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SEIRAWAN GAINS U.S. JUNIOR TITLE IN MEMPHIS

This year the Memphis Chess Club was again honored to have the top rated juniors in the United States competing for the coveted U.S. Junior Championship. These eight young men from all ends of the country again performed to the utmost for a week to decide who would represent our country in Austria for the World Junior Championship.

When the smoke cleared, Yasser Seirawan of Seattle, Washington tied with Paul Whitehead of San Francisco and John Fedorowicz of Clearwater, Florida for the title. On tie-breaks, however, Seirawan was awarded first prize which includes the representation of the U.S. in Graz, Austria at the World Junior and placement into the 1979 U.S. (men's) Championship. Paul Whitehead will receive an all expense paid trip to the U.S. Open at Phoenix. John Fedorowicz will receive nothing in the way of a prize with the exception of a trophy. The three will share the title of 1978 U.S. Junior Co-Champions.

There was some rather heated discussion about prize division, but the USCF said that they would have to go by their previously stated method of prize division. Unfortunately this does not make any provision for a third person in tie-breaks. And, unfortunately for John this was his second year in a row to tie for first Place (and his last opportunity to play the U.S. Junior because of his age) and nothing to show for either effort other than Co-Champion trophies.

MINOR STRIKES GOLD

Ronald Minor of Millington won the second Solid Gold Dedication Tournament with a perfect score of five. This year's tournament was dedicated to Louis T. Weis, long-time Memphis Chess Club member and former club treasurer.

Ron defeated the second, third and fourth place finishers--Larry Corder, James Wright and Scott Pletcher, as well as Charles Dangeau and Greg Krog. Louis Weis tied for third place with Pletcher and Wright.

DYERSBURG WINS BIG AT WEST TENNESSEE REGIONAL

Gary Newsom, high school student, and Harold Moody, local farmer, both of Dyersburg, won the West Tennessee Regional Qualifying Tournament on tie-breaks over Jim Wright of Millington to represent West Tennessee at Nashville in the Tennessee Closed Championship.

This year the tournament drew only a total of fourteen players, and was again a financial loss as well. Several class players interviewed felt that they didn't get an equal opportunity to play in Nashville since there is no state class championship. This could readily account for the lack of participation in the last two years.

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