

The Pittsburgh Chess League



**Spring 2006
Issue 2 Volume 11
Team Chess at its Best**

Pittsburgh Chess League

<http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/ChessPA/ChessLeague/wpapcl.htm>

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Schedule of Events, Also available on-line at
<http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/ChessPA/wpapnmts.htm>

April 8 GPP:6 Pennsylvania (QC) 2006 PA State Game/29 Championship. 5-SS. G/29. Lower Lounge, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$25 postmarked by 3/31, \$35 after. \$\$ (690G): 200-100, U2000 \$90, U1800 \$80, U1600 \$70, U1400 \$60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40. Trophies to Top 3 under 1400, Top 3 under 1200, and Top 3 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 3/31, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** PSCF required \$5 OSA. Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from both sections. Reg ends 10:30am. Rds 11am - 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W.

April 9 (QC). Pittsburgh Chess League April Quick Quads. 3-RR. G/15. Kurtzman Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. **EF:** \$10, \$3 discount to age 18 & Under. \$\$ 20 to 1st in each quad. Reg ends 11:15am. Rds 11:30am - Noon - 12:30pm. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to Pittsburgh Chess League. W.

April 9. 46th Annual Pittsburgh Chess League : Round 8. 30/90, SD/60. Kurtzman Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. Rds 2pm. Division IV only. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. W.

Life as a Pawn

All little soldiers standing in their rows.

Upon a field of squares, you prepare to meet your foes.

You never say a word or utter a complaint, knowing that death looks at you only across the way.

Then some hand moves you to a square you've never been to before.

Not knowing if you will live or die, you stand and await your fate.

As you look around, only two colors can be seen.

Now you are deep in enemy territory for all the colors around you are different than your own.

Where have all your buddies gone? Have they fallen, every one?

Lonely pawn, standing with no colors of your own, with death about to touch you - *You move to the throne!*

You look across the square behind you and your King looks back at you and smiles.

For you saved him from capture, when all his knights and bishops failed.

Just a pawn pushed to its limits, becoming a Queen to save the game.

You performed bravely, little pawn.

Be happy in this moment for tomorrow you must play again.

by Robert D. Stuart
March 2005

46th Annual Pittsburgh Chess League (2005-06) Division IV Preliminary Swiss

#	Team Name	Rating	Sep 18	Oct 2	Nov 13	Dec 11	Jan 15	Match:Game
1	Phalanx Youth	1362	B 12	W 5	B 7	W 2	B 3	4:13½
			W:2½	W:3	W:4	D:2	D:2	
2	Guild	1408	W 6	B 4	W 11	B 1	W 5	3½:12½
			W:3½	D:2	D:2	D:2	W:3	
3	Weenies	1305	W 5	B 6	W 4	B 11	W 1	3½:12½
			L:1½	W:3	W:3	W:3	D:2	
4	Poale Zedek	1249	B 10	W 2	B 3	W 9	B 7	3:12
			W:3	D:2	L:1	W:4	D:2	
5	Punxsutawney Phil-idors II	1280	B 3	B 1	W 8	W 7	B 2	3:11
			W:2½	L:1	W:3	W:3½	L:1	
6	Young Gunz	1213	B 2	W 3	B 10	W 12	B 9	2½:10½
			L:½	L:1	W:3	W:4	D:2	
7	Phalanx Fathers & Sons	1037	W 11	B 9	W 1	B 5	W 4	2½:8½
			W:3	W:3	L:0	L:½	D:2	
8	Murrysville Chess Club B	1338	W 9	B 12	B 5	W 10	W 11	2:9
			L:1	D:2	L:1	D:2	W:3	
9	Monroeville Chess Club III	1069	B 8	W 7	W 12	B 4	W 6	2:8
			D:2	L:1	W:3	L:0	D:2	
10	Triple Threat III	1132	W 4	B 11	W 6	B 8	B 12	1½:9
			L:1	L:1	L:1	D:2	W:4	
11	Phalanx Winchester Thurston	1355	B 7	W 10	B 2	W 3	B 8	1½:8
			L:1	W:3	D:2	L:1	L:1	
12	Pitt IV	1273	W 1	W 8	B 9	B 6	W 10	½:4½
			L:1½	D:2	L:1	L:0	L:0	

