



Alberta Chess Report

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North wins Battle of Alberta

by Richard Pua

The annual Battle of Alberta, pitting the best players of the North against the best players of the South was held in Red Deer on July 8 and the North squad won the event.

Because of the North's desperation

to regain the coveted trophy this year, North's team captain Micah Hughey felt compelled to pull out all the stops in acquiring the best possible line-up of players.

Continued on Page 2

Scores of combatants on Page 2

Upcoming Alberta Chess Association Open Tournaments

Alberta Open Championship

October 7, 8 and 9 in Calgary

Southern Alberta Open

November 18 and 19 in Calgary

Weekend Before Xmas Team tournament

December 16 and 17 in Edmonton

See Separate Ads in this issue



Lee wins IM title

by Richard Pua

Vicente Lee Jr. becomes Alberta's newest international master by his impressive performance of 6.5 points out of a possible 9 at the Belzberg Invitational in Toronto, August 18 -27, which was also the 2006 Canadian Closed and Zonal Championship.

This strong tournament featured two Grandmasters, seven International Masters, 13 FIDE Masters and 43 other participants, including seven from Alberta.

After a slow start of only one point in his first three games, Lee turned his game up a notch by going undefeated over the next six rounds.

On the way to claiming the IM title, Lee defeated fellow Edmontonian Jeff Reeve, FM Goran Mikanovic and Nikolay Noritsyn while drawing with FM Nenad Ristic of Calgary

This year's Canadian Closed Champion is IM Igor Zugic with a score of 7/9.

With his score of 6.5/9, Lee finished in a 4-way tie for second place with Canada's newest Grand-



Vicente Lee Jr.

masters, Mark Bluvshstein and Pascal Charbonneau, and IM Leonid Gerzhoy.

Dale Haessel of Calgary finished with 6/9. He then participated in a 3-way playoff for a FIDE master title but was unsuccessful against Shiyam Thavandiran and Jonathan Tayar.

Other Alberta players

The other Albertans in the event were Robert Gardner of Edmonton who scored 5/9; Reeve with 4.5/9; Victor Kaminski of Calgary with 4.5/9; FM Ristic with 3.5/9; FM Gregory Huber of Calgary with 3.5/9; and teenager Eric Hansen of Calgary who was the lowest rated in the tournament but still managed a 2.0/9 score.



CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta

Inside this issue



Alberta Chess Association

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Edmonton Chess Club has new board

Priority is to fix up new location

At its annual meeting held September 28 at its new location, Edmonton Chess Club elected officers and directors for the coming year.

President Micah Hughey stepped down but will remain as a director. Terry Seehagen is the new president.

The club's four officers were all acclaimed to their positions, but there was an actual election as there were six candidates for the three directorship.

The line-up of the club's

2006/07 board is:

President: Terry Seehagen

Vice-president:

Vladislav Rekhson

Treasurer: Breagan Harrop

Secretary: Bruce Thomas

Directors: Roland Schech, Micah Hughey, Richard Pua

New facility

Although the club's new rental location is costing more, the general agreement at the meeting appeared to indicate that the additional space and layout will serve the club well.

It was noted that most junior

tournaments, previously held at Concordia University, are now being held at ECC.

It appears the new board's first priority will be renovating and making the new location what one member said could be the "best chess club in Canada".

Outgoing treasurer Nic Haynes indicated that the club's finances are healthy, largely due to casino funding which contributes up to \$80,000 towards the club every two years.



Battle of Alberta ... Continued from Page 1

The possibility of IM Nekrasov or FM Ristovic and other strong masters signing up to play for the South's "dream team" would present team North with a difficult challenge. However, a number of strong players did step up to the boards for the North.

David Ottosen, who now lives in Costa Rica, volunteered to play for the North. Austrian native Werner Wilkie was visiting Edmonton when Hughey convinced him to wear the North's colors. These two players were added to a core group of northern masters Jeff Reeve, Vicente Lee, Rob Gardner, Zhichao Li.

Despite trailing in the first half of the tournament, team North succeeded with a score of 13-11, and brought the trophy back to Edmonton to gloat over until the 2007 Battle.

