

THE MIDSOUTH **CHESS** **ADVOCATE**

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THOMAS WINS CITY TITLE

Memphis has a new city champ! Kenny Thomas won six games and drew one to capture the 1980 Memphis City Champion title. The city title is not new to Kenny who in 1973 shared the honor with John Hurt and Eddie Middleton. Kenny was also the Southern High School Champion and the State Junior Champ that same year. In 1974 he added the title of State Champion to his credentials, and in 1975 successfully defended his title. Rick Herbers won the second place trophy in the city championship, his only loss being to Thomas. James Wright, a former city champ, took third place. It was Mr. Wright's draw that kept Kenny from having a perfect score. This year's tournament was probably the strongest City Championship tournament ever sponsored by the Memphis Chess Club. The average rating of the eight players was 1844! It was also interesting to note that of the eight players in the tournament five players were former city champs.

LINXWILER TAKES BLUFF

Paul Linxwiler, one of Tennessee's top high school chess players, won first place at the Bluff City Open. Paul won his first four games before drawing his final game for a $\frac{1}{2}$ point lead over second place finisher James Wright. The tournament held February 23rd and 24th drew a field of fourteen players, one of which was a computer. Although the turnout was small, the competition was fierce; only three games were drawn out of thirty that were played.