Alberta Chess Report





Dale Haessel new Alberta Champion

The last round of the Alberta Closed provided some very exciting chess. Kim Nguyen upset Jeff Reeve and left the door open for Dale Haessel to grab top spot. Six of Alberta's strongest players battled it out for the title of Alberta Champion for 2010 in Edmonton over the Easter weekend. Dale went undefeated with 3.5/5 to capture the title and earns the right to represent Alberta at the next Canadian Open in Toronto this summer.



Calgary International Chess Classic

2010 Calgary International Chess Classic

The third edition of the Calgary International promises to be bigger and better then ever. At least 4 GMs will be playing with 6 IMs in the mix as well. GM and IM norms will be possible and games will be broadcast live on the internet. See the full page ad on the back page.

BEYOND ALBERTA

Both Eric Hansen and Nicka Kalaydina travelled beyond the border to US events. Read about Eric at SPICE and Nicka at the World Amateur

Road Warrior

With more prizes on the line this year, people are travelling further to tournaments. Chris White takes the lead after the sixth event. Aaron will have his work cut out for him this year if he plans on finishing on top.



The Junior Pages

Roy Yearwood provides analysis of a game he has with an Alberta junior at the 2009 Southern Alberta Open and Bruce Thomas reports on several events in Northern Alberta.



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The ACR is printed by **Scope Printing & Publishing** 12015 76th St. NW Edmonton AB T5B 2C9 780-474-8929 780-479-8363

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The ACR is published every two months. Deadline for submissions and changes is two weeks prior to the month of publication. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they relate to Alberta.

Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

Submit your request by email to: tficzere@telus.net or fax to: 403.568.7178 To speak to the editor, call toll free outside of Calgary 866.971.2437, in Calgary call 403.568.2773 Editor: Tony Ficzere, 58 Martin Crossing

Court NE, Calgary, AB, T3J 3P3 The articles contained in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alberta Chess Association.

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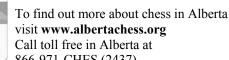
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INSIDE THIIS ISSUE Northern Alberta Open Trumpeter Classic Junior Alberta Closed & Reserves March of Kings Lethbridge Open The Junior Pages Northern Alberta Elementary Chess Challenge Northern Alberta Junior/Senior High Chess Challenge Alberta Youth Chess Challenge Over/Under 1800 Calgary International Active Fundraiser Alberta Active Championship Calgary International Chess Classic **DTHER ADS** Lethbridge Chess Club Grande Prairie Chess Club Grande Prairie Chess Club ChessMart **REGULAR LISTINGS** Nod Warrior Alberta Chess Clubs Upcoming Tournaments & Events Top Rating Lists The ACR is online at www.albertachess.org (requires Adobe Acrobat) Call the ACA by phone Toll free in Alberta 866-971-2437 In Calgary call 403-568-2773



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Northern Alberta Open

By Vlad Rekhson

Steroids, FMs Huber and Pechenkin rule Northern Alberta Open

The 2010 Northern Alberta once again drew a great crowd of 46 total participants. It didn't quite make it to last year's number of 58, but in a way that wasn't too bad, as some breathing space was still available at the Edmonton Chess Club. As usual some top players made their way to try and qualify for the Alberta Championship while most simply wanted to have a few good games.

The first round started with a big bang as one of the first games to finish was a major upset. Mike Zeggelaar, rated 1788 defeated one of the pretournament favourites, FM Dale Haessel, rated 2300 effectively knocking Dale out of contention for the coveted Alberta Championship qualification spot.

It was not Dale's finest performance, but Mike's game seemed very impressive. He was never in trouble and managed to come up with some neat tactics. So what was his secret? Was it his striking good looks, or did he suddenly become a master overnight? Well, we didn't have to wait long for the answer. After the game Mike was leisurely walking around the room when a little medicine bottle fell out of his pocket. It turned out that it was Tylenol 3. After some heavy interrogating it turned out that Mike did have a medical reason for it but it did calm him down. As a result of his heavy steroid usage, Mike went on to have one of the best tournaments of his life finishing tied for second in the under 2200 section with 3.5/5!

FM Vladimir Pechenkin joined the event in the second round. He had already qualified for the Alberta Closed by winning the Alberta Open, thus he really didn't have too many special



Left to right: FM Vlad Pechenkin, FM Greg Huber, Richard Wang

ambitions in this event. Nevertheless, he showed a nearly effortless performance as he dispatched of his opponents one by one to eventually tie for first with 4.5/5.

In the 3rd round the most interesting encounter was between Jeff Reeve and Richard Wang. Less than a month beforehand Richard upset Jeff in the second round of the Edmonton Championship, so it was interesting whether Jeff could have his revenge. This time Jeff was the winner and went for the night break with the 3/3 lead together with FMs Huber and Ristovic, as well as Nic Haynes.

In the 4th round the race for top spot intensified after Jeff Reeve managed to beat Nic Haynes, while FMs Huber and Ristovic drew their game. That meant that going into the last round the sole leader was Jeff Reeve with a perfect score of 4/4. He was closely followed by FMs Huber, Ristovic and Pechenkin.

The last round promised some exciting match-ups at the top. On board one Jeff Reeve had white against FM Greg Huber, while FM Vladimir Pechenkin had white against FM Nenad Ristovic on board two. The situation was such that Jeff only needed a draw to guarantee first and qualify to the Alberta Championship on tie-breaks. FM Huber needed to win and hope that FM

Ristovic wouldn't win as well (in that case the tie-break situation would not be clear until the very end). FM Ristovic needed to win and hope that FM Huber would beat Reeve and then that his tie-breaks would be superior to Greg's. After the opening it seemed like Jeff Reeve had great winning chances against FM Huber. In the meantime, FM Pechenkin continued his seemingly effortless play as he won two pawns against FM Ristovic and managed to convert his advantage. On Board 1, Jeff Reeve kept on pushing and this decisive game suitably went on to be the last one to finish in the tournament. Jeff definitely had winning chances, but he made some ererrors and it turned into an endgame where Jeff had two connected pawns for a Rook, with each side having two pawns on the other side of the board. At first sight it seemed like Jeff should still be winning however, Greg managed to stop the pawns and for the first time it appeared as if he would have some winning chances after all. With little time remaining on the clock, Jeff Reeve made a decisive mistake allowing his King to be trapped in a mating net. The only way to get out of it was to allow his last passed pawn to be taken. Greg went on to win the Rook and pawn vs. Bishop endgame that ensued and with that, the entire tournament.