The date of next year's Battle is expected to be announced early in the year so that there

Battle of Alberta Results:

South:

Gregory Huber (2325) 1-1
Knut Neven (2260) 1-1
Chris Demers (2254) 1-1
Dale Haessel (2200) 1-1
Sean Perron (2164) 1-1
Daniel Kazmaier (2160) 2-0
Andrew Boik (2099) 1-1
Roy Yearwood (2090) 1-1
Eric Hansen (2023) 0-2
Pavlos Tomaras (2011) .5-1.5
Martin Robichaud (2006) .5-1.5
Chris Kuczaj (1884) 1-1

North:

Jeff Reeve (2304)
Vicente Lee (2257)
Rob Gardner (2225)
Zhichao Li (2219)
Werner Wilke (2191)
Nelson Balbutin (2184)
Sasa Grumic (2097)
Vlad Rekhson (1983)
David Ottosen (2077)
Nic Haynes (2076)
Micah Hughey (2046)
Hafiz Karmali (2039)

11 Points - 13 Points

can be several months of insults traded between the combatants even though their respective squads' players may not be known until a few days before the event.

Responsible for organizing the event and forming excellent teams of strong players were North captain Hughey and South captain Jim Daniluk.



Calgary Club elects leaders

Calgary Chess Club recently held its annual meeting.

After reports from president Jim Daniluk and treasurer Andrew Beingessner, the following were elected for the 2006-2007 year:

Jim Daniluk - president

Ron Hinds - vice-president

Andrew Beingessner - treasurer

Walter Watson - secretary

Bill Bentley - director

Mark Cole - director

Cashe Erskine - director

The first executive meeting will likely be held on Sunday, October 15.



The Alberta Chess Association in partnership with the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, provides a more active lifestyle to Albertans by providing programs to enhance living through playing chess. The ACA greatly acknowledges the support provided by ASRPWF which enables the association to deliver many of our programs.

Active Open highlights Edmonton outdoor chess festival

by Richard Pua

Under sunny skies and with warm temperatures, the first annual Winston Churchill Square Outdoor Chess Festival on August 26 featured 20 players in the open active tournament, 15 juniors in the scholastic tournament and about a dozen casual chess players.

With regards to publicity, it was an overwhelming success for chess in Alberta since the tournament was covered on the front page of the next day's Edmonton Journal.

Pre-publicity included an Edmonton Journal columnist saying chess on the square would be more exciting than an Eskimos football game, and another columnist commented that "what's a public square without chess".

With regards to the actual tournament, the participants seemed to welcome the opportunity to play outdoors.

The event was organized by The Roving ChessNuts and assisted by the City of Edmonton and Three Bananas Cafe which served discounted food to the players and also donated \$40 worth of food vouchers which were given out by draw.

The winner of the open active section was Arniel Frialde with a score of 4/4. Sardul Purewal and David Ostapchuk finished in second with a 3/4 score each.

Top junior prize went to David Mrugala with 2.5/4 and the under 1600 prize was split between Jonathan Mrugala, Derek Thomas, Harris Wang and Anthony Wu each with a score of 2/4.

In the scholastic section, two Manitoban chess playing brothers joined in the festivities and did very well against their Alberta junior opponents.

Desmond Baron won in section A with a score of 3.5/5.

Chewynn Mardiros, from Manitoba, won in section B with a perfect score of 5/5 while his brother, Xian, took section C, also with a perfect 4/4 score.

Chief organizer of the festival, Bruce Thomas, says the 2007 version is being planned for June so that more junior players can be attracted while school is still in session.

During the event, Cy Menard of the seniors casual chess club supervised the giant chess set provided by the City of Edmonton. Dozens of people stopped by to watch the event and many picked up information about local chess activities.



CROSSTABLE - Churchill Square Active Open

1. Frialde, Arniel	W11	W6	W5	W10	4.0/4
2. Purewal, Sardul	W12	W8	L10	W5	3.0/4
3. Hughey, Micah	D13	W20	D4	D8	2.5/4
4. Gonzalez, Ivan	W14	L10	D3	W19	2.5/4
5. Haynes, Nicolas	W15	W17	L1	L2	2.0/4
6. Karmali, Hafiz	W16	L1	W14	L0	2.0/4
7. Beesley, Scott	L17	W13	L19	W14	2.0/4
8. Mrugala, David	W18	L2	W17	D3	2.5/4
9. Pua, Richard	Tournament Director				
10. Ostapchuk, David	W19	W4	W2	L1	3.0/4
11. Pedersen, Rick	L1	W16	D20	D15	2.0/4
12. Roberts, Richard	L2	L19	L15	L17	0.0/4
13. Mrugala, Jonathan	D3	L7	W18	D20	2.0/4
14. Bullerkist, Caitlin	L4	W21	L6	L7	1.0/4
15. Thomas, Derek	L5	D18	W12	D11	2.0/4
16. Wang, Hao	L6	L11	W21	L0	1.0/4
17. Wang, Harris	W7	L5	L8	W12	2.0/4
18. Wang, Richard	L8	D15	L13	W21	1.5/4
19. Wu, Anthony	L10	W12	W7	L4	2.0/4
20. Jachowicz, Pawel	W21	L3	D11	D13	2.0/4
21. Robbiard, Troy	L20	L14	L16	L18	0.0/4