1st 2005-2006 PCL Quick Quads - October 2, 2005

Quad 1

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Schreiber, Avi J	1632	1693	W3	W4	W2	3	\$20
2	Garcia, Federico	1545	1584	W4	W3	L1	2	
3	Elsleger, Joseph	1657	1638	L1	L2	W4	1	
4	Klein, Charles W Jr	1641	1597	L2	L1	L3	0	

Quad 2

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Mankey, Joshua J	1522	1525	W4	W3	D2	2½	\$20
2	Jones, Lawrence P	1509	1480	L3	W4	D1	1½	
3	Kramer, John J	1026/23	1090	W2	L1	D4	1½	
4	Stupp, John C	997	999	L1	L2	D3	½	

2nd 2005-2006 PCL Quick Quads - November 13, 2005

Quad 1

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Magar, Thomas P	2000	2022	W3	W4	W2	3	\$20
2	Moore, Johnson S	2131	2125	W4	W3	L1	2	
3	Replogle, Harry H Jr	1955	1944	L1	L2	W4	1	
4	Foreman, Fred D	1600	1600	L2	L1	L3	0	

Quad 2

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Unico, Mark D	1427	1511	W2	D3	W4	2½	\$20
2	Jones, Lawrence P	1480	1510	L1	W4	W3	2	
3	Garcia, Federico	1582	1572	W4	D1	L2	1½	
4	Kamon, Joseph E	1563	1511	L3	L2	L1	0	

Swiss

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Won, Charles C	1430/15	1443/18	W6	W5	D4	2½	\$20
2	Villarreal, Brian L	1325/15	1338/18	W3	L4	W6	2	
3	Ratana, Adam	1288/24	1286	L2	W6	W5	2	\$10
4	Mankey, Joshua J	1525	1499	L5	W2	D1	1½	
5	Smith, Jason A	1050	1092	W4	L1	L3	1	
6	Hudson, Steven J	1006/5	979/8	L1	L3	L2	0	

5th 2005-2006 PCL Quick Quads - February 19, 2006

Quad 1

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Flaherty, James M	1766	1828	W3	W4	W2	3	\$20
2	Martinak, Tom M	2164	2144	W4	D3	L1	1½	
3	Elsleger, Joseph	1745	1754	L1	D2	W4	1½	
4	Foreman, Fred D	1612	1600	L2	L1	L3	0	

Quad 2

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Sakai, Hibiki	1513	1598	W4	W2	W3	3	\$20
2	Klein, Charles W Jr	1587	1596	W3	L1	W4	2	
3	Mankey, Joshua J	1543	1528	L2	W4	L1	1	
4	Jones, Lawrence P	1511	1469	L1	L3	L2	0	

Swiss

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Molin, Ben	1334	1418	W3	W4	D2	2½	\$15
2	Won, Charles C	1402/21	1429/24	W6	W5	D1	2½	\$15
3	Unico, Mark D	1475	1454	L1	W6	D5	1½	
4	Haskins, Steven R	1361	1351	D5	L1	W6	1½	
5	Balter, Danny	1471	1444	D4	L2	D3	1	
6	Etzel, Ezra W	826	820	L2	L3	L4	0	

3rd 2005-2006 PCL Quick Quads - December 11, 2005

Quad 1

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Milisits, Ryan R	2156	2159	W4	W2	W3	3	\$20
2	Flaherty, James M	1725	1731	D3	L1	W4	1½	
3	Foreman, Fred D	1600	1626	D2	W4	L1	1½	
4	Schreiber, Avi J	1713	1682	L1	L3	L2	0	

Quad 2

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Root, Pat	1543/13	1642/16	W4	W2	W3	3	\$20
2	Mankey, Joshua J	1500	1503	D3	L1	W4	1½	
3	Jones, Lawrence P	1510	1511	D2	W4	L1	1½	
4	Won, Charles C	1443/18	1402/21	L1	L3	L2	0	

Quad 3

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Ratana, Adam	1364	1429	W2	D3	W4	2½	\$20
2	Haskins, Steven R	1350	1361	L1	D4	W3	1½	
3	Unico, Mark D	1511	1475	D4	D1	L2	1	
4	Barry, Herbert III	1339	1332	D3	D2	L1	1	

Quad 4

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Molin, Ben	1180	1183	W4	W2	D3	2½	\$20
2	Stupp, John C	990	1007	W3	L1	W4	2	
3	Hudson, Steven J	979/8	965/11	L2	W4	D1	1½	
4	Love, Lutual	Unr	580/3	L1	L3	L2	0	

