



MLK Scholastic Chess Tournament Report

16 JAN 2010
Kingwood Christian School
Alabaster, AL

The inaugural MLK Scholastic chess tournament was held on Saturday, during the MLK Holiday weekend. Hence, the tournament name being MLK.

Forty eager boys and girls in grades 1st thru 12th came to Kingwood Christian School and played some cool chess games. They did not play like Masters, but they are on their way to becoming some of the best players in Birmingham.

The children with their bright eyes, big smiles and confused frowns pushed Pawns across the board, let their Knights dance like nobody was watching, and rallied their Rooks to help the Queen checkmate the opponent's King.

We graciously want to say "Thanks" to Ms. Margaret Pickett, KCS Principal. And, to the KCS family for allowing us to teach their children how to play chess. The MLK marks the second time a USCF Rated Scholastic has been held in the city of Alabaster.

Come back to Alabaster on March 6th, when we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Alabaster Scholastic Chess Tournament at Thompson Intermediate School. It's a joy, when you can help a child achieve his/her best.

MLK Scholastic Individual Winners:

Pawn (K-3):

- 1st: Eric Wang, Birmingham, AL – with 3 points.
- 2nd: Hampton Walker, Birmingham, AL – 1 point.

Bishop (K-6):

- 1st: Joseph Shi, Huntsville, AL – with 3 points.
- 2nd: Wm Connor Walker, Birmingham, AL – with 3 points.
- 3rd: Cheng Zhou, Madison, AL – with 3 points.
- 4th: Kemesor Mejeidu, Pelham, AL – with 2 points.
- 5th: Ellen Li, Birmingham, AL – with 0 points.

Knight (K-12):

- 1st: Michael Bush, Pell City, AL – with 5 points.
- 2nd: Varun Yerramsetti, Birmingham, AL – with 3 points.
- 3rd: Kenneth Jiao, Birmingham, AL – with 2 points.

Primary (K-3):

- 1st: Eric He, Vestavia Hills, AL – with 5.5 points,
- 2nd: Wyatt Rickles, Alabaster, AL – with 4 points.
- 3rd: Trevor Russell, Helena, AL – with 3.5 points.
- 4th: Ian Schultz, Vestavia Hills, AL – with 3 points.
- 5th: Russell Pierce, Maylene, AL – with 1.5 points.
- 6th: Nathan Arvizu, Maylene, AL – with 0.5 points.

Novice (K-8):

- 1st: Thanushri Srikantha, Pelham, AL – with 5 points,
- 2nd: Abdallah Nassar, Birmingham, AL – with 5 points.
- 3rd: Jacob Sherman, Alabaster, AL – with 4.5 points.
- 4th: Logan Holyfield, Birmingham, AL – with 4.5 points.
- 5th: Khaled Nassar, Birmingham, AL – with 4.5 points.
- 6th: Andrew Collins, Alabaster, AL – with 4 points.

MLK Scholastic Team Winners:

Primary (K-3):

Evangel Classical Christian School – 1st Place Team
Players: Wyatt Rickles, Trevor Russell, Nathan Arvizu,
and Russell Pierce. **Coach:** Carl Benedict

Vestavia Hills Elementary Liberty Park – 2nd Place Team
Players: Eric He and Ian Schultz. **Coach:** Michael Ciamarra

Novice (K-8):

Evangel Classical Christian School – 1st Place Team
Players: Trent Russell, Colton Benedict, Adam Pierce
and Andrew Collins. **Coach:** Carl Benedict

Oak Mountain Intermediate School – 2nd Place Team
Players: Eric Marin, Benjamin Boone, Jacob Alldredge, Matt Evans,
and Ishmael Muhannad. **Coach:** Caesar Lawrence

Chief Tournament Director: Caesar Lawrence

Assistant Tournament Director: Iveta Thetford

Sponsor: Caesar Chess, LLC

Attendance: 40 Players (10 in Rated Division and 30 in Not Rated Division)

USCF Rating Report: <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201001169531.1>