ACA Annual General Meeting

Sunday, October 8

2:00 p.m. - Between Rounds 3 and 4 of Alberta Open
Quality Inn Motel Village
2359 Banff Trail NW, Calgary, Alberta

Approximately half of the ACA Board positions
will be elected to two year terms

Open to all current Alberta Chess Association Members



Four junior medal winners at Churchill Square.

Albertan Games at Canadian Closed Championship

The Canadian Closed and Zonal Chess Championship was held in Toronto, beginning August 18, 2006

Round 9 - August 27, 2006

White: Vicente Lee (2236)
Black: Nikolay Noritsyn (2354)
Result 1-0

Notes by Richard Pua: Sicilian Accelerated Dragon leads to a back and forth struggle until White exposes the Black king while White's seemingly defenseless king was safe from checks. Further moves lead to material gains for White.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6
5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Nb3 Nf6 7. Be2 O-O 8. O-O
d6 9. Bg5 Be6 10. Kh1 Rc8 11. f4 a6
12. Bf3 b5 13. Re1 Nd7 14. Rb1 Nb6
15. Nd5 Nc4 16. c3 Re8 17. Nd2 Nb6
18. Qe2 Na4 19. Nb3 f6 20. Bh4 Bf7
21. Red1 e6 22. Ne3 Qe7 Black's pawns
look nice, but White retains an advantage in
space.
23. Nd4 Nxd4 24. cxd4 d5 25. exd5 exd5
26. Re1 Qd6 27. Qf2 f5 28. Rbd1 Nb6 29.
Bg3 White's bishop seems misplaced here.
29. ...Nd7 30. Bh4 h6 31. g3 Nb6 32. b3
Qb4 33. Ng2 Nd7 Fritz recommends 33. ...
Rxe1+ 34. Nxe1 Re8.
34. h3 Nb8 35. g4 Rxe1 36. Nxe1 Nc6
37. gxf5 gxf5 38. Nd3 Qxd4 39. Qg2 White
will regain the pawn with initiative.
Qc3 40. Bxd5 Bxd5 41. Qxd5 Kh8 42. Rc1
Qd2 43. Qd7 Rg8 The losing move!



44. Rxc6 Qd1 45. Kh2 Qh5 46. Bf2 Qf3
47. Rg6 Kh7 48. Qxf5 Kh8 49. Rg2 Rf8
50. Qg6 Qb7 51. Bd4 Rf7 52. Qxh6 Kg8
53. Rxc7 Rxc7 54. Qxc7 Qxc7 55. Bxc7
1-0

**Calling All Chess Clubs ...
Please send an article on your
activities to the ACR by October
29! See Page 7 on how to submit.**

Round 7

August 24, 2006

White: Jeff Reeve (2252)
Black: Vicente Lee (2236)
Result: 0-1

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Qb6 8. Qd2 The
infamous Sicilian Najdorf poisoned pawn
variation and Black accepts the challenge ...
8. ... Qxb2 9. Nb3 Qa3 10. Bxf6 gxf6
11. Be2 h5 12. O-O Nc6 13. f5 Bd7



14. fxe6 fxe6 15. Rxf6 Regains the pawn,
but Black is very active due to his two bish-
ops.
15. ... O-O-O 16. Raf1 Bg7 17. Rg6 Fritz
recommends Rf7
17. ... Be5 18. Rf3 Rdf8 19. Rh6 Qb4
20. Rxh8 Rxh8 21. Rd3 h4 22. h3 Rf8
23. Bf3 Bf4 24. Qf2 Ne5 25. Ne2 Nxd3
26. cxd3 Bg5 27. Kh2 Kb8 28. g3 Qb5
29. d4 Qd3 30. Kg2 Be3 31. Qf1 Bb5 **0-1**

