

CHES CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS  
PRESENTS THE 2009 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP



*Saint Louis, Missouri | May 7-17, 2009*

### **History of U.S. Championship**

No series of tournaments or matches enjoys the same rich, turbulent history as that of the United States Chess Championship. It is in many ways unique – and, up to recently, unappreciated.

In Europe and elsewhere, the idea of choosing a national champion came slowly. The first Russian championship tournament, for example, was held in 1889. The Germans did not get around to naming a champion until 1879. The first official Hungarian championship occurred in 1906, and the first Dutch, three years later.

But American chess fans knew as early as 1845 who their champion was: the little-known Charles Stanley – and many non-players knew it, too, because the title match of that year was well publicized. Twelve years later the industrious American organizers mounted their first tournament for a national champion. And that event, New York 1857, won by the

“pride and soul of chess,” Paul Morphy, was only the fourth true chess tournament ever held in the world.

In its first century and a half plus, the United States Championship has provided all kinds of entertainment. It has introduced new heroes exactly one hundred years apart in Paul Morphy (1857) and Bobby Fischer (1957) and honored remarkable veterans such as Sammy Reshevsky in his late 60s. There have been stunning upsets (Arnold Denker in 1944 and John Grefe in 1973) and marvelous achievements (Fischer’s winning debut as a precocious 14-year-old in 1957, and his remarkable perfect score of 11-0 in 1964, to his record-breaking eight title wins).

The championship has seen scandals and swindles, boycotts and brilliancies, bitter controversy and theoretical innovations. The games have been won and lost by geniuses and drunkards, prodigies and émigrés, college dons and coffeehouse hustlers.

It has also been a truly national championship. For many years the title tournament was identified with New York. But it has also been held in towns as small as South Fallsburg, New York, Mentor, Ohio, and Greenville, Pennsylvania.

Fans have witnessed championship play in Boston, and Las Vegas, Baltimore and Los Angeles, Lexington, Kentucky, and El Paso, Texas. The title has been decided in sites as varied as the Sazerac Coffee House in 1845 to the Cincinnati Literary Club, the Automobile Club of Detroit. The U.S. Championship has been held in the auditorium of a fundamentalist Christian college in Pasadena and, in 1984 the Student Union Building of the University of California at Berkeley, as well as the Seattle Center in the shadows of the Space Needle. The most recent titles have been decided in Oklahoma in the 2007 and 2008 Championships.

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**U.S. Championship Facts**

*With a heritage line that includes great legends of the game, no series of tournaments or matches enjoys the same rich history as that of the U.S. Chess Championships.*

- The first player to be termed, by popular acclaim, “U.S. Champion”, was **Charles Stanley** in 1845.
- The first championship to find a true national champion was New York 1857, won by **Paul Morphy**. It was only the fourth chess championship ever held.
- The first “official” U.S. Champion was **Jackson Showalter** (who is also credited with the invention of the curve ball in baseball) in 1890.

- **From 1905 through to 1936**, the title was decided by a match between the top two players in the country; Frank Marshall holding the title throughout.
- The longest gap between title wins is 33 years when **Sammy Revshevsky** won his first title in 1936 and his last, in 1969.
- The first U.S. Women’s Championship was held in 1938, and won by **Gisela Gresser**.
- The youngest winner of the title at 14 in 1957 was **Bobby Fischer**. He also holds the record for the most titles won with 8.
- The player with the best score is **Bobby Fischer**, who in 1964 recorded a perfect 11-0.

*In 2004, the U.S. Championship had a big media presence, with recorded figures showing we had:*

- **More than 50 million impressions** from media clips – double that of 2002.
- **More than 445 stories** came out in national print/online – 50 percent more than we had in 2002.
- **More than 25 local/national broadcast stories** of the games was tracked; this is up from the previous year’s 14 broadcast clips.
- **45 out of 50 states** ran at least one story about the U.S. Championships
- **35 million** website hits
- **110,500** unique visitors tracked



## U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONS

### CHAMPIONS BY

#### ACCLAMATION FROM PAST YEARS

- 1845-1857 Charles Stanley, defeated Eugène Rousseau in a match in 1845
- 1857-1871 Paul Morphy, won the first American Chess Congress in 1857
- 1871-1889 George Henry Mackenzie, won the 2nd, 3rd and 5th American Chess Congress

#### MATCH CHAMPIONS 1889-1935

- 1889 - 1890 S.Lipschütz
- 1890 - 1890 Jackson Showalter
- 1890 - 1892 Max Judd
- 1892 - 1892 Jackson Showalter
- 1892 - 1893 S. Lipschütz
- 1893 - 1894 Jackson Showalter
- 1894 - 1895 Albert Hodges
- 1895 - 1896 Jackson Showalter
- 1897 - 1906 Harry Nelson Pillsbury
- 1906 - 1909 Jackson Showalter
- 1909 - 1935 Frank Marshall

#### TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS AFTER 1936

- 1936 Samuel Reshevsky
- 1938 Samuel Reshevsky
- 1940 Samuel Reshevsky
- 1942 Samuel Reshevsky
- 1944 Arnold Denker
- 1946 Samuel Reshevsky
- 1948 Herman Steiner
- 1951 Larry Evans
- 1954 Arthur Bisguier
- 1957/8 Bobby Fischer
- 1958/9 Bobby Fischer
- 1959 Bobby Fischer
- 1960/1 Bobby Fischer
- 1962/3 Bobby Fischer
- 1963/4 Bobby Fischer
- 1965/6 Bobby Fischer
- 1966/7 Bobby Fischer
- 1968 Larry Evans
- 1969 Samuel Reshevsky
- 1972 Robert Byrne
- 1973 Lubomir Kavalek and John Grefe
- 1974 Walter Browne
- 1975 Walter Browne
- 1977 Walter Browne
- 1978 Lubomir Kavalek
- 1980 Walter Browne, Larry Christiansen, Larry Evans

#### TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS AFTER 1983

- 1983 Walter Browne, Larry Christiansen, Roman Dzindzichashvili
- 1984 Lev Alburt
- 1985 Lev Alburt
- 1986 Yasser Seirawan
- 1987 Joel Benjamin and Nick de Firmian
- 1988 Michael Wilder
- 1989 Roman Dzindzichashvili, Stuart Rachels, Yasser Seirawan
- 1990 Lev Alburt
- 1991 Gata Kamsky
- 1992 Patrick Wolff
- 1993 Alexander Shabalov and Alex Yermolinsky
- 1994 Boris Gulko
- 1995 Nick de Firmian, Patrick Wolff, Alexander Ivanov
- 1996 Alex Yermolinsky
- 1997 Joel Benjamin
- 1998 Nick de Firmian
- 1999 Boris Gulko
- 2000 Joel Benjamin, Alexander Shabalov, Yasser Seirawan
- 2002 Larry Christiansen
- 2003 Alexander Shabalov
- 2005 Hikaru Nakamura
- 2006 Alexander Onischuk
- 2007 Alexander Shabalov
- 2008 Yury Shulman

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**NATION'S BEST PLAYERS TO COMPETE IN MAY AT 2009 U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IN ST. LOUIS**

*Two dozen contestants will vie for \$130,000 in prizes at new venue*

ST. LOUIS, January 27, 2009 – Two dozen of the nation's best chess players will be invited to participate in the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship, which will be held at the new Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. The tournament, which dates back to 1845, will take place from May 7 through 17, 2009 and will offer a purse of more than \$130,000 in prize money.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, which Steve Goldberg of United States Chess Federation (USCF) Online calls "certainly one of the most impressive chess centers" in the country, opened in July 2008. Founded by retired investment fund manager Rex Sinquefield, it already has nearly 500 members, surpassing its original goal of 300 for its first year of operation by 67 percent.

The 24 invited players will include:

- the top 12 American players by rating, using the April rating supplement;
- the top two female players by rating, using the April rating supplement;
- the 2008 U.S. Junior Closed Champion;
- the 2008 U.S. Open Champion;
- the 2009 U.S. State Champion of Champions;
- a total of seven wild card spots, to be determined later.

The winner will receive \$35,000, with additional cash prizes awarded to all participants, including \$2,000 to the last-place entrant. Cash prizes will be divided equally among tied competitors. Additionally, top youths from throughout America will be invited to compete. Spectators will be welcome at the event.

The championship will be a 9-round event, using the Swiss system with one round per day and a rest day between rounds 5 and 6. Time controls will be the classical 40 moves in two hours, with one hour allowed for all remaining moves. Guest commentary will be provided by two world-class Grand Masters throughout the event.

"We are delighted to host the prestigious U.S. Chess Championship in our first full year of operation," said Tony Rich, executive director of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. *(continued)*

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*(continued)*

**NATION'S BEST PLAYERS TO COMPETE IN MAY AT 2009 U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IN ST. LOUIS**

*Two dozen contestants will vie for \$130,000 in prizes at new venue*

"It is exciting and gratifying for us to bring together the nation's best players at our first-class facility."

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization. The club, which has welcomed nearly 500 members since its July 2008 opening, offers free classes for beginners, discounted tournament entry fees and discounted merchandise for club members. For more information, please visit [www.saintlouischessclub.org](http://www.saintlouischessclub.org) or call 314-361-CHESS.

The United States Chess Federation is the official, not-for-profit U.S. membership organization for chess players and chess supporters of all ages and strengths, from beginners to grand masters. Founded in 1939 with the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation, USCF has grown to more than 80,000 members and nearly 1,200 affiliated chess clubs and organizations. USCF sanctions 25 national championships award titles to both amateurs and professionals, ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens. For more information, visit [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org).

