



Alberta Chess Report

Publication of the Alberta Chess Association • June, 2006

Insults traded as Battle of Alberta nears

When the best chess players in Northern Alberta - mostly from the city which has a team which can reach the Stanley Cup finals - prepare for a match against the best players in Southern Alberta - mostly from the city which has the corporate bosses ruling over northern resources - one can expect

a lot of insults to be traded.

The good-natured bantering quiets when the combatants actually sit down at the chess boards to each play a two-game match in neutral Central Alberta territory, namely Red Deer.

Although in past years, the Battle of Alberta usually occurred during

August, the date this year is much earlier, July 8.

Higher-rated players wishing to trade pre-battle insults with their counterparts in the other part of the province and to see who actually gets on each team should be plugged into the Yahoo chess groups:

<http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/edmon->

[tonchessclub/](http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/calgar-ychess/) for the North

<http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/calgar-ychess/> for the South

Andrew Boik who once played for the North but then became a traitor and switched to the South, issues insults on both internet locations, but has recently proclaimed that his work schedule will prevent him from playing this year.

Will the South repeat its 2005 victory or will the North once again dominate?

The players from each side are ranked by Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) rating and each battles against the same ranked player from the other side.

Last year, the South won, 14.5-9.5. Previous to that, the North had won for three consecutive years, taking the 2004 battle with a record-breaking score of 17.5-6.5.

Results of last year's battle were:

Greg Huber, South,

beat Jeff Reeve, 1.5-0.5;

Rob Gardner, North, beat Dale Haessel, 1.5-0.5;

Chris Demers, South, shutout Zhichao Li, 2-0;

Knut Neven, South, beat Vlad Rekhson, 1.5-0.5;

Sasa Grumic, North, tied Sean Perron, 1-1;

Dan Kazmaier, South, tied Zoltan Baunok, 1-1;

Ian Lee, South, shutout Anastasia Kazakevich, 2-0;

Andrew Boik, South, shutout Gerald Aspler, 2-0

Nic Haynes, North, beat Alex Yam, 1.5-0.5;

Micah Hughey, North, shutout Eric Hansen, 2-0;

Tim Dean, North, tied Kirk Duval, 1-1; and

Chris Kuczaj, South, beat Hafiz Karmali, 1.5-0.5.

It appears this year that Jim Daniluk is organizing the South's battle forces and can be reached at sacrat@shaw.ca while Micah Hughey is mustering the North's troops and should be contacted at mhughey@hotmail.com



GM Pascal Charbonneau

Newest GM tours Alberta

Pascal Charbonneau is now a Canadian-born Grandmaster as well as the country's chess champ.

In recognition of Charbonneau's successful quest for the GM title, The Chess'n Math Association has arranged a tour of the country featuring lectures and simultaneous displays.

In Alberta, the Alberta Chess Association has

sponsored the GM tour in mid-June with events in Grande Prairie, Edmonton and Calgary.

Born May 6, 1983 in Montreal, Charbonneau earned his third GM norm earlier this year by winning the Chicago International Tournament.

He had received his first GM norms in the early 2000's and then gained more experience and skills, representing Canada in the Chess Olympiad and capturing the title of Canadian Chess Champ.

GM Charbonneau learned chess from his parents at age 6 and began winning Quebec provincial youth titles in Grade 2.

More recently at the 2006 Chess Olympiad, he beat the world's number two player, GM Vishy Anand.

Upcoming ACA Tournaments:



**Canada Day Open
July 1 - 2 in Calgary**



**Battle of Alberta
July 8 in Red Deer**

**Details on ACA website:
www.albertachess.org/**

**Junior Chess growing ...
Chess Challenge, school programs
and more events are increasing
enrollment in junior chess
within Alberta.**

**Details inside this issue's:
Chatter in the Castle**



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Enhancing Alberta's Communities

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.

