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***University of New Haven Hosts First Candidates' Tournament***

On April 30, 2017, 12 selected Candidates competed in the 2017 Connecticut State National Nominations Candidates Tournament, hosted by the University of New Haven.

Four Candidates were selected in each National Invitational Tournament Category via the Connecticut National Nominations Grand Prix competition and the 2016-17 State Championship tournaments to compete in this Candidates' Tournament.

The Candidates' Tournament is a three round competition with Game 60 delay 10 time controls, with all Candidates having an opportunity to play one another.

The Grand Prix and Candidates' format was introduced for the first time this scholastic chess season. Prior years, nominees were decided via the State Scholastic Championship.

The winning nominees will travel to the U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia from July 29 to August 1, 2017 to compete in the invitational tournaments.

Congratulations to all of the participants and the nominees!

The winners were as follows:

Denker Tournament of High School Champions

Nominee – Zachary Tanenbaum, Greenwich High School

Alternate – Jithu Sajeevan, Bristol Central High School

Other Candidates – Evan Wood, Academy of Media & Journalism (Hartford)  
Matthew Hochberg, Greens Farms Academy (Fairfield)

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions

Nominee – Brian Weisz, Coleytown Middle School (Westport)

Alternate – Samuel Lumelsky, King Philip Middle (West Hartford)

Other Candidates – Robert Ulmer, Brunswick School (Greenwich)  
Ruthvik Ayyagari, Breakthrough Magnet School (Hartford)

National Girls' Tournament of Champions

Nominee – Beatrice Low, Greenwich Academy

Alternate – Ann Song, East Farms Elementary School (Farmington)

Other Candidates – Shesh Budhabhatti, West Hill Elementary School (Rocky Hill)  
Suma Dendi, Betances STEM Magnet School (Hartford)