

Central NM Team Chess League NW Mesa Regional

Rio Rancho, St. Thomas Aquinas School,
December 3rd, 2:00pm - 5:30pm

Write up by Learners Chess Academy Staff

Leaders Team Section

On a cool Rio Rancho afternoon, 74 chess players from 10 schools all across the NW Mesa region of the Central NM Team Chess League gathered to compete for the NE Heights Regional Team Chess Championship.

After 4 rounds of competitive chess, our host team, the **St. Thomas Aquinas Pelicans** prevailed with a perfect score of 4 match points!

In round 1, the **Pelicans** defeated last year's champions, the Seven Bar Wranglers (4-1). In round 2, the Pelicans defeated SABE (5-0). In round 3 the Pelicans defeated the Tierra Antigua Firebirds (5-0). And in the final round the Pelicans narrowly escaped against the 2nd place E Stapleton Coyotes (3-2). St. Thomas was led by long time chess student, Isabella Hays, who scored a perfect 4 out of 4 game points to earn 1st place among 1st board players. Also earning a 1st place medal with a perfect score was Isabella's brother, Nathaniel, who placed 1st among 2nd board players. Also medaling for St. Thomas Aquinas was: 3rd board Carolina Martinez, who won 3 of 4 game points to earn a tie for 2nd place among 3rd board players; Mateo Martinez scored 3.5 of 4 game points to earn 2nd place among 4th board players; and Emmanuel Padilla scored 2.5 of 4 game points to earn 3rd place among 5th boards players in the 10 team section. This is St. Thomas' second regional championship in the Central NM Team Chess League.

Placing 2nd on the day was the **E. Stapleton Coyotes**. The Coyotes scored 3 of 4 match points, defeating Tierra Antigua (4.5-0.5), Cielo Azul (4.5-0.5), and Maggie Cordova (3-2) in the first 3 rounds. In the final round E. Stapleton narrowly lost of the champion Pelicans (2-3). The Coyotes were led by Reagan Hill who scored 3 of 4 game points to earn a tie for 3rd place among all 1st board players. Also earning a 3rd place medal for E. Stapleton was 2nd board Xavier King, who scored 2 of 4 game points. E. Stapleton 3rd board, Diego Francisco, scored a perfect 4 of 4 game points to earn 1st place among all 3rd board players. Also earning 1st place for his board from E. Stapleton was Sebastian King, who scored 3.5 of 4 game points to earn 1st place among all 5th board players.

The 3rd through 5th place teams all tied with 2.5 match points each so their respective game point totals decided their final placing.

In 3rd place was the **Sandia Vista Thunder**. Along with their 2.5 match points,

they earned 12 game points to out pace the other teams tied with 2.5 match points. Sandia Vista narrowly lost their first round match to the Maggie Cordova Dragons (2-3). The Thunder then proceeded to win 2 matches in a row, defeating Seven Bar (3.5-1.5) and SABE (4-1). In round 4, the Thunder matched up with the Cielo Azul Ravens and the match ended in a tie (2.5-2.5). The Thunder were led by long time Learners Chess student, Richard Crump, who scored 3 of 4 game points to earn 3rd place among all 1st board players. Also medaling for the Thunder were: Owen Heath who scored 3 of 4 game points to earn a tie for 2nd place among 2nd board players; Carlos Madrid who earned 2 of 4 game points to tie for 3rd place among all 3rd board players; and Jayce Smith earned 2.5 of 4 game points to earn a tie for 3rd place among all 5th board players.

Finishing in 4th place on the day was the **Sunset View Mountain Lions**, who earned 2.5 match points and 10.5 game points. This was Sunset View's first ever team tournament! Sunset View lost their first round match to the Cielo Azul Ravens (1.5-3.5). In round 2, Sunset View earned a tie with the Tierra Antigua Firebirds (2.5-2.5). In round 3, Sunset View defeated the Seven Bar Wranglers (3.5-1.5) and in the final round the Mountain Lions defeated the Maggie Cordova Dragons (3-2). Sunset View was led by 1st board Evan Nanez who scored 3.5 of 4 game points to earn 2nd place among all 1st board players. Also earning a medal from Sunset View was Achilles Varela who scored a perfect 4 of 4 game points to earn 1st place among 4th board players.

