

The 71st Ohio Chess Congress

The 71st Ohio Chess Congress was held at The Ohio State University this year and hosted by the Chess Club of OSU. The Great Hall Meeting Room in The Ohio Union was the playing site and all the feedback from the players and spectators was very positive as far as the accommodations go. The old Ohio Union was torn down in 2007 and in 2010 the new current state of the art facility opened its doors with a price tag of around \$117,000,000. The new Ohio Union is simply amazing and is the envy of most other universities. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Stacey (my wife) for her help with registrations and tear down, Ben Tancinco for his help with my DGT boards and lastly, Cheryl Stagg for handling all the OCA membership renewals. Without people like this... these events would not be possible.

There were a couple of new things I would like to point out in regards to this year's event. First, a whopping **84 %** of the entry fees were returned in prizes. This is very unusual for a tournament of this size. I was able to do this because of the reduced fees for space rental that we receive in being a "sports club" at OSU. Second, **all of the profit (\$1151.00)** was split between the Chess Club of OSU and the Ohio Chess Association (OCA). The OCA portion of the profits is "earmarked" for Scholastic Chess Scholarships in the upcoming season. If the OCA fails to use the money for this, then it must come back to the Chess Club at OSU.

When I put together my bid for the Congress I decided to try to run it as a "Class Prize" event rather than the typical under prizes. This would let us see who the top Class players are in the state. Another thing I tried to prevent was sandbagging by requiring all non-rated players to play in the open section and limiting the amount of winnings a provisional player could win. I was simply trying to protect all the hard work players put in by keeping out someone who was really "1900" from playing in the lower section and winning money away from the players who work so hard.

A big congratulation goes out to this year's State Champions:

- OPEN – IM Goran Vojinovic
- Expert - Luke Xie
- Class A - Tyran Stewart, Kevin Du, and Xavier Paganini (3-way tie)
- Class B - Joseph Kleban and Tyler Rutherford (2-way tie)
- Class C - Jacob Eismann
- Class D - Stella Huang
- Class E - Dinesh Bojja

As a wrap-up of this year's event, I thought it would be interesting to somehow show the different levels of thinking in chess. I aspire to be a better chess player and I am interested in what it takes to get to the

next level so I asked one player from each section(Reserve: Kathy Lin, Premier: Joseph Kleban, and Open: John Miller) to pick one of their games and analyze it without the help of an engine. I also sent the same 3 games without the analysis to GM Vladimir Georgiev and asked him to analyze all three games as well. A big THANK YOU to: Kathy, Joseph, John, and Vladimir!! I hope you all enjoy the analysis and thank you for supporting this year's Congress!