

Central NM Team Chess League ABQ Metro Regional

Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education Building,
December 4th, 2:00pm - 5:30pm

Write up by Learners Chess Academy Staff

Leaders Section

On a cool New Mexico afternoon in December, 66 chess players from 8 schools from the ABQ Metro region of the Central NM Team Chess League gathered to play 4 rounds of chess team matches to determine the regional championship for 2016.

After 4 rounds of heated chess matches, the Cien Aguas Roadrunner took home their first ever regional championship!

The **Cien Aguas Roadrunners** placed 1st overall by winning all 4 of their matches, while they also won 14 game points. In round 1, Cien Aguas defeated the Holy Ghost Eagles (4-1). In round 2, the Roadrunners defeated the 3rd place Manzano Mesa Meerkats (3.5-1.5). In round 3, they defeated the 6th place Coral Sea horses (3.5-1.5). And in round 4 the Roadrunners defeated the Bandelier Bears (3-2). Cien Aguas was led by long time Learners student and dedicated tournament chess competitor, Levi Ackerman who scored 3 of 4 game points to finish tied for 2nd place among 1st boards. Also medaling for Cien Aguas was 3rd board, Dominic Martinez, who placed 2nd among 3rd boards; Chase Carver who scored a perfect 3.5 out of 4 to tie for 1st place among 4th boards; and Galen Yane tied for 2nd among 5th boards with 3 out of 4 game points contributed to Cien Aguas' championship effort on the day.

Placing 2nd overall was last year's champions, the **Monte Vista Penguins**, who scored 3 out of 4 match points and 11.5 game points. The Penguins took on the Alice King Roadrunners in round 1 and they won (3.5-1.5). In round 2, the Penguins played the Coral Seahorses and we narrowly outscored (2-3). In round 3, Monte Vista played the Manzano Mesa Meerkats and won the match (3-2). In round 4, Monte Vista defeated the Holy Ghost Eagles (3-2) to earn their third match point and secure 2nd place on the day. The penguins were led by long time dedicated Learners Chess student, Makayla Lavato, who scored 2.5 out of 4 game points to earn a 3rd place medal among 2nd board players. Also leading Monte Vista was another experienced Learners student, Silas Reisz, who scored a perfect 4 out of 4 game points to earn 1st place among 3rd board players. Also earning a medal from Monte Vista was Tazio Lapina, who scored 2 of 4 game points to tie for 3rd place among 4th board players.

For 3rd through 6th place, all teams tied with 2 match points each so total game

points were used to determine their final finish. And even within that there were two teams tied in game points. In the case of a tie with match points and game points the finish of the teams' opponents is used to determine the next tie breaker.

In 3rd place overall was the **Manzano Mesa Meerkats**, who scored 2 of 4 match points and 12 game points. This was the best ever finish for the Meerkats. In round one they defeated the Bandelier Bears (3.5-1.5). In round 2, they lost to 1st place Cien Aguas (1.5-3.5). In round 3, the Meerkats narrowly lost to the 2nd place Monte Vista Penguins (2-3). In round 4, the Meerkats defeated the St. Charles Cardinals (5-0) to bring them up to 2 match points and 12 game points, which was good to come out on top of the game point tie breaker and earn 3rd place overall as a team. The Meerkats were led by John Martin Lopez who scored 2 of 4 game points to finish in 3rd place among 1st board players. Also leading the Meerkats was long time Learners student, Liam Yoder, who finished with 3 of 4 game points to earn 2nd place among 2nd board players. Also medaling for the Meerkats was Santos Hernandez who scored 2.5 of 4 game points to tie for 2nd among 4th board players; and Sean Jagodzinski, who scored 3.5 of 4 game points to tie for 1st place among 5th board players.

Tied for 4th and 5th place overall was the Bandelier Bears and the Alice King Roadrunners. Both teams scored 2 match points and 10.5 game points.

The **Bandelier Bears** were awarded the 4th place trophy because their opponents finished higher than Alice King's opponents. After being defeated in round 1 by the Manzano Mesa Meerkats (1.5-3.5), the Bears defeated the Holy Ghost Eagles (4-1) in round 2 and the Alice King Roadrunners in round 3 (3-2). In round 4 the Bears were narrowly defeated by the 1st place Cien Aguas Roadrunners (2-3). The Bears were led by Joaquin Goni who scored 3.5 of 4 game points to win the 1st place medal among 1st board players. Also earning a medal for the Bandelier Bears was Dmytro Noriega who scored 2.5 of 4 game points and earned a 3rd place medal among 5th board players.

