



TCA Newsletter April 2017 Volume 62, Issue 1

TN Chess News

2017 Tennessee Scholastics

The 2017 Tennessee Scholastic Individual State Championship took place in Cookeville at Tennessee Tech University on February 18. There were 119 players competing in four sections by grade level. Players had to qualify for this event by placing 1st through 8th in their Regional Championships in January. The winners are 2017 Tennessee Primary State Champion Ronit Chandra, 2017 Tennessee Elementary State Champion, Hemi Rambha, 2017 Junior High State Champion, Jingtian Wu, and 2017 Tennessee High School State Champion, Forest Chen. Congratulations to our Champs!



IM Ron Burnett with 2017 Primary State Champ, Ronit Chandra



Region 3 Individual Qualifier, January 28, 2017

The 2017 Tennessee Scholastic Team Tournament events began March 4 with the Regional Championships at four locations across the state. School teams competed in four round events to earn their places in the State Finals. On March 25, the top four winning teams in each section from each of the four regions gathered at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville to fight it out again for State Titles. The winners and 2017 Tennessee State Team Champions are Primary, Grahamwood Elementary School from Memphis, Elementary, Houston Middle School from Germantown, Junior High, White Station Middle School from Memphis, and High School, Campbell Home School from Nashville. Campbell Home School and Farragut High School players have been awarded college scholarships from our gracious host, Tennessee Tech University. Great work to all the players in these events and special thanks to all the coaches, parents, and volunteers who made these events so successful!



Primary players shake hands to begin the State Team Finals



Region 3 Team Tournament at Montgomery Bell Academy



2017 Tennessee High School Team State Champions, Campbell Home School



2017 Tennessee Junior High Team State Champions, White Station Middle School



2017 Tennessee Elementary Team State Champions, Houston Middle School



2017 Tennessee Primary Team State Champions, Grahamwood Elementary School

2017 Tennessee All-Girls State Chess Championship

On Saturday, April 1, 35 Tennessee girls traveled to the Nashville Chess Center to compete for the titles of K-12 and K-6 All-Girls State Champion. The girls played four rounds, made chess jewelry and new and hopefully life-long friendships. They played for



queen-topped trophies, and special prizes were awarded to the top three girls in each section including copies of the new Disney Queen of Katwe chess movie and autographed books by Women's World Champion, Alexandra Kosteniuk. Our winners for 2017 are Jessica Muellenbach, K-6 All-Girls State Chess Champion and Sydney Kong, K-12 All-Girls State Chess Champion. Sydney will be traveling to the US Girls National Championship in July to represent Tennessee and work for a National Title. Thank you to all the families and volunteers working to bring more girls into Tennessee Chess!





Remembering Tim Cooper (1980-2017)



My name is Todd Andrews. I competed, trained and worked alongside Tim at the Nashville Chess Center. I also considered him a very old and dear friend. Over the past week, I have made well over a dozen new friends, some who I reached out to and some to me, to share tears and stories about our friend, Tim Cooper. The level of energy, exuberance and passion that Tim put into everything he did

was definitely behind these new bonds. Some of the best descriptions I've heard this week of Tim was that he was infectious, optimistic, talented, magnetic and exceptional. I can only describe spending time with Tim as being caught up in some sort of wonderfully positive, gravitational force.

Mr. Cooper, Tim's dad, asked me this week if I knew the story of how Timmy got into chess. He told me that Tim got himself mixed up with some rif-raff as a kid, (I know, doesn't sound like Tim at all) and he found himself in front of a juvenile judge. The judge told Tim he had too much free time on his hands and sentenced him to mandatory extracurricular activities. What a sentence! This led to Tim forming the Franklin High School Chess Team and as they say, the rest is history.

As with nearly everything he did, he put 100% of that vivacious attitude into learning the sport of chess. Tim played his first chess tournament on November 9th, 1996 at Bellevue Middle School finishing in the top 5 with more wins than losses. Less than two weeks later on November 22nd, Tim and his dad competed together at the Nashville Chess Center at Mr. Cooper's first tournament. That was the day I got caught up in Tim's orbit, competing along side Tim and his dad. The chess community back then was this group of super diverse, highly eclectic individuals, intellectual brains that seemed to waste their talents and potential on ideas, patterns, combinations and calculations within 64 small squares. Over the next 10 years, we had this sort of unspoken Brotherhood of Nashville Chess that met sometimes 7 days per week on the front porch of Bongo Java, a coffee shop on Belmont just down the street from the chess club. We would often get there at 2-3 in the afternoon and would stay until they kicked us out at 11 pm. Once we had all become regular enough friends with the employees, we could even convince them to leave the outside lights on for us and we played until the AM. You really got to see Tim "the competitor" on that wooden porch. As I was rejoicing over some of those memories this week, it dawned on me that those were the last days of my life that I could recall where you just got to hang out with everyone. We didn't have social media, and our faces weren't planted in a screen. Our only entertainment came from just being with one another.