In the end, FMs Greg Huber and Vladimir Pechenkin scored 4.5/5 and shared the first place prize, while Greg's tie-breaks were good enough to ensure a very clear and deserved qualification spot for the Alberta championship. Third place was shared by Jeff Reeve and Richard Wang with 4/5. Richard was also best for U2200 players. This is one section that Richard won't see anytime soon, as after this and other events his rating is way above that threshold.

The event was capped off at the usual chess meeting place, Boston Pizza, where the victories were celebrated by drinking some massive amounts of beer.

Haessel, Dale (2300) Zeggelaar, Mike (1788) 2010 Northern Alberta Open (1), 20.02.2010

King's Indian Pomar [E72]

1.d4 ②f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 違g7 4.違g2 c5 5.d5 d6 6.②c3 ③a6 7.e4 0-0 8.f4 e6 9.②ge2 舀b8 10.a4 ②c7 11.0-0 a6 12.a5 b5 13.axb6 舀xb6 14.營d3 營e7 15.②a4 舀b8 16.e5 ②fe8 17.違e3 exd5 18.exd6 ②xd6 19.違xc5 違f5 20.營a3 營xe2 21.違xd6 違xb2 22.②xb2 舀xb2 23.營f3 營xc4 24.營a3 營d4+ 25.壹h1 營d2 26.舀g1 違e4 0-1.

□ Reeve, Jeff (2306) ■ Huber, Greg (2330) 2010 Northern Alberta Open (5), 21.02.2010 Sisikan Salamaningan (B80)

Sicilian Scheveningen [B80]

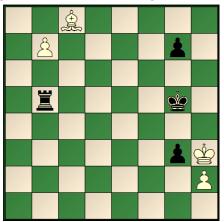
1.e4 c5 2. $2\sqrt{13}$ d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. $2\sqrt{14}$ $2\sqrt{16}$ 5. $2\sqrt{13}$ a6 6. $2\sqrt{16}$ e3 e6 7.f3 h5 8. $2\sqrt{16}$ $2\sqrt{16}$ 9. $2\sqrt{10}$ e7 10.0-0 $2\sqrt{11}$. $2\sqrt{11}$ $2\sqrt{16}$ 9. $2\sqrt{10}$ e7 10.0-0 $2\sqrt{11}$. $2\sqrt{11}$ $2\sqrt{11}$ e7 10.0-0 $2\sqrt{11}$ $2\sqrt{11}$ e7



34.邕xe5 dxe5 35.d6 e4 36.營d5+?!

36.營d1 e3 37.d7 罩xc7 38.罩xc7 罩d8 39.營d5+ 查h8 40.罩c8 e2 41.營e6+--; 36.營d4 營f4 37.g3 hxg3 38.d7 營f2 39.營xf2 gxf2 40.dxc8營 罩xc8 41.查 g2+-.

36... 查h7 37.d7 響f4 38.g3 響f3+ 39. 逸g2 響e2 40. 罩xe4 fxe4 41. 彎xe4+ 彎xe4 42. 逸xe4+ 查h6 43.dxc8彎 罩xc8 44. 逸xb7 罩xc7 45. 逸xa6 罩c1+ 46. 查g2 罩b1 47.b5 罩a1 48.b6 罩xa5 49. 逸c8 查 g5 50.b7 罩b5 51. 查h3 hxg3



52.hxg3?

52. dxg3! would probably hold.

52...骂b2!! 53.臭d7

White is in zugzwang. 53.g4 空f4 54.空h4 罩h2#.

53.... 国本 54. 泉 c8 国 55. 泉 d7 国 d2 56. 泉 c8 国 d4 57. 泉 b7 杏 f6 58. 泉 c8 杏 e5 59. 泉 g4 国 b4 60. 泉 d7 国 c4 61. 泉 b5 国 d4 62. 泉 a6 杏 e4 63. 杏 g4 杏 e3 + 64. 杏 h3 杏 f2 65. 泉 b5 国 b4 66. 泉 e8 国 b3 67. 杏 h4 国 x g3 68. 泉 f7 杏 f3 69. 泉 e6 杏 f4 70. 泉 c8 g 5+ 71. 杏 h5 g4 0-1.



Foreground: Nic Haynes vs. Jeff Reeve Background: Jonathan Zaczek of Manitoba vs. Vlad Pechenkin



Wade Caughlin vs. Phil Holmstrom



George Sponga vs. Paul Viminitz



Damon MacLeod vs. Roy Yearwood

All photo's courtesy of Vlad Rekhson. View them online at

http://www.flickr.com/photos/36706626@N07/

2010 Trumpeter Classic

By Tim Pradzinski

The 2010 Trumpeter Classic took place at the Sandman Hotel in Grande Prairie, Alberta on Jan 30 - 31, 2010. There were 20 participants playing in this year's Trumpeter Classic with people coming from Edmonton, Grand Forks, BC, Dawson Creek, BC, LaCrete and of course Grande Prairie.

We had a pre-tournament speed chess event again this year! Our Friday Night Speed Chess Tournament had eight people competing for the \$200 prize fund. The Friday Night Speed Chess Tournament was proudly sponsored by Caughlin Financial Services and the top results were as follows:

1st \$100: Mike Zeggelaar, (Edmonton) 5.5/7.

2nd \$50: Tim Pradzinski, (Grande Prairie) 4.5/7.

 2^{nd} \$50: Phil Holmstron, (Edmonton) 4.5/7.

The 2010 Trumpeter Classic was sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association. The Trumpeter Classic is an official Road Warrior event.

Tim Pradzinski captured 1st place with a 4.5/5 score beating Roland Schech, Phil Lefkowitz, Aaron Sequillion and Wade Caughlin along the way to the title. Tim took a bye in round 3. This is Tim's 2nd time of getting his name on the coveted Trumpeter Classic Trophy all by himself. He did it once before in 1998.

Here was the results of the 2 sections:

Open Section

1st \$240: Tim Pradzinski, (Grande Prairie) 4.5/5.

2nd \$130: Aaron Sequillion, (Edmonton) 4/5.

3rd \$70: Phil Lefkowitz, (Grand Forks, BC) 3.5/5.

