

A History of the National Junior High School Chess Championship

Bill Goichberg compiled the data and produced most of this report for the years 1973 - 1992

Chicago 1973: The First National Junior High

The first National Junior High School Chess Championship was played May 4-6, 1973 at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, along with the 5th annual National High School Championship. A one section event open to Grade 9 or below, it was won by Michael Rohde, an 8th grader at South Orange JHS, South Orange, New Jersey. There were 264 players.

Going into the final round, both Rohde and 7th grader Lewis Cohen of New York had 7-0 scores. Cohen, the event's only player rated over 2000, and second-rated Rohde had been in this situation twice before. In both the Greater New York and North Jersey Junior High Championships in the 1972-3 school year, the two had perfect scores prior to the final round, but Cohen defeated Rohde both times. Cohen had an incredible record in the annual Greater New York Scholastics which is unmatched to this day, winning every game for four consecutive years.

But in the Nationals, the tables were turned as Rohde beat Cohen to finish with a perfect 8-0. Cohen placed second on tie-break; also scoring 7-1 and finishing 3rd through 6th were John Lenchner (NY), Trevor Kerschevich (OH), Kurt Stein (IL), and Richard Kaner (WI).

The team title went to Two Rivers, Wisconsin with a convincing 25½-6½. Second with 23½ was Great Neck South (NY); Proviso West (IL) placed third with the same score. Despite a relatively isolated location (90 miles north of Milwaukee), and a population of just 13,700, Two Rivers High also won the 1976 National High School Team Championship.

Michael Rohde went on to win the National High School Championship in 1974, achieved an International Master title in 1977, and is now an International Grandmaster who has won many strong events, including the 1991 U.S. Open.

Cleveland 1974

Beginning in 1974, the National JHS Championship was held separately from the National HS. The second annual Junior High, held in Cleveland, drew 230 players. Michael Rohde was still eligible despite having become National High School champion two weeks before but did not enter, leaving the field clear for Lewis Cohen, who won seven straight and took a last round draw to clinch first. 2nd through 4th with 7 were Eli Jaffe (OH), James Kubicek (OH), and Mark McLamarrah (IL).

Great Neck South (NY), the 1973 runner-up, easily won the team title with 25½, ahead of Riverdale (NY, 23) and Bay (OH, 22½).

New Haven 1975

The 3rd annual National JHS Championship, played in New Haven, CT, drew a disappointing 134 players. Defending champion and top rated Lewis Cohen scored an 8-0 sweep, completing three years of eligibility with a remarkable total score of 22½-1½, a total which has not been exceeded to this day. Second ranked James Thibault (MA) placed 2nd with 7; 3rd through 6th with 6½ were Robert Carr (PA), David Schwartz (NY), Charles Hertan (NY), and Andrew Loftus (CT).

The team championship was an exciting seesaw battle between defending champions Great Neck South and Central JHS of Waltham, MA. After going from 2½ points behind to ½ point ahead to 1½ points behind, Central won all four in the last round to tie Great Neck South at 22½, and won the national title by a slim 1½ tiebreak points. Shelbyville (IN) was third with 20.

Hertan is now a FIDE Master (a title requiring the maintenance of a 2300 international rating for at least 24 games), and both he and Thibault have achieved USCF Senior Master ratings (over 2399).

Waltham 1976

Entries were back up to 243 as the tournament moved to the home of the defending champs- the Boston suburb of Waltham, Massachusetts. Lewis Cohen was no longer eligible, but new stars had emerged. Top rated Michael Wilder of New Jersey, the first Master ever to play in the National JHS, was a heavy favorite, while 6th-grader and Expert Joel Benjamin, who had just swept the first National Elementary, was second seeded. But Wilder was held to a draw by Vitauts Karnitis (1667) and defeated by 3rd-rated Rod Malpert (1975), and Benjamin fared no better. A local boy made good as 5th-rated James Rizzitano (1800) of Newman JHS in Needham, MA scored 7½-½ to take clear first. 2nd through 5th with 7 were Rod Malpert (NE), William Quanrud (VA), Chris Richmond (VT), and Dan Rosenthal (NY).

Great Neck South, still yet to place below second, needed a 4-0 final round sweep to win their second team title with 24. Amphitheater (AZ) lead with one round remaining and took second with 23½, while Edmunds (VT) placed third with 22½. Defending champion Waltham Central was a big disappointment on their home turf, placing 8th.