ACA president delivers annual report 2005

Due to the long lapse in publication of the Alberta Chess Report, excerpts from the 2005 President's Report to the Annual ACA Meeting are presented here.

President Ford Wong's Report Annual General Meeting - October 9, 2005

2005 was a typical business as usual year with all our core projects getting completed. All the planned tournaments were completed. This past year there were several highlights:

1. Yes, the ACA is still alive and doing things! It may not look like it but we are still around. The two major highlights for 2005 were the ACA Casino and hosting of the 2005 Canadian Open in Edmonton.

2. The ACA hosted a Casino in Edmonton. A great big thank you to all our members who volunteered, including Paul Viminiz who drove all the way from Lethbridge and Ron Hinds from Calgary, to help. Of course special thanks go to John Quiring, who was the Casino Co-ordinator. The Casino brought in approx \$78,000.00. The ACA's next Casino has already been set for Spring 2007.

3. The ACA sponsored the very successful 2005 Canadian Open in Edmonton July 9th to 17th. A special thanks go to the organizers; Ford Wong, John Quiring, Peter Alderton, Adrien Regimbald, Bruce Thomas, Micah Hughey and Vlad Rekhson.

The ACA contributed \$58,000 from casino funds to the event which brought three of the worlds top 20 players: Ivanchuk, Shirov and Bologan, most of Canada's elite players: Bluvshstein, Charbonneau, Tyomkin, Roussel-Roozman and several other featured players; Nataf, Krush, Shabalov and Moisieenko. As an unexpected bonus, the event attracted 10 players from India's Olympic team which included three GMs; Ganguly, Sandipan and Kunte.

The Canadian Open featured simul by Ivanchuk, Krush, Bologan, Shabalov and Bluvshstein and a lecture by Shirov. Other side events included Chessbase Secret Move, Charles Graves Tie day, Speed chess and Bughouse. The event generated a tremendous amount of publicity throughout the chess world and in the news. It got front page coverage on the Edmonton Journal as well as television spots. The Canadian Open 2005 was also co-sponsored by the Edmonton Chess club for approx. \$13,000.

4. The ACA brought back Grandmaster Alex Yermolinski to play in one of the Edmonton sectional tournaments.

5. The Alberta Closed Rules, rewritten in 2004, appeared to be successful as all the participants appeared to be happy with the new six-player format. Because the ACA's Casino fell on the Easter long weekend which is normally when the Alberta Open was played, all ACA qualifying events such as Northern Alberta Open and Alberta Closed had to be moved ahead.

6. Paul Viminiz hosted the first ACA sponsored tournament in Lethbridge.

7. Tim Pradzinski is getting chess rolling again in Grande Prairie and region. The ACA is now sponsoring their club meeting nights.

8. The ACA, this year underwent a complete audit by the AGLC and everything was found to be in order. A great big thanks to Ron Hinds who provided all the information requested by the provincial government commission and answered all their questions. Everything appears to be in order.

9. The ACA sponsored the Alberta Chess Challenge Team (12 players plus one coach) to Ottawa; Andrew Boik to the Canadian Junior in Brantford, Ontario; and our Canadian Youth Chess Championship representatives - Anastasia Kazakevich, Cornelia Dinca, Victor Kaminski, Dhruvad Shah and Thomas Kaminski to Victoria, B.C. This year there was no Canadian Closed and it looks like Jeff Reeve, current Alberta Champion, will not be attending any tournament outside Alberta.

The ACA currently has a very strong cash position (having filled our coffers from another Casino this year mentioned earlier) and as such, I expect the ACA to loosen its purse strings again with possibly more equipment to new clubs, full travel support, more books donated to libraries and possibly more funding for junior training.

Publication of an ACR remains a problem. Finding someone with the time and willing to do the work has been difficult. The ACA is looking at outsourcing as an alternative. Right now the ACA website and several of the Alberta Yahoo talk groups is the only source of communication with our membership.