Round 4 - August 21, 2006

White: GM Mark Bluvshtein (2541)
Black: FM Greg Huber (2245)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 b6
5. Nge2 c5 6. a3 Ba5 7. Rb1 Na6 8. d5 Bb7
9. g3 exd5 10. Bg2 Rb8 11. cxd5 b5
12. O-O b4 13. axb4 Nxb4 14. e4 O-O
15. e5 Ng4 16. f4 c4 17. Nd4 Bb6 18. h3
Nd3 19. Qxg4 Bxd4 20. Kh2 Bxc3 21. bxc3
Bxd5 22. Ba3 h5 23. Qe2 Bxg2 24. Qxg2
Re8 25. Qd5 Rxb1 26. Rxb1 h4 27. Bd6
hxg3 28. Kxg3 Nxf4 29. Kxf4 Qh4 30. Ke3
Qxh3 31. Qf3 Qh6 32. Kf2 Qd2 33. Kf1
Qc2 34. Re1 Re6 35. Qa8 Kh7 36. Qe4
Qxe4 37. Rxe4 f6 38. Bb8 fxe5 39. Rxc4
Kg6 40. Rg4 Kf5 41. Rxg7 Rc6 42. Rg3
Kf4 43. Rd3 a5 44. Ke2 a4 45. Kd2 a3
46. Rd4 Kf5 47. Rd5 d6 48. Ra5 Rb6
49. Bc7 Rc6 50. Bd8 d5 51. Kd3 e4
52. Kd4 a2 53. Kxd5 Rc8 54. Kd4 Kf4
55. Bg5 Kg4 56. Bc1 Kf3 57. c4 Rd8
58. Kc3 e3 59. Rxa2 Rd1 60. Bxe3
Kxe3 61. Rc2 Rd3 62. Kb4 Kd4 63. c5 Rd1
64. c6 Rb1 65. Ka5 Ra1 66. Kb6 Rb1
67. Ka6 Ra1 68. Kb7 Rb1 69. Kc8 Kd5
70. c7 Rh1 71. Kd8 Rh8 72. Ke7 **1-0**

Round 1 - August 18, 2006

White: Dale Haessel (2195)
Black: IM Leonid Gerzhoy (2386)

1. c4 c5 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. Nc3 Nc6 5. a3
e6 6. Rb1 Nge7 7. b4 d6 8. Nf3 O-O 9. O-O b6
10. e3 Bb7 11. d4 cxd4 12. exd4 d5 13. cxd5
exd5 14. Bf4 Nf5 15. Nxd5 Qxd5 16. Ne5 Qxg2
17. Kxg2 Nxe5 18. f3 Nxf3 19. Rxf3 Nxd4
20. Rbb3 Rad8 21. Qb1 Rfe8 22. Kf2 Re2
23. Kf1 Rxh2 24. Kg1 Nxf3 **0-1**

Alberta Chess Association's Southern Alberta Open

November 18 and 19, 2006

Best Western (Brentwood Room)
1804 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary
(403) 289-0241

Tournament Organizer: Jim Daniluk
(403) 248-7456 Email: sacrat@shaw.ca

Five round Swiss: Three games Saturday, two Sunday.
Winner qualifies for a spot in the 2007 Alberta Closed.
More details as they become available.

GM Charbonneau tours Alberta



GM Charbonneau ponders a move.

During his June tour of Alberta, including Grande Prairie and Calgary, GM Pascal Charbonneau paid a visit to West Edmonton Mall where some eager chess enthusiasts listened to Canada's newest Grandmaster give a lecture and then tried their luck against him in a simultaneous display.

His lecture was quite interesting as he analyzed his victory against GM Vishy Anand at the 2006 Chess Olympiad. He then went on to explain some of the intricacies of the Hedgehog structures in the Sicilian defence.

The simul was held on the mall near The Bay and thousands of people watched or at least took a glimpse of the event from both levels of the mall.

GM Charbonneau faced a total of 28 players who ranged from raw beginners to experienced masters, and from energetic juniors to cagey senior veterans.

The GM's final score was an impressive 24 wins, one draw and three losses. Robert Gardner, Vladislav Rekhson and Richard Pua survived the grandmaster's skills with victories while Micah Hughey escaped with a draw. Young Richard Wang was one of the last standing against the GM.

