



Magic City Classic Chess Tournament Report

18 DEC 2010

Homewood Community Center * Homewood, AL

Our state champion – IM Emory Tate – is definitely in Alabama to play chess. He tied with Scott Varagona for first place at the Magic City Classic. The Reserve section was won by Neil Dietsch (ACF President). We had 19 scholastic players and some of the best students were saddled with an unexpected loss.

The Novice section saw the favorite Wesley Brown go down in the first round. He was defeated by William Crain (in his first tournament experience). And in the Premier section, Cheng Zhou was upset in the last round by Abdallah Nassar. Nevertheless, both Wesley and Cheng played well enough to win their sections.

It was a competitive and exciting tournament. Doug Strout continued his march to the Class A ranks by drawing his first 3 games against higher rated players. Then he was matched up against the master. He lost, but received a chess lesson.

We want to acknowledge the Homewood Community Center staff (Mike Sullivan – Director) for providing us with a good playing room and great hospitality. We truly appreciate their support of our efforts to promote chess in Birmingham.

In January, we'll start the Scholastic Chess season with the MLK Scholastic. For more information about upcoming chess tournaments in Birmingham, email CaesarChess@yahoo.com or visit www.AlabamaChess.com - click on Calendar.

Magic City Classic Winners:

Open (Rating: 1500+):

1st: IM Emory Tate, Midway, AL – 3.5 points
Scott Varagona, Auburn, AL – 3.5 points.

U1800: Mark Stribling, Homewood, AL – 2 points
Keyvan Amouie, Birmingham, AL – 2 points.

Reserve (Rating: U1500):

1st: Neil Dietsch, Tuscaloosa, AL – 3 points.
2nd: Jose Giron, Northport, AL – 2.5 points
Kenneth Jiao, Birmingham, AL – 2.5 points.

Premier (Scholastic: Rated; K-12):

1st: Cheng Zhou, Heritage Elementary – 3.5 points.
2nd: Dhruval Gahdia, Bumpus Middle – 3.5 points.
3rd: John Lawrence, Advent Day School – 3.5 points.
4th: Abdallah Nassar, Ramsey High – 2.5 points.
5th: Khaled Nassar, Martha Gaskin – 2 points.

Novice (Scholastic: Not Rated; K-8):

- 1st: Wesley Brown, Thompson Middle – 5 points.
- 2nd: Cole Sullivan, Oak Mountain Intermediate – 4 points.
- 3rd: Eric He, Vestavia Hills Elementary – 4 points.
- 4th: John Pitts, Phillips Academy – 4 points.
- 5th: Harvey He, Liberty Park Middle – 3.5 points.
- 6th: Jeremiah Lee, Phillips Academy – 3.5 points
Rob Elia, Oak Mountain Intermediate – 3.5 points.

Chief Tournament Director: **Caesar Lawrence**

Assistant Tournament Director: Doug Strout

Sponsor: **Caesar Chess** - www.CaesarChess.com

Attendance: 33 Players (20 in Rated sections and 13 in Novice section)

USCF Tournament Rating Report – Click on the link below:

<http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201012185281>