I got to see one of the most truly positive sides of Timmy in mid 2007. We had committed to training together for the World Open, then the largest open event in the US. We committed to not drinking, to studying chess together over the board and to training physically. We had this weight bench outside the back door at my house on Blackman Road, and that naturally brought out Tim "the competitor." I'd do 20 reps, he'd do 30. I'd do 40, and he would get to 42 before his red face just about exploded. We even jogged down Trousdale up to Crieve Hall Elementary, and I can still hear him telling me not to stop, keep running, stopping would only

hurt the building of stamina, something he said he had been studying to help us improve. Tim was so positive in my life before that event. My weight was way down, and I was in the best shape of my life. At the big event, Tim got a decent prize finishing 4th place out of nearly 200 in his section. I lost a \$10,000 game for first place in my section. Looking back on it now, the real prize that we had both won was the time and energy that we spent helping one another improve. From that experience onward, Tim felt like a brother to me.

About the same time, I became the director of the chess center, and the place was in pretty rough shape. The chess club was having to borrow from its endowment fund to survive. We worked in only about 8 schools, and there were just mounds of paperwork and even uncashed checks. I needed some help, someone energetic and positive to work alongside, and so naturally, Timmy was the guy. There wasn't anyone else in town besides Tim and I that was willing to go into some of those public schools in the hood on the Eastside. I still remember getting a phone call from a school administrator to let me know that she saw this long haired, scruffy guy in baggy pants walk in. And well, she was a little concerned, but after just watching him for a few minutes in the middle of those 20 little kids from the projects, teaching them chess, all her concerns went away. Tim was gentle, caring and compassionate, and of course it was easy for those kids to get absorbed by his energy. Timmy was a great chess teacher. Because of our team work making the Nashville Chess Center better, we got the chess club organized, we paid back the endowment and now rather than being in 8 schools, we work in 35. Tim had a lot to do with making our organization stronger. How could he not? Again with that level of energy, selfless giving and passion that Timmy possessed.

From there, Tim did summer camps with me and my sister, and he regularly ran our weeknight events at the club. Tim made every visitor and stranger that walked in the door feel like they mattered more than anything else. For years, he was basically the co-director of the club with me. Of course, he played tons of events during those years as well. Tim loved chess so much that he even shared it with his true love, Emmy, teaching her to become a solid player (even getting her out to a few tournaments as well.) Tim played his final official chess tournament on March 2, 2015. He went undefeated with one win and two draws in a strong weeknight event at the chess center. Since then, he still regularly competed with friends at the club and at the coffee shops right up until his recent move to Michigan. My final conversation with Tim was the Sunday before his passing. He told me about an interesting hand in poker that he had played. Of course, with that energy and compassion that was only typical for Tim, you text him once, and you get twelve text messages in response.

Finally, I would like to conclude by sharing a thought on energy and passion. This

is a thought that has been swirling through my mind since Tim left us. It seems like when we are young, we have so much passion that it consumes us, especially the kind of people that gravitated towards Tim. We all put so much energy into improving ourselves and there was always time for our own vitality, but as we get older and we start having families, careers, students, the energy that was always there for our passions had to be redistributed elsewhere. We had to redistribute it into our children and our loved ones, and we became different people. No matter what Timmy had going on in his life, no matter where he had to focus his energy elsewhere, he still had so much exuberance for his passions and his friends that he never once gave you less than 100% of that vitality that he was capable of. He put it into everything that he did, and he placed it into everyone he saw. He didn't seem to ever stop being the same ole Timmy. While I hate to be cliché, he truly was a shooting star. He burned so bright and gave so much to so many people and so many passions, that it was just time for his passion and his energy to be redistributed. So I challenge you all today to not waste his energy and his passion that is glowing all around us. Hug someone new, talk to someone you haven't seen in years. For at least today, put everything back into your passion like you did when you were younger. It's what Tim was all about. Thanks for listening. We love you, Tim.

