



November 24, 2008

Area students compete in chess tournament

Submitted by John L. Hibbler, Director of the Classic Chess tournament

It was an exciting morning on Nov. 15 at the Fremont Middle School. On one side of the room, play was moving fast and furious, while on the other side, play was tense and deliberate. The older players (the high school group), knew things would not be easy, but the younger players (the elementary division), were just plain anxious to get at their opponent's pieces and checkmate the king as quick as possible. Here was chess in its most innocent form.

The youngest player of the event, Jesses Layne, said, "It was pretty cool. I had a lot of fun and liked meeting new kids who liked to play chess, too."

Most of the players were from the immediate area of Fremont, but some came from other parts of the county, such as Clyde and Green Springs. The place of this event was the Fremont Middle School. It began at nine in the morning and continued until two p.m. Tournament chess boards were used.

The High School and Middle School players played four rounds, while the Elementary Division went five rounds. People from the Fremont Area Chess Club, Middle School, and even the city of Sandusky were there to provide help. Lunch was served, a chess display was on hand and trophies were handed out.

Winners were as follows:

High School

First: Tan Pratuangpong (Clyde), Second: Devin Santiago, Fremont, (who won this spot through a playoff game against Andrew Nichelson.)

Middle School

First: Josh Perez, (Fremont), Second: Sierra Jones, (Fremont).

Elementary

First: Jesse Layne, (Fremont), Second: Ivan Franks, and for third there was a three way tie: Jacob Trent, Tanner Albert, and Nicolous Christenson. The trophy for third went to Nicolous Christenson due to the tie break system used and a playoff game.

Thanks and appreciation is extended to the Fremont Area Chess Club, Fremont Middle School, Eastside Dairy Queen & Bruce Darr, Guitar Shop, Fremont Federal Credit Union, Bay Trophy and unnamed others who contributed to making this chess tournament possible.



STUDENTS compete in a chess tournament held at Fremont Middle School. (Submitted photo)