

## The Polgar and Denker tournaments

Posted by elizabeth on Thursday, August 25 @ 19:02:24 CDT

By Elizabeth Shaugnessy

In Phoenix last week two wonderful scholastic events took place, the Polgar and the Denker tournaments. For those new to scholastic chess, both these tournaments are essentially playoffs for the national high school champions from among the high school State Champions. Both tournaments are USCF tournaments and have six rounds. The Polgar is sponsored by the Susan Polgarfoundation and the Denker is named after the late GM Arnold Denker who sponsored it through many years.

There was a three way tie (each with 5 points) for the winners of the Polgar Championship from 48 entrants: WGM Anja Corke, (2323) from California, WFM Alisa Melekhina (2057) from Pennsylvania and Abby Marshall (1891) from Ohio. All three received scholarships from the University of Texas at Dallas. A total of \$155,000 in cash prizes and scholarships were awarded the 48 girls.

There was also a three way tie (each with 5 points) for the winner of the Denker Championship from a field of 45 entrants: Josh Bakker (2132) from Massachusetts, Zhi-Ya Hu (2130) from Maryland and the winner on tie breaks, Trevor Jackson (2104) from Louisiana. Trevor received a four year scholarship from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Our own representatives from Northern California had impressive performances. Nicolas Yap, (2248) came 4th in the Denker, (and incidentally held second place winner Hu to a draw) with a score of 4.5. In the Polgar Louiza Livschitz (1816) tied for 4th with a score of 4.5 and Elisha Garg (1819) came 10th with a score of 4. When we look at the strength of the opposition, we really appreciate how well our representatives scored. Our congratulations to all three. Northern California is proud of you all.

Next year the tournament will take place in Chicago, Illinois, August 6 through 11. CalChess gives a stipend of \$300 to our representatives for both tournaments to help defray the travel costs. The representative for the Denker will be the winner of the State Championship (boy or girl). For the Polgar, which will be in its third year, the winner of the Sojourner Truth, the State Championship for Girls, will be the representative.

Hu, Zhi-ya-Yap, Nicolas (1/2-1/2)

1.d4 nf6 2. c4 g6 3. nf3 bg7 4. nc3 d6 5. e4 0-0 6. be2 e5 7. 0-0 nc6 8.dxe5

>8. d5 (main line)

8... dxe5 9. bg5 qe8 10. h3 h6 11. be3 qe7 12. nd5 nxd5 13. cxd5 nd4!? 14. rc1 nxe2 15. qxe2 rd8 16. qc4 c6 17. dxc6 bxc6 18. qxc6 bb7 19.bc5 qd7 20.qxd7 rxd7 21. rfe1 rd3 22. bb4 rad8 23. rc7 rd7 24. rxd7 rxd7 25. bc3 f6 26. bb4 kf7 27. nd2 h5

8/=

28. nb3 bc6 29. f3 h4 30. bd2 bf8 31. be3 bb5 32. bf2 a5 33. a4 bxa4 = 34. nxa5 g5 35. ra1 bb5 36. nb3 rd3 37. nc5 rd2 38. b4 rb2 39. na6 bxa6 40. rxa6

bxb4 = 41. ra7 ke6 42. rb7 bc3 43. rxb2 bxb2 44. kf1 ba3 45. ke2 bd6 46. kd3 be7 47. kc4 bd6 48. bb6 be7 49. kb5 kd7 50. bf2 bd6 1/2-1/2

" (3)

Yap, Nicolas-Guber,Michael (1-0)

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. nd2 c5 4. exd5 exd5 5. bb5 nc6

>5... bd7 =

6. ngf3 bd6 7. dxc5 bxc5 8. nb3 bd6 9. 0-0 nge7 10. Bg5 0-0 11. c3 bg4 12. re1 f6 13. bh4 nf5?! 14. qxd5 kh8 15. qe4 nxh4 16. qxg4 nxf3 17. qxf3 ne5 18. qh3 f5 19. nd4 qf6 20. rad1 qg6 21. bd3 ng4 22. re6 bxh2 23. qhx2 nxh2

24. rxg6 hxg6 +-

25. kxh2 rfe8 26. kg3 rad8

Only technique is the matter now.

27. bc2 kg8 28. bb3 kf8 29. ne6 ke7 30. nf4 (1-0)

(notes by Nicolas)

As a postscript we would like to credit IM Guillermo Rey who is and has always been Nicolas' coach. Leonard Livschitz, Louiza's father has been her coach and Anthony Corrales, Vladimir Mezentsev, and Shivkumar Shivaji have all been coaches for Elisha.

Elizabeth Shaughnessy, President, CalChess.