

**Magnus League Kicks Off 2014-2015 Competition With October 26th Match:  
Stuyvesant and Columbia Grammar and Preparatory High Schools Victorious**

by Steve Immitt

The Magnus High School League began its second season with its October 26th Kickoff Event. Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School on Manhattan's Upper West Side once again hosted the games and League Commissioner Sophia Rohde provided a plentiful provender of coffee, bagels and donuts to help wake everyone up for the 10:00 round on Sunday morning.

The Magnus League welcomed a new school into its ranks as perennial powerhouse Stuyvesant High School joined the competition for the first time this year. The quartet of John Chen, Miguel Garcia, Daniel Yassky and Samuel Zhang sported an average rating of 1826, which definitely raised the bar of the competition this year.

The Magnus League also welcomed back two schools from last year, as New York City's Collegiate School returned with two teams this time, as did the home team of Columbia Grammar High School.

In the first round matchups, Stuyvesant outranked their opponents from the Collegiate School, Andrew Berger, Jack Farley and the brothers David and Stephen Moon, by nearly 400 points. Performing true to form, the Stuyvesant squad swept their inaugural match 4-0.

On the next board, the top four contenders from Columbia Grammar and Prep, Matthew Hertz, Jonathan Kogan, Daniel Basuk and Jeffrey Radin, were matched against the Collegiate School's "B Team" of C J Mayer, Everett Witt, Harry Cromack and Will Sheng. The home team enjoyed an average rating advantage of over 500 points, and the Lions defeated the visiting Dutchmen by a score of 3½ to ½. The lone draw of the day came on Board 4. Collegiate newcomer Will Sheng, in his very first rated tournament game, faced the rather daunting prospect of defending the extremely difficult pawnless ending of Queen vs. Queen plus Knight. This ending, while a theoretical draw with best play, poses a number of difficulties for the defender. Fortunately for him, Sheng's opponent, Jeffrey Radin, circumvented these thorny obstacles by graciously offering a draw instead, inasmuch as Columbia Grammar had already clinched the match on Boards 1-3.

The Columbia Grammar "B Team" of Robert Millman, William Shipley and Maximillion Lowe fielded just three players, and were scheduled for the "bye" in the event an opportunity for a suitable make-up match is not available.

Nineteen players attended the Kickoff Match, which resulted in six memberships for the U.S. Chess Federation as well. NTDs Steve Immitt and Sophia Rohde were in charge of the tournament directing duties. The results from October 26th have been posted at:  
<http://www.chesscenter.cc/Magnus/2014/fs-MagnusLeague-2014-2015-Oct26.htm>

The next match of the Magnus League is scheduled for **10:00 am, Sunday November 23rd** at Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, Five West 93rd Street (just West of Central Park West) in Manhattan.