The 5th place team was the **Cielo Azul Ravens**, who earned 2.5 match points and 9.5 game points. The Ravens defeated Sunset View in round 1 (3.5-1.5), lost to E. Stapleton in round 2 (.05-4.5), defeated Ventana Ranch in round 3 (3-2), and tied with Sandia Vista in the final round (2.5-2.5). Medaling for Cielo Azul was Nathaniel Kerr who scored 2 of 4 game points to earn 3rd place among 2nd board players; Iden Merritt scored 2 of 4 game points to earn 3rd place among 3rd board players; and Jonathan Morain, who earned 2nd place among 5th boards by scoring 3 of 4 game points.

Finishing in 6th place was the **Maggie Cordova Dragons** who scored 2 of 4 match points and 11 game points. Maggie Cordova won their 1st round match up with Sandia Vista (3-2) and they won their 2nd round match up with Ventana Ranch (4-1). In round 3, the Dragons were narrowly defeated by the 2nd place E. Stapleton Coyotes (2-3). In the final round the Dragons were again narrowly defeated, this time by the Sunset View Mountain Lions (2-3). Leading the Dragons was 2nd board Vlad Debelak who scored a perfect 4 of 4 game points to earn 1st place among all 2nd board players. Also medaling from Maggie Cordova was Rasia Morales, who scored 3 of 4 game points to earn 2nd place among all 3rd board players; and Reid Meuth scored 3 of 4 game points to earn a tie for 3rd place among all 4th board players.

The **Ventana Ranch Roadrunners** finished in 7th place after earning 1.5 match points and 10 game points. In round 1 the Roadrunners defeated SABE (4.5-0.5). In round 2, they lost to Maggie Cordova (1-4). In round 3, the Roadrunners were narrowly defeated by the Cielo Azul Ravens (2-3). In the final round the

Roadrunners earned a tie with the Tierra Antigua Firebirds (2.5-2.5). Medal winners from Ventana Ranch were: 3rd board Will Yorganson who scored 3 of 4 game points to earn a tie for 2nd place among all 3rd board players; James Harral won 3 of 4 game points to place in a tie for 3rd among all 4th board players; and Noah Massey finished in a tie for 3rd place among all 5th board players with his score of 2.5 out of 4 game points.

Finishing in 8th place was the **Seven Bar Wranglers** who scored 1 match point and 7 game points. Medaling from the Wranglers was William Camplin who scored 2 of 4 game points to tie for 3rd among all 2nd board players.

The 9th place team was the **Tierra Antigua Firebirds** who finished with 1 match point and 5.5 game points. Medalists from Tierra Antigua were Ethan Hafenrichter who tied for 3rd place with 2 of 4 game points.

Rounding out the Leaders team section was the Sandoval Academy of Bilingual Education (SABE). This was SABE's first ever team tournament and they put up spirited matches in all 4 rounds.

Reserve Section

In the Reserve section, 24 players competed to earn the top trophy for their school and the top overall individual award.

The 1st place team in the Reserve section was the **St. Thomas Aquinas Pelicans**. Scoring for St. Thomas' 11 team points were: James Luttrell (3.5 of 4 team points to tie for 1st place overall); Richard Lucero (3 of 4 team points to tie for 2nd place overall); Rylan Irwin (2.5 of 4 team points to earn 3rd place overall); and Diego Gallegos (2 team points).

In 2nd place for Reserve was the **Sandia Vista Thunder**. Contributing to the Thunder's total of 9 team points were: Clayton Wolfe (3 of 4 team points to tie for 2nd team overall); Jakob Harris (2 team points); Gabriel Herrera (2 team points); and Caitlin Lovell (2 team points).

In 3rd place for Reserve was the **Seven Bar Wranglers** whose top 4 finishing players scored 8 team points. Contributing to the team was Rylee Montoya (3.5 of 4 team points to tie for 1st place overall in the section); David Massey (2 team points); Christian Abet (1.5 team points) and then both Nina Homes and Sofya Faust (both with 1 team point).

Finishing in 4th place in the Reserve section was the **Ventana Ranch Roadrunners** who had two players playing who combined to score 5.5 team points. The Roadrunner players were Gracie Loseke (3.5 of 4 team points to tie for 1st place overall) and Topher Baldwin (2 team points).

In 5th place was the **E. Stapleton Coyotes** with 3 team points, all from Michael

Reichbach (3 of 4 team points to tie for 2nd place overall).

In 6th place was **SABE** with 2.5 team points from Emma Harvey (1.5 team points) and Aiden Felix (1 team point).

And rounding out the Reserve section was **Sunset View's** Gracie Patty who scored 1.5 team points.

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!