

Central NM Team Chess League NE Sandia Heights Regional

Albuquerque, Albuquerque Academy,
December 4th, 2016, 9:00am - 12:30pm

Write up by Learners Chess Academy Staff

Leaders Section

On a beautiful New Mexico Sunday morning, 61 chess players from schools in the NE Sandia Heights region of Central New Mexico gathered to compete for the NE Heights Regional Team Chess Championship.

After four rounds of chess team matches between eight schools the Zuni Eagles won their first ever regional championship!

The **Zuni Eagles** scored 3.5 out of 4 possible match points and 14 of 20 possible game points to finish in first place. In round 1, the Eagles tied (2.5-2.5) and split a match point with the Hubert Humphrey Hawks (4th place). After that it was three straight match wins. In round two they defeated the NMIS Correcaminos (5th place) (3-2), in round 3 they defeated the Georgia O'Keeffe Rams (3rd place) (3-2), and in round 4, they defeated the North Star Wolves (6th place), 5-0. The Eagles were lead by long time Learners student and up and coming Learners Jr. Leader, Keirin Mann, who finished in 2nd place among 1st boards with 2.5 out of 4 possible game points. Keirin has done a tremendous job this semester working with his fellow Zuni Eagle players on improving their chess skills and it really paid off at this tournament! Also medaling for Zuni was 2nd board, Ethan Ortiz who tied for 2nd place with 2 out of 4 game points; 3rd board Brayden Diaz earned the first place medal among 3rd boards by scoring a perfect 4 out of 4 game points; Olivia Bolivar, who has put a lot of focus into improving her chess playing, scored 3 out of 4 game points to finish 2nd among 4th boards; and another hard worker, Saphira Montoya scored 2.5 out of 4 game points to tie for 2nd place among 5th boards.

The 2nd through 4th place finishing teams all tied with 2.5 out of 4 match points and so their total game points sorted out their final finish.

In 2nd place, with 2.5 match points and 13.5 game points was the **Double Eagle Double Eagles**. Double Eagle narrowly lost their 1st round match against NMIS (2-3) and then tied their 2nd round match against Hubert Humphrey (2.5-2.5). After that, Double Eagle beat the Arroyo del Oso Bears (5-0) and the San Antonito Roadrunners (4-1). Double Eagle was led by two long time Learners Chess campers and students: 1st board Alan Kuehn and 2nd board Michael Liu, who both tied for 1st place their respective boards with 3 out of 4 game points. Also medaling for Double Eagle was 3rd board Esteban Preciado and Kieran McIndoo who both placed 3rd among their respective boards with 2.5 out of 4 game points; and Jack Main also finished with 2.5 out of 4 game points, tying for 2nd place

among 5th boards. This was Double Eagle's highest ever finish in the NE Heights regional.

In 3rd place was the **Georgia O'Keeffe Rams** with 2.5 match points and 11.5 game points. The Rams defeated San Antonito in round 1 (3.5-1.5) and the North Star Wolves in round 2 (4-1). In round three the Rams lost to the 1st place Zuni Eagles (1.5-3.5) . And in round 4, they tied with the Hubert Humphrey Hawks (2.5-2.5). The Rams were led by the strong performance of 1st board, Daniel Luo, who scored 3 out of 4 game points to tie for 1st place among 1st boards. Also medaling for the Rams were the Tucker brothers on boards 4 and 5. Evan Tucker scored 3.5 out of 4 game points to win 1st place among 4th boards and Ashton Tucker scored 2 out of 4 game points to finish tied for 3rd among 5th boards.

The 4th place team on the day was the **Hubert Humphrey Hawks** who scored 2.5 out of 4 match points. The story of the day for the Hawks was tied matches, as they were the only team besides Zuni to not lose a match, tying 3 of their 4 matches. In round 1, the Hawks tied with the 1st place Zuni Eagles (2.5-2.5). In round 2, the Hawks tied with the 2nd place Double Eagles (2.5-2.5). In round 3, the Hawks scored their only match win of the day, defeating the San Antonito Roadrunners, 3.5-1.5. In round 4, the Hawks again tied, this time with the 3rd place Georgia O'Keeffe Rams (2.5-2.5). Medal winners for the Hawks were William Butcher, who scored 3 out of 4 game points to earn the 2nd place medal among 3rd board; and Josiah Romo scored a perfect 4 out of 4 game points to win the first place medal among 5th boards.

