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THREE TIE FOR MEMPHIS TITLE

The 1978 Memphis City (Closed) Championship hended in a three-way deadlock for first place. In tie-break order, the tri-champions are: Mahlon 'Scott' Smith, a 25-year-old granduate student at Memphis State University; Tommy Olsen, a 15-year-old ninth grader at Germantown; and Gary M. Pylant, a 27-year-old office manager for a Memphis trucking firm. Olsen, who became 15 just last month, became the youngest player to ever win a share of the city chess title in its 75-year history.

Upsets marred the championship round in what was the most balanced field in the history of the tournament. (Phil Maclin, Sr.)

HOOD TAKES MEMPHIS AMATEUR TITLE

The 7th Memphis City Amateur Championship was held from January to March at the Memphis Chess Club. There were strong challengers for the first spot all the way through the tournament, as attested to by the four-way tie for second place between Bruce Ching, Scott Pletcher, Stephen Mathews and Dwight Weaver. The final outcome was not decided until the final round with the game between Greg Hood and Bruce Ching; Hood was the winner and thus came in at the head of the field by a full point. Of his competition, Hood said, 'It was pretty rough, but I figured that my real competition was going to be Ching and Pletcher; in the fourth round I finally met Pletcher and he put up a terrific fight, much tougher than I had expected.' In the field of twenty-four, there were seven new players in competition for the first time.

CLARKSDALE & GREENVILLE TAKE TWIN TORNADOES

Icy roads and falling snow cut attendance at the Twin Tornadoes, held at Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi, January 21-22. Class C player U.J. Gilbert of Clarksdale won the first tornado 4-0. He beat former Mississippi champion Dr. Peyton Crowder of Starkville by winning his queen, also winning over class B player Byron Watson of Greenville; Watson placed second with 3. Memphis' Phil Maclin Sr. went 2-2, losing only to Watson and Crowder. Co-winners of Sunday's tornado were Byron Watson and John Dribben of Greenville, with Watson first on tie-break. Each scored 2½-½, including a 14-move draw when they met in the final round. Unrated Joe Green of DSU finished clear third with 2-1. Eight persons played in each tornado.

MOODY TAKES FLING

Harold Moody of Dyersburg won the annual Dyersburg Spring Fling tournament with a score of four, his only loss being to Mike Sulcer of Arkansas in the last round. Even with the small field, only ten, the competition was very keen. The two top seeded persons in the field, Rackley and Wright of Memphis, both lost to Moody in early rounds.