

May 12, 2013

Dubuque, IA

Arshaq Saleem (IA) Wins 2013 Ice Harbor Scholastic Open Championship
Samuel Thomasson (IA), Shashank Bala (IL), and Owen Fiedorowicz (IA) Take K-9, K-6, and K-3 Titles.

Seventy-two players from five states met at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa, May 11 and 12, to compete for the inaugural Ice Harbor Scholastic Open. Four sections were played in K-12, K-9, K-6, and K-3. The K-12 and K-9 played 5 rounds with a time control of G/75 while the K-6 and K-3 sections played 7 rounds at G/45. A speed chess was held Friday night and the ever-popular bughouse tournament was held Saturday night.

The Kindergarten to 12th Grade (K-12) was won without controversy by Arshaq Saleem (1940) with a perfect 5-0 score. Arshaq was tested throughout the tournament, though. Five players finished with 3.5 points: Mitchell Andersson (WI), Clive Power (IA), Leo Ma (WI), Haoyu Cai (WI), and Gokul Thangavel (IA).



The Madison team from Thomas Jefferson Middle School overpowered the field to take the K-12 team trophy. Jefferson's Leo Ma, Haoya Cai, Moulik Mehta, and Akshay Iyer totaled 11.5 points. Coralville, Iowa's, Northwest Junior High School accumulated 9.0 points led by Arshaq Saleem which also included Victor Kalil, and Boyd Lickiss to take the second place team trophy. Third place team trophies went the Wisconsin players from New Berlin Eisenhower, Mitchell Andersson and Xavier Toomer.

The K-9 players graciously accepted being cross-paired with the players in the K-12 section. As the K-9 players were nearly all Iowans, the cross-pairing provided for many more interstate match ups. Samuel Thomasson took clear first with 3.0 points followed by Josiah Power with 2.5 points. Several players then tied with 2.0 points where Morgan Lu took the third place K-9 trophy on tie breaks followed by Teresa Knecht and Mason Zastrow.

The K-6 section was stacked with very strong players (13 players rated over USCF 1000) from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Interestingly, each state was represented in the top four (yes, one each!). At USCF 1429, Shashank Bala (IL) was the highest ranking player in the section and rightly so as he swept the tournament with a perfect 7-0 score. Aaron Thomson (MN) finished second with 5.5 and Stephen Shi (WI) finished third with 5.0 points. Three Iowa players tied with 4.5 points with Rishab Swamy claiming the fourth place prize on tie-breaks.

followed by Anish Lodh and Barry Vigil.

The K-3 section saw 22 players battle it out over the 7 round two day event as well. Iowa's Owen Fiedorowicz, the sections top rated player at 1108, had fight to the last game earning 6.5 points and first place, just ahead of Iowa's Andrew Ogrin-Cotarlan 6.0 points. Wisconsin's Hersh Singh took clear third with 5.0 points and followed by a three way tie at 4.5 points among Iowa players, Arjun Palaniappan, Eric Pieper, and Gray De Geest.



K-9 Individual Winners



K-6 Individual Winners



K-3 Individual Winners

K-9 Team trophies went first to Iowa's Northwest Junior School (Coralville) and second to the Cedar Rapids Chess Club. Iowa Elementary Team Champions, Edwards Elementary School (Ames) to the Ice Harbor K-6 1st Place Team Trophies followed by Coralville Central Elementary, and Bourlag Elementary (Iowa City). The K-3 Team Trophies went to Iowans, too. Coralville Central captured first place, followed by Wickham Elementary (Iowa City) and Borlaug Elementary (Iowa City).

The Friday night blitz tournament had 15 players with Arshaq Saleem (IA) taking first followed by Shashank Bala (IL) and Fillip Shelobolin (WI). Iowans Anish Lodh, Ana Denison, and Akhtan Oryspayev went 1-2-3 for the K-6 prizes.

The Saturday night Bughouse Tournament was very exciting for players as well as spectators. Twenty-eight players formed 14 teams. The Iowa team of Saleem and Thangavel swept the two-game four round event. The Wisconsin teams of Shelobolin & Mehta and Anderson & Toomer came in second and third at 6-2. Without knowing the tie-break results, the teams agreed to a one game play-off which Andersson & Toomer won and claimed the second place trophy. The K-6 first place trophy was claimed by Anish Lodh and Arjun Palaniappan (IA) followed by AJ Kozich and Pete Lande (IA) for second place and Vladimir Tivanski and Barry Vigil (IA) for third.



The tournament was organized and directed by Jim Hodina and Bill Broich of Iowa. Assistant TDs Eric Vigil (IA) and Allan Cargille (WI) worked the floor and helped with computer pairings

and trophies. A lot of support was provided by Alex Betaneli, too, with his help in publicizing and attracting many Wisconsin players. Praise for the location, facilities, long time control, and trophies was received throughout the tournament and post-event survey. Over 50 families took advantage of the \$99 chess rate at the adjoining Grand Harbor Waterpark & Resort, which (surprise, surprise) was a big hit with kids and their families, along with the many local attractions including the Mississippi River Museum.



We couldn't have been more thrilled with the turnout and the way the tournament played out. The event will be back in 2014 on May 17 & 18 at the same place, Grand River Center and Grand Harbor Resort & Waterpark, with the same number and size of trophies. We are already thinking of new ways to make it better by adding alternate schedules and a reserve section. Many of the participating families not only said they'd be back next year, but that they'd bring their local scholastic players with them. We set out to put something on that was in the spirit of a national scholastic event. I think we succeeded.

For full event details, standings, and photos, visit the tournament website:
www.iceharborchess.com.