

Checkmate! Local High Schools Clash in 2024 San Diego Regional Chess Championship

Months of anticipation culminated in a thrilling showdown this past Sunday, May 19th, as the 1st Annual Regional High School Chess Team Championship took place at the San Diego Chess Club in Balboa Park. The event brought together high schools from across Southern California in a thrilling display of intellectual prowess and school team spirit.

Irina Nizmutdinova, Jonathan Frye, and James DuBois, tournament directors for the chess club, were thrilled with the turnout. Teams from ten local high schools: Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego High School, Pacific Ridge School, Cathedral Catholic High School, Westview High School, Patrick Henry High School, Fountain Valley High School, Hilltop High School, Gompers Preparatory Academy, and Beaumont High School - participated. Each team, with six players and sometimes alternates, brought a contagious enthusiasm for the game.

The competition kicked off early, with the first eager competitor from San Diego High arriving before 9 am. The energy was palpable as the other teams followed suit, ready to engage in strategic battles throughout the day.

As the day unfolded, leaderboard teams began to solidify their positions. The final rounds were particularly nail-biting, with the face-off between Patrick Henry High School and Canyon Crest Academy in the fourth round.



Round 4: Anthony Mokhov (Patrick Henry High School) vs Roger Shi (Canyon Crest Academy)
Photo by: Irina Nizmutdinova

As the dust settled after the fifth and final round, three teams emerged as leaders with impressive 4-win records.

Canyon Crest Academy, captained by Roger Shi, emerged victorious with an impressive tally of 24.5 points. The team comprised Tan Vu, David Liu, Nathan Guo, Eleyen Xiong, Aditya Shah, Shane Sitaram, and Keshu Yang.

Patrick Henry High School, led by Kathryn Mokhov, finished a close second with 20.5 points. Their team members were Anthony Mokhov, Jonathan An, Fausto Borquez, Cole Winter, and Brody Thai.

Westview High School, captained by Wesley Rullman, secured a well-deserved third place with 18.5 points. The team comprised Harshith Bandi, Selina Chen, Rahul Jogadhenu, David He, and Alex Tajbakhsh.



2024 Regional Chess Champions: Canyon Crest Academy
Photo by: Irina Nizmutdinova



Regional Runner-up Team: Patrick Henry High School
Photo by: Irina Nizmutdinova

Irina Nizmutdinova, the Scholastic Chairperson at the San Diego Chess Club, has reaffirmed the club's dedication to its annual tradition. This event is more than just a chess tournament; it's a vibrant gathering that brings teens together. They not only challenge each other in chess matches but also create lasting friendships and learn the value of teamwork in a supportive environment.