

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

A USCF AND MACA AFFILIATE

HERTAN AND GUREVICH BATTLE TO FIRST IN FRAMINGHAM OPEN

World Under-14 Champion Ilya Gurevich of Worcester and FIDE-Master Charles Hertan of Allston shared first in the 3rd Framingham Open on September 21-22 in Framingham. The tournament was unusually hard-fought, with the lead changing hands each round; Gurevich and Hertan scored only 3-1 for first, with GM Leonid Shamkovich of New York, Massachusetts Champion John Curdo of North Billerica, and brothers Robert and Andrew Martin of Framingham and Cuyahoga Falls OH sharing third at 2 1/2-1 1/2. The Martin brothers also divided the Under-2200 award. The ferocity of the struggle on the top boards may be gauged by the fact that top-seeded IM Jim Rizzitano of Worcester, who had lost only two games in the preceding year, lost two in one day in this tournament.

In the first round Hertan was upset by Andrew Martin, causing his rivals to discount his chances for a top prize--prematurely, as it turned out. Rizzitano's woes began as he was held to a draw by William Pryeor of Willimantic CT. In round two Gurevich held his teacher Shamkovich to a draw, while Curdo beat Andrew Martin, thus leaving Curdo in sole possession of the lead. However in round 3 Shamkovich knocked off Curdo, while Gurevich defeated Rizzitano, leaving only Shamkovich and Gurevich at 2 1/2. In the final round, Rizzitano, figuring that if he was out of the money he might as well try for a brilliancy, essayed a dubious line of the King's Gambit against Robert Martin and succumbed in 23 moves. Gurevich meanwhile drew with Curdo, while Shamkovich stumbled in time-pressure against the resurgent Hertan, leaving Gurevich and Hertan in first place.

In other sections, David McKee of Wellesley beat Russell Gouveia of Peterborough NH in the final round to clinch first in the Premier (Under 2050) Section with 3 1/2-1/2; Gouveia shared second at 3-1 with William G. Michael of West Bridgewater. Robert Jordan of West Upton and 9-year old Robert Seltzer of West Roxbury tied for first in the Classic (Under 1800) Section at 3-1. The red-hot Seltzer killed off his leading rivals in the first three rounds (including a win over Jordan with the Cochrane Gambit) and had to be paired down two score groups to find an opponent in round 4, but relaxed and lost to David Abrams of Newton, allowing Jordan to catch him. Syd Michael of Natick, Bill Kaden of Weston, and Moe Van Dereck of Provincetown topped the Amateur (Under 1550) Section with 3 1/2-1/2, while Forrest Norris of Wilbraham crushed the Novice (Under 1300) Section 4-0, a point ahead of Kenneth Cooper of Framingham.

The 64-player turnout was one of the lowest ever at a Grand-Prix tournament in Framingham, surprising organizers and players alike--the tournament in 1984 drew 120 players. The streak of unusually good weather that weekend and preceding week was considered the likeliest culprit. Warren Pinches and Jack Martin directed for the sponsoring Framingham Chess Club, assisted by Tom Zuppa and Glenn Gates. The next Framingham Chess Club Grand-Prix event will be at a new site in Natick on February 1-2, 1986.

NORFOLK-MIDDLESEX CHESS ASSOCIATION