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**Gata Kamsky**

**Overall ranking: 1**

**Rating points: 2798**



*Age: 34*

*Birthplace: Russia*

*Residence: Brooklyn, NY*

*Highlights: 2007 World Cup, 1991 U.S. Championship*

*Bio: Gata Kamsky came to the U.S. in 1989 and became a Grandmaster in 1990 at 16. He played Karpov for the World Championship in 1996. Although he lost the match, he was the first American since Bobby Fischer to go that far. After losing, he gave up chess, attended and graduated from law school. After a break of nearly a decade, Kamsky returned to chess, to win the 2007 World Chess Cup just three years after his comeback. Kamsky lost his February 09 match against Veselin Topalov and with it, the chance to advance to the this cycle's World Championship, but he is as determined as ever. Kamsky participates in one elite event after another in Europe, making him the #1 GM to watch in Saint Louis.*

**Hikaru Nakamura**

**Overall ranking: 2**

**Rating points: 2757**



*Age: 21*

*Birthplace: Japan*

*Residence: White Plains, NY*

*Highlights: 2005 U.S. Championship, 2007 North American Open Champion, 2007 National Open Champion*

*Bio: Hikaru Nakamura is a record-breaking, blitz champion, medal-earning phenomenon. He became the youngest master in American history at the age of 10, then broke Bobby Fischer's record by becoming the youngest American Grandmaster at 15. In 2004, he advanced into the sweet 16 at the World Championship in Libya. He also won his first U.S. Championship at the age of 16. He's racked up numerous championships over the past decade, and despite his aggressive, individualistic style, Nakamura has proven to be a great team player: He was a two-time bronze medallist in the 2006 and 2008 Olympiad, playing for the USA team.*

**Alexander Onischuk**

**Overall ranking: 3**

**Rating points: 2736**



*Age: 33*

*Birthplace: Ukraine*

*Residence: Baltimore, MD*

*Highlights: 2006 U.S. Championship, second in the 2007 Grandmaster Tournament of International Chess Festival Biel*

*Bio: Alexander Onischuk has placed first in more than 20 tournaments, including the 2000 Ukrainian Championship. He became a Grandmaster in 1994 at the age of 19 and relocated to the U.S. in 2001. When he won the 2006 U.S. Championship, he called it the happiest moment of his career to have his name on a trophy alongside players such as Fischer and Morphy. Onischuk was key to America's bronze medal finishes in 2006 and 2008 Olympiads. He has an impressive international record: he placed second in the International Chess Festival in Biel and also won the super strong Moscow Open in January 2009. Onischuk is a member of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis' board of Grandmaster Advisers.*

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**Yury Shulman**

**Overall ranking: 4**

**Rating points: 2697**



*Age: 33*

*Birthplace: Belarus*

*Residence: Barrington, IL*

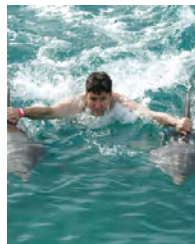
*Highlights:* 2008 U.S. Championship, 2006 U.S. Open Championship, tied for first in the 2001 World Open

*Bio:* Yury Shulman achieved the Grandmaster title in 1995 and moved to the U.S. four years later to become one of the top American players. Shulman also uses chess for philanthropic causes. He founded the Yury Shulman International Chess School and consistently contributes to not-for-profit entities, schools and camps. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and an MBA. Last year proved to be a great year for Shulman: In addition to winning his first U.S. Championship title, he was also part of the bronze medal Olympiad team in Dresden, Germany.

**Larry Christiansen**

**Overall ranking: 6**

**Rating points: 2681**



*Age: 52*

*Birthplace: Riverside, CA*

*Residence: Cambridge, CA*

*Highlights:* 2002 U.S. Championship, 1983 U.S. Championship, 1980 U.S. Championship, 2001 Canadian Open Chess Championship

*Bio:* Larry Christiansen was the first junior high school student to win the National High School Championship, taking the title in 1971. He went on to win three invitational U.S. Junior Championships and three U.S. Championships. He became a Grandmaster in 1977 at the age of 21, skipping over the usual step of becoming an International Master. Christiansen has won the prestigious Linares tournament twice. He has a thrilling chess style that is always fun for spectators. He even wrote two books on attacking: "Storming the Barricades" and "Rocking the Ramparts."