Playing conditions during the event were not quiet as it was the afternoon just before an Edmonton Oilers play-off game, and roving

Richard Pua's win over GM Charbonneau

Charbonneau - Pua

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. e4 e5 | 17. Bxf6 gxf6 |
| 2. Bc4 Nc6 | 18. Qxf6 Qxf6 |
| 3. d3 Nf6 | 19. Rxf6 h5 |
| 4. Nc3 Bc5 | 20. Bxf7 Rg7 |
| 5. f4 d6 | 21. Be6+ Nxe6 |
| 6. Nf3 Bg4 | 22. Rxe6 Rf1+ |
| 7. h3 Bxf3 | 23. Ke2 Rxa1 |
| 8. Qxf3Nd4 | 24. Rxe5 Bd4 |
| 9. Qg3 Qe7 | 25. Rxh5 Bxc3 |
| 10. Kd1 0-0-0 | 26. bxc3 Rxa2 |
| 11. Rf1 Rhg8 | 27. Kd2 a5 |
| 12. fxe5dxe5 | 28. Rf5 Ra1 |
| 13. Bg5c6 | 29. e5 Kd7 |
| 14. Qh4Rdf8 | 30. Rf6 Rh1 |
| 15. g4 b5 | 31. Rd6+ Kc7 |
| 16. Bb3h6 | 32. Rh6 Rxc4 |
- White resigned, **0-1**

bands of hockey fans were occasionally passing the simul site, waving flags and shouting support for the team. And as the simul came nearer to hockey play-off time, emcee Bruce Thomas began prompting the Grandmaster to make sure he finished before the puck was dropped - he did with time to spare.

Tour arrangements

Grandmaster Charbonneau's tour included the entire country and was arranged by the Chess'n Math Association while the Alberta portion of it was financed by the Alberta Chess Association.

GM Shabalov wins Edmonton Sectional

by Richard Pua
Edmonton's June Sectional was held at West Edmonton Mall's Fantasyland Hotel, June 23 to 25 and featured GM Alexander Shabalov and IM Mihail Nekrasov.

The six round-robin sections featured players of similar ratings which increased the competitive instincts of the participants.

Section A:
GM Alexander Shabalov finished with a perfect score

of 5/5. IM Mihail Nekrasov finished second with 3/5. Jeff Reeve and Greg Huber finished tied for 3rd with a 2.5/5 score.

Section B:
Zhichao Li finished with 5/5, capturing first place. Micah Hughey was second at 3/5.

Section C:
Mark Stark won with a score of 4/5, pushing his rating into the 1900's. Ivan Gonzalez took second with a 3.5/5 score.

Section D:
Wade Caughlin and David Ostapchuk tied for top prize with 4/5.

Section E:
Jonathan Mrugala finished first with 3.5/5 points. Hao Wang and Damon MacLeod tied for second with 3/5 points.

Section F:
Richard Wang at age 7 and Ron Johnson finished tied for first with 4/5 points each. Wang's performance rating was 1531.



Alberta Chess Association's Alberta Open Championship

Saturday, October 7 • Sunday, October 8 • Thanksgiving Monday, October 9

Quality Inn Motel Village, 2359 Banff Trail NW, Calgary

Guaranteed Prize Fund of \$1,000 • 6 Rounds Swiss (2 games per day)

Winner qualifies for 2007 Alberta Closed

Registration October 7: 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Entry Fee \$25 (\$20 Juniors)

Players arriving late will have until 10:50 to register and will be paired against other late arrivals, for an 11:00 start time with 80min + 30sec reduced time control.

Rounds 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Saturday • 9 a.m., 5 p.m. Sunday • 9 a.m. 2 p.m. (or ASAP where both players agree to play early)

Tournament Director: Juraj Pivovarov, (403) 228-2089 • Organizer: Jim Daniluk, (403) 248-7456, sacrat@shaw.ca



More Canadian Closed Games

Round 4 - August 21, 2006

White: GM Mark Bluvshstein (2541)

