



THE BIMONTHLY BLITZ

DALLAS CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER | VOL. II ISSUE NO. V 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Swiss – Nov 9,16,30; Dec 7,14,21,28
Saturday Increment – Nov 10; Dec 1,15,29
DCC FIDE Open XI – Nov 22-25 or 23-25
Dallas Junior Open – Dec 8-9
DCC FIDE Open XII – Dec 22-23
Year End Insanity – Dec 30-31

US Class Championships – Nov 9-11
North American Youth Chess Champs – Nov 16-21
National K-12 Grade Championships – Dec 14-16

Refer to the calendar on the DCC website link below for any updates and event details.

www.dallaschess.com

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Brothers in Arms

By Chase Frutos
Co-writer and Researcher: Cole Frutos



There are many siblings in chess who are at the top of their game. Why is that? I did some research and was surprised to find evidence that sibling relationships may be at the center of what makes us who we become and the center of our successes, with perhaps some help from parental support. I was shocked to find authors that say a sibling relationship is the most important relationship in our life and in many cases, lasts much longer than our relationships with our parents. Some examples of famous brothers and sisters in the world of chess are Asuka and Hikaru Nakamura, and Susan Polgar and her sisters, Judit and Sofia Polgar.

Asuka first began to play chess in kindergarten. Asuka's chess team needed one more player so Hikaru joined the team. Both Asuka and Hikaru were coached by Sunil Weeramantry, their stepfather, who was a FIDE Master. Mr. Weeramantry is very involved with the USCF. My parents had a detailed conversation with Mr. Weeramantry years ago at one of the National Chess Championships. Both Asuka and Hikaru progressed in chess quickly and were playing in a lot of tournaments together. In 1997 both Hikaru and Asuka won their sections at the National Grade Chess Championships with Hikaru winning the third grade national championship and Asuka winning the sixth grade national championship. This had never been done before. It was brotherly competition that elevated Hikaru's game in those early years. Another family of chess players is Susan, Judit, and Sofia Polgar. All of the Polgars have achieved the prestigious title of Grandmaster. They were born and raised in Hungary and grew up playing chess. They are arguably the best female chess players ever and their relationship with one another pushed their game.

Siblings helping each other elevate their game is not unique to chess. Sibling rivalry does seem to have some part to play in athletic development. Siblings in sports help push athletes to new heights. One study found that elite athletes were more likely to excel if their older brothers or sisters pushed them or provided a competitive environment. When siblings are involved in sports, especially the same sports, they compete for praise and attention from parents often to be recognized as the better athlete. Examples of famous brothers in the sports world are Eli and Peyton Manning (Eli is a current NFL quarterback and Peyton is a retired NFL quarterback). Eli and Peyton always wanted to be better than each other and they pushed each other to new heights.



We see this sibling dynamic among our fellow chess players in Dallas. Brothers in Arms at the Dallas Chess Club, Marcus and Andrew Mao, pushed each other to become better at chess. Marcus, who attends the University of Texas at Austin, said, "whenever Andrew got close to me or passed me in rating, it gave me a lot

ANNOUNCEMENTS

22nd Annual Texas State Chess Championships

Houston, Texas November 2-4, 2018

Congratulations to the following DCC members as the 2018 Texas State Chess Champions:

2nd Grade – Arush Sunil

3rd Grade – Eric Chang Liu

8th Grade – Cole Frutos*

10th Grade – Andrew Sun-Rong Mao

11th Grade – Cole Blakeman

*Co-champion

Cole Blakeman – 11th Grade Texas State Chess Champion



Photo courtesy of Chad Blakeman

Brothers in Arms (Continued)

more motivation to study and practice, and I would usually improve a lot after that.” Competition helps for both Marcus and Andrew to become better at chess. Often chess players and sports players have siblings who rival them and push each other to new heights. Brothers Atulya and Atreya Vaidya (also DCC members) believe having a brother has truly elevated their game in a special way. Atulya, who Cole and I learned a lot from about the game of chess and who is also now studying at the University of Texas at Austin, said that “having a brother playing chess helps me learn more about the game as a whole.” Atulya said that “competition is very important in getting better as a chess player. I think having a sibling really helps in this aspect.” It is not all about the elevated competition though—siblings have fun playing, travelling and competing with each other. Atulya’s favorite part about having a brother was traveling to tournaments together. Atreya, Atulya’s younger brother also said the same thing specifically mentioning his trips to the Pan American tournament in Cali, Colombia and the World Youth Chess Championships in Al-Ain Dubai. I agree with that—the trips over the years have been a lot of fun but having a brother with you made those trips even better. We particularly had fun at chess tournaments in Maribor, Slovenia, Pocos de Caldas, Brazil, Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico, Orlando and Lake Buena Vista, Florida, as well as Washington D.C.

Cole will admit that his experience having an older brother play chess is that it has helped him get better in every aspect of the game. Cole said “by being the younger brother, I always wanted to be better than my older brother so it motivated me to work harder than he did. Also having a brother is helpful because you can spar against them (and not at just chess) and try new openings and develop more as a chess player.” Atreya has the same view and said that “I feel that having him (Atulya) around has pushed me to become a much better player.” Atreya said that “the best part is the care that my brother shows for me.” Chess brothers are Brothers in Arms.

Sibling relationships are beneficial in many ways including promoting physical, mental, and relational health and promoting competition which is healthy and can lead to success. Siblings in chess, sports, and anything in life is an advantage because of the competitive mentality which pushes us to new levels in our craft.

The Bimonthly Blitz is published by:



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