**Julio Becerra**

**Overall ranking: 7**

**Rating points: 2672**



*Age: 35*

*Birthplace: Cuba*

*Residence: Miami, FL*

*Highlights:* 2006 Florida Champion, 2006 U.S. Chess League MVP, 1995 and 1998 Cuban Champion

*Bio:* Julio Becerra earned his Grandmaster title in 1997 and decided to relocate to the U.S. two years later after attending the 1999 World Championship in Las Vegas. Until 2005, however, he was unable to travel internationally to play chess because he had no American passport. He since has become a U.S. citizen and has steadily increased his rating. Becerra is first board for the Miami Sharks of the U.S. Chess League and was league MVP for two years in a row.

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**Varuzhan Akobian**

**Overall ranking: 8**

**Rating points: 2664**



*Age: 25*

*Birthplace: Armenia*

*Residence: North Hollywood, CA*

*Highlights:* 2004 World Open, tied for first place in the 2002 World Open

*Bio:* Varuzhan Akobian qualified to play his first rated tournament, the Armenian Junior Chess Championship in 1992, earning 3rd place in the under 10 section, then went on to take 1st place the following year. He participated in his first World Chess Championship in Czechoslovakia at the age of 9 and placed 8th. He won the Samford Chess Fellowship in 2002, which allowed him to focus on chess for two years. It paid off: Akobian reached his first long-time goal of becoming a Grandmaster in 2004. Akobian is known for being a great team player: He was a member of the bronze medal Olympiad teams in 2006 and 2008. He was also featured on MTV's "True Life" series. Akobian is the highest-ranked Californian player.

**Gregory Kaidanov**

**Overall ranking: 9**

**Rating points: 2662**



*Age: 49*

*Birthplace: Ukraine*

*Residence: Lexington, KY*

*Highlights:* 2002 U.S. Masters winner, 2002 Chicago Open Winner, 1992 World Open Winner, 1992 U.S. Open Winner

*Bio:* Gregory Kaidanov's first major win came in a Moscow tournament in 1987, and he was awarded the Grandmaster title a year later. Kaidanov moved to the U.S. in 1991. He's racked up a number of tournament championships. Kaidanov was a member of the silver Olympiad team in Russia in 1998, won a silver board medal at the Calvia, Spain Olympiad in 2004 and was a member of the bronze medal Olympiad team in 2006. Kaidanov is one of America's premiere chess coaches. In 2008, he coached the U.S. team to a bronze medal finish at the Women's Olympiad.

**Joel Benjamin**

**Overall ranking: 10**

**Rating points: 2650**



*Age: 45*

*Birthplace: New York*

*Residence: New Jersey*

*Highlights:* 2000 U.S. Championship, 1997 U.S. Championship, 1987 U.S. Championship

*Bio:* Joel Benjamin became a national master at the age of 13, breaking Bobby Fischer's record for youngest-ever master. A three-time U.S. Junior Champion, he became a Grandmaster in 1986. Benjamin also goes into the U.S. Championship history books for playing in a record 22 consecutive championships. His most-famous gig was helping the Deep Blue IBM Computer team defeat Garry Kasparov in 1997, a win that was later featured in the documentary "Game Over."

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**Jaan Ehvest**

**Overall ranking: 11**

**Rating points: 2649**



*Age: 46*

*Birthplace: Estonia*

*Residence: Baltimore, MD*

*Highlights:* 2008 Pan American-Continental Championship, qualifying for the 2009 FIDE World Cup, tied for first in the "A2" section of the Aeroflot Open, 2003 World Open

*Bio:* Jaan Ehvest rose to chess fame quickly in the early 1980s, placing second in the 1981 World Junior Championship and first in the 1983 European Junior Championship. He became a Grandmaster in 1987 and two years later finished clear first in the 1989 Reggio Emilia. Ehvest won the Grand Prix title in 2006, the same year he switched federations from Estonia to America, making him eligible for the U.S. Championship for the first time.

**Boris Gulko**

**Overall ranking: 12**

**Rating points: 2631**



*Age: 62*

*Birthplace: Germany*

*Residence: Fairlawn, NJ*

*Highlights:* 1999 U.S. Championship, 1994 U.S. Championship

*Bio:* Boris Gulko earned his Grandmaster title in 1976 and won the USSR Chess Championship a year later. His chess career took a backseat to his opposition to Communism. As a "refusenik," he was arrested, beaten and forbidden to participate in top-level chess competitions. Gulko was allowed to come to the U.S. in 1986. He qualified to play in the 2004 World Chess Championship in Libya but withdrew along with other Jewish players.

**Ildar Ibragimov**

**Overall ranking: 13(t)**

**Rating points: 2628**



*Age: 41*

*Birthplace: Russia*

*Residence: New Haven, CT*

*Highlights:* 2005 World Open, 2004 U.S. Open, 2004 Continental Open

*Bio:* Ildar Ibragimov tied for first in the USSR Young Masters in 1991. Since moving to the U.S. in 2002, he's made a name for himself in the American Open and is known for an aggressive style that keeps opponents guessing. He lost a memorable final round to Nakamura in the 2005 U.S. Championship. In, 2006 Ibragimov narrowly lost out on the chance to play the final match.

