

# Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships

The 2021 Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships were held on June 5 at Evangel Church in Montgomery. The tournament was directed by Doug Strout. 28 players competed in the Quick and 24 in the Blitz, including players from Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee.

1989 United States co-champion Stuart Rachels made his return to USCF action after more than 25 years off, and he definitely announced his presence with authority, winning both the 2021 Alabama Quick Championship and the 2021 Alabama Blitz Championship. Stuart finished 9.5/10 combined, and only Forest Chen of Tennessee scored a half-point against Stuart (during the Quick).

Sarvagna Velidandla won the U1600 Alabama Quick Championship with 4.5/5, only giving up a half-point to Akhil Batchu in the final round.

Shawn Choi achieved an interesting double during the day. He won the Rockefeller playoff (also hosted by Evangel), which was a G/60 quad to determine the Alabama Elementary Champion and Alabama's representative to the Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary School (K-5) Champions later this year. After that was done, Shawn played in the Blitz, scored 3.0/5 and won the U1600 prize.

Other notes:

- 1) Tournament director Doug Strout finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Blitz.
- 2) Ten-time Alabama State Chess Champion Scott Varagona is a Stuart Rachels fanboy.

Thanks to all the players for supporting the event, and congratulations to the winners (players from Alabama unless marked):

### QUICK – OPEN SECTION

CHAMPION = Stuart Rachels  
2<sup>nd</sup> place = Forest Chen (TN)  
U1800 prize = Sherwood Dong

### QUICK – U1600 SECTION

CHAMPION = Sarvagna Velidandla  
2<sup>nd</sup> place / U1200 prize (tie) = Akhil Batchu and Alisher Khasanov

### BLITZ

CHAMPION = Stuart Rachels  
2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie) = Forest Chen (TN) and Jonathan Rasberry  
U1600 prize = Shawn Choi

FULL RESULTS (players from Alabama unless marked):

QUICK CHAMPIONSHIP – OPEN SECTION

Stuart Rachels	4.5	W9	W3	D2	W4	W6	2555 → 2537
Forest Chen (TN)	4.0	W7	W4	D1	D3	W8	2092 → 2112
Jonathan Rasberry	3.5	W6	L1	W5	D2	W10	1851 → 1891
Isaac Snow	2.5	W10	L2	W8	L1	D9	1932 → 1937
Sherwood Dong	2.5	D8	W9	L3	L6	W7	1524 → 1637
Tom Denton	2.0	L3	L8	W10	W5	L1	1980 → 1954
George Rusyniak	2.0	L2	W10	L9	W8	L5	1879 → 1856
Brent Inman	1.5	D5	W6	L4	L7	L2	1967 → 1933
Aaron Decord	1.5	L1	L5	W7	L10	D4	1909 → 1875
Sam Baskarraaj	1.0	L4	L7	L6	W9	L3	1470 → 1493

## QUICK CHAMPIONSHIP – U1600 SECTION

Sarvagna Velidandla	4.5	W12	W3	W5	W8	D2	1453 → 1465
Akhil Batchu	4.0	W15	W4	D8	W5	D1	1120 → 1241
Alisher Khasanov	4.0	W11	L1	W7	W14	W6	1114 → 1200
Daniel Gill	3.5	W6	L2	D9	W10	W8	UNR → 1215
Justin Peifer	3.0	W14	W7	L1	L2	W12	1125 → 1136
Daniel Seewald	3.0	L4	W15	W13	W11	L3	1126 → 1120
Kyle Goodpaster (FL)	3.0	W16	L5	L3	W9	W11	853 → 972
Derek Miller	2.5	W10	W9	D2	L1	L4	1247 → 1221
Whitney Wadsworth	2.5	W18	L8	D4	L7	W16	909 → 908
Robert Foil	2.5	L8	D16	W15	L4	W14	773 → 783
Andrew Yang	2.0	L3	W13	W12	L6	L7	1203 → 1133
Christopher Boothe	2.0	L1	W18	L11	W17	L5	1065 → 1023
Doug Seewald	2.0	W17	L11	L6	L16	W18	821 → 771
Christina Yang	2.0	L5	W17	W16	L3	L10	603 → 625
James McHugh	2.0	L2	L6	L10	W18	W17	UNR → 561
Bennett Brown	1.5	L7	D10	L14	W13	L6	UNR → 653
Mitchell Jones	1.0	L13	L14	W18	L12	L15	349 → 296
Philip Gill	0.0	L9	L12	L17	L15	L13	UNR → 101

## BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Stuart Rachels	5.0	W14	W5	W2	W7	W3	2605 → 2617
Forest Chen (TN)	4.0	W15	W9	L1	W10	W7	2186 → 2196
Jonathan Raspberry	4.0	W21	W10	W4	W13	L1	1908 → 1947
Tom Denton	3.5	W16	D6	L3	W11	W9	2053 → 2011
Isaac Snow	3.5	W22	L1	W6	D12	W13	1920 → 1930
Aaron Decord	3.5	W18	D4	L5	W14	W12	1805 → 1807
Scott Varagona	3.0	W12	W8	W13	L1	L2	2207 → 2202
George Rusyniak	3.0	W19	L7	W14	L9	W15	1900 → 1879
Doug Strout	3.0	W20	L2	W15	W8	L4	1701 → 1721
Sarvagna Velidandla	3.0	W24	L3	W17	L2	W16	1621 → 1620
Shawn Choi	3.0	W23	L13	W21	L4	W17	1354 → 1364
Sherwood Dong	2.5	L7	W19	W18	D5	L6	1342 → 1365
Brent Inman	2.0	W17	W11	L7	L3	L5	1996 → 1942
Sam Baskarraaj	2.0	L1	W22	L8	L6	W18	1348 → 1349
Akhil Batchu	2.0	L2	W20	L9	W21	L8	1227 → 1239
Christopher Boothe	2.0	L4	L18	W20	W19	L10	1270 → 1229
Justin Peifer	2.0	L13	W23	L10	W22	L11	1114 → 1112
Alisher Khasanov	2.0	L6	W16	L12	W23	L14	889 → 945
Whitney Wadsworth	2.0	L8	L12	W23	L16	W22	903 → 921
Kyle Goodpaster (FL)	2.0	L9	L15	L16	W24	W21	860 → 886
Daniel Seewald	1.0	L3	W24	L11	L15	L20	1018 → 969
Doug Seewald	1.0	L5	L14	W24	L17	L19	896 → 857
James McHugh	1.0	L11	L17	L19	L18	W24	UNR → 544
Mitchell Jones	0.0	L10	L21	L22	L20	L23	UNR → 140