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A Review of GM Checa's Path to 2022 Connecticut Champion Title



By IM Jan van de Mortel (left)

(Former CSCA President, IM Jan van de Mortel, reviews the play of GM Nicolas Checa at the 2022 Connecticut State Championship, held at Wesleyan University on December 3. Checa successfully defended his 2021 title to remain the reigning Connecticut State Champion for a second year.)

Checa's crucial game in successfully defending his title took place in the very first round, when junior player NM Nathaniel Moor brought the Grandmaster to the brink of defeat: <https://lichess.org/study/qxg9PIIB/cj8ImG7j>.

In round two, second seeded GM Sergey Kudrin failed to convert a well-played game against NM James Nitz. This was followed by a quick draw between the Grandmasters in round three.

Finally, in the fourth and final round, Checa secured the state title with a convincing display of power piece play in the endgame against NM Zachary Tanenbaum: <https://lichess.org/study/qxg9PIIB/WLrGHsvr>.