

National Chess Day and the Weibel Fall Scholastic Quads #1

October 21, 2012
by Alan Kirshner

I have organized the Weibel Fall Scholastic Chess Quads since 1998, mainly during the middle of October, November and December. When I sent in my TLA (Tournament Life Announcement) for this Fall's Quads, Joan DuBois, the U.S. Chess Federation's Director of Communications, reminded me that my event was being held on National Chess Day. The U.S. Chess Federation had set aside October 13, 2012, Saturday, as a special day for chess. She told me that if I listed my tournament as a National Chess Day event I would get a free Chess Life listing as well as having it rated free. I, of course, was not about to pass up saving a few bucks. In my usual overachieving manner, I decided to expand my tournament to include numerous chess activities.



I asked for the help of Carl Moy, the Weibel Chess Team's Chess Parent Coordinator, and Ted Castro, owner of the very popular NorCal House of Chess Club to help me set up the activities. The first thing we decided to do was to create an over-1300 Quad section with Game/75 time controls. Over the years, the Weibel Quads have drawn large numbers of players, but seldom with ratings above 1300. Our usual time controls are Game/30 for those rated under 900 and Game/45 for those rated over 900. Due to the time constraints that Weibel Elementary School imposes on us, we decided to hold the over-1300 Quads at Ted's NorCal House of Chess, which is about a half-mile down the road from Weibel Elementary.

Since two of Weibel's former players qualified and decided to go to the World Youth Championships in Maribor, Slovenia between November 7 and November 19, we thought they might like to have a bit of extra practice in a simul. The two former Weibel players going this year are National Expert Kevin Moy (2049) and Joanna Liu (1793). Kevin, who is competing in the Under 12 section, tied as National Champion in the Elementary School Division back in May of this year, helping Weibel Elementary bring home the K-6 Team Championship. Joanna, the Girls K-3 National Champion in 2011, while at Weibel in 2nd grade was a scoring member of the Weibel K-3 National Primary School Championship Team in 2010. Two of other team members from that group also went to the World Youth tournament - Michael Wang (also a key member of the 2012 K-6 Elementary School Championship team) went to the World Youth in 2011, and Alisha Chawla went in 2008 and 2009.





As we decided that all the side events would be free we figured we could ask for donations to help these two outstanding players cover some of their costs. The U.S. Chess Federation does not provide any funding for the vast majority of participants to the World Youth Championships. Kevin did not lose or draw in any of the 20 games he contested against scholastic and adult players. Joanna won 18 of her 20 games. Carl, who organized the side events along with Joyce La Forteza., did not inform Joanna that one of the adults she was playing was rated 2100. The other player she lost to was just under 2000.

We were able to get a number of the top players in the South Bay area to go over games, provide free chess lessons and give chess lectures with a massive demo board. We are sure all of the children and adults who had their games examined, got free chess lessons, and sat in on the lectures would like to thank the following for volunteering their time to improve the chess skills of those who took advantage of these activities: International Master Ricardo DeGuzman, International Master-Elect Ronald Cusi, National Master Hayk Manvelyn, Woman's FIDE Master Uyanga Byambaa, National Expert and chess author Frisco Del Rosario, National Expert Francisco Anchondo and A Player Vikram Ganesh.



Other activities included organized play on two large chess sets as well four person chess. The NorCal House of Chess provided certificates for free entries to their tournaments.

Members of the Weibel School Parent Teachers Organization sell food at all my Quads with the profit going to the school. They sold out early even though they had prepared for large numbers of participants. They even took back three of the six pizzas I had ordered to feed the tournament staff. I had to send one of my TD's to Subway to get some sandwiches.

The President of the Weibel PTO is also a parent of two of our chess players. He, Rob Chan, using his IT expertise, set

up a Weibel Chess internet network so those attending had a free connection.

This was the second largest crowd that I have had for any chess event at Weibel. Over 600 people showed. Of these, 193 were children who played in the tournament. In 2002, I held a Holiday Bizarre along with the December Quads. The Quads alone drew 408 players. I believe that day Weibel saw around 800 people on its campus.

Results of the tournament and photos taken on National Chess Day celebrated at Weibel can be found at <http://www.CalNorthYouthChess.org/photographs.html>.