The ACA is still faced with finding volunteers (and reliable ones) to help organize chess in Calgary. TDs have been hard to find. As in 2004, the ACA had to bring in TDs to several tournaments which involved covering their travel, food and accommodation expenses. Existing volunteers are there, but have been too busy to help. The ACA continues to fully support the Calgary Chess club and things are looking up for the CCC as they will be hosting their first casino in 2006. This will be the start towards their own financial stability and independence.

Right now, it seems that only a handful of people are keeping the ACA running. In particular, Micah Hughey and Vlad Rekhson in Edmonton and Tim Pradzinski in Grande Prairie. It seems like more energetic and enthusiastic volunteers are needed to inject a bit more life into the association and to share the workload. With the ACA's strong cash position, it seems that there are many ways to spend money but very few people stepping forth to help do the work to get these things done.

As president, these past two years have been demanding and very tiresome. The amount of paperwork involved seems to grow. Ron Hinds has done a tremendous job as Treasurer, keeping the books in line. His is a thankless job and he has helped quite a bit.

Summary of some 2006 Open Tournaments

Compiled by Richard Pua

Lee wins Edmonton title

Edmonton Chess Championship 2006 was a 16-player knock-out format in which in order to advance to the next round, a player had to win a two-game match against his opponent.

Vicente Lee won the title of Edmonton Champ with a score of 7 out of a possible 8. He suffered no losses throughout the tournament.

Zhichao Li was runner-up with a 4/8 score.

Edmonton reserves attracts over 40 players

Edmonton Chess Club Reserves 2006 featured players who did not qualify for the Edmonton Championship or players who were knocked out of the champ tournament.

This swiss format tournament ended up attracting 41 players.

With a score of 7 out of 8, Rahim Khataw took first place with Micah Hughey and David Ostapchuk sharing second place with scores of 6/8.



VICENTE LEE Jr.

Alberta Champ

The Alberta chess scene in early 2006 was dominated by Edmonton player Vicente Lee Jr. who seemed to be winning tournaments left and right.

In the six-player round robin Alberta Championship 2006 in February, Lee took first place with victories against Knut Neven, Rob Gardner, and Dale Haessel while drawing Greg Huber and Jeff Reeve.

Huber took second place with three wins against Gardner, Reeve and Haessel, the draw with Lee, but a loss to Neven.

Neven finished third with a 3.0/5 followed by Gardner (2), Reeve (1.5), and Haessel (1).

In the Reserves section, Nic Haynes took first place with a 4/5 score, followed by Micah Hughey with 3.5/5.

Grande Prairie holds another classic event

Larry Stutzman won Grande Prairie Chess Club's annual Trumpeter Classic, scoring 4/5 in the January event.

Sharing second place with 3.5 points each were Tim Pradzinski and Ford Wong.

The junior section saw a three-way tie between Carter Greber, Tylor Mombourquette and Luke McDonald. Each claimed a score of 5/6.

Lee wins another

Vicente Lee continued dominating the chess scene with a win in late March of the United Bicolanos Open in Edmonton with a 4.5 out of a possible 5 score in the open section. Dale Haessel took second with 4/5.

In the under 200 section, Hafiz Karmali and Chris Kuczaj tied at 3/5.

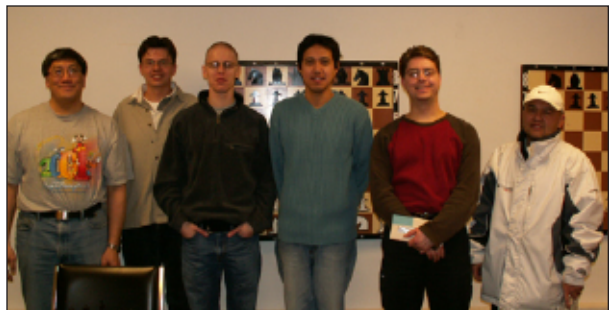
Under 1700 section winner was Hao Wang with a 2/5 score.

