

# THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE TRADITION CONTINUES: "KNIGHTMARES" RETAIN NEW ENGLAND TEAM TITLE

The "Long Island Knightmares", comprising Roger LaFlair of East Islip NY, Evan Turtel of Melville NY, Alan Kantor of Wantaugh NY, and Paul Ascolese of Lindenhurst NY, won a second straight New England Amateur Team Championship title on March 12-13 at the Framingham Chess Club, winning all four matches. In each of the four years since the revival of this event, the "New England" title has gone to a team from New York. Second place went to the Wang Laboratories Chess Club, featuring Brian Wall of Nashua NH, Mark Lanin of Brookline MA, Joel Johnson of Dracut MA, and Gary Oro of Burlington MA. A surprising showing by a Worcester Polytechnic team whose full name was "Rook Out! IM Goring to Kiel Euwe b4 Heuer Reti to Colle Mate" (which barely squeezed onto the wallchart) took third place despite being only the tenth seed; its roster included Jeff Quirke of Southbury CT, Brian DeSousa of Stoneham, and brothers Bruce Denis of Leominster and Lee Denis of Lowell.

With "Rook Out!" claiming third prize, the First Under-1900 team prize went instead to the "Nasty Knights" of the North Shore Chess Club in Lynn, manned by Roger Peterson of Lynn, Ilya Figelman of Swampscott, Chris Shea of Melrose, Bob Gallucci of Lynn, and Ilya Orsher of Lynn. First Under-1600 went at last after four years of trying to the Providence Post Office, comprising the quartet of Bob Salvas of Cumberland RI, Bill Cloos of North Providence RI, Jerry Vaccarro of Coventry RI, and John O'Neil of Cranston RI.

Brian Wall of Wang Labs scored 3.5 points to clinch outright the prize for best score on Board One, with teammate Mark Lanin winning the Board Two prize on tiebreak over Brian DeSousa, both also with 3.5 points. Alan Kantor and Paul Ascolese of the "Long Island Knightmares" won the Board Three and Four board prizes, Kantor on tiebreak over Mike Lauziere of Sturbridge, Sharon Burtman of Stoughton, Adam Bemporad of Newton, and Chris Shea of Melrose, all with 3 points, and Ascolese on tiebreak over James Mennella of Brooklyn NY, both

with 3.5 points.

The twenty-team turnout (identical to last year) was noticeably weaker than in previous years; significantly absent were the New Hampshire teams which had been top-seeded in previous years. Nonetheless, nearly a third of the players were rated over 2000, and the top-seeded "Long Island Knightmares" just barely got in under the 2200 cap, with a team rating of 2199. (Kantor commented that with the natural development of the players, especially scholastic star Turtel, it would probably be necessary for them to change their roster to remain eligible next year.)

The "Long Island Knightmares", along with the remaining top-half teams, won easily in the first round, being nicked only for a draw by the Lexington-area "Pawn Storm Troopers". However, with five of the top-half teams scoring 4-0 shutouts, the game-point ordering within scoregroups meant that the half-point deficit would give the Long Islanders tough matches in their next two rounds. The second round brought a matchup of the first- and second-seeded teams, with the "Knightmares" scoring a 3-1 knockout of Wang Labs: LaFlair and Turtel drew Wall and Lanin, while Kantor and Ascolese notched wins over Johnson and Oro. The "Knightmares" next disposed of their perennial Long Island rivals and the third-seeded team, the "Nation of Sentra", in a match generally regarded as the pivotal matchup of the event. LaFlair, Kantor, and Ascolese each drew, with Turtel clinching the match with a second-board win over Joseph Felber of "Sentra".

The final round pitted the "Long Island Knightmares" against the upstart "Rook Out!" team, which ironically was the tournament leader on game points; though few gave the WPI players (outrated by an average of 300 points) much of a shot, "Rook Out!" gave the "Knightmares" something of a scare before bowing out. Brian DeSousa upset Evan Turtel to give "Rook Out!" an early lead, at a time when the other boards were at least level; then Jeff Quirke drew Roger LaFlair on the first board to pull "Rook Out!" to within a point of a sensational upset. However, Kantor and Ascolese nailed down a second straight championship title for the "Knightmares" with wins over the brothers Denis, for a final tally of four match points and 11.5 out of a possible 16 game points.

Wang Laboratories recovered from their 1-3 loss to the "Knightmares" in the second round with a sensational 4-0 roll over the fifth-seeded "Dave Greenberg Fan Club" of the Framingham Chess Club in the third round, with Wall defeating Jack Young of Acton in a spectacular game that many thought the tournament's best, and Lanin, Johnson, and Oro defeating in turn Drew Sarkisian, Mike Lauziere, and Adam Devoe. Wang Labs next played the Nashoba Chess Club in the final frame, with Wall, Lanin, and Oro winning over Allan Bennett, John

Loyte, and Paul Mishkin, and Joel Johnson only agreeing to a draw with Roger Cappallo when it was evident that his team had clinched second place. In fact, the 11.5 out of 12 that the Wang team scored apart from their loss to the "Knightmares" propelled them to a tournament-high 12.5 game points.

