

January 2004

PRESS RELEASE

3rd ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CHESS CLASSIC
at INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Saturday, January 31, 2004

The 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Chess Classic was held Saturday, January 31, 2004 at Independence Elementary School, 2345 Old Farm Road, in Bakersfield, CA.

Over 260 participants from 70 teams attended the Chess Event. Over 100 participants were from outside the Kern County Area (Los Angeles, Orange County, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Porterville, San Diego, etc.)

The Bakersfield Blitz Football Team mascot "Crusher" attended the pre-opening ceremonies and managed to entertain all of our Chess participants and "Crushed" several future young Chess Masters in games of Chess. Thank you Crusher.

The National Anthem was performed beautifully in the opening ceremony by the Rosedale Middle School Select Choir under the direction of Ms. Carolyn DeMaffeto. This was followed by some brief opening remarks and words of encouragement by Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy to all of the participants.

The entertainment at the Closing Ceremonies was wonderful. The Rosedale Middle School Jazz Band under the direction of Ms. Peggy Biller entertained over 600 players, coaches, parents, grandparents and siblings for over ½ hour following the final round of chess.

Also, special thanks to over 75 volunteers for making everyone feel so welcome and for providing assistance, support and food to nearly 600 guests (including 260 participants at our Chess Event).

Channels 17 and 23 covered The 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Chess Classic and helped promote it to all of Kern County as a means of improving academic performance in our schools and as a sport.

Each participant was also provided a Free Buffet Meal Ticket from John's Incredible Pizza Co. and a ticket to the Bakersfield Condor's Hockey Game on February 8, 2004.

Jaime G. Tanaleon, Chess Master, from Tustin, California provided Instruction and Game

Analysis after each Round.

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).

Over 150 trophies, plus over 100 medals and over 100 ribbons were distributed by Mr. Ken Frost and Ms. Grace Navea, GSN, Inc. president. Ms. Navea and her very capable staff assisted in awarding all of these trophies and prizes.

We would like to express our appreciation to all of our sponsors and especially to Good Samaritan Hospital for providing all of the trophies and awards; GSN, Inc. and St. Therese Medical Group for providing all of the technical support and many of the volunteers; John's Incredible Pizza; and the Bakersfield Condors for providing free tickets and free coupons to every participant in our Chess Event.

Once again, thank you for all of your support and for helping to make our chess tournaments into Chess Events.

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 perfect 5.0 score. Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the team title.

K-3

In K-3, Elijah Baier from the Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the K-3 section with a perfect 5.0 score. Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the team title.

K-6

In K-6, Ashish Govan from the Heritage Christian School won the K-6 section with a perfect 5.0 score. Juliet Thorner Performing Arts Magnet School won the team title.

K-8

In K-8, John Bryant from the Fruitvale Jr. High School won the K-8 section with a perfect 5.0 score. Fairfax School won the team title.

K-12

In K-12, Raymund So from the Porterville High School won the K-12 section with a perfect 5.0 score. Porterville High School won the team title.

All of the final results and standings for each section, and pictures taken during the tournament are posted at our website www.youthchess.com. Click here to see [tournament results](#).

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 www.YouthChess.com. You may also send inquiries to the Youth Chess email address: YouthChessOrg@aol.com.

Youth Chess Charitable Foundation

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