Wilder and Benjamin disappointed in this event, but both are now Grandmasters who have won the U.S. Championship. JHS Champion Rizzitano, though, showed his result was no fluke, winning the National HS title in 1979 and going on to achieve the International Master title and a rating over 2500.

San Clemente 1977

The National JHS Championship was held in San Clemente in southern California, the first time ever in the West. It was also held concurrently with the National Elementary for the only time. While Elementary entries nearly doubled from 55 in its first year in Maryland to 106 in San Clemente, the Junior High turnout collapsed to an all time low of 97 players.

Top-ranked Perry Youngworth of Riverside, CA won the individual title with 7-1. Tied at 2nd through 5th with 6½ were Douglas Root (CA), Miles Ardaman (FL), Mike Wiseman (IN), and Alan Pitt (AZ).

In the Team Championship, Vaux JHS of Philadelphia, trailing Shelbyville (IN) by two points after six rounds, finished with an incredible 8-0 surge to win the national title by two points. Vaux scored 24 points to 22 for Shelbyville and 19 for Marco Forster (CA). The Vaux triumph, confounding the myth that inner city minority kids could excel only at physical activities, received national attention and was followed by many more victories by both Vaux and similar schools.

Root has since reached 2600 USCF and become an International Master, while Youngworth and Ardaman became FIDE Masters and have gone over 2500.

Minneapolis 1978

The JHS Championship returned to the Midwest for the first time since 1974, attracting 163 players to Minneapolis. Top-rated Joel Benjamin, the second Master to enter this event, scored an 8-0 sweep, a point ahead of Ed Boudrout (MA). 3rd through 8th with 6½ were Mark Shimozone (CA), Brian Coburn (CA), George Kinsler (PA), Keith Swedo (IN), Bert Wilson (MN), and Benny Conrad (OR).

In the Team Championship, Sweet Home of Oregon apparently was the winner with 24, but they were disqualified several months after the tournament for having a combined team from two nearby schools. This left Vaux of Philadelphia (23½) with their second straight national title, followed by Wilbur Wright (IN, 21) and Eisenhower (IL, 20½).

Philadelphia 1979

Philadelphia hosted the National JHS Championship for the first time. Held concurrently with the National High School, the Junior High established a new attendance record with 275 players. David Griego of Rhode Island beat front-running David Glueck in the last round to take the title with a 7½-½ score. 2nd through 6th with 7-1 were John Litvinchuk (NY), David Glueck (OH), Alex Cherniack (MA), Vadim Genfan (NY), and Kevin Jiles (PA).

Vaux JHS, playing "at home," had little trouble winning its third straight national crown with 25 points. Marco Forster (CA) scored 4-0 in the last round to place second with 24, while Hosterman (MN) was third with 22.

Griego, Glueck, and Litvinchuk all went on to become FIDE Masters with USCF ratings over 2400.

Philadelphia 1980

The successful High School/Junior High events of 1979 were repeated in Philadelphia, and the Junior High set another new record with 289 players. For the first time, there were two sections, K-9 and K-8, to allow schools without a 9th grade to compete more equitably.

Sandeep Joshi (MA), ranked 4th, scored 7½-½ to win the K-9 section. Anthony Carmichael (PA) and George Kinsler (PA) took the next two spots with 7. Carmichael, rated only 1505, scored one of the greatest upsets in the history of the tournament, defeating Master John Litvinchuk in the last round.

Vaux made it four straight years as team champions, leading all the way and scoring 25 points, ahead of Plymouth (MN, 22) and Central (MA, 20½).

Top-rated John Jarecki (NJ) scored an 8-0 sweep in K-8, but two long shots scored 7-1 to take 2nd and 3rd: Dirck Fuller (NE), ranked 20th at 1370, and Roger Quan (MI), who was unrated! Jarecki also swept the 1980 National Elementary Championship, becoming the first player to win two national scholastics in the same year.

Vaux was favored for K-8 team honors as well, but faltered in the last round and had to settle for third with 23 points. Two contenders of recent years took the top spots, with Hosterman (MN) edging out Wilbur Wright (IN), 24 to 23½.

In 1982, Sandeep Joshi became the 4th National JHS Champion to win the National High School title; he later gained the FIDE Master and USCF Senior Master titles.

