



THE BIMONTHLY BLITZ

DALLAS CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER | VOL. III ISSUE NO. I 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Swiss – Feb 22; Mar 1, 15, 22, 29
Saturday Increment – Mar 16
DCC FIDE Open III – Mar 2-3
2019 Texas Scholastic Championships – Mar 8-10
DCC FIDE Open IV – Mar 30-31

Refer to the calendar on the DCC website link below for any updates and event details.

www.dallaschess.com

Other local, state and national chess events can be found on the USCF website:

US Chess Upcoming Events

2019 National High School (K-12) Championship – Mar 15-17 Schaumburg, IL
2019 National Junior High (K-9) Championship – Apr 26-28 Grapevine, TX

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2018 World Chess Championships

By Chase Frutos

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The World Chess Championships has a colorful history and has been played in various formats since they started in the early 1800s, at times driven by political motivations but also driven by an effort to determine the best test of who truly is the best chess player in the world. Since 2014, every couple of years the reigning world chess champion will play twelve games over a period of three weeks against an uprising challenger. Magnus Carlsen of Norway has been the reigning World Chess Champion since 2013 when he defeated Viswanathan Anand of India in 2013. The US has seen a rise in chess in the last decade. For the first time in over four decades, not since Bobby Fischer won the World Chess Championship in 1972 against Boris Spassky, has a US player even qualified to challenge a reigning world chess champion. This year, our very own Grand Master Fabiano Caruana qualified to represent the US in the World Chess Championships which were held in London, England from November 9 to November 28 of 2018. Although this would prove to be a great matchup, pitting Fabiano’s intense, deep preparation, against Magnus’ intuition and feeling, many expected Magnus to win.

Fabiano was first introduced to chess at the age of 5 at school in New York. The young Fabiano quickly became a rising phenom and at only ten years old, he defeated his first Grand Master. Caruana received his final Grand Master norm at the age of 14 becoming, at the time, the youngest player to become a Grand Master, beating the US Hikaru Nakamura’s previously set record.



Photo: [Wolfgang Jekel](#)

On November 9, 2018 the first game began. Round 1 ended in a draw as most games typically do at this level of chess play. In game two of the match, Fabiano played well and went into the endgame up a pawn. However, Carlsen was able to hold the game to a draw. Games three through seven were all tight games, but they all ended in draws—the chess world ignited in excitement and commentary as Fabiano was holding his own. Fabiano had another opportunity in Round 8 since he was playing white. Fabiano played the opening superbly but with no surprises sticking with the same opening he had with white in the previous rounds. This time, Caruana fought to an advantage in the middle game—many chess analysts using computer engines to analyze the position showed Caruana as winning! Caruana’s move of rook at a to d1 (Rad1) is thought to have been weaker than taking control of the open file at e1. As a result, the game slipped from Caruana and ended in a draw.

Rounds nine and ten ended in draws again. A record was set for most games played in any World Chess Championship without a win occurring. Many Grand Masters and other pundits were lighting up the blogs, some criticizing these outcomes, and questions started flying: is this the correct format for a

COLE BLAKEMAN TURNING PASSION INTO SUCCESS



Columbus
OH

By Chase Frutos

Cole Blakeman is a junior at Keller High School and a long-time member of the Dallas Chess Club, where he and I grew up playing chess together. Cole began playing chess when he was seven years old and quickly rose in rating to about a 1200. However, after reaching around 1350, he stopped playing chess and pursued his passion for fishing, where he has won many competitions. Last summer, I was excited to see that Cole began to actively play chess again. His motivation was a classmate, who had become a strong chess player and Cole, a true competitor, wanted to remain the “king of chess” at his school.

Because of Cole’s renewed passion and love for the game, he now studies chess at least a couple of hours a day on weekdays and spends most of the weekend studying and/or playing chess. He plays at least one tournament a week but, time allowing, he may even play two or even three tournaments in a week. Last November, Cole won the North Texas State Chess Championships and last December, tied for second place at the National Scholastic Chess Championships, with outstanding performances, beating some of the top players in the nation for his age group. This past year, he competed in tournaments in Columbus, Las Vegas, Washington D.C., Orlando, and all over Texas. His dedication and game preparation have been key to his great success over the past year.

Cole is approaching USCF Expert with a current rating over 1980. He plans to travel even more in 2019 where he hopes to continue his success. Cole’s goal this year is to attain the USCF title of National Master. We wish him the best of luck in 2019!

2018 World Chess Championships (Continued)

championship bout, are the players taking the risks they should be taking to win, is this good (exciting enough) for chess to flourish in the US? The fact remained, Fabiano was still in the fight! However, with the entire match coming to an end, both players seemed to be getting mentally and physically fatigued. Round 11—draw! Even Carlsen, in game twelve, offered Fabiano a draw where Carlsen had a significantly better position and time advantage. Some analysts believed Carlsen played it safe knowing that the non-classical portion of the tournament, the tie break rounds, would consist of rapid and blitz chess and Carlsen is known as one of the best rapid/blitz players in the world.

Fabiano sadly lost to Carlsen in the first three rapid games making Magnus Carlsen once again the World Chess Champion. I interviewed International Master and member of the San Diego Surfers chess team, Keaton Kiewra about his thoughts. IM Kiewra, acknowledging that rapid and blitz games tend to be a bit lucky but that Carlsen was the favorite going into the rapid games, said “in the first game of the rapid playoff Magnus demonstrated exemplary technique in the rook ending, which of course is not unusual for him. After he scored that first win it was a downhill battle, especially after Fabiano messed up badly in the second game, basically sealing his fate.”

Fabiano Caruana’s performance in this twelve-round grueling tournament made us all proud. We look forward to seeing what he might accomplish going forward and without a doubt the popularity of chess in the US will dramatically improve because of his success.



Photo: [Andreas Kontokanis](#)

Congratulations to Texas Region III Chess Champions

High School - Mark Mettler
Middle School – Raghav Kalyanarman
Middle School U900 – Emily Perry
Elementary – Aryan Gutla
Elementary U800 – Pedro Ibarra
Primary – Sashwath G. Suriya
Primary U600 – Siddarth Karthikeyan
K-1 – Hengtai Qi

The Bimonthly Blitz is published by:



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