

Fremont City Chess Champions

Saturday, February 27, 2010
by Alan M. Kirshner PhD

The Weibel Chess Teams are the first ever Fremont City Chess Champions. We also have a few individual Champions as well. The good news is that our perennial competition, Mission San Jose Elementary School, had a nice size contingent at the Saturday's event and so it was not a foregone conclusion. Both our Teams were missing some key players so it may not come out the same way at the States. However, there is little doubt in my mind that Weibel has the best competitive Team that it has had in about three years.



Former Weibel Chess players, NM Rohan Agarwal, Ankita Roy and Akshay Narayan ran the event at Irvington High School and did a truly remarkable job. Personally, I wish some other tournament directors could have been there to take lessons from these three organizers. I cannot express in words how proud I am of our former students. It is times like this that I know why I have remained at Weibel with a chess program for twenty years.

So on to the results:



Our two highest rated players, Daniel Ho and Justin Wang, tied for first place in the over 1000 division. However, to win the first place trophy, the title of Fremont City Champion and a \$100 scholarship, they had to play two blitz games(5 minute chess). Boy, was that exciting. In the first game Justin Wang had a clear win on the board and needed maybe 2 seconds to claim the victory. However, he ran out of time and Daniel was declared the winner.

I took about 30 photos from above on that game which I will soon be posting on the web at the <http://www.CalNorthYouthChess.org/photographs.html> page. In the second game Daniel had a close win and became the first ever Fremont City Chess Champion. Joanna Liu (a second grade student) tied for third with Abhishek Handigol who plays at Weibel but attends Challenger. I might note that almost every Weibel player gained national points in this tournament. The Weibel Chess Team won the title of Fremont City Team Champion in the over 1000--Varsity Division.





In the Junior Varsity Division between 500 and 999, Ishas Kekre (fourth grade) won a clear first and the JV City title. Angela Chan tied for third. Weibel Elementary School won the Team title.

In the novice division (under 500), the championship title came down to a battle between Chadborne's Kumar Sugan, coached by Sujay Roy a parent of organizer Ankita Roy as well as a Weibel Club instructor, and Harsh Harpalani (sixth grade), a Weibel Club player attending his first ever tournament. Chadborne's Sugan pulled out the win and Harsh Harpalani had to settle for fifth place tied with Amirah Mohamed Rafi (first grade). However, Weibel's Parsa Ganjooi (sixth grade) and Jaden Wei (first grade) tied for second place. Neither player lost a game, but both received draws that placed them just out of the reach of the first place Kumar Sugan. Once again, Weibel Chess took first making it a clean sweep in the Team competition.



I would like to thank all the Weibel players whose attendance at the first ever City championships helped make this tournament a resounding success pulling in 88 competitors one of the larger scholastic events this year.

Chess is Forever!

Alan

NOTE: an article about the tournament was also in the TriCity Voice here:

<http://www.tricityvoice.com/articlefiledisplay.php?issue=2010-02-10&file=Fremont%20chess%20pro.txt>