

# February 21, 2004

## PRESS RELEASE

3rd ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' DAY CHESS CLASSIC  
at JULIET THORNER PERFORMING ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL  
Saturday, February 21, 2004

The 3rd Annual Presidents' Day Chess Classic was held Saturday, February 21, 2004 at Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School, 5501 Thorner Street, in Bakersfield, CA.

Over 270 participants from 60 teams attended the Chess Event. Over 100 participants were from outside the Kern County Area (Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clarita, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Porterville, Fresno, Visalia and San Diego, etc.)

The National Anthem was performed beautifully in the opening ceremony by the Kali Navea-Huff.

The entertainment at the Closing Ceremonies was wonderful. Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School entertained over 600 players, coaches, parents, grandparents and siblings for over ½ hour following the final round of chess with dancing and gymnastics by Thorner students.

Also, special thanks to over 75 volunteers for making everyone feel so welcome and for providing assistance, support and food to over 600 guests (including 270 participants at our Chess Event).

Over 150 trophies, plus over 100 medals and over 100 ribbons were distributed by Kern County Supervisor Pete Parra who also offered words of encouragement and congratulations to all of the participants. He also expressed his appreciation to the coaches, teachers, parents, and relatives for their help in promoting chess in Kern County as a means of improving academic performance in our schools and as a sport.

Throughout the entire day, National Chess Master, Mr. Jaime Tanaleon from Los Angeles, provided game analysis and instruction on chess tactics and strategy to chess participants, coaches and parents.

Good Samaritan Hospital provided the awards for this Annual Chess Classic. Good Samaritan has consistently supported the development of Scholastic Chess in Kern County and is to be commended for its efforts. Good Samaritan Hospital's recognition of the benefits of Scholastic Chess and its support in promoting Chess have been major factors in the phenomenal growth of Scholastic Chess in our community.

John's Incredible Pizza was just "Incredible". General Manager, Scott Kirk, arranged for this fabulous community focused organization located at 3709 Rosedale Highway, to donate over 300 Free Buffet Dinners (worth \$3, 600.00!!) Participants in all Youth Chess Charitable Foundation Tournaments can use these Good Anytime Coupons during the entire YCCF Chess Season.

to John's Incredible pizza and to Good Samaritan Hospital for helping to promote chess as an Olympic sport.

There were over 1,600 chess games played by over 270 participants from 60 Teams competing in the tournament. The tournament commenced at 10:00 am and was not over until after 4:00 p.m. (over 6 hours of chess with virtually no break). This represents more time committed to mental athleticism in this Olympic sport than a full marathon and an Olympic hockey game combined!! The mental exhaustion from competing in a chess tournament has been compared to the physical exhaustion experienced by runners after competing in a full marathon.

The tournament was extremely competitive. Ten (10) players from the United States Chess Federation (USCF) List of the Top 100 Scholastic Chess Players in the U.S. (by age group) were in attendance including three 2004 National All Girls Chess Champions (Kali Navea-Huff – 2nd grade; Baylee Wickham – 3rd grade; and Marie Navea-Huff – 4th grade).

The winners in each section were as follows:

#### K-1

First grader, Wesley S. Bohn, from the Central Valley Lions, won the K-1 Section with a 4.0 score. Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the team title. Coach Ellen Quon should be commended for her tireless efforts in organizing, promoting and teaching chess. Because of her efforts, Thorner is now widely recognized as having one of the six best Scholastic Chess Programs in all of Southern California.

#### K-3

In K-3, Alexander Pearson from the Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the K-3 section with a 4.5 score. Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the team title. Way to go Coach Quon.

#### K-6

In K-6, Amber Dela Rosa from Fairfax School won the K-6 section with a perfect 5.0 score. Fairfax School won the team title. Coach Chris Oakleaf says that the Fairfax team is the best in Kern County and he is challenging Thorner, Fruitvale and Cesar Chavez for "bragging rights".

#### K-8

In K-8, John Bryant from the Fruitvale Jr. High School won the K-8 section with a perfect 5.0 score. Fruitvale Jr. High School won the team title. Coach Rhonda Reeves says Fruitvale has the best team in Kern County and accepts all challenges, anytime and anywhere.

#### K-12

In K-12, Stephen Ho from Monache High School won the K-12 section with a 4.5 score. Ridgeview Varsity Team won the team title. Stephen was just selected as the top Academic Decathlon performer in the nation. He also has a chess rating of over 2000 and is classified as a chess expert. Congratulations Stephen on all your Academic and Chess accomplishments. Ridgeview High School knows they are the best. Their Varsity Team won 1st place and their J. V. Team took 5th place. Foothill who?

Mr. David Huff and Ms. Grace Navea, Tournament Organizers; thanked Ms. Margaret Gallegos, Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School Principal; all of her wonderful staff; and all of the more than 75 volunteers for their invaluable support to the chess program. The Thorner

involvement, and organization of all the tournament volunteers.

The organizers, Mr. David Huff and Ms. Grace Navea stated that Bakersfield is rapidly becoming known nationally for its commitment to and awareness of the benefits of chess. David A. Huff, President/CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital, and Grace S. Navea, President of GSN, Inc, volunteer their time working with students and promoting chess in Kern County schools as a means of improving academic performance. "Chess has been demonstrated to (among other benefits) improve memory; logic; creative thinking; reading skills; self-esteem; performance on standardized tests; focus and concentration," says Huff. "These kids are some of the best players in California".

All of the final results and standings for each section, and pictures taken during the tournament are posted at our website [www.youthchess.com](http://www.youthchess.com). For additional information, or for any questions, please call Tournament Organizers, Mr. David Huff and Ms. Grace Navea, at (661) 631-5870 or fax to (661) 631-3264 or log on to our website at [www.YouthChess.com](http://www.YouthChess.com). You may also send inquiries to the Youth Chess email address: [YouthChessOrg@aol.com](mailto:YouthChessOrg@aol.com).

Youth Chess Charitable Foundation

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