U1700 Section

1st \$120: David Miller (Grande Prairie)

3.5/5.

2nd \$90: Phil Holmstrom, (Edmonton) 3/5.

Thanks again for all of those people who came to play in the 2010 Trumpeter Classic. We really do appreciate the support of all of the chess players in the province and look forward to hosting this event again next year!

A printed tournament book will be available to all of the participants of the tournament once it is ready.

Congratulations also go out to the 2010 Trumpeter Classic Junior Champion, David Miller, for a fine perfomance. David drew Dean Johnson to start the tournament. Then he beat Elroy Deimert in Round 2 and Ford Wong in Round 3. He then finished the tournament with draws against Phil Holmstrom and John Quiring to remain undefeated for the tournament. Not a bad result for our young champion! I can see David getting his name on the Trumpeter Classic trophy in the not too distant future.

Notes by Fritz Pradzinski, Tim (1919) Caughlin, Wade (1927) 2010 Trumpeter Classic Sicilian Paulson [B49]

1.e4 c5 2.②f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.②xd4 ②c6 5.奠e3 ③f6 6.③c3 a6 7.f3 鬯c7 8.奠e2 奠b4 9.0-0 0-0 10.查h1 奠xc3 11.bxc3 ②e5 12.奠f4 鬯c5 13.奠xe5 鬯xe5 14.奠d3 鬯c5 15.鬯d2 b5 16.②b3 鬯c7



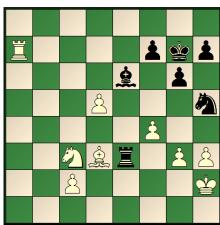
17.a4 bxa4 18.鼍xa4 d5 19.exd5 exd5 20.鼍fa1 曾d6 21.心d4 g6 22.鬯g5 鼍e8



Fritz likes 23... 创e4 24. 盒xe4 dxe4 25. 幽g3 with a slight edge for Black.

29...增e1 30.增f3 罩b8 31.④b3 奠c8 32.罩a4 奠b7 might be a little better.

30.g3 빨c1 31.신e2 빨e3 32.빨d4+ 빨xd4 33.cxd4 핥c8 34.프a7 핥e6 35.신c3 프e3 36.d5



36....皇xh3 37.心e4 皇f5 38.d6 皇xe4 39.d7 皇xd3 40.d8營 邕e2+ 41.空g1 皇xc2

42.營d4+ ②f6 43.營c4 骂g2+ 44.查xg2 彙e4+ 45.查g1 彙d5 46.營c3 奠e6 47.營e5 h5 48.營xe6 1-0.

Lethbridge Chess Club

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2010 Trumpeter **Classic Junior**

By Tim Pradzinski

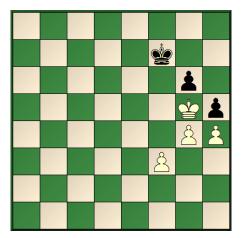
This year's Trumpeter Classic Junior Chess Tournament was held on Saturday, January 16, 2010. We had an awesome tournament with a number of our new regular junior players coming out. We had 11 players in the tournament. A number of our players are very comfortable recording their moves. You will find a number of the games to the right.

This year's champion was David Miller with 4.5 / 5 points who got \$50 for 1st place, gets his name on the Lefkowitz Trophy and he also received a FREE entry to the 2010 Trumpeter Classic.

Their was a tie for second place between Trevor Thibeault and Jacob Williamson with 4 / 5 points. Each player received \$37.50. Fourth place went to North Alton with 3.5 / 5 points and he received a \$25 Cineplex gift card. Austin Williamson and John Wood each had 2.5 / 5 points and tied for 5th place. Austin got a \$15 iTunes gift card and John got a \$15 Subway card.

Notes by Tim Pradzinski □ Miller, David ■ Alton, North 2010 Junior Trumpeter Classic *[B50]*

1.e4 c5 2.2f3 d6 3.gc4 2f6 4.2c3 g6 5.0-0 ②xe4 6. ②xe4 d5 7. 单b5+ 单d7 8. ②c3 奠xb5 9. ②xb5 奠g7 10.d4 a6 11.②c3 cxd4 12.②xd4 凹b6 13.鼻e3 16.②xe7+ 杏h8 17.邕xb7 邕d8 18.營b1 營xb1 19.邕fxb1 象xd4 20.象xd4+ 邕xd4 21.**□xb8+ □xb8 22.□xb8+** 空g7 23.f3 \u00ed d1+ 24.
☆f2 \u00ed d2+ 25.
☆g3 \u00ed xc2 26.罩g8+ 杏f6 27.刻d5+ 杏e6 28.刻b4 Id2 29. 2xa6 杏f6 30. 公c5 Id5 31. ②e4+ 查e7 32. 罩g7 h5 33. h4 罩f5 34. ②g5 查f8 35. 邕xf7+ 邕xf7 36. ②xf7 **학xf7 37.** 합f4 학e6 38. 학g5 학f7 39. g4



North missed the win in this position. Instead of playing g4, he should have played Kh6 keeping the Black King out of the critical g7 square. Here is how the game could have gone 39.xg6 营e6 43.营xh5 营f5 44.g6 营f6 45.\$h6.

39...hxg4 40.营h6 g5 1-0.



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Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association

Alberta Closed & Reserves

By Terry Seehagen

The Edmonton Chess Club hosted the 2010 Alberta Closed. Tony Ficzere did the pre-event work to get things organized. With 2009 Champion FM Eric Hansen and IM Edward Porper sitting out this year, the door was left wide open and we knew it was going to be a dog-fight for first place.

White		Black
Vladimir Pechenkin	1-0	Rob Gardner
Jeff Reeve	1/2-1/2	Zhichao Li
Dale Haessel	1-0	Kim Nguyen

In the 1st round, Vladimir Pechenkin defeated Rob Gardner after a 73-move battle. Dale Haessel won a 61-move struggle against Kim Nguyen and Jeff Reeve and Zhichao Li played to a 42move draw.

White		Black
Dale Haessel	1/2-1/2	Vladimir Pechenkin
Rob Gardner	0-1	Jeff Reeve
Kim Nguyen	0-1	Zhichao Li

In round 2, Reeve and Li both won with Black, Reeve defeating Gardner in 28 moves, while Li downed Nguyen in 35 moves. Haessel and Pechenkin battled to a 32-move draw.

