

CCO PRESS RELEASE

Inaugural Grand Prix Concludes at First Hartmayer Memorial

On March 19, 2017, 43 players competed in Leg 4 of the 2016-17 Connecticut National Nominations Grand Prix. The tournament was held at the University of Connecticut, School of Engineering, Storrs, Connecticut.

The event was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Chess Organization, allClubs Chess and the University of Connecticut Chess Club.

The placement winners were:

Individual Prizes/Awards:

K-12 Open

- 1st Place – Jithu Sajeevan, Bristol Central High
- 2nd Place – Richard Zhu, West Woods Elementary (Farmington)
- 3rd Place – Ruthvik Ayyagari, Breakthrough Magnet School (Hartford)
- 4th Place – Dhanush Kalangi, Griswold Middle School (Rocky Hill)
- 5th Place – Shriniket Sivakumar, Windermere Elementary (Ellington)

NNGP Points Distribution

Denker

- 8 – Jithu Sajeevan
- 4 – Evan Wood, Journalism and Media Academy (Hartford)
- 2 – Matthew Hochberg, Greens Farm Academy (Fairfield)
- 1 – Revanth Chandramohan, Avon High

Barber

- 8 – Richard Zhu
- 4 – Ruthvik Ayyagari
- 2 – Dhanush Kalangi
- 1 – Shriniket Sivakumar

NGTC

- 8 – Beatrice Low, Greenwich Academy
- 4 – Ann Song, East Farms Elementary (Farmington)
- 2 – Shesh Budhabati, West Hill Elementary (Rocky Hill)
- 1 – Suma Dendi, Betances STEM Magnet (Hartford)

K-12 Under 1000

- 1st Place – Lucas Kollen, Bugbee Elementary (West Hartford)
- 2nd Place – Jake Lumelsky, Bugbee Elementary (West Hartford)
- 3rd Place – Harikumar Palaniappan, Ox Ridge Elementary (Darien)

4th Place – Punyavrat Upadhyay, West District Elementary (Farmington)

5th Place – Sankalp Ayyagari, Breakthrough Magnet School (Hartford)

Team Prizes/Awards:

K-12 Under 1000

1st Place – Bugbee Elementary School (West Hartford)

2nd Place – King Philip Middle School (West Hartford)

3rd Place – West Hill Elementary School (Rocky Hill)

The final Candidates selection of the National Nominations Candidates' Tournament was as follows:

Denker

Jithu Sajeevan

Evan Wood

Matthew Hochberg

Zachary Chen Tanenbaum (Greenwich High)

Barber

Samuel Lumelsky, King Philip Middle (West Hartford)

Beatrice Low¹

Brian Weisz, Coleytown Middle (Westport)

Robert Ulmer, Brunswick School (Greenwich)

NGTC

Beatrice Low²

Ann Song

Suma Dendi

Shesh Budhabati

CCO also presented the 2017 CCO Hartmayer Commemorative Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Scholastic Chess to UConn School of Engineering's John Fikiet for his years of service in organizing and hosting scholastic chess events. Mr. Fikiet also made contributions to Connecticut scholastic chess as director, player and instructor.

Congratulations to all!

The Leg 4 event was attended by players from 16 towns and 29 schools. Competition was directed by IM Jan van de Mortel, assisted by University of Connecticut Chess Club's Gabriel Borges.

¹ Beatrice will choose to participate in either the Barber or the NGTC section of the Candidates' Tournament. A substitute player will take her place in the other section per the rules of the Candidates' Tournament. Because all three national invitational events are played on the same day, no Candidate can participate in more than one event and thereby more than one Candidates' section.

² See note 1 above.

The tournament was organized as a non-profit fundraiser for scholastic chess programs by the Connecticut Chess Organization. The event was able to cover its costs.

CCO is organizing the **2017 CCO Statewide Championships** on March 25 (at Kingswood Oxford, West Hartford) and April 1 (at Amistad High School, New Haven), as well as the **2017 Connecticut Scholastic Quick Chess Championships** on April 30, 2017 at the University of New Haven.