Junior wins Calgary Closed

Calgary Chess Club's Closed Championship was won by Daniel Kazmaier with six points out of a possible seven. Kazmaier later went on to become the Grade 12 National Champ at the Canadian Chess Challenge.

Knut Neven took second in the Calgary Closed with 5.5 points, followed by Sean Perron with 4.

In the Calgary Closed's swiss section, Arthur Milne was the top player with a 6/7 score while another section of the event was captured jointly by Brian Miller and Chris Kuczaj, each with 5/7 scores.



A group pose from the end of the 2006 Northern Alberta Open: (left to right) Ford Wong, Juraj Pivovarov, Mark Stark, Vicente Lee Jr., Micah Hughey and Arniel Frialde.

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

In an attempt to get the Alberta Chess Report re-established in a timely fashion, Bruce Thomas and Richard Pua have put this issue together and will gather articles, photos and notices for the next issue which will come out during the summer months.

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 July 15, 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.



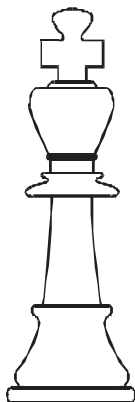
Returned undelivered copies to:

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

Top 20 CFC Rated Players in Alberta

(Players who have played during the previous year • From Chess Federation of Canada June 9 listing)

Nenad Ristic, Calgary 2336
Gregory Huber, Calgary 2321
Sinisa Mitrovic, Calgary 2299
Jeff Reeve, Edmonton 2297
Arthur Odachowski, Calgary 2282
Knut Neven, Calgary 2260
Vicente Lee Jr., Edmonton 2257
Christopher Demers, Calgary 2254
Robert Gardner, Edmonton 2225
Dale Haessel, Calgary 2215



Victor Kaminski, Calgary 2214
Arniel Frialde, Edmonton 2190
Sean Perron, Cochrane 2164
Daniel Kazmaier, Calgary 2160
Andrew Boik, Calgary 2099
Roy Yearwood, Calgary 2090
Lev Gorelik, Edmonton 2071
Taco Van Ieperen, Calgary 2034
Anastasia Kazakevich, Edmonton 2025
Eric Hansen, Calgary 2023

First Annual Kitchener (Ontario) Chess Festival

Featuring: 2006 Canadian Open, Canadian Youth Chess Championships, 2006 Canadian Junior Championship

This year, the **CANADIAN OPEN** will be played in 3 sections according to rating. Under 1600 CFC, Under 2000 CFC and Over 1800 CFC (Open section). **Dates:** July 15 - 23 **Format:** 9 Round Swiss First Round - all sections 2:00pm July 15, Round 2-9: U2000, U1600 Sections 11:00am daily Crown Section: (FIDE rated) 6:00pm daily
Prizes: 90% of entries returned as prizes, all sections **Entry fees:** Received by: June 30 - \$125, At door - \$150
Place: Walper Terrace Hotel, 1 King Street West, Kitchener www.walper.com

CANADIAN JUNIOR this year will start out as an open tournament to all Canadian Juniors under age 20 (as of Jan. 1, 2006) who are rated 1700 and above. These players will start by playing 4 qualifying rounds at 2 rounds each day **July 8 and 9**. After playing these 4 qualifying rounds, the top 8 will qualify to continue on to the Round Robin portion of the tournament. The Round Robin portion will be played along side the CYCC games from **July 10 to 13** - 7 rounds to determine Canada's Junior Champion who will represent Canada at the World Junior (U20). The players that do not qualify to the top 8 (in the event of ties for 8th place, CFC rating will determine tie-breaks), those that qualify by age to play in the CYCC will be offered the chance to then join in the CYCC in their age category with a credit of half their Junior entry fee towards their entry fee for the CYCC. (\$75 from the Junior entry fee of \$150 will be applied to the \$150 entry fee for the CYCC so the player only has to pay another \$75 to enter the CYCC) In the event of one of the top 8 after the qualifying rounds opting out of the Junior Round Robin, his/her spot will be offered to the next player. (9th place, then 10th etc.) The qualifying rounds will be played at the Kitchener City Hall and the Round Robin games will be played with the CYCC games at the Walper Terrace Hotel.

CANADIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS determine age category Canadian Champions, July 10 - 13 in a 7-round Swiss format. Entry to the CYCC is restricted to Canadian Citizens, or Landed Immigrants that have had 12 months of continuous residency immediately preceding the tournament. In all there are 10 possible categories by age and gender: Under 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 (as of Jan. 1, 2006) in both boys and girls sections. Based on Registration numbers, some sections may be combined. The top 3 finishers from each section will be invited to be part of Canada's team to compete at the World Youth Chess Championships (WYCC). The WYCC has the same structure and format as the CYCC. The Top finisher (First place) from each section will have the entire trip to the WYCC paid for him/her - including airfare, and hotel and meals at the WYCC.

Complete Details about These Kitchener Chess Festival Events and On-line Registration at:
www.chessfest.ca/



CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta

Albertans win two champ titles at Nation Chess Challenge

At the National Chess Challenge held in Moncton, New Brunswick, May 20 to 22, Daniel Kazmaier became the Grade 12 National Champ while Eric Hansen won the Grade 8 title. Hansen scored 8.5 points in his play against the Grade 8 provincial champs from the nine other provinces, to take a clear first while Kazmaier tied for first with the Manitoba player but went on to win the tiebreak game.

Alberta's next best finisher was Vlad Constantinescu who tied for third at the Grade 5 level and then beat the British Columbia player in the tiebreak match.

In the Grade 3 competition, Richard Wang was not as fortunate as he lost his third place tiebreak game and ended up fourth as did his Grade 6 brother, Harris. Myron Loke also finished fourth in Grade 4.

Overall, the Alberta team finished in fifth place, the same as in 2005.

Ontario has dominated the event for a number of years and 2006 was no exception although Ontario's point total was not as high - only 90 out of a possible 108. Quebec finished in its traditional second spot with 79. Manitoba was third with 63.5, followed by British Columbia at 58.5.

Alberta came in with 52 points for

fifth spot while the rest of the field was New Brunswick (49.5), Nova Scotia (44.5), Newfoundland/Labrador (42.5), Saskatchewan (42) and Prince Edward Island (18.5).

While Ontario players again capture many of the top three trophies, this year saw more provinces than ever having a share in the awards.

Provincial Chess'n Math Co-ordinator Bruce Thomas said he was quite proud of the team's performance since it had many new faces this year and several of the team's members had only gotten involved in tournament chess during the current school year.

"Although a couple of experienced team members had a bad tournament, overall, my projections of points based on ratings was pretty close to the outcome," he noted.

Edmonton to host 2008 event

The National Chess Challenge in 2007 will be held in Quebec City while the 2008 event will come to Alberta and be hosted by Edmonton.

The 12 players who represented Alberta in the 2006 National Challenge will remain provincial champs for their current school grade level until the 2007 Alberta Chess Challenge which will be held April 14 in central Alberta.



Alberta's team to the National Chess Challenge, May 20 - 22, in Moncton N.B., poses with the flag outside the tournament hall. Front row from left: Harris Wang, Myron Loke, Richard Wang, Andrew Riesen, and Stephen Pavlic; second row Vlad Constantinescu, Megan Chi, Anthony Wu and Johan Piera; back row Eric Hansen (partially hidden), Daniel Kazmaier and Jered Fokkema (hidden).

