

THREE CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
TWO REIGN AS MEMPHIS CHAMPIONS

In a seven week battle to decided the 1976 Memphis City Championship, Scott Smith and Ed Middleton became Co-Champions. This year's championship was plagued by pitfalls for many including Mr. John Hurt, defending City Champion, who suffered a surprising loss to Peter Thayer in the fourth round. The highlight of the tournament came in the classic endgame battle of pawns and knight versus pawns. The deciding game of the championship was a rather anti-climactic 23-move draw between the co-champions in the last round.

A complete record of all the games is given in the April issue of the Mid-South Chess Advocate. If interested in obtaining this issue you may write to: Memphis Chess Club, Inc., 3603 Kearney Ave., Memphis, TN 38111 and enclose a check for 50¢. Besides the 26 games from the championship there are a total of 62 games in this issue.

NASHVILLE ALSO HAS CO-CHAMPIONS

The Nashville Chess Club Championship was a 6-player round robin affair consisting of the qualifiers from three preliminary events. Bruce Stearns and Peter Lahde obtained the best scores with 4-1 to be declared Nashville Co-Champions. Pete defeated Bruce in the first round to account for Bruce's single loss while Pete lost his game to third place finisher Lewis Grisby who had three points. Lewis made a good showing to take third beating out Wayne Finley who had $2\frac{1}{2}$ even though Wayne won their individual encounter. An exciting finish resulted as Stearns(3) and Grisby(3) were meeting in one game and Lahde(3) and Finley($2\frac{1}{2}$) in the other. As Stearns and Lahde won they became co-champions. The results follow:

		1	2	3	4	5	6	SCORE	
1-2. Peter Lahde	1725	x	1	0	1	1	1	4-1	
1-2. Bruce Stearns	1931	0	x	1	1	1	1	4-1	
3. Lewis Grisby	1545	1	0	x	0	1	1	3-2	
4. Wayne Finley	1734	0	0	1	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	
5. Peter Ciarleglio	1521	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	1-4	
6. Glenn Cornwell	1545	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	x	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$	

CHATTANOOGA HAS QUALIFIERS

By James Cobb

The Chattanooga Championship had two preliminary sections to determine the qualifiers for the finals. For Section A they were: 1. James Sweets (2012), 2. Robert Gann (1541), 3. Tom Hoffman (1301), 4. Marty Lasley (1299), and 5. Joe Johnson (1248). For Section B: 1. James Cobb (1563), 2. Marty Watkins (1337), 3. Daniel Barnes (1301), 4. Avon Gaylor (1287), 5. James Reynolds (1231), and 6. Harrison Gill (1204).

The players that qualified in each section were: Section A 1. James Sweets $3\frac{1}{2}$, 2. Robert Gann 2, and 3. Marty Lasley $1\frac{1}{2}$. Section B: 1. James Cobb 4; 2. Harrison Gill also 4, and Marty Watkins $3\frac{1}{2}$. Each section was a round robin. The finals will be held during April and May. The finals will be a round-robin also.

FOUR TENNESSEE SCHOOLS IN HS REGIONAL

At least four high schools were represented by teams in the HS Championship or HS Novice Division held in Atlanta, March 27-28. They were: Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA), from Nashville, Webb School from Knoxville, Baylor and Girls' Preparatory School (GPS) both from Chattanooga. No team results were available. But Mark Ishee of MBA had an excellent individual result with 4-2. David Thistlethwaite (MBA) made a perfect 6-0 score in the Novice which gave him second only after tiebreaks. Nearly 200 players took part in the two HS events.

NEWS IN BRIEF - The 1976 Memphis Amateur Championship was won by Randall Senn and Michael Preston with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points. The event attracted 28 players.

Doug Ralston won the Middle Tenn. February Open with $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. Four players tied for second with 3 points. The event took place Feb 6-7.