"Rook Out!" had a much easier road to the match on stage in the final round than did the "Knightmares": after a 4-0 rout of the bottom-seeded "Hey Man, You Took My Queen" team, they edged Newton-based "Motley Crue" by a 2.5-1.5 score, and next took the measure of "Sacs of Fifth Rank", a Connecticut-based team, 3-1 in the third round. However, their upset of two higher-rated teams gave them in the end three match points and 11 game points, winning third place overall and in fact clinching at least the Under-1900 prize after only three rounds.

"Sacs of Fifth Avenue", with Karl Molitoris, Mark Bourque, John Bachicohi, and Mike Cornish, won seven of eight in the first two rounds, against "e4=mc2" and the Sven Brask Chess Club, but then went down against "Rook Out!" 1-3 and could only draw "Motley Crue" in the finale for fourth place, with 2.5 match and 10 game points. The "Nasty Knights" took fifth overall and the Under-1900 trophies despite a 1-3 loss in the first round against the Nashoba Chess Club; the "Nasties" next drew the "Bughouse Knights" of Northeastern University before exploding for a 4-0 sweep of "Straight Thru" (the second of three WPI teams) and a 3-1 upset win over the Sven Brask Chess Club. The pride of the Framingham Chess Club, "The Dave Greenberg Fan Club" (a satiric name not appreciated by Dave Greenberg, who was in fact captaining the "e4=mc2" team) erased the "Bughouse Knights" of Northeastern 4-0 in the first round, before battling to a 2-2 tie with the Nashoba Chess Club. However, the "Fan Club" was devoured 0-4 in the third round by a Wang Labs team in quest of a prize berth, but recovered to dispatch the 1985 and 1986 champions, the "Nation of Sentra", by a 3-1 tally. This only sufficed to pull "The Dave Greenberg Fan Club" into a tie with "Motley Crue", which also scored 2.5 match and 9 game points: losing narrowly to "Rook Out!", "Motley Crue" edged the "Pawn Storm Troopers" in the third round and tied "Sacs of Fifth Rank" in the finale.

The fourth-seeded Nashoba Chess Club (Allan Bennett, Carl Stutz, John Loyte, Roger Cappallo, and Paul Mishkin) won two and tied the third of their first three matches, keeping them prize contenders until the final round, but were trampled 0.5-3.5 by Wang Labs in the finale, relegating them to an eighth-place finish with 2.5 match and 8 game points. The "Flaming Knights" of Rhode Island College featured James Della-Selva, Leonard Johnson, Sharon Burtman, and Richard Gurspan, and scored two match wins on Saturday but then lost to the third-and fourth-seeded teams, "Sentra" and Nashoba.

Last year, with David Griego and Richard Rush on board, this was one of the tournament's most formidable teams. The two-time champion "Nation of Sentra", which took third prize last year, could not put together a fourth finish among the prizewinners, losing in the third and fourth rounds to the "Knightmares" and "The Dave Greenberg Fan Club", to finish tenth with two match points and 8.5 game points.

The Providence Post Office, which along with "Sentra" is the only team to play each of the last four years, recovered from a 1-3 loss to the Sven Brask Chess Club to draw their second- and third-round matches and defeat WPI's "Straight Thru" in the finale to win the Under-1600 team prize. "Hey Man, You Took My Queen" which arrived with a team rating of 1190 (the lowest in the history of the event) scored only a half-point in 8 games on Saturday, but took 5.5 out of 8 on Sunday, winning two matches for a twelfth-place finish. The seventh-seeded Sven Bask Chess Club team faded rapidly after a second-round loss to "Sacs of Fifth Rank", only drawing with the "Flying Fish" of Cambridge before losing 1-3 to the "Nasty Knights", for a disappointing 1.5/7 finish. The Framingham Chess Club's second team, "Mike's Comics" likewise finished 1.5/7, after a 0-4 mauling in the first round by Wang Labs. The "Flying Fish" (Eric Meyer, Jim Byrd, Ken Ho, and Joe Sparks) scored their best effort in the third round, with a 2-2 tie against the Sven Brask Chess Club. Northeastern's "Bughouse Knights" (Tim Sage, Poompat Sivara, Mike O'Malley, and Craig Thomas) had the distinction of drawing their last three matches, to finish 1.5/6. The "Pawn Storm Troopers" (Steve Forsythe, Larry Charpentier, Bob Willcox, and John Vaughan; no relation to the former Framingham Chess Club team of the same name) pulled out after three rounds when "Rook Out!" clinched the Under-1900 prize; had they stayed, the "Troopers" might have gotten the prize after all, since "Rook Out!" took third prize instead. WPI's "Straight Thru" did just that to several red lights to get to the tournament on time; their only win was against Dave Greenberg's "e4=mc2", a team which had only the satisfaction of having the tournament's best name. "Turm und Drang" (another good pun), the remaining Framingham team, had a dreadful weekend quite unrepresentative of the team's members (Slawomir Luczak, Svein Abrahamsen, Matt Rothman, and Anthony Costa), finishing last with 0.5 match and 3.5 game points.

The Framingham Chess Club sponsored the event for a fourth straight year on behalf of the New England Chess Association; Warren Pinches directed.