Bloomington 1981

The JHS Championship moved back to the Midwest again, to Bloomington, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis and St. Paul, producing another record turnout: 308 players. John Jarecki captured his third national scholastic title in two years, scoring 7½-½ in the K-9 section. Patrick Wolff (MA) (now a Grandmaster and 1992 U.S. Champion!), Tim Radermacher (MN), Chuck Lovingood (TN) and Michael Allen (PA) tied for 3rd-5th with 6½, and Kevin Jiles (PA), Adam Lief (IL), Chuck Small (MA), Dirck Fuller (NE), David Mullaly (MN), Jeffrey Moore (PA), and Pedro Marcal (CA) tied for 6th-12th with 6 points. Marcal, the top rated player, lost to 2nd-rated Jarecki in the decisive last round matchup.

For the fifth consecutive year, Vaux JHS of Philadelphia won the K-9 team title, edging out arch-rival Hosterman (MN) in the last round, 23½ to 23. Curtis (MA) placed 3rd with 21. Five teams tied for 4th-7th with 19½ (in tiebreak order): Pulaski (VA), Monroe (MI), Glenn Martin (TN), and Nicollet (MN).

Anthony Ortega (NY) swept the K-8 section, 8-0. Six players tied for 2nd-7th with 6-2 (in tiebreak order): Ross Speiran (MI), Kevin Weaver (IN), Andrew Metrick (NY), Scott Berger (MN), Jeff Harmening (IN), and Michael Giacobbe (IL).

Roosevelt JHS (IN) and Woodrow Wilson (IN) both finished with 23 points in the K-8 team competition, with Roosevelt clinching on tiebreaks. Marshall University JHS (MN) placed 3rd with 22½.

Terre Haute 1982

The 10th annual National JHS Championship, held in Terre Haute, Indiana, shattered the previous year's attendance record of 308 by drawing 487 players - a turnout due in part to an outstanding scholastic chess program in Woodrow Wilson JHS and other schools in and near Terre Haute.

Andrew Metrick (NY) and Issa Youssef (MI) scored 7½-½ to become K-9 individual co-champions, a half point ahead of Joseph Kennedy (IN). For the first time, the tournament was held under rules providing for co-champions if two players or teams tied, with tiebreaks to award the trophy but not the title.

The Vaux superstars extended their remarkable streak to six years in a row, but had to share the title with the host school, Woodrow Wilson of Terre Haute. Each scored 24; Hosterman (MN) placed third with 22½.

Co-champions in K-8 with 7½ were Paul Homer (WV) and Stuart Rachels (AL). Now a strong International Master, Rachels has since won the U.S. Championship. Marco Robert (NY) was third with 7.

Martin (Crossville, TN) topped K-8 teams with 24 points, ahead of host Woodrow Wilson and Meany (WA), each 22.

Terre Haute 1983

Another repeat location, and again the Terre Haute organization produced a record turnout: 576 players.

The K-9 section was won by Michael Podol of State College, PA Intermediate School with 7½. Torin Lau (MN) and Adam Lief (IL) took the next two places with 7.

In the K-9 team competition, it was the Vaux dynasty again - an unbelievable seventh straight title! The Philadelphia superstars scored 24 to edge our Martin (TN, 23½) and Hosterman (MN, 23).

Marco Robert of Trinity (NY), the 1982 National Elementary Champion, scored 7½ to share the K-8 title with Danny Edelman of Albert Leonard (NY). 3rd thru 7th with 7 were Greg Montes (AZ), Bill Hall (TN), Michael Giacobbe (IL), Tracy Callis (VA), and Todd Graves (OR).

Pulaski Middle School of Pulaski, VA won the K-8 team title with a record score of 26 points, demonstrating again that small-town schools with outstanding chess programs need not be outclassed by big-city schools. P.S. 27 Indianapolis (IN) placed second with 25 points and Sweet Home (OR) third with 24.

Tucson 1984

The Junior High Championship was on the move again- back to the West for the first time in seven years, and this time with more success, as the event in Tucson, AZ drew 490 players.

Danny Edelman of New Rochelle, NY, the 1983 K-8 co-champion, scored an 8-0 sweep in the K-9 section (as he would do in the 1985 National High School Championship). Now a FIDE Master and USCF Senior Master, Danny also had the unique opportunity to view scholastic chess from another perspective, as the USCF's Scholastic Coordinator. Following Danny were Tracy Callis (VA) with 7 and Anthony Westbrook (PA), Richard Brink (IN), Curtis Yettick (CA), Brent McDaniel (AZ), and Clark Allen (AZ), each 6½.

Vaux finally saw its incredible K-9 team streak snapped at seven straight wins, placing fourth. It may be a long, long time before anyone challenges this record! 1983 K-8 champs Pulaski and local stars Sunnyside HS of Tucson shared first with 22, half a point ahead of Martin (TN).

