

2015 Alabama Dual-Rated State Chess Championship

An Evangel-record 39 players from five states competed in the Dual-Rated Chess Championship held at Evangel Church in Montgomery on July 25. Players competed in three sections for a four-round tournament at time control of 45 minutes + 10-second increment per move. The tournament was directed by Doug Strout (who also played to a 7th place finish in the Open).

The Open section featured the latest chapter in the ongoing rivalry between Scott Varagona and Stephen Adams. Despite the best efforts of a very strong field (10 players rated 1900 or better), Stephen and Scott finished 1-2, with Stephen winning the title and preventing Scott from winning a third straight Dual. This makes 11 straight open championships won by either Scott or Stephen, including the “Scott Slam” of 2013 (quick, blitz, dual, and state won by Scott), all four events in 2014, and the quick, blitz, and dual of 2015.

Om Badhe won the dual-rated championship in the U1800 section, holding off the challenge by Wendell Whitaker and Aaron Decord. The U1200 championship was won by Taylor Kent, who finished a half-point ahead of Isaac Barnett, Randall Tew, and 2014 U1200 Dual champ Esther Graveling.

The competition was fierce in all sections, and no player in any section finished with a perfect 4.0 score. Only one player in each section finished with 3.5/4.

OPEN

CHAMPION: Stephen Adams

2nd place/U2000 prize: Scott Varagona, Stephen Graveling, and Jonathan Rasberry

U1800

CHAMPION: Om Badhe

2nd place/U1500 prize: Wendell Whitaker and Aaron Decord

U1200

CHAMPION: Taylor Kent

2nd place: Isaac Barnett, Randall Tew, and Esther Graveling

U1000 prize: Aidan Wallace and Nitin Badhe

The Chris Bond Memorial will be played in Montgomery on August 8.