2017 Nashville City Championship



High School Players, Round 4



Primary and Elementary Players, Round 1

This round-robin event took place January 20-22, 2017 at the Nashville Chess Center. Thirty of Nashville's best players competed in five sections to gain the titles of 2017 Nashville City Champion. The winners are Primary City Champion, Ronit Chandra, Elementary City Champion, Harry Campbell, Junior High Co-Champions, Turner Gough and Chirath Illukpitiya, High School Champion, Josh Campbell, and 2017 Nashville City Champion, FM Todd Andrews. Congratulations to all the players who were strong enough to qualify for this prestigious event!



Open Players, prior to final round



Junior High and High School Players



Primary K-3 Players



Elementary Players

2017 2ND ANNUAL SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHESS TOURNAMENT

PRIZE WINNERS

January 6-8, 2017

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Total Players - 98

States Represented - Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Virginia,
North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Ontario CA

Open Section: (16 Players)

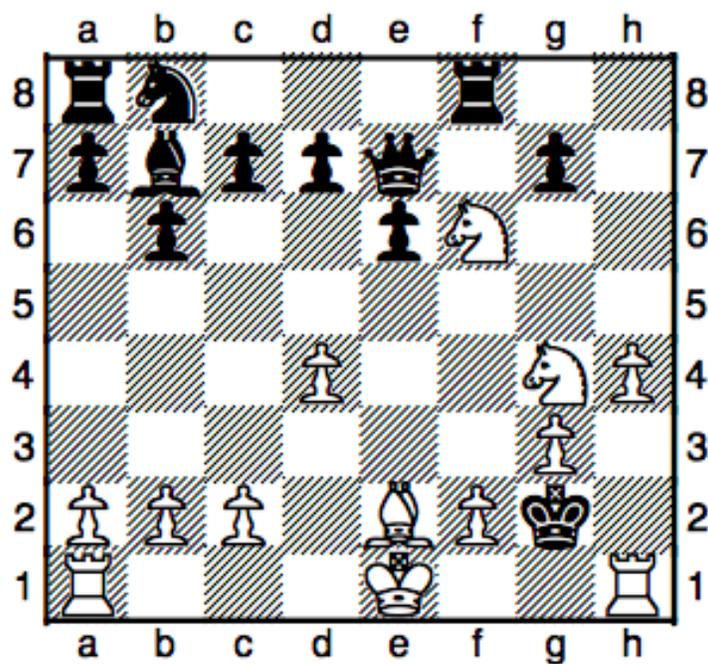
Champion	- Lokesh Palani	- Blacksburg, VA	- 4.5	- \$600.00
2nd Place	- IM Ronald Burnett	- Antioch, TN	- 4.0	- \$300.00
3rd Place	- Graham Horobetz	- Cordova, TN	- 3.5	- \$200.00
Expert-1st	- William Pendergast	- Villa Rica, GA	- 2.5	- \$350.00
Expert-2nd	- David Hater	- Douglasville, GA	- 1.5	- \$150.00
Class A-1st	- Michael Kliber	- Waxhaw, NC	- 3.5	- \$350.00
Class A-2nd	- Anton Taylor	- Pine Knott, KY	- 3.0	- \$125.00
Class A-2nd	- Brad Phillis	- Knoxville, TN	- 3.0	- \$125.00

Amateur Section: (46 Players)

Co-Champion	- Haskel Glover	- Knoxville, TN	- 4.0	- \$137.50
Co-Champion	- David Hayes	- Huntsville, AL	- 4.0	- \$137.50
Co-Champion	- Michael Guthrie	- Madison, AL	- 4.0	- \$137.50
Co-Champion	- Ed Newkirk	- Markham, ONTARIO	- 4.0	- \$137.50
Class C-1st	- Wayne Spon	- Hendersonville, NC	- 3.0	- \$225.00
Class C-1st	- John North	- Hiawassee, GA	- 3.0	- \$225.00
Class C-3rd	- Chris Prosser	- Nashville, TN	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class C-3rd	- Michael Potts	- Coats, NC	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class C-3rd	- James Yang	- Northport, AL	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class C-3rd	- Harold Zeltner	- Mills River, NC	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class C-3rd	- Kevin Hyde	- Saluda, NC	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class C-3rd	- Zachary Moore	- Rockvale, TN	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class C-3rd	- Robert Poling	- Oak Ridge, TN	- 2.5	- \$ 16.67
Class D-1st	- Andrew Chan	- Oak Ridge, TN	- 3.0	- \$300.00
Class D-2nd	- Debs Pedigo	- Mooresville, NC	- 2.5	- \$150.00
Class D-3rd	- David Sands	- Blaine, TN	- 2.0	- \$ 50.00
Class D-3rd	- Justin Dehorty	- Huntsville, AL	- 2.0	- \$ 50.00

Chess Puzzle

Edward Lasker vs. Sir G. A. Thomas
London, 1912



How did the Black king get to the g2 square with so many pieces on the board? Where is White's queen? White to move and checkmate in two moves.