Placing 5th on the day was the **Alice King Roadrunners** who scored 2 of 4 match points with 10.5 game points. Alice King was defeated in round 1 by the 2nd place Monte Vista Penguins (1.5-3.5). In round 2 Alice King defeated the St. Charles Cardinals (3.5-1.5). In round 3 the Roadrunner were narrowly defeated by the Bandelier Bears (2-3). And in the final round Alice King defeated the Coral Sea Horses (3.5-1.5). Alice King was led by 1st board Andrew Olson, who scored 3 of 4 game points to tie for 2nd place among 1st board players. Also medaling from Alice King was Javery Cook who scored 3 of 4 game points to earn 3rd place among 3rd board players; Calvin Olson who scored 2 of 4 game points to tie for 3rd place among 4th board players.

Finishing in 6th place on the day was the **Coral Sea Horses**. Coral was the only team to defeat 2nd place Monte Vista (3-2) in round 2. This was just after their 1st round win over St. Charles (3.5-1.5). In round 3, Coral lost to 1st place Cien Aguas (1.5-3.5) and then lost to Alice King in round 4 (1.5-3.5) to finish with 2 match

points and 9.5 game points on the day. Coral was led by 2nd board Cameron Tuttle and 4th board Jadon Giron who both scored 3.5 out of 4 game points to earn 1st place among their respective boards. Coral was able to accomplish their impressive performance despite missing a player and having to take a forfeit on 5th board in every round.

Finishing in 7th place on the day was the **Holy Ghost Eagles**, who scored 1 match point and 8.5 game points. Holy Ghost had a tough draw in round 1, losing to 1st place Cien Aguas, (1-4). In round 2, they lost to Bandelier before triumphing in round 3 over St. Charles (4.5-0.5). In round 4, they narrowly lost to 2nd place Monte Vista (2-3). Medaling for Holy Ghost's Leaders team was Tina Walsh who scored 2.5 of 4 game points to earn a 2nd place medal among the 4th board players.

Rounding out the Leaders Team section for the ABQ Metro regional was the **St. Charles Cardinals** who scored 3.5 game points on the day but went winless in their four matches.

On the day, there was a lot of parity, as many of the matches even those with the 1st place team, were decided by 1 or 1.5 points and half the participating teams tied with 2 match points, in fact in round 4, if one more Holy Ghost player had prevailed in their game, 6 of the 8 teams would've finished with 2 match points!

Reserve Section

In the ABQ Metro Reserve Section, 26 players competed for their school's Reserve team. The scores of the top 4 finishing players from each school were added up to determine team trophies.

In 1st place was the **Cien Aguas Roadrunners**, who had a large number of dedicated chess learners participating in this year's tournament. These Roadrunners' top 4 players combined for 11.5 team points. Scoring for Cien Aguas Reserve Team was Evan Kennedy Sadek (3.5 of 4 team points to earn 1st place overall); Benjamin Kennedy Sadek (3 of 4 team points to earn a tie for 2nd place overall); Rosa Kennedy Sadek (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall), and Oen Martinez (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall).

Placing 2nd in the Reserve Section was the **Manzano Mesa Meerkats**, whose top 4 finishing players combined for 9 team points. Scoring for Manzano Mesa was Adia Sanchez (3 of 4 team points to earn a tie for 2nd place overall); Kevin Bambino (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall); Ethan Thomas (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall); and Josiah Baker (1 team point).

Finishing 3rd in the Reserve section was the **Monte Vista Penguins (Tuesday team)** whose top 4 finishing players combined for 8 team points. Scoring for Monte Vista was Rylan Price (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall); Francisco Barros (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall); Shalome Moore

(1.5 team points); and Steel Gauna (1.5 team points).

In 4th place was the **Alice King Roadrunners** whose players combined for 6.5 team points. Scoring for Alice King was Antonito Baca (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall), Jaren Cook (2 team points); Eliseo Kerkmans (2 team points) and Logan Lavato.

In 5th place was the **Monte Vista Penguins** (Wednesday team) whose 2 Reserve players combined for 5 team points: Sam Prewett (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall); and Huck Walsh-Dilley (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall).

In 6th place in the Reserve section was the **Bandelier Bears** whose 3 players combined for 5 team points: Carlos Sanchez-Vasquez (3 of 4 team points to tie for 2nd place overall); Hurleigh Pino (1 team point); and Quetzalli Sanchez-Vasquez (1 team point).

In 7th was the **Holy Ghost Eagles** whose 2 players combined for 2 4 team points: Elias Braun (2.5 of 4 team points, tied for 3rd place overall) and Henry Dewey (2 team points).

And last in the Reserve section was the **St. Charles Cardinals** whose lone players scored 1.5 team points for the Cardinals.

Congrats to all of the participating players and teams! Many of you will be seeing each other again on April 2nd at UNM at the Central NM Team Chess League Finals!