Placing 5th in the region was the **New Mexico International School Correcaminos**, who scored 2 out of 4 match points and 11 game points on the day. NMIS won their first match against the 2nd place Double Eagle Double Eagles (3-2) and then narrowly lost in round 2 against the 1st place Zuni Eagles (2-3). In round 3, the Correcaminos lost to the North Star Wolves (1-4). In round 4, they defeated the Arroyo del Oso Bears (5-0).

The Correcaminos (Spanish for Roadrunners) were led by dedicated Learners chess camper and rising Learners Jr. Leader, 1st board Darian Kapelianis-Donado, who scored 3 out of 4 game points to tie for 1st place among 1st boards. Also scoring 3 out of 4 game points for the Correcaminos was another long time Learners student and very strong player, Abigail Poe, who scored 3 out of 4 game points to tie for 1st place among 2nd boards. Also earning a medal for NMIS was 5th board Ronan Judge, who scored 2 out of 4 game points to tie for 3rd place among 5th boards.

Finishing in 6th place was the **North Star Wolves** who, like NMIS scored 2 out of 4 match points, but earned 10 game points, one less than NMIS's 11. North Star got off to a hot start in round 1, after defeating Arroyo deol Oso (5-0). In round 2, the Wolves lost to 3rd place Georgia O'Keeffe and then in round 3, they defeated 5th place NMIS (4-1). In round 4 the Wolves lost to 1st place Zuni. The Wolves were led by 1st board, Talan Stohl, who scored 2 of 4 game points to finish tied for 3rd among 1st boards. Also medaling was North Star's 2nd board, Evan Chang scored 3 of 4 game points for the Wolves, finishing tied for 1st among 2nd boards.

In 7th place was the **San Antonito Roadrunners** who scored 1 of 4 match points. San Antonito defeated Arroyo del Oso in round 3 (5-0). Medaling for San Antonito was Matthew Anderson, who tied for 1st among 2nd boards with 3 of 4 game points; and Hadrian Mingley scored 2 of 4 game points to tie for 3rd place among 5th boards.

In 8th place was the **Arroyo del Oso Bears**. While they only had 4 of 5 players playing, they had to forfeit their board 5 game in every round. This was Arroyo del Oso's first regional tournament, among a group of seven other teams that all have at least two years experience each in this regional tournament.

Reserve Section

In the NE Heights Reserve section 21 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 **Hubert Humphrey Hawks**, who finished with 9.5 team points. Contributing the Hawks' reserve section success were Noah Ruane, who scored a perfect 4 out of 4 to take 1st place overall in the section; and Matthew Saucedo scored 3.5 of 4 to tie for 2nd place overall. Also contributing to the team score was Evan Proctor and Aria Gonzales.

In 2nd place was the **Double Eagle Double Eagles**, matching their finish in the Leaders section. Daniel Niese (3.5 points and tying for 2nd), Andrew Bailie (3 points and tying for 3rd), and Daniel Soneru all helped Double Eagle with their team finish in in the Reserve Section.

In 3rd place was the **NMIS Correcaminos**. Francisco Paco, Sahli Shah, Santiago Armijo, and Patrick Knight and Elliot Coombs-Wakefield helped NMIS with their Reserve finish.

In 4th place was the **Georgia O'Keeffe Rams** who had Caden Paroz (3.5 points and tied for 2nd place), Luke Reifsteck, and Aaron Rojas contributing to the team.

In 5th was the **North Star Wolves** who had Reyhan Rahim and James Hung contributing to their team finish.

And in 6th place was the **Zuni Eagles** who had Austin Longbotham (3 points and tied for 3rd place overall) and Christopher Graham contributing to their team points in the reserve section.

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!