King Hunt! A few published chess games between masters feature a king hunt, in which a sacrifice or a series of sacrifices forces the enemy king out of its protective shelter and into the open where it is more vulnerable. If the attack is successful, the enemy king is checkmated, but if the attack fails, the defender avoids checkmate and often keeps enough sacrificed material to win. In any case, a king hunt is usually a high-risk tactic that is nerve-racking for the players but thrilling for the kibitzers. Today's game was a friendly contest between Edward Lasker and Sir George Alan Thomas. Edward Lasker was a German born engineer who emigrated to the US after World War I, and became one of America's leading chess masters. His older cousin, Emanuel Lasker, was World Champion from 1894 to 1921. Sir Thomas was the British Chess Champion in 1923 and 1934, but was better known for his many titles in badminton.

Today's Puzzle: White sacrificed his queen early in the game and forced Black's king deep into White's territory with a series of checks. White found an unusual back rank mate to finish the game ... can you find it? The complete game is given below and contains the solution.

Lasker, Ed. - Thomas, G. A. [Dutch Defense]
London, 1912

1.d4 f5 The Dutch Defense is an aggressive opening for Black, but is rarely found in master chess today. More common replies are 1...d5 or 1...Nf6. 2.e4 fxe4 The Staunton Gambit – White offers a pawn for quick development. 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 e6 Black's knight is now pinned as a result of this pawn move; 4...g6 or c6 were better. 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 0–0 8.Bd3 b6 9.Ne5 Bb7 10.Qh5 Normally a black knight at f6 would prevent White's queen from occupying this square. White's pieces are poised menacingly around Black's kingside. Qe7 After this move, White announced checkmate in eight! 11...Bxe5 was probably best, to remove a key attacker. 11.Qxh7+ Kxh7 12.Nxf6+ Double check! The king cannot retreat to h8 because 12...Kh8 13.Ng6 is checkmate. Kh6 13.Neg4+ Kg5 14.h4+ Kf4 15.g3+ Kf3 16.Be2+ Kg2 See the diagram. 17.Rh2+ Kg1 18.Kd2# 1–0 White could also have delivered checkmate by castling queenside, 18.0-0-0. A very entertaining game! Provided by TCA Vice President, Paul Semmes.

Upcoming Tournaments & Events

April 15, 2017 [Cumberland County Spring Open](#)
Crossville, TN

April 29, 2017 [TCCS Spring Individual/Team Scholastic Championship](#)
Blountville, TN

May 12-14, 2017 [Super Nationals K-12 Championships](#)
Nashville, TN

May 19-21, 2017 [TN Senior Open](#)
Crossville, TN

June 10-11, 2017 [United States Amateur South Championship](#)
Memphis, TN

June 11-16, 2017 [Mid-South Chess Summer Camp](#)
Memphis, TN

June 19-23, 2017 [NCC Summer Camp #1](#)
Nashville, TN

June 26-30, 2017 [NCC Summer Camp #2](#)
Nashville, TN

July 10-14, 2017 [NCC Summer Camp #3](#)
Nashville, TN

July 15, 2017 [Clinton H. Pearson Jr. Memorial Summer Open Tournament](#)
Crossville, TN

July 24-28, 2017 [NCC Summer Camp #4](#)
Nashville, TN

October 14, 2017 [Cumberland County Fall Open](#)
Crossville, TN



Save the Date

JUNE 11-16, 2017
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 **LAUSANNE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL**



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FEATURING:

**Grandmaster Alex Stripunsky, Grandmaster Joel Benjamin,
IM Teddy Coleman, IM Jake Kleiman, IM elect Parker Zhao,
NM Nolan Hendrickson, Expert Jenny Liu,
Expert Amey Pasarkar & more!**

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www.knoxvillechess.org

www.cumberlandcountychess.org

www.jacksontnchessclub.org

www.shelbycountyChess.com

www.uschess.org

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Notice:

The TCA is on the lookout for a new Website Coordinator. If you or someone you know has experience with handling websites, posting updates, coding, etc, please contact the Board of Directors. This is a volunteer position.

Bids

Deadline September 2, 2017- 2018 TN All-Girls State Championship

Deadline September 2, 2017- 2018 TN Senior Open

Deadline January 21, 2018- 2018 TN Open State Championship

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