

## **Magnus League Kicks Off 2015-2016 Competition With Record Turnout For October 25th Match:**

### **Dalton, Hunter and Stuyvesant High School Teams Victorious**

by Steve Immitt, Tournament Director

The Magnus High School League began its third season with its October 25th 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. Commissioner Rohde even went the extra mile to telephone (and also help wake up) some players who were absent at the 9:30 am check-in, to make sure they were coming!

The Magnus League welcomed back six schools from last school year. Perennial powerhouse Stuyvesant High School was once again the top-ranked team. The quartet of Alex Spinnell (the sole Master playing that day), John Chen, Brandon Huang and Shaina Peters sported an average rating of 1906.8, which once again raised the bar of the competition this year.

The Dalton School fielded two teams this time: Reddy Lee, Ben Goldstein, Jacob Ehrenkranz and Zachary Morris put together an average team rating of 1857.3, second only to Stuyvesant, while Swarup Dhar, Kyle Chan Shue, Atticus Lee and Ege Ozbek comprised the B-Team, whose average rating was 1539.8, making them the tournament's fourth seed.

Eszter Morvay, Nicholas Vucelic, Jane Zhang and Jonathon Zhang joined forces to give Hunter High School the third-highest-rated team of the match.

The home team of Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School was actually two teams. Jonathan Kogan, Adam Perlstein, Gabe Klass and Robert Milman united with an average rating of 1274.8 to make up the day's fifth-highest-rated team, with Cole Tambaro, Eva Van Puijenbroek and Ashley Arango holding down the 845-rated B-team for the Lions.

The Collegiate School's squad of Christopher Rovinsky, Stephen Moon, Everett Witt and Harry Cromack gave the Dutchmen the match's sixth-ranked team, coming in at 1177.5

The Browning School's contingent of Hugh Chapin, Michael Jozoff, Austin Stapleton and Alexander Young (playing in his first USCF event) fielded the match's seventh-ranked team, with an average rating of 1044.3.

In the first round matchups, the USCF rating system was once again vindicated, as all the top-ranked teams won their matches. Stuyvesant outranked their opponents from Columbia by an average of over 600 points, turning in victories on all four Boards.

The rating difference was even larger on Board Two of the team pairings, propelling the top four from the Dalton School to victory over their opponents from Collegiate.

An even bigger rating advantage of nearly 700 points, coupled with their opponents from Columbia's B-team being short one player, gave the Dalton B-team an insurmountable combination to defeat the Lions. In an unusual twist, the first team from the Dalton School outscored its own B-team, as the first Dalton team gave up a draw in the game on Board 3 between Jacob Ehrenkranz and Everett Witt, while their teammates won all four games on the lower-rated team.

Finally, the Hunter High School squad had a smaller rating advantage over the Browning School team, but it was good enough to give Hunter victories on all boards. The penultimate game of the tournament, in fact, was Eszter Morvay's compelling display of the strength of the Bishop pair, overpowering her opponent's Rook.

Thirty-one players attended this year's Kickoff Match, a record turnout for any of the Magnus League matches so far! The Magnus League's biggest fan, Owen, was also on hand to enjoy the match as well.

The results from October 25th have been posted at: <http://www.chesscenter.cc/Magnus/2015-2016/fs-MagnusLeague-2015-2016-October25.htm>

The next match of the Magnus League is scheduled for **10:00 am, Sunday November 22nd** (please arrive about 9:30 am) at **Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, 36 West 93rd Street** (backup location: across the street in the Columbia Lower School gymnasium at 5 West 93rd Street), just West of Central Park West, in Manhattan. You can register your school team for the next Magnus League match on November 22nd at [www.magnusleague.org](http://www.magnusleague.org) until 6:00 pm Saturday November 21st!