

Magnus League Revs Up For The Holidays On December 4th:

Browning, Collegiate, Columbia and Stuyvesant Return For Round 3;

Marcello Berger, William Yen, Zachary Yu, Daniel Regassa, Hugh Chapin, Takayuki Ishikawa, Philip Raftopoulos, Patrick Yee

and GM Marc Arnold Win Individual Games

While Browning and Stuyvesant Now Each Have 2 Points While Hugh Chapin and Michael Tambaro Top Individual Scoreboard

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 third regular season match of the 2016-2017 Magnus High School Chess League on Sunday December 4th. League Founder and Commissioner, International Arbiter Sophia Rohde, as usual, provided a tasty provender of refreshments to help wake everyone up for the Sunday morning round.

This time it was New York's Stuyvesant High School which fielded the highest-rated team (1917.5). They were followed by Collegiate (1695.8), Browning (1368.3) and Columbia Grammar and Prep (868). The prevalent consensus was to have a closer matchup, particularly among the top two teams. After consulting with some of the players, the pairings for Round 3 were Stuyvesant – Collegiate and Browning – Columbia, which did result in a closer matchup on both boards.

Board One featured Stuyvesant as White against Collegiate. In the individual games, the top board pitted Daniel Yassky (2014) in an interesting Queenside struggle against Marcello Berger (1979), whose Queen's Indian Defense brought home the full point for Collegiate. But that would also be it for the Dutchmen, as Stuyvesant nailed done victories on the remaining boards. Zachary Yu (1875) defeated Christopher Rovinski (1700) on Board 3, while Daniel Regassa (1795)'s Knight ended up forking Stephen Moon (1345)'s Queen and Bishop on fourth Board. The final game of the day, between the two Williams on Board 2, also decided the match, with William Yen (1986) coming out on top over William Hahn (1759).

The other match of the day was the rematch from Round 1 of Browning vs. Columbia. Hugh Chapin (1662) as White on Board One essayed the Exchange Variation of the Queens Gambit against his counterpart Jonathan Kogan (1601) of the home team Lions. In a close matchup, White won a Pawn in the middlegame and showed good technique to nurse his advantage all the way through a winning King and Pawn ending. The Panthers put their extra rating points to good use on the lower boards as well. Takayuki Ishikawa (1604)'s Nimo-Indian Defense took him into a won Rook Ending over Columbia's Cole Tambaro (894), while Philip Raftopoulos (1395) played the Ruy Lopez to defeat Ashley Arango (109).

This time there a triumvirate of Lions, which produced a vacancy on Columbia's fourth board. This was filled by two more players from Browning, as Patrick Yee (812) defeated first-time tournament competitor Giordan Escalona in an extra rated game.

Michael Tambaro was the lone representative from Bronx Science, scoring his second full-point bye. Although Mike is 1-1 in previous side games, we really need some more of his colleagues from Bronx Science to join him next time!

Sunday's wins by both Browning and Stuyvesant have pushed both schools to two points.

Joining Bronx Science's Mike Tambaro atop the individual standings is Browning's Hugh Chapin, whose victories in December and October now give him two points as well.

In an interesting side note, the two highest rated players that day appropriately faced off against each other— in yet another side game! Stuyvesant’s top player, Sophie Morris-Suzuki (2125) elected to cheer her team on from the sidelines, and instead played GM Marc Arnold (2587) in an extra, extra rated game. The game was an intense battle, going right down to a Rook vs. Rook + Pawn ending, which even Marc described as a close game. In the end, however, he proved that GM indeed stands for “Grandmaster,” notching the victory in the ad hoc 30-minute game.

Grandmaster Marc Arnold did double-duty, analyzing other players’ games in addition to playing his own!

The complete results from Round Three on December 4th have been posted at:

<http://www.chesscenter.cc/Magnus/2016-2017/fs-MagnusLeague-2016-2017-Dec4-2016.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).

The Magnus League wishes all its players, coaches and their families

A Very Merry Christmas, A Happy Holiday Season and A Wonderful New Year!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next Magnus League match at **10:00 am on Sunday January 29th, 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 January 28, 2017).

We will try to get rated games for players from schools who do not have a full team!

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