4th 2005-2006 PCL Quick Quads - January 15, 2006

Quad 1

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Martinak, Tom M	2158	2164	W3	W2	W4	3	\$20
2	Flaherty, James M	1731	1766	W4	L1	W3	2	
3	Chen, Franklin M	1991	1967	L1	W4	L2	1	
4	Foreman, Fred D	1626	1612	L2	L3	L1	0	

Quad 2

#	Name	Pre Rat	Post Rat	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Score	Prize
1	Klein, Charles W Jr	1597	1587	L2	W4	W3	2	\$7
2	Berthoud, Eric A	1429	1446	W1	L3	W4	2	\$7
3	Ratana, Adam	1351	1396	W4	W2	L1	2	\$7
4	Molin, Ben	1318	1282	L3	L1	L2	0	

Pittsburgh Chess League Memories

by Robert D. Stuart

The Pittsburgh Chess League was in its first (1961) or second season when I began playing on the East Suburban Y.M.C.A. chess team. The Y.M.C.A. was located east of Monroeville and I travelled there regularly from my home in Greentree for team practice. I played third and fourth board that first year.

In the next season, the East Suburban Y.M.C.A. had two teams and I served as the captain of the second team. However in the season following that, they were not going to field any teams in the Pittsburgh Chess League. So I founded the Guild team, which was named after my photographic business, *Guild Photographers*. I, Robert Stuart, have been the captain of the Guild team every year since it was formed.

The Guild has occasionally fielded two teams, and in the 1981-82 season Guild I won the League Championship. In 1980-81 Guild II won Division II and in 1997-98 Guild won Division III. Team members have also won 13 board prizes, including Antonio J. Ambrad (2), Anthony P. Busofsky, Gonzalo Castillo (2), Frank H. Cunliffe, Wakefield J. Hexon, Michael J. Maxwell (3), Roger D. Pahl and Robert D. Stuart (2).

In its early year, the Pittsburgh Chess League classified teams as Commercial, Scholastic or Open. Commercial teams were required to only field players who worked for the company. They included teams from Westinghouse, US Steel, Coppers, RCA and Westinghouse Bettis. Scholastic teams could field both students and faculty and included the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Tech, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University and Robert Morris College. The Open teams could recruit anyone to play for them.

Earl Clary was in the Pittsburgh Chess League from day one. He was one of the founders and was also often captain of the Westinghouse teams. The Westinghouse team did withdraw midway through one season and then returned the following year, so the Guild team could then claim the longest continuous presence in the Pittsburgh Chess League.

Fred Sorensen was for many years the Pittsburgh Chess League adjudicator. This was before sudden death time controls, so you played 50 moves in 2 hours followed by 25 moves in an hour, repeating as necessary. So a game could last a very long time - and if

you drove into Pittsburgh together, then your teammates would have to wait for you. To handle that problem, if your game went over 50 moves you could request an adjudication. In the following weeks, Fred would analyze your game and determine the final result with best play by both sides. This delayed the results of matches until Fred could declare a winner and also cost the Pittsburgh Chess League money, as Fred was paid for the long hours that he spent on those positions. When the USCF began to allow sudden death time controls, the Pittsburgh Chess League switched to that and eliminated adjudications. Needless to say, no wanted to play an endgame against Fred, as he was the best.

The Pittsburgh Chess League almost fell apart many years ago, when match games could be played both before or after the match date. On game day, the room would be half empty. The rule was changed to no longer allow games to be played after the game day and this was a major improvement.

Another problem was with teams (or some members) who would not show up on game day - forfeiting their games. For example, I had a team with three players who lived in Johnstown and if their opposing team did not show (or partly showed), it would discourage these Johnstown players from travelling all the way to Pittsburgh for future rounds, especially in bad weather. So a fine was started for forfeits. I believe that Bill Hughes was PCL President and I was Vice-President at that time.

Over the years, the Pittsburgh Chess League has played its matches at a variety of locations - at the Downtown Y.M.C.A on Wood Street (for many years the home of the Pittsburgh Chess Club), in Skibo Hall at Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University Student Union, Robert Morris College downtown, and at the University of Pittsburgh in both the Scaife Hall Cafeteria and in its current location in the William Pitt Union.

In my early days as a chess player, I played in any tournament that was held in the Pittsburgh area. Over time however, I stopped playing in tournaments except for the Pittsburgh Chess League. One game a month starting in September and ending in March or April is the perfect answer for me.

Thank you, Pittsburgh Chess League for the years of pleasure that you have given to me.