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**Melikset Khachiyani**  
**Overall ranking: 13(t)**  
**Rating points: 2628**



*Age: 38*  
*Birthplace: Russia*  
*Residence: Glendale, CA*

*Highlights: Frank K. Berry 2007 U.S. Championship, tied for first in the 2006 American Open*

*Bio: Melikset Khachiyani began playing chess at the age of 8, won the Baku Junior Championship two years later and became a Soviet Candidate Master two years after that. He began coaching early in his career and has brought up three Junior World Champions. In 2001, he immigrated to the U.S., where he participated in the National Open in Las Vegas. He earned his Grandmaster title in 2006.*

**Alexander Shabalov**  
**Overall ranking: 15**  
**Rating points: 2625**



*Age: 42*  
*Birthplace: Latvia*  
*Residence: Pittsburgh, PA*

*Highlights: 2007 U.S. Championship, 2003 U.S. Championship, tied for first 2003 World Open, first in Chicago and North American Opens, 2003*

*Bio: Alexander Shabalov realized chess would be his profession after winning the Latvian junior championship at the age of 11. He went on to win the Under-16 Championship of the Soviet Union in 1982. The three-time U.S. Champion is known for no-holds barred chess and thriving on wild moves.*

**Josh Friedel**  
**Overall ranking: 29(t)**  
**Rating points: 2568**



*Age: 22*  
*Birthplace: New Hampshire*  
*Residence: New York*

*Highlights: 2007 Samford Scholarship winner, 2006 2nd All Star Team: Board 1*

*Bio: Josh Friedel just recently earned his Grandmaster title after the 2008 U.S. Championship. He learned chess at the early age of 3 and began tournament play at age 6. In 1995, he scored his first tournament victory, winning the New Hampshire State Amateur Championship at age 8. His first major tournament victory was in 2001 when he won the Pan Am Open. In 2007, Friedel earned the prestigious Samford Scholarship, allowing him to focus on chess full-time for two years.*

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**Robert Hess**

**Overall ranking: 37**

**Rating points: 2545**



*Age: 17*

*Birthplace: New York*

*Residence: New York*

*Highlights:* Tied for first 2008 Foxwoods Open, 2006 U.S. Junior Championship, 2002 Pan-American Youth Championship in Argentina, won 2009 National High School Championship in Nashville with a perfect score

*Bio:* Robert Hess was awarded the International Master title in 2007 and achieved his first two Grandmaster norms in 2008 at the Foxwood Open and 2009 at the SPICE Spring Invitational in Texas. Hess has earned his third GM norm and is now a Grandmaster elect. He's a junior at Stuyvesant High School in New York, where he also plays football.

**Enrico Sevillano**

**Overall ranking: 40(t)**

**Rating points: 2542**



*Birth year: 1968*

*Birthplace: Cebu City, Philippines*

*Residence: Tehachapi, CA*

*Highlights:* Tied for first in the 2008 U.S. Open

*Bio:* Enrico Sevillano won the Asian junior crown in 1986 and took part in the 1992 Manila Olympiad before immigrating to the U.S. He was the first Filipino ever to qualify for the U.S. Championship and has the best track record among Filipino players in America. He's won a number of California championships and tournaments.

**Ray Robson**

**Overall ranking: 40(t)**

**Rating points: 2542**



*Age: 14*

*Birthplace: Guam*

*Residence: Largo, FL*

*Highlights:* National Champion, elementary division, 2005 Super Nationals, tied for first in 2005 and 2006 Pan American Youth Championships

*Bio:* Ray Robson learned chess at age 3 and has earned seven national scholastic titles since. For winning the Super Nationals, he will receive a full scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas. Robson finished in the top 10 at the World Youth Championship from 2004 to 2007. He defeated his first Grandmaster in 2006, the same year he earned the USCF National Master title. He's the youngest IM in the U.S. and is widely considered as America's brightest hope to become an elite GM since Hikaru Nakamura. Robson studies with No. 3 seed in the tournament, Alexander Onischuk.

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**Anna Zatonskih**

**Overall ranking: 51(t)**

**Rating points: 2503**



*Age: 30*

*Birthplace: Ukraine*

*Residence: Long Island*

*Highlights: 2008 U.S. Women's Championship, 2006 U.S. Women's Championship*

*Bio: Anna Zatonskih is a three-time Ukrainian women's champion and two-time U.S. Women's Champion. Anna moved to the U.S. in 2002. She was a member of the 2004 silver medalist team in Calvia, Spain, and second board on the 2008 bronze medalist team in Dresden, Germany. She took a gold medal for second board performance at the 2008 Dresden Olympiad and is the reigning U.S. Women's Champion.*