Black: FM Greg Huber (2245)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 b6 5. Nge2
 c5 6. a3 Ba5 7. Rb1 Na6 8. d5 Bb7 9. g3 exd5
 10. Bg2 Rb8 11. cxd5 b5 12. O-O b4 13. axb4
 Nxb4 14. e4 O-O 15. e5 Ng4 16. f4 c4 17. Nd4
 Bb6 18. h3 Nd3 19. Qxg4 Bxd4 20. Kh2 Bxc3
 21. bxc3 Bxd5 22. Ba3 h5 23. Qe2 Bxg2
 24. Qxg2 Re8 25. Qd5 Rxb1 26. Rxb1 h4 27.
 Bd6 hxg3 28. Kxg3 Nxf4 29. Kxf4 Qh4 30. Ke3
 Qxh3 31. Qf3 Qh6 32. Kf2 Qd2 33. Kf1 Qc2
 34. Re1 Re6 35. Qa8 Kh7 36. Qe4 Qxe4
 37. Rxe4 f6 38. Bb8 fxe5 39. Rxc4 Kg6 40. Rg4
 Kf5 41. Rxg7 Rc6 42. Rg3 Kf4 43. Rd3 a5
 44. Ke2 a4 45. Kd2 a3 46. Rd4 Kf5 47. Rd5 d6
 48. Ra5 Rb6 49. Bc7 Rc6 50. Bd8 d5 51. Kd3
 e4 52. Kd4 a2 53. Kxd5 Rc8 54. Kd4 Kf4
 55. Bg5 Kg4 56. Bc1 Kf3 57. c4 Rd8 58. Kc3
 e3 59. Rxa2 Rd1 60. Bxe3 Kxe3 61. Rc2 Rd3
 62. Kb4 Kd4 63. c5 Rd1 64. c6 Rb1 65. Ka5
 Ra1 66. Kb6 Rb1 67. Ka6 Ra1 68. Kb7 Rb1
 69. Kc8 Kd5 70. c7 Rh1 71. Kd8 Rh8 72. Ke7
 1-0

Round 1 - August 18, 2006

White: IM Igor Zugic (2467)

Black: Robert Gardner (2217)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 b6 4. g3 Ba6 5. Qc2 c5
 6. Bg2 Bb7 7. d5 exd5 8. cxd5 Bxd5 9. Nc3 Bc6
 10. e4 Be7 11. Bf4 O-O 12. O-O-O Na6 13. Ne5
 Bb7 14. Qe2 Nb4 15. g4 d6 16. Nc4 d5 17. exd5
 Nfxd5



White
to
Move

18. Bxd5 Bxd5 19. Nxd5 Nxd5 20. Qe5 Qc8
 21. Qxd5 Qxg4 22. Bd6 Bxd6 23. Nxd6 Qf4
 24. Kb1 Rad8 25. Qf5 Qa4 26. Rhg1 g6 27. Qe4
 Qd7 28. Rge1 Qh3 29. Qf4 Qh5 30. f3 1-0

Masters battle in Edmonton

by Richard Pua

Last spring's Edmonton International brought five IM's and five masters together for a 9-round, round-robin tournament with IM norm possibilities.

Peter Vavrak won the tournament with a score of 7/9. Dimitry Zilberstein and Jesse Kraai finished tied for 2nd with 6.5 out of 9 points.

Alberta chess masters received the following scores:

Rob Gardner 4.0/9

Jeff Reeve 3.5/9

Vicente Lee 3.0/9

Dale Haessel 2.0/9



Three Albertans play in Ontario

by Richard Pua

Kitchener (Ontario) Chess Festival was comprised of three different tournaments - Canadian Open 2006, Canadian Junior 2006 and Canadian Youth Championships 2006 - held July 10 through 23.

Albertans Vicente Lee Jr., Daniel Kazmaier and Eric Hansen took part in the various tournaments.

In the CYCC Under age 18 boys section, Daniel Kazmaier of Calgary tied for third with a score of 4.5 out of 7 points. He did finish with more wins and a higher performance rating than his closest competitor. This should be enough for him to qualify for the World Youth Chess Championships (WYCC).

In the CYCC U14 boys section, Eric Hansen of Calgary also finished in third place with a score of 5 out of 7. The top three finishers in each section were invited to represent Canada at the WYCC.

Then in the the Canadian Open 2006, Vicente Lee of Edmonton scored five in his nine games while Kazmaier got 4.5 and Hansen captured 3 points.

Lee was defeated by GM Alexander Huzman in round 2. Huzman made himself famous by defeating Garry Kasparov a few years back.

Daniel Kazmaier was up against GM Mark Bluvshstein of Toronto in round 3 but could not hang on against the teenage grand-master.

Eric Hansen got a draw against Julian Estrada, rated at 2380, in round 1.

Weekend Before Xmas Team Tournament

December 16 & 17

Tournament Director: Vlad Rekhson

(780) 266-1216 Email: vrekhsn@yahoo.ca

Edmonton Chess Club, #204, 10840 124 Street



This year's edition of the traditional Weekend Before Xmas Open will be a team event featuring a five round team swiss event. Please note that pre-registration is required.

Each team will have at least three players whose average rating will not exceed 1900. Because byes are not allowed in a team event each team may have up to one substitute. Board order will be determined before the beginning of the tournament. They will be generally in rating order, however players that are within 100 CFC rating points of each other may be switched around. Substitutes will only be allowed to play on board 3.