The K-8 section saw another local triumph, as Robby Adamson of Tucson scored 8-0. Derrick Brownie (IN) was second with 7½, followed by Adam Colby (AZ), Ross Colby (AZ), Noah Spaulding (VA), Scott Dudley (IN), and Richard Marbry (VA).

In the K-8 team championship, Pulaski again shared the top spot with a local team, Orange Grove of Tucson. Each scored 26½-5½, an incredible 83%, exceeding Pulaski's record score of the year before. Pulaski became the first school ever to win both the K-9 and K-8 titles in the same year. Third was P.S. 47 of Indianapolis, 25½.

Terre Haute 1985

Back to Terre Haute, and again a record turnout- 631.

Marco Robert of New York scored an 8-0 sweep in K-9, adding to his 1982 Elementary and 1983 K-8 titles. His 3-year total of 22½-1½ tied Lewis Cohen for best overall 3-year score, a record that still stands. Vivek Rao (PA), now a 2550-rated FIDE Master, placed second with 7; Adam Colby (AZ) and Robby Adamson (AZ) were next with 6½.

In the K-9 team championship, perennial powerhouse Martin JHS of Crossville, TN finally won the title, scoring 22½. Following were Vaux (21½), Monroe, MI (21), and Woodrow Wilson of Terre Haute (21).

The K-8 section was also swept by a New York player, as Anatoly Trubman won all eight games. Tied for 2nd through 12th with 7 were James Levine (NY), Andy Fisher (NM), Stanley Kim (NY), Kyle Miller (NM), Marian Hendricks (AZ), Alex Chang (WV), Ross Colby (AZ), Noah Spaulding (VA), Jeffrey Shelton (VA), Derrick Thomas (IN), and William Knuttinen (AZ).

The top three K-8 teams from the previous year were back fighting it out again, and this time Orange Grove (25½) edged out second place P.S. 47 and third place Pulaski (each 25) for the title.

Spokane 1986

The Junior High nationals were held in the Northwest for the first time, drawing 433 players at Spokane, Washington. 1984 K-8 champion Robby Adamson scored a perfect 8-0 in K-9, clinching first place with a round to go. 2nd through 4th with 6½ were Kyle Miller (NM), James Levine (NY), and Craig Wilcox (OR).

Led by Adamson, the University HS of Tucson team took the team title with 22½. Following were Metcalf (MN) with 22 and Woodrow Wilson (IN) and Santa Fe (NM), each 21½.

Andy Fisher (NM) and Richard Phillips (CA) were K-8 co-champions with 7½. Next with 7 were Michael Kortegaard (NM), Adam Silverman (AZ), Kirk Steinocher (WA), Andy McManus (CA), and Tony Bui (CA).

Two long time contenders were K-8 team co-champions with 24½- Hosterman JHS of Robbinsdale, MN, K-8 champs in 1980, and Pulaski, VA, K-8 winners in 1983 and 1984 and K-9 champs in 1984. Sunnyvale (CA) and Orange Grove (AZ) were next with 24.

Buena Park 1987

California hosted the National JHS Championship for the first time in ten years, and the turnout of 455 players in Buena Park, not far from Disneyland, was almost five times that of the disaster of 1977.

K-9 co-champions with 7-1 were Jesse Kraai (NM) and Richard Hwang (CA). 3rd through 7th with 6½ were Anthony McManus (CA), Jeffrey Shelton (VA), Andy Fisher (NM), Kirk Steinocher (WA), and Ben Cook (CA).

Metcalf JHS of Burnsville, MN won the K-9 team title with 22½, followed by mostly familiar names: Pulaski of VA (21), Woodrow Wilson of IN (20½), Fremont, CA (19½), and Hosterman of MN (19).

Oliver Tai of Germantown, TN won the K-8 section with 7½-½. 2nd through 7th with 7 were Jessica Ambats (NY), Adam Silverman (AZ), Richard Phillips (CA), Nikolai Parker (NY), Daniel Krawiec (CA), and Marc Jiminez (AZ).

The K-8 team championship saw the emergence of many new contenders, as Hunter (NY) placed first with a record-tying 26½, ahead of South Side Middle School, Anderson IN (25); Country Day School, Charlotte NC (24½); and Van Buren School (NM), 22½.