**Irina Krush**

**Overall ranking: 55(t)**

**Rating points: 2496**



*Age: 25*

*Birthplace: Ukraine*

*Residence: Brooklyn, NY*

*Highlights: 2007 U.S. Women's Chess Champion, 1998 U.S. Women's Chess Champion, 1998 Pan-American Youth Champion*

*Bio: Irina Krush became the youngest-ever to win the U.S. Women's Championship in 1998 with the astounding score of 8.5/9. Three years later, she won the Mayor's Cup, an international round robin held in New York, despite being the lowest-rated player invited to participate. She's been a valuable team member at Olympiads and was part of the silver medal team in 2004 and the bronze medal team in 2008. Krush also won the 2007 U.S. Championship and lost the 2008 title in a controversial playoff against Anna Zatonskih.*

**Michael Brooks**

**Overall ranking: 91(t)**

**Rating points: 2423**



*Birth year: 1961*

*Residence: Kansas City, MO*

*Highlights: 1994 North American Open*

*Bio: Michael Brooks has been an International Master since 1989 and has been the Missouri state champion six times, losing only five times since in tie-breaks. In 1982, Brooks tied for first place in the Midwest Masters Tournament in Chicago and tied for second in the event in 1989. In 1994, Brooks won the North American Open in Las Vegas.*

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**Sam Shankland**

**Rating points: 2477**



*Age: 17*

*Birthplace: Berkeley*

*Residence: California*

*Highlights:* 2008 World Under 18 co-champion, 2009 Champion of State Champions

*Bio:* Sam Shankland, a self-proclaimed “typical teenager,” racked up more than 200 points in just over a year, picking up his IM title along the way. He claimed the last spot in the U.S. Championship after winning the final match of the State Champion of Champions. The match went all the way down to the wire, with he and opponent Mackenzie Molner splitting the rapid and blitz matches. Although he’s one of the lower-rated players in the tournament, it’s anyone’s guess how far he’ll go.

**Charles Lawton**

**Rating points: 2358**



*Birth year: 1953*

*Residence: St. Louis*

*Highlights:* Information unavailable

*Bio:* National Master Charles Lawton has been a steady fixture in Missouri chess, known for an aggressive style and playing offbeat lines. He’s a two-time Missouri Open Champion.

**Tyler Hughes**

**Rating points: 2272**



*Age: 17*

*Birthplace: Colorado*

*Residence: Colorado*

*Highlights:* 2008 U.S. Junior Championship, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 Colorado High School Champion, 2004 U.S. Expert Champion.

*Bio:* Tyler Hughes won the 2008 U.S. Junior Chess Championship and represented the U.S. at the World Junior Chess Championship in Turkey. Hughes, who is home-schooled, studies under coach GM Petr Kiriakov. He learned chess at 5 and became more interested after reading his first chess book and realizing study would improve his game.

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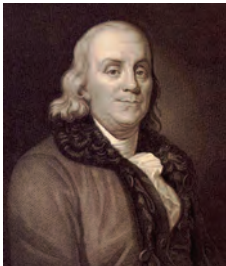
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**Famous People Who Played  
Chess**

*Chess isn't just for scholars...  
some very famous people  
loved chess, too!*

**Leaders & Politicians:**

John Adams  
James Monroe  
Thomas Jefferson



Ben Franklin  
General Robert E. Lee  
Abraham Lincoln  
Grover Cleveland  
Theodore Roosevelt  
Queen Victoria  
William H. Taft  
Woodrow Wilson  
Bill Clinton  
Henry Kissinger  
Spiro Agnew  
Fidel Castro

Anatole Lenin  
Winston Churchill



**Show Business:**

Humphrey Bogart  
Charlie Chaplin



John Wayne  
Marlon Brando  
Katherine Hepburn  
Marilyn Monroe  
Madonna  
Woody Allen  
Henry Fonda  
John Lennon & Yoko Ono  
Willie Nelson

Frank Sinatra  
Bill Cosby  
Ben Affleck  
Bono [U2]  
Bob Dylan  
Barbra Streisand  
Bjorn Ulvaeus  
[ABBA]  
Sting  
Lauren Bacall  
Dave Barry  
Will Smith



**Others:**

Albert Einstein  
Billy Graham  
Napoleon Bonaparte

**Sports:**

Larry Bird  
Dominic Hasek  
Lennox Lewis  
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar  
Evander Holyfield  
Anna Kournikova  
Barry Sanders



CHES CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS  
PRESENTS THE 2009 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP



*Saint Louis, Missouri | May 7-17, 2009*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 2, 2009** – *Saint Louis*

*Science Center Event* - Public

11:00am – 2:00pm – WGM, Jennifer Shahade, Simuls with local Chess Players

**Sunday, May 3, 2009** – *Arts In Transit Event*

*at Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis* - Invitation Only

12:00pm – 4:00pm – Outreach to Community to Paint Bus (STLPS)

**Monday, May 4, 2009** – *Tournament and*

*Panel Discussion Set Up Day*

9:00am – 5:00pm – Set Ups

**Tuesday, May 5, 2009** – *Panel Discussion*

*at Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis* – Invite & Public

6:00pm – 7:00pm – VIP Reception

– Invitation Only

7:00pm – 7:45pm – *Panel Discussion on*

*Marcel Duchamp, Art and Chess*

The evening will include a signing of Marcel Duchamp: *The Art of Chess* by Francis M. Naumann, Bradley Bailey with annotations by Jennifer Shahade.