How to register? E-mailing or phone T.D. Rekhson. You may register as a full team if you find one by yourself, or by yourself and you will be placed on a team.

The deadline for registration is Thursday, December 14; however by then it might be too difficult to find a team, so it is suggested you register as early as possible.

Any chess player with a valid CFC membership may participate in the event. CFC memberships will be available on site. Participants are not bound by geographical locations.

Entry fees: The cost of the tournament is \$75 per team. The only exception will be given to teams who have FIDE titled players (GM, IM, FM) in their roster. There will be a \$25 discount per such player.

Prize fund: 100% of entry fees will go to the prize fund. There will be a special prize for lower rated team that does well.

Time control: Game 90+30 second increment from move 1.

Games will start at 10:00 am on both days.

Points calculation: The final score will be determined by the number of total points that each team scored.

Saskatchewan Junior wins Medicine Hat Open

by Dr. Bill Taylor, T.D.

This year's Medicine Hat Open took place September 16 and 17 on another cold, rainy weekend like last year's event. The rain interfered with a showing of the Giant Chess Set Project next to the city library as the big wooden chess pieces had to remain protected in their storage shed.

The Open Tournament attracted 13 players, mostly from outside Medicine Hat, including two from Lethbridge, the usual road crew from Edmonton, a resident of Athabasca, and a father-son duo from North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

On perusing the "Taylor Cup" prior to this event, I was struck by the observation that no previous tournament winner

had successfully defended their Medicine Hat Open victory. As the defending champion, I was hoping this trend or jinx would not persist, but it did, unfortunately for me!

The 2006 winner was 13-year-old Keith MacKinnon of North Battleford even though he and his father, Don, took first-round byes because of the long driving distance. The new champ won his four games, finishing 4.5/5.

There was then a five-way tie for second place with 3/5 scores: Myself, John Quiring of Edmonton, Bob Mair of Athabasca, Jakov Zuna and Jack Davies of Lethbridge. After applying two tie-break calculations, it was determined that Taylor squeaked out second place over Mair

while Quiring finished fourth.

Sponsored prizes

Merchandise prizes included a beautiful artistic chess set donated by Leon's going to winner MacKinnon. Other prizes, including some cash, went to a total of 10 of the 13 participants, including the lower rated section of

players where four tied with a score of 1.5/5 each: Stan Longson, Don MacKinnon, David Brown and Kurt Berndtsson.

This is the eighth year that the prize fund for the Medicine Hat Open had donations of merchandise and cash provided by sponsors exceeding the amount of participants'

entry fees.

Sponsors also made it possible for the players to enjoy free coffee, muffins and various little treats during the tournament.

Saturday night featured the now traditional dessert and drinks for the players and there was again "Lunch for a Buck" on Sunday.



Medicine Hat Giant Set becomes a tourist attraction

Editorial View by Bruce Thomas

Due to the tremendous work and energies of Dr. Bill Taylor, Medicine Hat has a tourist attraction which also promotes chess.

The Giant Outdoor Chess Set was in full operation this year with a permanent-surface board surrounded by flower beds, landscaping and four outdoor chess tables. It attracted thousands of people, including many visitors to the southeast Alberta city.

The giant hand-carved wood set is stored next to the city library and its board and accessories are a few metres away.

Thanks in part to an Alberta Chess Association financial contribution and the support of many other sponsors gained by Dr. Taylor, two "chess ambassadors/chess educators" were employed April 29 to September 3 to operate the project and they also helped with three chess camps.

While attendance at the chess camps

was low, casual players were many both at the giant chess board and the adjacent outdoor tables, two of which are wheelchair accessible.

To show his appreciation to the many sponsors of the project, Dr. Taylor designed a five-foot "rook" to serve as a "sponsors appreciation sign". He also raised money by selling each square on the giant board.

The fundraising efforts of Dr. Taylor in regards to chess are becoming legendary in Alberta and despite the small chess community in the city, Dr. Taylor has created a unique chess promotional project which is drawing people off Highway 1 into the city so they can play chess in a lovely outdoor setting.

Now if only we could clone Dr. Taylor and get one of him in each larger centre in the province, chess is would become bigger than oil in Alberta.



Nguyen wins Calgary title

Calgary Chess Club Championship in April attracted 25 players.

Kim Nguyen finished first with victories in all five of his games.

Casper Schultz was second with four points.

Seniors play on Tuesdays

Each Tuesday, 12:30 to 4 p.m., at Edmonton's Northgate Mall, 137 Avenue and 97 Street, senior citizen chess players gather at the seniors drop-in centre on the ground floor. Other ages are welcome for this casual chess for only a loonie.

