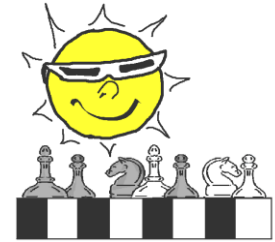


**News:**

During the past month, the chess club has continued to provide the students with a mixture of learning and fun. The students spent the previous four weeks focusing on basic tactics, particularly forks and skewers. They also entered the complex world of endgames, mastering the king and a pawn v. king endgame.



Most importantly, at least for the students, the club began a five-round tournament. The first two rounds witnessed much competitive chess, with only one game out of seven ending in a draw. In the first round, Tali Feen was paired against Yechiel Shulman. Yechiel won that matchup, proving that age is not a factor in chess. While Yechiel and Tali squared off on board one, board two produced an interesting game between two good friends, Meytal Hamm and Shoshana Wolfe. After a long battle, Meytal came out on top, joining Yechiel on the top of the leaderboard. These two were joined by Uri Lev-Tzion, who prevailed in a tough game against Binyomin Zev Hoffman. The last game of the round, between Ruby Hamm and Benny Wolfe, demonstrated the power of friendship, as Benny settled for a perpetual check instead of trying to play for a win against his experienced opponent.

Second round witnessed the clash between two of the leaders, as Meytal had white pieces against Yechiel Shulman. The advantage of going first was not enough and Yechiel won his second victory in as many rounds. The other leader after round one, Uri Lev-Tzion, faced a tough test on board two against Ruby. After a well-played game from both sides, Ruby came away with a convincing win, taking possession of the second place. He was joined there by Benny Wolfe, who defeated Binyomin Zev Hoffman in a game which had its share of suspense. Finally, as Tali was not able to make it to class, her opponent, Shoshana, received a full point bye while Tali received half a point.

Thus, after two highly competitive rounds, Yechiel is in first place with 2 points. In the third round, he is about to face his toughest challenge yet, as he squares off against Ruby. But the field is wide open and, with three rounds left, anyone can still emerge as the winner.

Below are several pictures from the tournament, followed by the standings after the first two rounds and the tentative pairings for round three. The award ceremony for the tournament will take place at the conclusion of the fifth round, Wednesday, March 9, at 4:20 PM. Relatives are welcome to attend.

*-Chess Coach Aleksey Kazakevich*

***Problem of the Day (for both students and adults):***

**White:** King g1, Rooks a1, f1, Queen h5, Knights c3, e5, Bishop h7, Pawns a2, b2, d4, f4, g2, h2

**Black:** King f8, Queen d8, Rooks a8, e8, Bishops c8, e7, Knight d6, Pawns a7, b7, c6, d5, f7, g7, h6

**White to move and checkmate in 2 moves**



Figure 1: Despite the appearance, Yechiel is a cold and a calculating presence at the chessboard



Figure 2: Isn't chess fun? At least Benny and Binyomin think so



Figure 3: Usually dancing and chess do not go together. But if anyone can pull it off, it's Meytal



Figure 4: Ruby and Uri clash in the battle of wits (or, at least, knights and pawns)



Figure 5: Shoshana demonstrates that Indian princesses are also good at chess

Names	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Total
1. Yechiel Shulman	W7	W4				2.0
2. Ruby Hamm	D3	W5				1.5
3. Benny Wolfe	D2	W8				1.5
4. Meytal Hamm	W6	L1				1.0
5. Uri Lev-Tzion	W8	L2				1.0
6. Shoshana Wolfe	L4	Bye				1.0
7. Tali Feen	L1	Half-bye				0.5
8. Binyomin Hoffman	L5	L3				0.0

Round 3 (tentative):

Yechiel Shulman—Ruby Hamm  
Uri Lev-Tzion—Shoshana Wolfe

Meytal Hamm— Benny Wolfe  
Tali Feen—Binyomin Hoffman

## *The Chess Club Goes to the Chess Club*



On January 23, five of our students—Hava Shafner, Ruby and Meytal Hamm, Yechiel Shulman, and Uri Lev-Tzion--decided to test their skills in the tournament in the prestigious Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL). Playing against many older kids, many of them the students of Grandmaster Finegold, our five protagonists held their own, with Meytal coming close to winning the entire tournament.

In an article about the tournament, CCSCSL acknowledged the Epstein contingent (<http://www.saintlouischessclub.org/news/2011-02-02/jeff-wasem-wins-phil-wasem-memorial>)

The kid's section featured 15 participants, and 13 of the 15 participants had no previous USCF rating. The kid's section ran four rounds and had a 15-minute time control. There was much excitement in the last round of the tournament with Meytal Hamm, Suraj Ramanathan, and Jonathan Gollapudi competing for first place!

All participants received medals, and Suraj Ramanathan picked out a copy of "Chess Tactics" to take home for placing first overall in the tournament.

Many thanks to all that participated, and a special thanks to Rabbi Shulman and the parents of The Epstein Hebrew Academy for bringing five students to participate in the event.

Here are several pictures from that tournament:



Figure 6: Hava in deep thought over her next move



Figure 7: Meytal fighting for a win



Figure 8: Yechiel and Uri get ready for their first round



Figure 9: Having found the path towards victory on his board, Ruby focuses his attention on other games



Figure 10: Ruby and Uri square off against tough opposition



Figure 11: Team Epstein

### *Announcements:*

- **Epstein Tournament Award Ceremony:** The award ceremony for the Epstein tournament will take place at the conclusion of the fifth round, Wednesday, March 9, at 4:20 PM. Relatives are welcome to attend
- **Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis -**  
[www.saintlouischessclub.org](http://www.saintlouischessclub.org)  
 For a low cost of a student membership (\$30/year), this club offers weekly FREE lessons for children, given by their in-house Grand Master, on Sundays at 1 PM. In addition, they hold periodic beginner tournaments and other learning opportunities to help the kids further their chess skills. See their website for more information. Their next beginner's tournament will be held Sunday, **February 27<sup>th</sup>**, with registration at **2pm**.
- **Private instruction:** Aleksey Kazakevich, an experienced player and teacher, offers private chess lessons, willing to come to your house to work with you or your child. For more information, e-mail [alekseykazakevich@gmail.com](mailto:alekseykazakevich@gmail.com)
- **Chess in the spring:** We are trying to see if there is sufficient interest in continuing the chess club in the spring (Wednesdays, 3:40 PM). We are also considering providing chess for the older group as well (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) (Wednesdays, 4:40 PM). The eight-week session will include lectures which will focus on basic checkmates, endgame and opening principles, king safety and defense, pawn play, tactical themes. Classes will consist of 30 minutes of instruction time and 30 minutes of supervised play. During the last four weeks, students will compete in a tournament which will allow them to test their skills. The cost for the eight-week session is \$30. If you are interested, please contact Aleksey Kazakevich ( [alekseykazakevich@gmail.com](mailto:alekseykazakevich@gmail.com) )