White		Black
Jeff Reeve	1/2-1/2	Dale Haessel
Zhichao Li	1-0	Rob Gardner
Vladimir Pechenkin	1-0	Kim Nguyen

In round 3, all of the games were again fairly quick to finish, with Li dumping Gardner in just 24 moves and Pechen-

kin knocking off Nguyen in 25 moves, both of the winners playing White. Haessel and Reeve played a 25-move draw. After 3 rounds, a 4-way battle was shaping up. Vladimir Pechenkin and Zhichao Li lead the way with 2.5 points, with Jeff Reeve and Dale Haessel both close behind with 2 points. Rob Gardner and Kim Nguyen have been the unfortunate victims, being shut out in all 3 of their games thus far.

White		Black
Dale Haessel	1-0	Zhichao Li
Vladimir Pechenkin	0-1	Jeff Reeve
Kim Nguyen	1/2-1/2	Rob Gardner

The 4th round saw Dale Haessel defeat Zhichao Li in 46 moves and Jeff Reeve score a big win with the Black pieces over Vladimir Pechenkin, going 63 moves. These victories vaulted Haessel and Reeve into the lead with 3 points each heading to the final round. Li and Pechenkin were still in the race, both with 2.5 points. Meanwhile, Rob Gardner and Kim Nguyen battled to a 91move(!) draw.

White		Black
Rob Gardner	1/2-1/2	Dale Haessel
Zhichao Li	1/2-1/2	Vladimir Pechenkin
Jeff Reeve	0-1	Kim Nguyen

Entering the final round, Haessel and Jeff Reeve were tied with 3 points, and Zhichao Li and Vladimir Pechenkin each had 2.5 . Rob Gardner and Kim Nguyen trailed with 0.5 . Gardner-Haessel was the first game to finish (they had started at 5:00, an hour before the others, so that Haessel could return to Calgary as early as possible). At about 7:30, they agreed to a draw on move 31 in a position where Haes-

sel may have been better, but only had 2 minutes to make 9 moves to reach time control. About half an hour later. Li-Pechenkin concluded in a perpetualcheck draw after 24 moves. This meant that Jeff Reeve would win the tournament if he could defeat Nguyen. There game was a complicated and tense battle from start to finish and was destined to last until 11:30 p.m. For much of the game, Reeve played agressively for an advantage, but computer analysis maintains that the position was more or less equal, until move 52, when Reeve strangely allowed Nguyen to win an exchange, which gave Kim a winning advantage. The position then simplified to K + R + one P vs K + B. Nguyen erred by pushing the pawn too quickly, allowing Reeve to capture it on move 85. It came down to K + R vs K + B, with no pawns on the board. The computer said that it could be drawn, but Reeve would have to find some "only" moves. However, he moved his king to the wrong square on move 88 and Nguyen took advantage in textbook fashion to score the full point. One has to admire the determination of Kim Nguyen, the lowest ranked of the six players, losing his first 3 games, then on Sunday battled Rob Gardner to a 5-hour, 91-move draw in the 4th round, then winning this 5 1/2-hour, 92-move marathon against Jeff Reeve in the evening.

So, congratulations to Dale Haessel and my thanks to all 6 players for making this a memorable Championship.

The Reserves was played alongside the Closed and was won by Richard Wang, scoring 4.5/5. He was held to a final-round draw by Arnold McKay. Richard earned \$120 for his victory. His brother Harris took second, scoring 4/5 to win \$80, losing only to Richard in round 3. There was a tie for third between McKay and Ali Razzaq, with 3/5, good for \$25 each. David Miller from Grande Prairie won \$80 for being the best Under-1800, with 2.5 points.

201	0 Alberta Closed	CFC	FIDE	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Dale Haessel	2282	2185		1/2	1/2	1	1	1/2	31/2
2	Jeff Reeve	2312	2239	1/2		1	1/2	0	1	3
3	Vladimir Pechenkin	2434	2343	1/2	0		1/2	1	1	3
4	Zhichao Li	2282	2184	0	1/2	1/2		1	1	3
5	Kim Nguyen	2170	2089	0	1	0	0		1/2	1½
6	Rob Gardner	2320	2163	1/2	0	0	0	1/2		1

March of Kings

By Tony Ficzere

So far, 2010 has seen an extremely busy tournament schedule for the ACA. The abundance of tournaments is good for the player, but presents a few challenges for the organizer. This tournament is normally scheduled about a week later than it was held this year. The scheduling problems were due to the fact that Easter was slated for the first weekend in April this year and this weekend is always reserved for the Alberta Closed. This creaded a small problem as Lethbridge always holds their event on the first full weekend of April. This meant that dates had to be changed to accommodate the Lethbridge Open, The March of Kings and the Alberta Closed and Reserves. Of course, the Alberta Closed kept Easter weekend so a change of dates was made to both the March of Kings and the Lethbridge Open.

With so many options, players pick and choose which tournament they will attend in any given month. The organizers must work harder to promote their event. Add to the mix the various junior events and you get the picture.

The numbers at the March of King were still quite reasonable when compared to previous years. With 25 entries, we were only down 3 entries



Foreground: Adie Todd vs. Mike Scholz, Background: Phil Holmstrom vs. Arthur Milne

from last year's record turnout of 28. Even though the tournament takes place on Saturday and Sunday, you could say it starts on Friday night. The road crew from Edmonton, hungry for Road Warrior points rolled in to town on Friday evening for a chance to play bughouse at the Calgary Chess Club. Canadian Bughouse Champion Eric Hansen was on hand to provide some valuable Bughouse lessons.

The top 3 boards for each round were broadcast over the internet using the Edmonton Chess Club's DGT boards.



FM Dale Haessel vs. Thomas Kaminski

Pairings, standings and photos were also available online (www.albertachess.org/2010MOK/2010_ March_of_Kings.html) for anyone to view who couldn't attend.

FM Dale Haessel ended up on top, scoring 4/5 all by himself to take 1st. Five players split the rest of the money in the top section with 3.5/5: Kim Nguyen, Roy Yearwood, Thomas Kaminski, Sean Perron and Aaron Sequillion.

In the Under 1900 section, Art Milne and Adie Todd split top honours with 3/5. Adie is gaining in strength with each event she plays in and is also a dedicated organizer for chess at the University of Calgary.

