

West Michigan Chess Monthly



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Upcoming WMCA Events:

Kalamazoo Open I
January 26
WMU Bernhard Center

Grand Rapids Open II
February 2
Comfort Inn Grand Rapids

Kalamazoo Open II
February 23
WMU Bernhard Center

Grand Rapids Open III
March 1
Comfort Inn Grand Rapids

Each of these events will include both an open and a scholastic section.

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Major Events Across Michigan:

Scholastic Team Championships
2/2 Elementary/Primary
2/16 Junior High
2/23 High School

Michigan Junior
March 15-16

Great Lakes Open
May 2-4

Details can be found at
<http://www.michess.org>

WMAAA Winter Scholastic Tournament

On January 12, eighteen kids got together to play in the Winter Scholastic tournament at the West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics.

Pradeep Madduri, Nathan Berman, and Hobie Hagen finished in a three-way tie for first place with five wins each. Hobie took first place overall by winning both of his games in the playoff.

Hobie also took home the first place trophy for 7th through 9th graders, while Jacob Johnson took the second place trophy in that group.



It is a constant struggle to get the kids to write their moves down. Pradeep learned the value of doing so at this tournament, as he tied for first overall.

Out of the 4th through 6th grade kids, Pradeep won the first place trophy by defeating second place finisher Nathan Berman in the playoff. A newcomer, Mrinnal Muralidhar won the 4th through 6th grade unrated trophy.

The largest group of players was in the Kindergar-

ten through 3rd grade. In this group, Connor Goulet finished first with four wins. Nathan Peterson and Dylan Constantine tied for second place, and Nathan won the playoff to take home the trophy. Joshua Posthuma, another newcomer to unrated play, won the first unrated trophy.

First Monthly Grand Rapids Open is a Success

In January, a new series of monthly tournaments began in Grand Rapids. We decided to try a new format—a combined tournament with both open and scholastic sections.

Grand Rapids master **Kevin Czuhai** narrowly defeated rising junior star **Michael Chen** for first place in the open section, while **Freddie Noe** and **Nathan Berman** tied for first in the scholastic section.

Not only was it terrific to see the adult attendance up slightly from previous months, but we had 22 kids show up for the scholastic section as well!

We hope to grow these events, and the similar ones in Kalamazoo, into something truly special for West Michigan. All of us are committed to good scholastic chess as a way of strengthening our community.

Each city will host a tournament almost every month, and players are welcome to attend as many of these events as possible.

The next WMCA event is in Kalamazoo on January 26, at Western Michigan University's Bernhard Center. The next Grand Rapids event will be on February 2 at the Comfort Inn Grand Rapids Airport.



Above: The top three finishers show off their trophies at the WMAAA Winter Scholastic.



Michael Chen savagely beat Andy Catlin (above) at the Grand Rapids Open, which prompted Andy to go back to school.