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

Please send items for The Report to: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca or fax to: (780) 479-8363 or mail to: Alberta Chess Report, c/o publisher, 12015 - 76 Street, Edmonton T5B 2C9.

Many ACA members will be getting The Report with full color as pdf files via e-mail. If you wish to get a copy in this format and save mailing and printing costs for the ACA, please e-mail a request to: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

Various ACA members and other chess organizers around the province will receive by mail, printed copies of The Report which we ask that they distribute to other local members or to members of the public interested in learning more about chess in Alberta.

If you wish to talk directly to Thomas or Pua about the contents of The Report, phone (780) 554-7280.

Items submitted by e-mail should be in text form for articles and photos should be as jpegs or tiffs. The deadline for the next issue will be October 29, 2006.

ACA Membership - Help needed to keep updated

In order to complete Alberta Chess Association membership lists for the mailing of Alberta Chess Reports and for government funding requirements, we need the co-operation of chess organizers. When you accept a new CFC/ACA membership, please send a copy of the person's information to the ACA via: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca, fax (780) 479-8363. Send the money and original information to the CFC for processing. If you do not require CFC/ACA membership for your event, we would still like to add your participants to our lists, particularly if you benefit from ACA support. We need to count all actual participants in organized chess events.



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c/o Publisher
12015 - 76 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 2C9

Calgary was site of spring and summer tournaments

by Richard Pua

A high quality round-robin sectional tournament was held in Calgary in May.

Section A:

The six strong masters featured in this section

were Mihail Nekrasov, Greg Huber, Sinisa Mitrovic, Rob Gardner, Victor Kaminski and Dale Haessel. They combined for an average rating of 2275.

The end result was a

four way tie for first place between Haessel, Mitrovic, Huber and Nekrasov with 3/5 while junior Kaminski finished with a very respectable 2.5/5 score.

Section B:

Walter Watson came in first with 3.5/5 points. Arthur Milne and John Yan were runners-up with 3/5 points each.

Section C:

Rick Pedersen won this section with a score of

4.5/5 points. Juraj Pivovarov was second with 4/5.

Section D:

Kenny MacIntyre finished in first with a perfect score of 4/4.

Canada Day

Calgary was also the site of a Canada Day Open Tournament which was quite small with 12 players, but there was playing strength represented.

Vladislav Rekhson, Martin Robichaud and Roy Yearwood fought for first place with Yearwood coming out on top with a perfect score of 5/5.

This was a comeback tournament for Yearwood as he had not been playing in Alberta events for almost a year.

Meanwhile, Rekhson and Robichaud tied for second with 3.5/5 each.

Medicine Hat Chess Club

Home of Giant Outdoor Chess Set

12th Annual Medicine Hat Open

**Thank you
to the participants,
particularly those who travelled
quite a distance!**

**Congratulations to our winner
Keith MacKinnon
of North Battleford**

TD: Dr. Bill Taylor
(403) 526-5484 (h) 529-0010 (w)
taylormw@shaw.ca

**See Full Tournament Report
on Page 7**

Calgary Chess Club Events

Speed Tournament

October 10

T.D. Martin Robichaud
(403) 471-7868; 255-2921

martinrobichaud82
@hotmail.com

Calgary Open

Tuesdays Oct. 17
through Nov. 21

T.D. Jim Daniluk
(403) 248-7456
sacrat@shaw.ca

Entry fee - \$25 (Jr - \$20)
Starting time is 7:00 p.m.

**Both these events at:
Banff Trail**

Community Association
2115 - 20 Avenue N.W.

Workers needed for January casino

by Ford Wong, ACA President

The next Alberta Chess Association casino will be on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9 and 10, 2007. It will be located at Yellowhead Casino, 12464 - 153 Street in Edmonton.

The ACA will be counting on its members to help volunteer at this casino.

Currently the ACA would stand to raise roughly \$78,000 for a short 2 days work. However, with the opening of two new casinos in Edmonton, the amount is expected to be less.

Casino revenue has helped the ACA fund many of its projects including the highly successful Canadian Open 2005, and travel for many of our representatives to national events.

Casino revenues have also paid for venue costs of various tournaments and rating fees to the Chess Federation of Canada.

Edmonton Chess Club has Moved !!

The new address of the Edmonton Chess Club is:

Room #204 - 2nd floor, 10840 - 124 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5M 0H3