The Under 1600 section was well attended this year. This is encouraging as the number of lower rated players have not been well represented in Alberta events over the past decade. Nicholas Selebaleng, Diwen Shi, Mike Scholz and Krishneel Singh shared all the loot at 2 points.

Thanks to the Edmonton Chess Club for lending their DGT boards for the tournament and thanks to all the players who turned out for the event.

Lethbridge Open

By Tony Ficzere

Another record year for the Lethbridge Open. Last year saw the record broken with 22 players. This year, 25 players made their way to Lethbridge for one of the most enjoyable tournaments on the ACA schedule.

The number of hotel rooms available in town that weekend was less than the number of players attending the tournament. If you didn't make previous arrangements for accommodations, you could always stay at Paul Viminitz's house. Paul is a very accommodating kind of guy and will put up anyone who plays in the tournament. The other really nice feature about the Lethbridge Open is the wine & cheese party at Paul's place after round 3. With (very good) home made beer, wine and a selection of fine cheeses, it's worth more than the price of admission!

This year's event was the strongest in the tournament's history. This tournament was also FIDE rated which might explain the number of stronger players at the top (at least by Alberta standards). As TD, I also threw my hat into the ring as a player in the event that any round had an odd number of players. I ended up playing 3 rounds. I'm not the kind of TD who likes to play in the same event that I am directing. I was fortunate enough not to lose any games this time out. I do have fond memories of my days in Ottawa when Doug Burgess organized, directed and played in his events. It didn't seem to affect his play at all.

Top ranked Vlad Rekhson missed out on prize money after losing to another Edmonton player, Peter Kalisvaart. Kalisvaart, Aaron Sequillion and Roy Yearwood each scored 4/5 for an equal share of all the money in the top section.

Calgary's Bill Bentley and Edmonton's Nayef Daher split the Under 1900 section with 3/5.



The tournament room at the Lethbridge Lodge

The Under 1700 section made up over half the entries. This is a healthy sign of good things to come in Alberta. Kurt Berndtsson and Greg Holmes, both of Lethbridge, shared all the money in this section with 2.5/5. Greg also scored an additional prize by scoring the biggest upset in the tournament with his round 4 win over Juraj Pivovarov of Calgary. He also drew with two experts in this event. Greg's rating is still provisional but he is underated. With only a few opportunities to play each year, it might take some

time before his true strength is reflected by his rating.

Another signifigant upset was scored by Ali Razzaq in round 2 when he spanked Roy Yearwood with the black pieces. I'm sure Roy is still feeling the effects from that game.

Thanks to Paul Viminitz for hosting a very enjoyable event. Paul has already made arrangements for next year and you can be sure I will be back as TD and beer tester.



Lethbridge Open organizer Paul Viminitz (left) vs. Eoin Dunne

BEYOND ALBERTA EM Eric Hansen at

FM Eric Hansen at SPICE

The Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence (SPICE) hosted a strong 10 player round robin event in Lubbock, Texas this month. GM and IM norms were up for grabs. Alberta's Eric Hansen was invited to play and narrowly missed his final IM norm. Eric needed to defeat GM Julio Becerra in the final round to secure the norm, but lost with the black pieces. Becerra's last round win over Hansen clinched 1st place for him with a final score of 6.5/9. IM Gergely Antal and GM Ben Finegold shared 2nd-3rd with 5.5/9. Eric and GM Jesse Kraai finished with 3/9.

The event was held at Texas Tech University which is the home of SPICE. The University has been offering chess scholarships since 2005.

- -

World Amateur Chess Championship

The World Amateur Championship took place in March for the first time in North America (at Skokie, Illinois). The first two such championships were held in 1924 and 1928 respectively and were won by Hermanis Matisons and Max Euwe. The tournaments were held concurrently with the Olympic Games as an attempt to promote amateur chess, but the concept quickly died out. Until 1995 that is, when the championship was resurrected. In its current incarnation the tournament is a 9-round Swiss for players with a FIDE-rating under 2000, and has a \$20,000 prize fund.

Calgary's Regina-Veronicka (Nicka) Kalaydina participated and played well enough to take home \$200 for placing 5^{th} among women players with 5.5/9.

Brantford Ontario wins Internet Match

The second half of the Brantford vs. Calgary Internet match ended in 2-2 tie, but Brantford wins the overall match with a final score of 5-3. Team Calgary played all their games at the Calgary Chess Club, while Team Brantford played in the home of Rob Gashgarian.

On board 1, Tony defeated Rob "Gashman" Gashgarian when Rob missed a tactic that lost the exchange and eventually the game. Board 2 saw Calgary's Bob Macfie defeat Lee Hendon. Lee missed a tactic which lost a piece. Board 3 featured Adam Cormier against Nicholas Selebaleng. Adam easily outplayed Nick to get the full point. The last game to finish was between Brantford's Tyler Ensor and Mike Scholz. Tyler had Mike on the ropes for most of the game, but Mike faught hard to almost pull even, only to lose in time trouble at the end.

Congratulations to Team Brantford

	Upcoming ACA To	urnaments & Ever	its	
DATE	NAME	ORGANIZER	LOCATION	
May 1-2	Over/Under 1800	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton	
May 20-24	Calgary International Chess Classic	Tony Ficzere	Calgary	
June 5-6	Edmonton International Qualifier	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton	
June 20	Alberta Active Championship	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	
July 28-Aug 2	Edmonton International Chess Festiva	I Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton	
Calgary International Active Fundraiser April 25 Calgary Chors Club		Registration: email calchess@	telus.net to get on the	
CFC Active Rated CFC membershi	 359 27th Street NE 25 to get paired for the first round Register at site on Sunday, April 25 from 9 am at an the purchased at site at a site on the purchased at site on th		ound ril 25 from 9 am to 9:45 mational Chess Classic	
	·10 am Lunch 1 nm 2·10 nm 3·20 nm	www.albertachess.org/2010CICC/index.html		

Times: 10 am, 11:10 am, Lunch, 1 pm, 2:10 pm, 3:20 pm

The Junior Pages

By Roy Yearwood

Welcome to the Junior Pages. I am currently seeking games played by Alberta juniors for this column. If you have a game that you played that you would like to submit, please send it to me by email to fredandorroy@live.ca.