Junior event dates to keep in mind

- Medicine Hat Giant Chess Set - play with a giant set, chess camps and other events - all summer long!
- Group Play and Learn Sessions at the ChessMart in Edmonton - all summer long!
- Father's Day Tournament in Edmonton, Sunday, June 18
- Chess Camps in Edmonton, July 3 - 7 at Edmonton Chess Club
- Mid-Summer Tournament in Edmonton at Borden Park, Sunday, July 16
- Junior Tournament in Edmonton, Sunday, August 13
- Battle at the Border - Alberta Juniors vs Saskatchewan Juniors in Lloydminster, September 23 and 24.
- Junior Battle of Alberta - Open to all juniors, Saturday, October 28, in central Alberta.

For updates on Junior Chess Activities throughout Alberta, keep in touch with:



**Alberta Chess Association website:
www.albertachess.org/**

**and The Roving ChessNuts website:
www.rovingchessnuts.com**



CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta

Calgary Junior Chess Club retrenches

by John Piera, CJCC President

My goal is to help the CJCC rebuild so we can again produce championship players, and expose as many youth as possible to the great game of chess.

Since its inception in 1968, the Calgary Junior Chess Club has a long and proud tradition of producing many provincial and national champions, and this has been the result of countless donations of time and expertise by hundreds of volunteers. But in the past few years the CJCC has lost momentum and produced fewer champions.

The evidence is in the 2006 Provincial Chess and Math Championships where only four of the twelve grade champions representing Alberta were from Calgary, and even this statistic is misleading because only two of these four attend CJCC tournaments. The other two opt for the Calgary Chess Club, where they can play adults who have higher ratings.

In the National Chess and Math Championships were only two of the 12 grade champions represented Calgary (and Alberta) and neither of them attended CJCC tournaments. Calgary also has several top rated junior players that chose not to compete this year for personal reasons.

I hope to rebuild relationships with the Calgary Chess Club, the Alberta Chess Association and the Chess and Math Organization. These organizations have access to chess expertise, finances and other resources that could help the

CJCC. They have a vested interest in seeing the CJCC be successful because our players are the future players and volunteers for their organizations. If the CJCC is successful, ultimately all each of these organizations will be successful.

Another reason for cooperation is that together we can produce a synergy that will be more effective than our individual efforts, whether that be in organizing tournaments, promotions, or simple communications.

I hope to attract the higher rated junior players back to the tournaments. Right now, there is a perception that there is no competition for the higher rated players at the CJCC, and they are right! What I want to do is introduce a mentoring program, where these players can teach and coach our younger players. Once we achieve a more competitive level in addition to our beginners and intermediate players, our club will strengthen.

Finally, I hope to build up the volunteer base. Right now the bulk of the work is falling on the shoulders of a handful of volunteers. A special thank you is due to each of the CJCC board members for being willing to take this on.

Over the course of the year, I hope to double the number of adults involved, so that it lessens the load on those who are currently working so hard. While the coming year holds many challenges, I am optimistic that the CJCC is heading in the right direction.



Westbrook Elementary School Team A celebrates in front of Edmonton City Hall after winning the Northern Alberta Elementary Team Championship June 3 in an outdoor tournament. The team won all but one of its 25 games. Left to right: Paul Lee, Richard Wang, Michael Ru, Harris Wang and Myron Loke.



Sir Winston Churchill Square in Edmonton was site of junior tournament in June and will be used again for a major outdoor event for all ages in late August.

SUMMER CHESS CAMPS IN EDMONTON

at Edmonton Chess Club, Prince of Wales Armouries, 108 Ave. & 104 St.

The first camp will be held **Monday, July 3, through Friday, July 7, 8:30 a.m. to noon each day.** This camp will be open to new beginners and those rated under 600 by Chess'n Math.

The second camp will be held the same dates, **July 3 - 7, but 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** and will be for experienced players rated 600 and above or be junior high age beginners.

The two camps will be repeated as above on August 21 through 25. Register for the August camps ASAP. Cost of each camp will be \$60 (\$50 for second player from same family) and will include rated games, training sheets, snack.

Enrollment will be limited, so send us an e-mail ASAP to reserve a spot: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca or call 554-7280. Registrations will be accepted until June 28.

