

2017 Cardinal Open Comes to Cleveland

The 2017 Cardinal Open was held January 27th-29th at the luxurious Hilton Garden Inn in Mayfield Village, Ohio, a Cleveland area suburb. This was the first time the Cardinal Open has been held in Northeast Ohio in a decade. Progress With Chess, a local nonprofit organization that runs Chess instruction programs in over 50 Cleveland area schools, served as the host of the event.

The tournament attracted over 150 players from Ohio and beyond, coming from neighboring states such as Indiana and Michigan, and as far as Ontario, Canada. There were three Grand Masters in attendance (Alexander Shabalov, Fidel Corrales, Dmitry Gurevich), as well as Women's International Master, 15 year old Jennifer Yu of Virginia; all of the aforementioned guests placed among the top 10 in the Open section.

The entire prize fund of \$10,000 was paid out, which was guaranteed after only 120 entries! The top prize of \$1,500 was split by Grandmasters Shabalov and Gurevich who tied for First Place with a total of 4.5 points each in the 5 round event. The biggest highlight of the event was the upset defeat of GM Corrales at the hands of Aristo Liu, the teenage Chess prodigy who was also able to score an upset win against current Ohio Champion Mika Brattain and a draw against Jennifer Yu.

Most everyone in attendance was thoroughly impressed with how efficiently the tournament was run, in which much of that credit is due to Chief TD Joe Yun and Progress With Chess CEO, Mike Joelson. "Cleveland has always had a rich Chess culture. We would love to host another tournament of this magnitude in the near future." Says Joelson.

For more information about tournaments in the Cleveland, Ohio area, visit www.progresswithchess.org.

The link below is the to the cross tables of the 2017 Cardinal Open:

<http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201701299482.0-15751342>