Notes by Roy Yearwood **Wang, YueKai Yearwood, Roy** 2009 Southern Alberta Open (1) *Modern Defence [B06]*

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.2 c3 a6

Duncan Suttles was playing this way in the 70s. Black seeks space on the queenside. Aaron Sequillian already believes Black's game is quite diffi– cult.

4.ĝe3 b5 5.a3

This is already a small victory for Black. It would have been better to have prevented Black's queenside ambitions with a4 as Daniel Kazmaier has done in some games against me.

I like this sharp move, this "Saint George" attack is common vs. fi– anchetto positions e.g., vs. the Dragon variation of the Sicilian, most recently against the Grunfeld. For an example, see Gardner vs. Willis, 2009 Southern Alberta Open, round 5. Neither King will be entirely safe.

7...②gf6

I thought for some time here about that perky h-pawn and how I might deal with my kingside development and resolved to get on with my piece development. 7...h6 would be too weakening (still can't castle when necessary). 7...h5 is OK for a couple of moves, but gives White a hook for a future g4 pawn advance. 7...e5 is possible when 8.d5 may allow Black to get in ...f5 under favourable circumstances. 7...e5 heading for a Sicilian type position is also possible. Anyway no early draw offer is on the table. I intend to meet 8. 創6 with … 創xh6 9. 營xh6 c5 and hope to have adaquate counterplay.

8.ĝe2 ĝb7 9.f3

A flexable move supporting the g4 and e4 squares and giving the Knight on g1 a path to g3 if necessary.

9...e5 10.d5

This moves play to the wings but provides a way for Black to open the cfile under favourable circumstances. White has 1:29 on his clock while I have 1:09, a 20 minute advantage for White. White's space advantage and more flexable piece placement gives him the advantage.

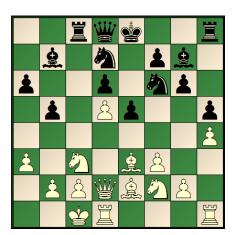
10...h5 11.②h3 邕c8 12.0-0-0

White is fully mobilized. He just needs to open the position and Black's defences will be swept away.

12....c6 13.🖄 f2

Inattentive play, White is still playing quickly. 13.dxc6 \(\Box xc6 14.\) f2 with g4 to follow is a good way to test the soundness of Black's setup. It is not easy for Black to move his pawns to exploit the potential weakness of the pawn at a3.

13...cxd5 14.exd5



14...**¤xc**3

This move offers Black some hope for the exchange. Black gets a pawn and the possibility of obtaining the Bishop pair in a Bishop favourable position, in addition to a temporary initiative. Black is close to equality here. On the clock, White has 1:22, Black has 1:03.

15.bxc3?

This move is clearly a mistake. It was essential to recapture with the Queen on c3 and then after Black's follow-up of ... 2xd5, play \(\mathbf{Z}xd5\) and treat the position as if White had sacrificed a pawn. This may have been very hard for White to consider since up to now, White has used no more than 10 minutes on his clock. ... \arXxc3 was probably quite a shock. After the reletively better 15. ^wxc3, play might have gone 15...⁽²⁾xd5 16.²xd5 \$\mathbf{x}d5 17.²d1 \$\mathbf{k}e6 18.\arrangextu2 x d6 0-0 19.g3 \arrangema a8 for example with a playable position for both sides. As played however, the Nazgûl in Black's position reaps a bountiful harvest.

15...②xd5 16.查b2 ②7b6 17.②e4 ②a4+ 18.查b3 f5 19.②g5 ③axc3 20.②e6 罾d7 21.③xg7+ 營xg7 22.罩a1 罾f7 23.查b2 0-0 24.g4!?

White sacrifices another pawn to open lines for his Rooks. White goes down swinging.

24...fxg4 25.莒hg1 ②xe2 26.營xe2 營xf3 27.莒ae1 營xe2 28.莒xe2 莒f3 29.奠g5 查f7

Black wins on move 40. 0-1.

The conclusion to be drawn from this game, for juniors at least.

- 1) Use your time! White used just one half of an hour for the entire game. Had he spent more time thinking, the outcome might have been different.
- 2) When faced with a shocking move, take a few minutes to reorient yourself and try to figure out the position the best you can.
- 3) Remember to have fun, be brave and play to win.

I will see you next issue with more fun stuff.

Northern Alberta Elementary Chess Challenge

By Bruce Thomas

From 25 schools in Edmonton, St. Albert and outlying areas came almost 80 players - throw in some home-schooled students and the total came to 82 for the Northern Alberta Elementary Chess Challenge held March 21, at Edmonton Chess Club. Because of the size of the Edmonton club facility and the number of players wanting to compete in the regional, the event was divided into three parts - junior and senior high players numbering a total of 16, had played the Sunday before (see separate article), and then the elementary section was divided with Grades 1 through 3 beginning their competition in the morning and then Grades 4 through 6 beginning their paths to checkmates in the early afternoon.

Among the six elementary grades, One and Two had the lowest registration with four players each. As expected Grades 4 and 5 were the biggest sections with 24 and 26 players respectively. Despite fierce competitions in some grades, the players favoured to win their grades either because of rating or past experience, did so.

Kaining Lin who has been playing in tournaments since playschool days took Grade 1 with a perfect score, as did Ian McCullough in Grade 3, Jamil Kassam in Grade 4 and Zhonglin Huang in Grade 5. In Grade 2, Sean Robertson again took the regional crown, but did lose one game.

Grade 6 had lots of top contenders but last year's regional winner Dennis Situ again was first with a score of 4.5 out of a possible 5. While Huang prevailed in Grade 5, he was under pressure in the final game and there were four players who tied for second place with 4.0/5 scores.

Because of the vast range of ratings in the larger sections of Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6, medals were given out to the top performers among the lower half of rated players in each of those grades. Some of these top performers were Yashaswi Bhandari, Andrew Keates, Collin Harrison, Ayush Namboothiri and Mitchell Powley.

New Horizons School in Ardrossan had the most players battling in the regional-16 - while Westbrook had 11. Grandin,



Players who won trophies and medals in the Grade 5 Elementary Regional Chess Challenge pose at the Edmonton Chess Club



Edmonton Chess Club was jammed March 21 for the elementary Regional Chess Challenge which attacted 82 Grades 1 through 6 players.



Grade One at the Elementary Regional was contested by four players

Glenora and Greenfield each had five or six students competing.