7:45pm – 8:30pm - *Book Signing and Reception*

**Wednesday, May 6, 2009** – *Saint Louis*

*University Museum of Art Event at Saint Louis University* – Invite & Public

Opening of Marcel Duchamp: *Chess Master* at Saint Louis University Museum of Art

5:00pm – Preview for VIPs – Invitation Only

6:00pm – 8:00pm – *Grand Opening* - Public

**Thursday, May 7, 2009** – *U.S. Championship*

*Opening Event at Saint Louis University Museum of Art*

– Invitation Only

Drawing of the Colors

First Round Pairings

7:00pm – Opening Remarks and Program

Heavy Hors de oeuvres and Cocktails

**2009 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP**

*at Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis* - Opening Day of the Tournament

**Friday, May 8, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 1

**Saturday, May 9, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 2

**Sunday, May 10, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 3

**Monday, May 11, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 4

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 5

**Wednesday, May 13, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 6

**Thursday, May 14, 2009** - Public

2:00pm – 8:00pm – Round 7

**Saturday, May 16, 2009** - *United States*

*Chess Federation Board Meeting at Chase Park Plaza Hotel, Boardroom* - Public

9:00am – 5:00pm

11:00am – 5:00pm – Round 8

**Sunday, May 17, 2009** - *United States*

*Chess Federation Board Meeting at Chase Park Plaza Hotel, Boardroom* - Public

9:00am – 5:00pm

10:00am – 4:00pm – Round 9 (Final)

5:00pm – 7:00pm – Possible Tie Breaker

7:00pm – 9:00pm – Closing Ceremony and

Reception at Chase Park Plaza Hotel

Zodiac Room

**Monday, May 18, 2009** – *GM Advisory*

*Board Meeting* - Private

– Time and Location TBD

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**Our Beginnings**

The building selected for the club was built in 1897 by A. M. Einke. The renovation took seven months to complete.



Visitors and members alike appreciate the sophisticated environment as well as the technology.

The Chess Club And Scholastic Center of Saint Louis was founded in 2007 as a not-for-profit organization to promote the game of chess, with emphasis on promotion of scholastic chess across the greater Saint Louis area. Impetus for creation of the club came largely from Rex Siquefield, a retired investment fund manager with strong interests in both chess and helping people.

Mr. Siquefield's donations have gotten the club off to a promising start.

Club goals include providing ample opportunities for existing players to play as well as introducing newcomers, including students, to the game.

**Our Mission**

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is the most beautiful and technologically advanced chess club in the nation. It is a new destination for chess players, both beginning and advanced, to enjoy a game of skill more than 1500 years old.



**Our Goals**

Elevate the game of chess throughout the Saint Louis community and introduce chess to thousands of Saint Louis' children and adults.



Recognizing the cognitive and behavioral benefits of chess, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is committed to supporting those chess programs that already exist in area schools, while encouraging the development of new programs within regular school curricula.

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## Technology at the Center

### The Boards

The Center features eight DGT-brand chessboards.



These state-of-the-art chessboards connect to a computer and automatically relay the moves, position, and time of the game to a computer, which then is able to display the game on one of the plasma TVs. There is one Saitek digital clock for every chessboard.

### The TVs

The Center has nine 46" plasma TVs and one 52" plasma TV.



The nine 46" screens are used for the DGT-brand chessboards and the 52" screen is located in the lecture area, so lecturers can display their presentation in front of the whole class. There are an additional eight plasma TV screens displaying three permanent art installations.

### The Website

The Center's website, [www.saintlouischessclub.org](http://www.saintlouischessclub.org), includes:



the ability to manage your membership, register and pay for tournaments and events; a retail sales storefront; and training materials for chess students;

### The Amenities

The Center offers free wireless Internet access for members.



Tech specs: a state-of-the-art security system that gives members card access control to the building, an overhead zonal paging system so announcements can be made during tournaments to specific areas of the building, including the front patio, and an automated system that controls the lighting, televisions and sound system for the entire facility.

