

Magnus League Begins Its Fourth Season On October 23rd:

Browning Team Wins Opening Kickoff

While Hugh Chapin, Michael Jozoff and Maxwell Pazzaglini Win Individual Games

By Steve Immitt, National Tournament Director

Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, 36 West 93rd Street, just west of Central Park West in Manhattan, hosted the first regular season match of the 2016-2017 Magnus High School Chess League on October 23rd. League Founder and Commissioner, International Arbiter Sophia Rohde once again provided a plentiful provender of refreshments to help wake everyone up for the Sunday morning round.

New York's Browning School fielded a three-man contingent with an average team rating of 1529, against the host team of Columbia Grammar, with an average team rating of 973.

The longest game of the day was on Board One, where the tournament's top seed, Maxwell Beem (1820) looked like he was under some strong pressure from Columbia's top player, Jonathan Kogan (1589). Despite being down a pawn, Kogan ratcheted up the pressure on the open center file and capitalized on his better pawn structure to build up a strong initiative, enabling him to activate his pieces and regain his lost pawn. The players were both short of time near the end, and they agreed to a draw in the Rook ending.

On Board 2, Browning's Hugh Chapin (1671) defeated Gabriel Woloz (928), who was making his first appearance in the Magnus League.

Likewise on the next board, Browning's Michael Jozoff (1076) defeated Columbia's Cole Tanbaro (910).

With no one from Browning to face on Board 4, Maxwell Pazzaglini received a forfeit win for the Columbia Lions, and essayed an extra game against Cole's brother Michael Tambaro (900), the lone player from Bronx Science. In the biggest upset of the day, Maxwell scored a whole point over the board as well.

But with their wins on Boards 2 and 3, coupled with a draw on Board One, the Browning Panthers were able to overcome their one-player deficit to defeat Columbia and win the first match of the year, 2½-1½.

Ashley Arango, the fifth player from the home team, had no opponent and was awarded the full-point bye as a result.

A special feature of this season's Magnus League is the appearance of the League's honored guest, International Grandmaster Marc Arnold: <https://ratings.fide.com/card.phtml?event=2022320>

Marc is the 2005 Greater New York Elementary Champion, the 2008 and 2010 Greater New York High School Champion, and the 2007 and 2012 U.S. Junior Champion. He tied for 3rd in the prestigious 2012 World Open. He is a home grown chess star, starting off in his pre-Kindergarten years in Sophia Rohde's chess program at Columbia Grammar. He is the school's first chess Grandmaster.

We are very pleased and honored to welcome Grandmaster Marc Arnold to the Magnus League. He will be on hand to analyze players' games and offer some inside chess guidance and advice from a wealth of experience in scholastic and open tournaments.

The complete results from Round One on October 23rd have been posted at: <http://www.chesscenter.cc/Magnus/2016-2017/fs-MagnusLeague-2016-2017-Oct23-2016.htm>

(Magnus standings and match results, along with USCF-rated results, can also be seen at the Magnus League webpage at www.magnusleague.org as well).

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next Magnus League match at **10:00 am on Sunday November 20th, at Columbia Grammar School!**

You can register your teams on our website at www.magnusleague.org (the advance registration deadline is 6:00 pm on Saturday November 19th).

Thank you and welcome (or welcome back) to everyone for our fourth Magnus League season!