

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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BOBBY SELTZER, AGE 10, WINS NEW ENGLAND UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

Bobby Seltzer of West Roxbury won the New England Junior Open in Framingham on January 25, with Sharon Burtman of Stoughton second and Michael Casella of New Britain CT clear third. The tournament, a regional championship for players under age 20, attracted only 35 players. Seltzer drew in the first round against unrated Adam Bemporad of Newton, but rebounded with wins against both Burtman and Casella to take first place.

A fifth-grade student at the Jackson elementary school in Newton, Seltzer first became interested in tournament chess only 16 months ago watching the simultaneous exhibition by former World Champion Boris Spassky in Framingham. His debut the following month at the Fall Foliage scholastic tournament was impressive, winning his first three games in the upper elementary section. In May 1985 he finished 13th in the National Elementary School Championship in Tennessee. During this school year he organized and coached a team from the Jackson elementary school which has achieved remarkable success: besides winning its division in the Three-Player Scholastic Team tournament in January, it has been playing in a high school league, where at this writing it is tied for first--with Boston Latin. Seltzer was also invited to play on the prestigious Collins Kids team, organized by famed New York chess teacher Jack Collins; the team won the New York State Junior Team Championship, with Seltzer winning all his games on Board 2.

Seltzer's victories have been by no means confined to junior events; he has notched major victories in adult tournaments as well. As early as April 1985, only 8 months after his entry into tournament chess, he tied for first in the "Fly By Knight" Open in Providence RI. A year to the day after he watched the Spassky exhibition, he tied for first in the Classic Section of the 1985 Framingham Open, and six weeks later he won first outright in the Classic Section of the Southeastern New England Open in Providence RI. His rating shot from 1364 in January 1985 to 1852 in January 1986, and he has been regularly appearing in the top five of the listing of top 9-10 year-old players in the United States. As impressive as his tournament play has been he is even more devastating at speed chess, frequently beating Candidate Masters in 5-minute games. This may be one influence of his chess tutor for much of the past year, Weston Master Murray Turnbull. Outside of chess, Seltzer lists his major passions as piano, video games, and soccer.

17-year old Sharon Burtman, a Stoughton High School senior and the top-seeded player in the tournament at 1894, also has an impressive record in both scholastic and open tournaments; some of her successes in the past year have been clear first in the Fall Foliage scholastic in October and first place in the Amateur section of the West Suburban Winter Grand Prix in February 1985. Burtman was also the 27th

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ranked woman player in the United States in 1985. 16-year old Michael Casella, the third-seeded player at 1736, is active in the strong New Britain Chess Club, and last July took second place in the New Britain City Reserve Championship, where he was also the top junior.

Leonard Johnson of Providence RI convincingly outclassed the Reserve (Under 1800) Section; top-seeded at 1648, he scored 3 1/2-1/2 against the second through fifth seeded players. Indeed, having defeated his closest rivals in the early rounds, he had to be paired down two score groups to find an opponent in the final round, where he gave up his only draw, to Elliot Lum of Newton. Sharing second in the Reserve Section were David Cronin of Princeton and Jason Fulman of Concord, with Cronin winning the engraved clock on tiebreak.

The Novice (Under 1400) Section was the largest, due to a substantial contingent from the active Roudebush Junior Chess Club in Westford. First place went to Alex Payne of Andover with four straight wins. Five players shared second with 3-1: Jimmy Goloboy of Marblehead, Franco Baseggio of Concord, Chris Payne of Andover, Tony Loeser of Concord, and Joel Ryan of Sharon, with Loeser winning the engraved clock in an elimination speed mini-tournament. Warren Pinches directed the tournament assisted by Jack Martin, for the sponsoring Framingham Chess Club.

GAMES FROM THE 1986 NEW ENGLAND JUNIOR OPEN

Sharon Burtman vs. Robert Seltzer, English Opening

1 d4 g6 2 c4 c5 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 g3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nc6 6 Nxc6 bxc6 7 Bg2 Nf6 8 0-0 Rb8
9 Qc2 Ba6 10 Rd1 Qb6 11 Nd2 Ng4 12 e3 0-0 13 Qe4 Ne5 14 Rb1 d5 15 Qc2 Nxc4 16
Nf3 Na3 17 bxa3 Qxb1 18 Qxc6 Bb5 19 Qxd5 Rbc8 20 Nd2 Qc2 21 Nb3 Rfd8 22 Qxd8+
Rxd8 23 Rxd8+ Bf8 24 Rd2 Qc3 25 Bf3 Ba4 26 Bd1 0-1 time

Robert Seltzer vs. Michael Casella, Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 d4 exd4 6 cxd4 Bb4+ 7 Bd2 Bxd2 8 Nbx2 d5
9 exd5 Nxd5 10 Qe2+ Nce7 11 Ng5 0-0 12 0-0 Nf4 13 Qe4 Neg6 14 Ndf3 Qe7 15 Qxe7
Nxe7 16 Nxf7 Rxf7 17 Ng5 Be6 18 Nxe6 b5 19 Nxc7 bxc4 20 Nxa8 Ned5 21 g3 Ng6 22
Rac1 Rf8 23 Nc7 Nxc7 24 Rxc4 Nd5 25 Rc5 Nb4 26 a3 Nd3 27 Rb5 Rd8 28 Rd1 Rxd4
29 Rh3 1-0

David Miller vs. Leonard Johnson, Benko Gambit Declined

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 b3 g6 5 Nd2 Bg7 6 Rb1 d6 7 Bb2 0-0 8 Nf3 Qa5 9 a3 bxc4
10 bxc4 Bf4 11 Ra1 Nd7 12 e3 Rfb8 13 Ra2 Rb7 14 Be2 Rab8 15 Bxf6 Rb1 16 Bxg7 Rxd1+
17 Bxd1 Kxg7 18 0-0 Bd3 19 Re1 Qc3 20 Be2 Bxe2 21 Rxe2 Ne5 22 h3 Nxc4 23 Ne4 Qd3
24 Ng3 Qxd5 25 e4 Qd3 26 Ne1 Rb1 27 Kh2 Qb3 28 Rac2 Re1 0-1