Memphis 1988

This first National JHS Championship in the South was expected to draw well, as Tennessee has outstanding scholastic chess organization, and the location was within driving distance of many of the Midwestern teams which had made Terre Haute a record setter. The largest turnout in 3 years resulted- 548 players. A new Junior Varsity Section, for K-8 under 1300 or unrated, was offered for the first time. And the 8-round schedule with 4 games each day was changed to a 7-round schedule with one game Friday night, three Saturday, and three Sunday.

In the K-9 section, more than two players tied for first, for the first time ever in a National JHS section. In order of tiebreak, they were 1986 K-8 winner Richard Phillips (CA), Alan Polk (MN), Joshua Waitzkin (NY), Alex Chang (WV), and Nathaniel Graham (MN); all scored 6-1.

Dalton School (NY) and Metcalf JHS (MN) were K-9 team co-champions with 21½-6½ scores- a repeat title for Metcalf, and an unprecedented "triple" for Dalton, winner of the 1988 Elementary and Primary team titles. Next were Hunter (NY) 20½, Madison Heights (IN) 19, and Vaux (PA) 18.

Richard Trepp of White Plains, NY won the K-8 title with 6½-½, followed by Ari Spiro (NY), Mark Jiminez (AZ), Terence Rokop (PA), Matt McNichols (IN), Ilya Figelman (MA), Aaron Dean (IN), Tass Warner (FL), and Joseph Yandle (NC).

For the second straight year, a new team surprised, as Horace Mann (NY) scored 23-5 to easily win the team title. South Side (IN) was second and Woodrow Wilson (IN) third, each with 20½, and Fees JHS of Tempe (AZ) with 19½ and Craig Middle School of Indianapolis, 18½.

The K-8 Junior Varsity saw a 7-0 sweep by Cory Schanes of Cherry Valley, IL. Next with 6-1 were Xuan Vo (CA), Bill Gorham (OH), Jonas Callis (VA), Steve Gossett (IN), Khuong Chau (CA), David Erlichman (CA), and Joel Watson (IN).

Sunnyvale, CA JHS easily won the Junior Varsity team title with 23½-4½. Woodrow Wilson took second with 20 and Knapp Elementary of Michigan City, IN third with 19½.

Peoria 1989

After four years elsewhere, the National JHS made a spectacular return to the Midwest. The 1989 event drew 893 players in Peoria, Illinois, surpassing its 1985 record by a whopping 258 players.

Eric Grabowski of Depew, NY was the surprise winner of the K-9 Championship with 6½-½. Following with 6 were Michael Granne (NY), Mark Berman (NY), Bill Calton (MI), and Seth Shafer (NC).

K-9 and K-8 team champs from 1988 tied for best K-9 team, as Dalton (NY) and Horace Mann (NY) each scored 20½. Madison Heights of Anderson, IN and Woodrow Wilson were 3rd and 4th with 19½, while Hunter (NY) scored 19.

Robert Seltzer (Roxbury, MA) scored a 7-0 sweep in K-8, ½ point ahead of Matthew Goldman (NY). Next with 6 were Bradd Skaggs (KY), Paul Rohwer (NE), Marc Jiminez (AZ), Marcus McKinney (AZ), Frankie Newton (NC), Eric Smith (NY), Kyle Bartow (IN), and Ward Andrews (AZ).

Woodrow Wilson of Terre Haute, long a contender in all sections, won their first outright team title, scoring 21½ to capture the K-8 Section. Wilson's previous crowns were the K-8 co-championship in 1981 and the K-9 co-championship in 1982. Another Terre Haute school, Honey Creek, placed second with 21. Masterman of Philadelphia and Fees of Tempe, AZ were 3rd and 4th with 20 and Craig Middle of Indianapolis 5th with 19½.

J.B. O'Neil of Michigan City, IN won the Junior Varsity, ahead of Pat Heivilin (IL), Jeff Magers (IL), Aaron Angel (IL), and Dan Ahoehn (WA).

Armstrong Middle School (Flint, MI) emerged on top in an unusually heated Junior Varsity team struggle, scoring 22½ to edge out Steger Central (IL, 22), Flynn Middle (IL, 22), Our Lady of Mt Carmel (IN, 22), and Krueger JHS (IN, 21½).

Salt Lake City 1990

492 players competed in the 1990 National JHS Championship, held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Top-rated Joshua Waitzkin of New York and 1989 K-8 champion Robert Seltzer of Massachusetts each scored 6½-½ to become co-champions. George Binger (MN) placed 3rd and Timothy Piwowar (NY) 4th, each with 6.

Dalton (NY) won the K-9 team title for the third straight year with 22½, followed by Metcalf (MN) with 21 and Honey Creek (IN), 20.

