

# 2009 Alabama State Chess Championship Tournament Report

**Date:** 11-13 SEP 2009

**Location:** Indian Springs School \* Pelham, AL

This year marks the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alabama State Chess Championship.

Chess players near and far came to partake in this heritage tournament. This year the tournament included a scholastic division for children in grades K-12. The organizer felt that it was necessary to include the children, since Birmingham is becoming a major scholastic chess center.

Bradley Denton, a new Birmingham resident, is the 2009 Alabama State Chess Champion. He tied win Will Stevenson of Athens, but had better tiebreak scores. Will Stevenson is the ASCC co-champion.

In the Reserve section, Temple Price earned the first-place honors by scoring 5.5 points. Temple is a high school student at the Altamont School.

The Scholastic section winners are:

Knights – Buka Anwah; Bishops – Abhinav Venkatesan; Pawns – Ellen Li;  
Novice – Dakota Stroud; and Primary – Thanushri Srikantha.

It was a great pleasure to me to see many of our scholastic players played in the Reserve section. They are our chess future.  
Let's teach them how to play chess and teach them well.

And, we want to say "Thanks" to Indian Springs School (Mr. E. T. Brown) for hosting the tournament and their commitment to supporting our efforts to promote chess in Birmingham.

## **Championship Division:**

**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Bradley Denton, Birmingham, AL and Will Stevenson, Athens, AL – each with 5 points.

Bradley Denton is the Alabama Open Champion based on better Tie Break scores.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Jeffrey Byrd, Jr., Birmingham, AL – with 4.5 points.  
Jeffrey Byrd wins the U1800 Trophy, too.

Class A: Charles Davis, Troy, AL – with 4.5 points.

U1800: Joseph Chaffee, Auburn, AL, James White IV, Birmingham, AL, Miles Melvin, Huntsville, AL, and Abraham Kunin, Huntsville, AL – each with 3.5 points.

**Reserve:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Temple Price, Birmingham, AL and Benjamin Christmann, MO – each with 5.5 points.

Temple is the Alabama Reserve Champion based on better Tie Break scores.

Also, Benjamin Christmann was not eligible to be an Alabama champion due to his residence is in Missouri.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Qianjun Li, Birmingham, AL and Adrian Majerle, Huntsville, AL – each with 4.5 points.

Class E: Varun Yerramsetti, Birmingham, AL – with 4 points.

U1000: Gereon Keuken, Pelham, AL – with 3.5 points.

Gereon is a student at Indian Springs School.

This was his first organized chess tournament.

### **Scholastic Division:**

**Knights:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Buka Anwah, Birmingham, AL – with 5 points. 2<sup>nd</sup>: William Conner Walker, Birmingham, AL – with 3.5 points. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Joseph Shi, Huntsville, AL – with 3 points.

4<sup>th</sup>: Venkata Macha, Pike Road, AL – with 1.5 points.

5<sup>th</sup>: Preeti Venkatesan, Birmingham, AL – with 1 point.

6<sup>th</sup>: Cheng Zhou, Huntsville, AL – with 1 point.

**Bishops:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Abhinav Venkatesan, Hoover, AL – with 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Archit Thopay, Hoover, AL – with 4 points.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Kemesor Mejeidu, Pelham, AL – with 4 points.

4<sup>th</sup>: Arjun Thopay, Hoover, AL – with 3.5 points.

5<sup>th</sup>: Arden Markin, Tuscaloosa, AL – with 3 points.

6<sup>th</sup>: Junmo Ryang, Tuscaloosa, AL – with 3 points.

7<sup>th</sup>: Kenneth Jiao, Birmingham, AL – with 2.5 points.

**Pawns:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Ellen Li, Vestavia Hills, AL – with 2.5 points,

2<sup>nd</sup>: Elizabeth Strout, Montgomery, AL – with 1 point.

**Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Dakota Stroud, Addison, AL – with 5 points,

2<sup>nd</sup>: Elijah Brown, Birmingham, AL – with 4 points.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Kevin Duan, Madison, AL – with 3.5 points.

4<sup>th</sup>: Griffin Gentry, Homewood, AL – with 3 points.

5<sup>th</sup>: Logan Holyfield, Vestavia Hills, AL – with 3 points.

6<sup>th</sup>: Justin Rice, Birmingham, AL – with 2 points.

7<sup>th</sup>: Abdallah Nassar, Birmingham, AL – with 2 points.

**Primary:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Thanushri Srikantha, Pelham, AL – with 4 points, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Samson Sands, Birmingham, AL – with 2.5 points. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Labdhi Mehta, Birmingham, AL – with 1 point.

**Chief Tournament Director:** Caesar Lawrence

**Assistant Tournament Director:** James Garner

**Sponsor:** Caesar Chess and Alabama Chess Federation

**Attendance:** 105 Players (72 in Championship division  
and 33 in Scholastic division)

USCF Rating Report:

<http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?200909131561.0-12480636>