the college affiliate fee.
7. As Chair of the CCC, my plans are to build a www site for college chess that will be a centralized source of useful information. In particular, this site will contain information useful to organizers in running the Pan-Am, the CCC Guidelines and their amendments, college clubs, information helpful in running a college club, college chess scholarships, and historical information on the results of the Pan-Am and other college events.
8. The National Collegiate Chess League (NCCL) was held this year on the new USCF online site US Chess Live. The turnout of 12 teams was larger than any previous online league run by the USCF. We expect that this league will eventually dominate the Pan-Am in popularity.
9. A new college event was launched this year—The President's Cup—a team-round-robin invitational tournament among four of the top six-person college chess teams in the USA, scored by individual points. The 2001 event was conceived of, and hosted, sponsored, and won by the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), April 13–14, 2001, in Dallas. The other competitors this year were UMBC,

Berkeley, and Stanford. We hope that this tradition, which was reported by the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, will continue.

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