Roy Runas of St. Barnabas (CA) scored a 7-0 sweep in the K-8 Championship. Tied for 2nd through 7th with 6 points were Paul Rohwer (NE), Jimmy Rungthirakul (CA), Seth Goldstein (MN), Mike Gemm (IN), Harry Sinis (TN), and John Mini (CA).

Contenders for several years, Fees JHS of Tempe, AZ broke through to top K-8 teams with 20½. South Side Middle School of Anderson, IN, placed second for the third time in four years, scoring 20, while Masterman of Philadelphia finished third for the second year in a row.

Ketal Patel and Stephen Shore, both of St. Marks School (CA), were Junior Varsity co-champs with 6½-½. 3rd through 5th with 6 were Lloyd Allen (OH), Erin McKinley (AZ), and Sean Peisert of St. Mark's School.

St. Mark's dominated the Junior Varsity team event, winning by 5 points with a 24½-3½ score, easily the best team percentage ever for any section. Metcalf (MN) was second with 19½, followed by Clippert (MI), 17½.

Dearborn 1991

The luxurious Hyatt Regency Dearborn, in the Detroit suburbs, attracted 862 players, a turnout second only to Peoria 1989. A new schedule was used for the first time- the third Sunday round was eliminated and replaced by a second Friday round. This change was supported by most coaches, as many out-of-towners had to skip school both Friday and Monday under the old schedule, but now can get by missing only Friday.

Paul Rohwer (NE) scored 6½-½ to win the K-9 section, beating front-running Mike Gemm (IN) in the final round. Daniel Benjamin (PA), Gemm, Meital Levy (OK), and Matthew Goldman (NY) placed 2nd through 5th with 6.

After two years of placing third in the K-8 Team Championship, Masterman of Philadelphia placed on top of K-9, but they were joined as co-champions by newcomers Adam Clayton Powell JHS of New York city. Both teams scored 18½. Third was McClintock JHS of Charlotte, NC (18), who led for most of the tournament but suffered a disastrous ½-3½ final round. Following were Metcalf JHS of Minnesota (17½), and Brownell-Talbot (NE), St Paul Central (MN), and White JHS of Carson (CA), each 16½. Dalton's attempt at the Vaux record of seven consecutive wins was halted after three straight; they placed 9th with 16, the same score made by 8th place Griffith JHS of Los Angeles.

Tal Shaked (AZ) and James Wheat (MN) were K-8 co-champions with 6½, drawing with each other in the last round. Curtis Cooper (NM), Dean Ippolito (NJ), David Calton (MI), Gagir Balikyan (CA), David Peterson (AZ), and Jonathan Wolff (NY) followed with 6.

The K-8 team events saw a new and surprise winner, Clara Barton Open of Minnesota. Trailing by a half point with one round remaining, Barton scored 3½-½ despite being paired up on all four boards to finish with 22. Fuller Elementary (AZ), who led after 6 rounds, placed second with 22, and Hunter (NY) third with the same score. Then followed Woodrow Wilson (IN) with 19, Los Alamos (NM) 18½, defending champs Fees (AZ) and K-9 winners Adam Clayton Powell (NY) each 17½, and South Side Middle and East Side Middle, both of Indiana, with 17.

Ryan Houston (MI) won the Junior Varsity, 7-0. Alex Spivack (OH) was next with 6½. Tops on tiebreak of many 6-pointers were Mike Maddon (MN), Jay Babka (OH), and Michael Cheney (MI).

Metcalf (MN) was top JV team with 23, followed by Smart (MI) with 22½, Glen Rose (TX) 21, Cantrick (MI) 20½, Hamilton (MI) 20, and Holy Angels (IL) 20.

Tallahassee 1992

Moving to the Southeast for the first time, the 20th annual National JHS Championship drew 481 players to Florida's state capital.

Top-rated Geoffrey Gelman (VA) scored a 7-0 sweep in K-9. Next were Mark Irwin (IN), David Koenig (NJ), and Morgan Pehme (NY) with 6 and Aleksandar Stamatovich (NC), Derrick Longo (PA), Charles Gelman (VA), Charlie Durham (TN), Michael Klein (NC), Jason Early (FL), and Kevin Dudley (IN), each 5½.

Masterman School of Philadelphia, co-champs of this section in 1991, took clear first in the K-9 Team Championship with 19½, while the 3rd place finisher of the previous year, McClintock JHS of Charlotte, NC scored 19 to place second.