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**FISCHER MEMORIAL PRIZE, JACKPOT BONUS ADDED TO PRIZES FOR 2009 U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP  
BEING HELD IN ST. LOUIS**

ST. LOUIS, February 18, 2009 – A \$64,000 bonus in memory of late chess champion Bobby Fischer and a jackpot bonus for a “clear” first-place winner have been added to the prizes being awarded at the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship. The tournament, which will be held May 7-17, 2009 at the new Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, will offer a purse of more than \$130,000 in prize money.

Any player who scores a 9-0 sweep will be awarded the Fischer Memorial Prize, a \$64,000 bonus in addition to the first-place award. The prize is in remembrance of the late American world champion Bobby Fischer, who died in 2008 at age 64. Fischer scored an 11-0 victory in the 1963-64 U.S. championship, the only perfect score in the event’s history.

Additionally, a jackpot bonus of \$5,000 will be awarded to the first-place winner. If there is a tie for first, the jackpot will be awarded in a playoff for the title of U.S. champion, to be contested on May 17, after the final round and before the closing ceremony. Up to four players will contest a series of one-game rapid matches designed to guarantee a decisive result (“draw odds games”).

Two dozen of the nation’s best players will be invited to participate in the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship. The 24 players include:

- the top 12 American players by rating, using the April rating supplement;
- the top two female players by rating, using the April rating supplement;
- the 2008 U.S. Junior Closed Champion;
- the 2008 U.S. Open Champion;
- the 2009 U.S. State Champion of Champions;
- the 2008 defending U.S. Chess Champion;
- a total of six wild card spots, to be determined later.

The winner will receive \$35,000, with additional cash prizes awarded to all participants, including \$2,000 to the last-place entrant. Cash prizes will be divided equally among tied competitors. Additionally, top youths from throughout America will be invited to compete. Spectators will be welcome at the event. *continued*

CHES CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS  
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**FISCHER MEMORIAL PRIZE, *continued***

The championship will be a 9-round event, using the Swiss system with one round per day and a rest day on Friday, May 15 between rounds 7 and 8. Time controls will be the classical 40 moves in two hours, with one hour allowed for all remaining moves. There also will be a five-second “increment” added to each player’s clock after every move. Guest commentary will be provided by two world-class Grandmasters throughout the event.

“We are excited to be able to provide these extra bonuses to the top-tier contestants who will be participating at the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship,” said Tony Rich, executive director of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. “It is fitting to honor the fiercely competitive late chess legend Bobby Fischer in such an environment.”

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization that opened in July 2008. Founded by retired investment fund manager Rex Sinquefield, it already has nearly 500 members, surpassing its original goal of 300 for its first year of operation by 67 percent. The club, which Steve Goldberg of United States Chess Federation (USCF) Online calls “certainly one of the most impressive chess centers” in the country, offers free classes for beginners, discounted tournament entry fees and discounted merchandise for club members. For more information, please visit [www.saintlouischessclub.org](http://www.saintlouischessclub.org) or call 314-361-CHESS.

In 1939 with the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation, USCF has grown to more than 80,000 members and nearly 1,200 affiliated chess clubs and organizations. USCF sanctions 25 national championship award titles to both amateurs and professionals, ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens. For more information, visit [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org).

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**2009 U.S. WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD OCTOBER 2-12  
AT CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS**

ST. LOUIS, March 28, 2009 -- The 2009 U.S. Women's Chess Championship will be held from October 2 through 12 at the sparkling, new Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, which opened in July 2008. The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis also is the site of the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship, which will take place from May 7 through 17.

The U.S. Women's Chess Championship dates back to 1937. The tournament is a 9-round event using the Round Robin pairing system, in which every player plays every other player and the highest score wins. Time controls will be the classical 40 moves in two hours, with the remaining moves in one hour. There will also be a 5-second increment per move.

Invitations will be sent to the top nine U.S. women players by ranking based on the August 2009 United States Chess Federation rating list. An invitation will also be sent to the defending champion, Olympic gold medalist Anna Zatonskih. The championship will have a purse of \$64,000, with \$15,000 awarded to the winner, the highest first prize in its history. In case of even scores, prize funds will be evenly divided between winners.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to host this major event in the world of competitive chess," said Rex Sinquefield, a retired investment fund manager who founded the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. "We are honored and most fortunate to serve as the official site in 2009 of two of the premier chess championships."

Steve Goldberg of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) Online calls the new St. Louis club "certainly one of the most impressive chess centers" in the country. While serving as host club for the U.S. Women's Chess Championship and the U.S. Chess Championship, Sinquefield notes, "It is the goal of the Club to encourage all of St. Louis' young people to learn chess. We believe that bringing the best chess players in the country to our city will help achieve that goal. Chess Club to encourage all of St. Louis' young people to learn chess. We believe that bringing the best chess players in the country to our city will help achieve that goal."

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**We would like to thank the following sponsors for making it possible  
to bring the 2009 U.S. Championship to Saint Louis!**

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