

## Tuscaloosa Scholastic Chess Championship Report

April 12, 2014 – Tuscaloosa, AL – Forty five (45) students from the Tuscaloosa and Birmingham area competed in the third annual Tuscaloosa Scholastic Chess Championship.

In the K-12 rated section Samson Sands of Mountain Brook, the state K-8 co-champion, took first place. Colin Bamford (Birmingham) was second and Cesar Juarez, Jr. (Hoover) was third. Kodei Payne (pictured) and Jacob Willoughby, both 9<sup>th</sup> graders at Paul Bryant High School in Tuscaloosa, took first and second place in the K-12 non-rated section.



Three players tied for first in the rated K-6 section: Caesar Chess students - Zachary Isaac Snow II (Calera), Alexander Self (Dadeville) took home the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies respectively. Freedom Chess Academy's James Yang (Tuscaloosa) won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy.



Skyler Robinson of Trussville, a student of Charles Smith's Magic City Chess U, won all of his games in the K-6 non-rated section for first place. April Guo-Yue, an FCA student, took second. Ja'Diz Simmons, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Central Elementary in Tuscaloosa took third in a tie with Thaddeus Roberts.



The rated K-3 champion was Rishi Yellamaraju, a member of the Chess Kid's Nation chess club. FCA students Dustin Springfield, Jr and Calvin Kim took second and third place.





Daniel Zheng took the first place trophy in the K-3 non-rated.

Freedom Chess Academy (FCA) won two of the three team competitions. FCA won the team trophy for the K-3 and K-6 sections. Chess Kids Nation took home the team trophy for the K-12 section.

## Black Warrior Chess Challenge

In the Black Warrior Chess Challenge, Roger Johnson of Helena won the open event. In the photo below his second-round opponent, Pat Alford (front right) considers how to proceed against Johnson's 4 Knights Variation of the Sicilian defense. In the background 2014 state scholastic champions CKN's Sijing Wu (left) and FCA's Arden Markin (right) compete.



Campbell Dobbs won the reserve section. Hudson Lee won the Adult non-rated section.

Thanks to you [All] for participating and making the TSCC and BWCC tournaments a success.

Story by Neil Dietsch; photos by Chuck Markin and Neil Dietsch.