Also with 19 points but placing 3rd on tiebreak was Hunter (NY). Then followed Evangelical Christian (TN, 18½), defending co-champs Adam Clayton Powell (NY, 18½), 1991 K-8 champs Clara Barton Open (MN, 18), Metcalf (MN, 18), Monroe (MI, 17), HHS (IN, 16½), Harvard Westlake (CA, 16), Carmel (NC, 16), and Woodrow Wilson (IN, 15½).

Top-rated Tal Shaked (AZ), co-champion in 1991, took clear first in K-8 with 6½-½, defeating fellow Arizonian David Peterson in the decisive final game. Rigel Cappallo (MA) was next with 6; Andranik Maissian (CA), David Peterson (AZ), James Todd (AZ), Darrin Goldin (FL), Joe McDougall (NY), and Ian McManus (MN) were 3rd through 7th with 5½. Placing 9th through 17th with 5 were Jeff Sams (MN), Christopher Wyman (MN), Chris Mack (NY), Evan Graves (IN), David Dreytser (MN), Jeremy Eglen (IN), David Calton (MI), Chris Dryer (AZ), and Michael Ellenbogen (NY).

For the first time, more than two teams tied for a JHS title. Tops on tiebreak was Orange Grove (AZ), led by individual champion Shaked, their third national title. Woodrow Wilson (IN) was next, followed by Ramsey (MN), all with 18½. Next were White Plains Middle (NY, 16½), Plymouth Middle (MN, 16½), South Side Middle (IN, 16), Morgan County Middle (KY, 15), Newburg Middle (KY, 14½), Fees JHS (AZ, 13), and Lane JHS (OR, 11½).

Another 3-way tie occurred in the Junior Varsity, as Elmeriel Genuino (CA), Aaron Bruneau (MN), and Nora Kantor (OH) each scored 6½-½, tie-breaking placing them in the order named. Next with 6 were Chris Reigstad (MN), Michael Venuto (NC), Carrie Moore (VA), and Greg Whipple (MI).

Metcalf JHS (MN) topped the JV teams with 23, followed by Cantrick JHS (MI) with 22, Columbus School for Girls (OH) 19½, Masterman (PA) 18½, Stephen M White JHS (CA) 18, CIS 166 (NY) 18, PS 189 Bilingual (NY) 18, Crittenden County Middle (KY) 17½, Adam Clayton Powell JHS (NY) 17, Holy Angels (IL) 16½, and Jackson Academy (IL) 16½.

Chicago 1993

The National Junior High School Championship made a triumphant return in 1993 to Chicago, the city where it all began twenty years ago. Over 925 participants were on hand to celebrate the start of the tournament's third decade-- yet another record turnout for this event. The level of competition was particularly strong and balanced, producing a seven-way tie for First-- the largest logjam in the tournament's history. Morgan Pehme (NY), who tied for 2nd in 1992, shared the Winner's Circle with the six other Experts in the tournament: Nawrose Nur (NY), James Wheat (MN), Gregory Shabade (PA), Jacob Chudnovsky (OH), Shearwood McClelland (NJ) and Jonathan Goldfarb (CA), each finishing 6-1.

In an exciting race to the final round, New York's Dalton School just nosed out fellow NY City school Hunter, 21½ to 21 (Dalton's top 2 boards also tied for First individual honors), racking up its fourth National Junior High Team Championship. Third Place went to Woodrow Wilson (IN, 19½)-- a record *eleven* times they've finished in the Top Three! They were followed by Metcalf (MN, 19), Powell (NY, 18½), Monroe (MI, 18), Auburn (IL, 17½), Madison Heights (IN, 17), Crittenden (KY, 16½), and Taos (NM) and University of Chicago Lab (IL), both at 15.

Two Arizona players, David Peterson and James Todd, both won their last round game to share First Place honors at 6½-½, continuing the tradition started in 1991 by Tucson's Tal Shaked of bringing a title back to the Grand Canyon State. Andranik Maissian (CA), Arun Sharma (IN), Michael Bern (FL) and Stanley Hwang (NY) tied for 3rd-6th, with 6 points, while Ryan Porter (KS), Miahael Klein (NC), Josh Price (KY), Brian Wong (IL), Andrea Peterson (AZ), David Dreytser (MN) and Jacob Hack (NY) tied for 7th-13th with 5½.