The Regional was hosted by The Society of Alberta Chess Knights and organized by

The Roving ChessNuts. Directing were Bruce Thomas, Richard Pua, Rob McCullough, Derek Thomas, Richard Roberts and Alexander Kaiser.

Almost all players in the event showed enough chess skills to advance to the Alberta Chess Challenge in Red Deer on Saturday, April 17, where provincial champs will be determined.

Results of the Elementary Regional Chess Challenge held in Edmonton on March 21: Grade 1: 1. Kaining Lin, 2. Kainxin Wang, 3. Ying Tu Li, 4. Ethan Reiter Grade 2: 1. Sean Robertson*, 2. Emmett Maxfield, 3. David Yao, 4. Alvin Wu Grade 3: 1. Ian McCullough*, 2. Adam Mawani*, Kevin Stanislus, 4. Tosin Kuye, 5. Yashaswi Bhandari, 6. Boris Stevanovic, 7. Stephen Shen,

8 - 10. Gabriel Forbes, Jarod Hasell, Jonah Lamoureux, 11. Bradley Houston
Grade 4: 1. Jamil Kassam*, 2. Jakob Kaiser, 3. Mark Nie, 4. Rayden Lin, 5. Andrei Niculescu, 6. Ethan Chew, 7 - 10. Alex
Broughton, Andrews Keates, Patrick
Cervantes, Artur Lyssenko, 11 -12. Joel
Fleck, Brendan Lacy, 13 - 20. John
Cervantes, Vinh Nguyen, Lukas Muliawan, Willem Jakobs, Destin Chan, Riley
Ross, Jim Larssen, Justin Powley, 21 - 23.
Adam Omar, Salmaan Khan, Kelton Libich, 24. Norman Kim

Grade 5: 1. Zhonglin Huang*, 2. William Wei, 3. Allan Stanislus, 4. Collin Harrison, 5. Noah Hoffner, 6. Thomas Def-Ojeda 7 -11. Ryan Nowakowsky, Diana Muzyka, Eric Hsiao, Filip Stevanovic, Tyson Ofstie, 12 - 14. Austin Hesse, Samuel Sarris, Joshua Robertson, 15 - 19. Luciano Di Blasi, David Gutenberg, Kareem Hamdon, Benjamin Lamoureux, Mehrshad Sahebsara,

20 - 21. Jonathan Martins, Joseph Meleshko, 22 - 26. Zachary Dingman,
Ibrahim Elmallah, Brennan Hebert, Lucas Lemay, Dimitri Trofimuk
Grade 6: 1. Dennis Situ*, 2. David
McCullough*, 3. Sebastien Despres,
4 - 6. Dante Chan, Stephen Pavlic*, Tony
Yang, 7 - 10. Davin Ness, Ryan Jensen,
Mitchell Powley, Ayush Namboothiri, 11 12. Brody Shandro, Rowan Ley, 13.Joel
Leclerc

* These players had been previous regional or provincial titles.



Northern Alberta Junior/Senior High Chess Challenge

By Bruce Thomas

In a bid to attract older students to chess competitions where for the experienced players, trophies, medals and even titles seem to mean little, cash prizes were offered for the first time at the Northern Alberta Junior/Senior High Chess Challenge held March 14 at Edmonton Chess Club. With partial sponsorship from George Sponga and Klondike Office Furniture, \$270 in prizes was divided among the participants. Although participation remained small with only 16 players representing six school grades, 7 to 12, this number was the highest and the first time all grades were represented. Results were: Grade 7: 1. Michael Lud-wig, 2 Rishi Du-

rupala, 3. Prabjeet Bansal, 4. Sean Roemer, 5. Nate Hartnell

Grade 8: 1. Saahil Nan-da, 2-3 Tied: Tyler Mah and Naveed Virji;

Grade 9: 1. Derek Thomas, 2. Etienne Leclerc, 3. Malindu Wanniarach-chige; 4. Saif Razzaq

Grade 10: 1. Sean Lacy, 2. Terry Batbold Grade 11: Anthony Wu Grade 12: Ryan Lacy.



The top high school players in Edmonton pose with their grade signs: (left to right) Ryan Lacy, Anthony Wu and Sean Lacy.



Alberta Youth Chess Championships

By Simon Ong

A total of 27 junior players battled it out over the weekend to see who would get to represent Alberta at the CYCC this July in Windsor. The Calgary Chess Club was the site. Some of the games were broadcast live with DGT boards however, since this was the first time I have used them on my own, some problems did arise.

Here are the winners by age group:

Under 8: Patrick Angelo Tolentino

- Under 10: Jamil Kassam
- Under 12: Richard Wang
- Under 14: Yuekai Wang
- Under 16: David Zhang
- Under 18: Eric Hansen

Congratulations to the winners and good luck in Windsor this summer. Thanks to Tony Ficzere and Roy Yearwood for helping out.

Alberta Active Championship

Sunday, June 20 Calgary Chess Club 274-3359 27th St



5 round swiss

TD: Roy Yearwood CFC Active Rated CFC membership required, can be purchased on site.

Time Control: Game in 25 + 10 seconds

Times: 10 am, 11:15 am, lunch, 1 pm, 2:15 pm, 3:30pm

Entry: \$20 Prizes: All entries returned to prize fund

Registration: on site from 9-9:45 am Cash only at site Advanced registration by email to calchess@telus.net

Road Warrior **UPDATE**

2010 Road Warrior

The prizes have been increased this year. The total prize fund is now **\$1,000**! More prizes will be given out. The prize structure is as follows:

1st \$400 2nd \$200 3rd \$100 4th \$100 5th \$100 6th \$100

Here are the remaining Road Warrior events for 2010:

#	Date	Event	City
7	May 1-2	Over/Under 1800	Edmonton
8	May 20-24	Calgary International Chess Classic	Calgary
9	June 20-21	Edmonton International Qualifier	Edmonton
10	July 28-August 2	Edmonton International Chess Festival	Edmonton
11	September 4-6	Battle at the Border	Lloydminster
12	September 18-19	Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat
13	October 9-11	Alberta Open	Calgary
14	October 22-24	Edmonton Fall Sectional	Edmonton
15	November 20-21	Southern Alberta Open	Calgary
16	December 18-19	WBX Team Tournament	Edmonton

The first six events have finished and Chris White of La Crete has taken over first place.

