

Mission San Jose Elementary School and the Berkeley Bishops play a Match

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Joe Lonsdale with his Team

By Joe Lonsdale, MSJE Coach

On Monday, January 29th the Berkeley Bishops, a team representing the Berkeley Chess School, one of the top scholastic chess schools in Northern California, traveled to Fremont to play an 18-board match with Mission San Jose Elementary (MSJE) School. MSJE is the reigning (K-3 and K-6, 2005 and 2006) Northern California Elementary School Chess Champions.

Elizabeth Shaughnessy deserves all the credit for making this match happen. She made the initial proposal. She also arranged for her team to travel to Fremont on a school night so we could play at the usual meeting time of the MSJE Chess team.

The Berkeley Bishops is an All-Star Team that consists of the best players from the more than 140 schools where the Berkeley Chess School runs chess programs. The Berkeley Chess School runs programs at the most schools and is one of the most respected chess programs in Northern California. Elizabeth Shaughnessy, a former Irish Woman's chess champion and a former president of CalChess, founded the Berkeley Chess School in 1982.

This was a rematch of the 1997 battle in which the Berkeley Bishops played and defeated a higher rated MSJE team that had recently won the 1996 Grade Six National Championship after winning the 1995 Grade Five National Championship.

Because the Bishops consist of both elementary school players and junior high players Elizabeth agreed to let MSJE graduates currently at Hopkins Junior High School play for MSJE. Three Hopkins students played for MSJE on boards 4, 5, and 8. Since the Bishops had no players above 1400, MSJE decided it would not be correct to play our top graduate at Hopkins, Arthur Liou (1900+).

Elizabeth wanted to let all of her players that could travel compete in the match. However, we both wanted to keep the match competitive. As can be seen from the results table below the bottom Bishops were all rated below 800. Both Elizabeth and I expected that the higher rated and more experienced MSJE players would make short work of the bottom of the Bishops team. To prevent lower rated Bishops from hurting the team effort Elizabeth and I agreed to a 10-board varsity match and that the players beyond board ten would be a junior varsity match. After the match Elizabeth and I could only laugh about our inability to predict what would happen on the bottom boards.

A time control of game in 45 minutes was used to allow us to finish the games and get the Berkeley team home at a reasonable hour. The MSJE team consists of over 50 players and attendance at our Monday evening meeting is usually 45 or more. Elizabeth was to bring as many Bishops as could travel on a school night and they would play the top boards at MSJE with the Hopkins students placed in by their ratings. The positioning of the bottom of the MSJE team was done by ladder position rather than by ratings.

The match got started within ten minutes of our proposed 6:45 starting time. MSJE won two varsity games and one junior varsity game very quickly. However by 7:30 the varsity score was 2-2 and the Junior varsity score was 3-2 in favor of the Bishops.

MSJE won the varsity match by a score of 7.5 to 2.5. Three fourth graders, the three captains of the MSJE Chess Team, Jerome Sun, James Kwok, and Hemang Jangle, played and won for MSJE on the top three boards.

At the bottom the Bishops more than held their own. They won the JV match by a score of 5-3. The overall score was MSJE 10.5 Bishops 7.5.

The board one battle between the Bishops' Gabriel Lee (1346) and MSJE's Jerome Sun (1535) is shown below.

I would like to thank Elizabeth and the Bishops for traveling to Fremont on a school night. All 36 players should be congratulated for completing the match without any problems or protests. A return match is planned for March 10th in Berkeley.

MSJE Fremont vs. Berkeley Bishops Chess Match played at MSJE Fremont on 01/29/07

Board	MSJE, Fremont	Rating	Result	Board	Bishops, Berkeley	Rating
1B	Jerome Sun-4	1535	1 0	1W	Gabriel Lee	1346
2W	James Kwok-4	1499	1 0	2B	Alexander Zinoman	1345
3B	Hemang Jangle-4	1425	1 0	3W	Thomas Gonda	1340
4W	Vincent Tian-7	1295	0 1	4B	Joedat Esfahani	1233
5B	Kevin Hsu-7	1220	1 0	5W	Brian Fu	1138
6W	Jerry Wu-5	1202	1 0	6B	John Clara	1102
7B	Gordon Tom-6	1160	0.5 0.5	7W	Thomas Yuan	1095
8W	Allen Shih-7	1106	1 0	8B	Danny Stoll	966
9B	David Ma-5	1057	1 0	9W	Ryan Chang	964
10W	Warren Tian-5	999	0 1	10B	Michael Kraut	922
	Varsity Totals		7.5 2.5			
11B	Junior Varsity					
	Palak Goel-4	994	1 0	11W	Adam Schmit	920
12W	Aaron Wong-5	669	0 1	12B	Charles Lee	833
13B	Bill Cai-4	860	0 1	13W	Sam Scherer	810
14W	Chris Cai-6	1032	0 1	14B	Tudor Muntean	750
15B	Mark Sui-4	776	1 0	15W	John Liebman	718
16W	Himaja Jangle-4	605	0 1	16B	Jason Zhao	692
17B	Arman Kalyanpur-2	1019	1 0	17W	Natalie Baldacce	491
18W	Anton Wang-3	827	0 1	18B	Alex Pranata	482
	Junior Varsity Totals		3 5			
	Match Totals		10.5 7.5			

White Berkeley Bishops Gabriel Lee 1346

Black MSJE Jerome Sun 1535

[ECO "C01"]

[Annotator "Systems,,Cisco"]

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1. d4 e5 2. e3 exd4 3. exd4 d5 4. c4 c6 5. h3 Bb4+
6. Bd2 Bxd2+ 7. Nxd2 Ne7 8. Ngf3 O-O 9. Be2 Re8
10. O-O Nf5 11. Nb3 Qe7 (11... dxc4 12. Bxc4 Nd6)
12. Re1 Be6 13. Nc5 b6 14. Nxe6 fxe6 15. Bd3 Qf6
16. Rb1 (16. cxd5 cxd5 17. Bxf5 Qxf5 18. Qa4 Rf8
19. Re5 Qg6 20. Ng5) 16... Rf8 17. Rf1 Nd7
18. Qd2 Rad8 19. Rbd1 c5 20. Qc3 cxd4
21. Nxd4 Nxd4 22. Bxh7+ Kxh7 23. Rxd4 Nc5
24. f3 Ne4 (24... dxc4 25. Rxc4 Qxc3 26. Rxc3)
25. Qe3 (25. Qd3 Qf5 26. fxe4 dxe4 27. Qxe4 Rxd4
28. Rxf5 Rxe4 29. Rxf8 Rxc4) 25... Ng3
    
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26. Qd3+ Qf5 (26... Kg8 27.Rg4 (27. Re1 dxc4 28. Qxc4 Rxd4)
27... dxc4 28. Qxc4 Nxf1 29. Qxf1 Qxb2)
27.Rh4+ Kg8 28. Rd1 Qxd3 29. Rxd3 dxc4 30. Ra3 a5
31. Rxc4 Rc8 32. Rg4 Nf5 33. Re4 Rfd8
34. Rxe6 Rc1+ (34... Rc2 35. Rb3 Rd1+ 36. Kh2 Rcc1)
35. Kh2 (35. Kf2) 35... Rdd1 36. Re8+ Kf7
{white resigns} 0-1



The playing arena



Elizabeth Shaugnessy behind her team



Richard Shorman, coach to many of the kids on both sides