The Middle School team competition was even tighter than the K-9, as *three* schools finished on top of the pack with identical scores-- the first time a 3-way finish has occurred in this event. White Plains (NY) squeaked by on tiebreaks over Plymouth (MN), continuing their rivalry from 1992, when they tied for 4th. Both schools were joined by Mesquite (AZ), each with 18½ points. Yet another tie arose ½-point back, as Murray Middle School (KY) nosed out 1992 Co-Champion Ramsey on tiebreaks; each finished with 18. Next came Masterman (PA, 17½), Morgan (KY, 17), Clara Barton (MN, 16), Lane JHS (OR, 15½), & University (IL, 15) on tiebreaks over Benjamin (IL).

The behemoth Junior-Varsity Section set the stage for two more Junior High records: Over 508(!) players took part in a section nearly double the size of the entire tournament in 1973, and two of them won all 7 of their games. Ryan Joyce (MI) and Christopher Hayes (IL) each posted perfect 7-0 scores to emerge Co-Champions in the tournament, but Joyce won the playoff to take home the First Place trophy. Miguel Camargo (IL), Trevor Smith (NY) and Jonathan Schoenfeld (NY) each finished tied for third with 6½, while no less than *thirteen(!)* players tied for 6th-18th with 6 points: Jim Lakin (FL), Andrei DeoCampo (CA), Danny Choi (CA), Samer Salami (MI), Earl Simms (KY), Jeremy Wallace (IN), Arif Mohammed (NY), Stephen Kim, AZ, Ray Ignacio (IL), James Steffen (AZ), Che Henderson (PA), Johnny Weier (IL) and Mohan Nandiall (NY).

Metcalf JHS (MN) clinched its third consecutive JV title and continued its 4-year tradition of finishing this event in the top 2 places, edging out Lowery (MI) by 22 to 21½. Woodrow Wilson (IN, 21) finished 3rd on tiebreaks over Newburg (KY, 21), as did Brownell Talbott (NE, 20½) to finish 5th over West MS (IL, 20½). Orange Grove MS (AZ) posted 20 points, coming in 7th.

A 21-YEAR SUMMARY OF WINNERS (including K-9 and K-8, but not Junior Varsity)

Individuals- Most First Places: 9 players have won the K-9 or K-8 Championships twice: Robby Adamson (AZ), Lewis Cohen (NY), Danny Edelman (NY), John Jarecki (NJ), Richard Phillips (CA), Marco Robert (NY), Robert Seltzer (MA), Tal Shaked (AZ), James Wheat (MN).

Individuals- Most Times Placing in the Top Three: Lewis Cohen (NY), David Peterson (AZ) and Marco Robert (NY) each placed in the top three 3 times. These players placed in the top three twice: Robby Adamson (AZ), Adam Colby (AZ), Danny Edelman (NY), Andy Fisher (NM), James Levine (NY), Andranik Maissian (CA), Morgan Pehme (NY), Richard Phillips (CA), Paul Rowher (NE), Robert Seltzer (MA), Tal Shaked (AZ), James Todd (AZ), and Joshua Waitzkin (NY).

Teams- Most First Places: Vaux JHS (Philadelphia, PA): 7, Dalton School (New York, NY): 4, Pulaski MS (Pulaski, VA): 4, Woodrow Wilson JHS (Terre Haute, IN): 4, Orange Grove JHS (Tucson, AZ): 3, Horace Mann School (Bronx, NY): 2, Hosterman JHS (Robbinsdale, MN): 2, Martin JHS (Crossville, TN): 2, Metcalf JHS (Burnsville, MN): 2, Masterman School (Philadelphia, PA): 2, South JHS (Great Neck, NY): 2.

Teams- Most Times Placing in the Top Three: Woodrow Wilson JHS (Terre Haute, IN): 11, Vaux JHS (Philadelphia, PA): 9, Hosterman JHS (Robbinsdale, MN): 6, Pulaski MS (Pulaski, VA): 6, Hunter School (New York, NY): 5, Dalton School (New York, NY): 4, Martin JHS (Crossville, TN): 4, Metcalf JHS (Burnsville, MN): 4, Masterman School (Philadelphia, PA): 4, South JHS (Great Neck, NY): 4, Orange Grove JHS (Tucson, AZ): 3, South Side MS (Anderson, IN): 3, Central JHS (Waltham, MA): 2, Honey Creek (Terre Haute, IN): 2, Horace Mann School (Bronx, NY): 2, Marco Foster JHS (San Juan Capistrano, CA): 2, McClintock JHS (Charlotte, NC): 2, P.S. 47 (Indianapolis, IN): 2, Shelbyville JHS (Shelbyville, IN): 2, Wilbur Wright MS (Munster, IN): 2.