1	Chris White	La Crete	26.0
2	David Miller	Grande Prairie	22.0
3	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	21.5
4	Phil Holmstrom	Edmonton	21.5
5	Nayef Daher	Edmonton	14.5
6	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	13.5
7	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton	12.5
8	Brad Willis	Edmonton	10.5
9	Paul Viminitz	Lethbridge	10.0
10	FM Dale Haessel	Calgary	9.0
11	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	8.5
12	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton	8.5
13	Jim Daniluk	Calgary	7.5
14	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton	7.5
15	Peter Kalisvaart	Edmonton	7.5



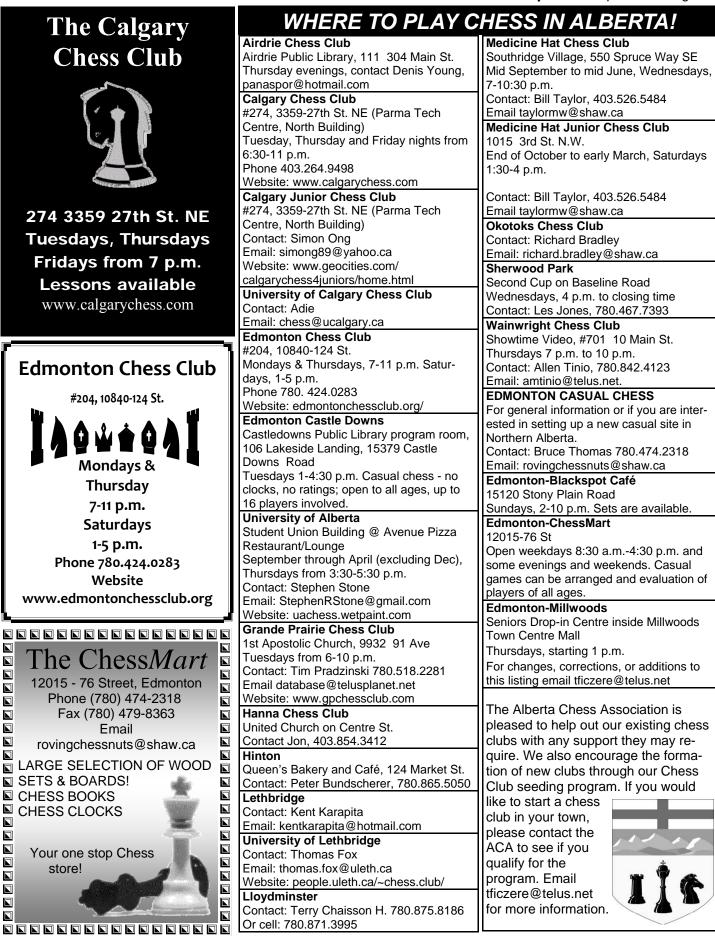
TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

	As of April 15, 2010	
1	Porper, Edward	2494
2	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2428
3	Reeve, Jeff	2322
4	Kaminski, Victor	2315
5	Haessel, Dale	2308
6	Li, Zhichao	2300
7	Gardner, Robert J.	2296
8	Peter, Steven	2294
9	Haynes, Nicolas	2276
10	Wang, Richard	2271
11	Neven, Knut	2266
12	Ristovic, Nenad	2252
13	Robichaud, Martin	2246
14	Kaminski, Thomas	2229
15	Hughey, Micah	2222
16	Yam, Alex	2222
17	Schaeffer, Jonathan	2206
18	Rekhson, Vladislav	2179
19	Nguyen, Kim	2174
20	Grumic, Sasa	2154
21	Willis, Bradley J.	2132
22	Kalisvaart, Peter	2127
23	Yearwood, Roy	2122
24	Gluckie, Jamin	2100
25	Perron, Sean	2099
26	Gold, Itohan	2087
27	Purewal, Sardul	2082
28	Monaghan, Jim	2080
29	Campbell, Gordon	2077
30	Gorelik, Lev	2076
31	Newton, Geoff	2074
32	Sequillion, Aaron	2058
33	Stark, Mark	2058
34	Daniluk, Jim	2030
35	Tot, Nandor	1997
36	Pradzinski, Tim	1988
37	MacIntosh, John J.	1974
38	Pedersen, Rick	1969
39	Rusnell, Lorne	1966
40	Wojtas, Artur	1965

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

	As of April 15, 2010	
1	Porper, Edward	2431
2	Hansen, Eric	2415
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2343
Л	Kaminski Victor	22/17

4	Kaminski, Victor	2247
5	Reeve, Jeff	2239
6	Huber, Gregory	2235
7	Peter, Steven	2234
8	Ristovic, Nenad	2205
9	Haessel, Dale	2185
10	Neven, Knut	2180





Calgary International Chess Classic

May 20-24 Calgary Chess Club 274-3359 27th Ave



GM Eugenio Torre, Philippines

- > First Asian GM
- World Champion Candidate 1984
- Second to Fischer in Spassky 1992 rematch
- 3 time Olympic Silver medalist
- Played 19 consecutive Olympiads

GM Victor Mikhalevski, Israel

- First at Calvià, Spain, 2007 (8/9!)
- First at 2003 Quebec Open
- Tied for first at 4th Edmonton Intl.
- Israel Junior Champion 1991-92
- Member of Israel's Olympic Team

GM John Fedorowicz, USA

- = second at Hastings 1984-85
- First at Cannes 1987
- First at Wijk Aan Zee 1990
- US Olympic Team Captain twice
- Acted as second to Gata Kamsky



GM Nick De Firmian, USA

- Three time US Champion
- Represented US in seven Interzonals
- First at Canadian Open 1983
- First at World Open 1986
- Noted chess author

Also featuring:

IM Renier Castellanos, Spain IM Edward Porper, Canada IM Marc Esserman, USA IM Raja Panjwani, Canada IM Leon Piasetski, Canada IM Lawrence Day, Canada



Road Warrior

The Alberta Chess Association



Complete details available at www.albertachess.org/2010CICC/index.html



9 Round Swiss limited to 24 players GM & IM norms possible Minimum rating 2100 FIDE 2200 CFC Lectures & Simuls will be scheduled Reserve section open to everyone, space is limited so register early!

Sponsored by

The Calgary Chess Club

