

THE 1985 TENNESSEE SCHOLASTIC

With 236 players and 29 teams the Tennessee Scholastic was again Tennessee's main attraction of the year. Auburndale School in Cordova was charged with tension Feb. 23-24 as teams and players battled for their spot at the top. Records were set and upsets abounded as all sections, other than the High School Novice, produced clear winners!

The 18-player High School Section saw Ronald Burnett of Nashville Overton make it three-in-a-row, dominating the field by 1.5 points. With one more win he will eclipse Curt Jones' record for consecutive wins. Chuck Lovingood of Cumberland County came in second with 3.5 while third place was awarded to Gene Woods who, along with Mariencheck and Coleman had 3-2 scores. The Cumberland County team managed to capture the team trophy by just squeezing out Auburndale with 11 points. The High School Novice saw Albert Whittenberg (Cumberland County) and Danny McMillan, (Dickson County) sharing honors with 4.5 scores. Danny came into the tournament unrated and emerged with a post-tournament rating of 1627—no more Novice Championships for him! The Auburndale Team outdistanced the field by three points to take team honors with 14 points.

Bill Hall won the Junior High Championship for an unprecedented two straight. Though he was rated 200 points above the field, his undefeated mark of six wins was not a fore-gone conclusion. He earned his victories. Jeff Smathers and Jay Sabine filled the next two slots with 5-1 scores, and other Martin JH players captured the next three spots. Not surprising then, Martin JH easily captured the team trophy with a 20.5 score. Memphis University trailed with 12.5 points. Gus Lipman held tough for the Memphis team by capturing 7th with a 4-2 score, tying one of Martin's stars. The 40-player Novice Section was won by Paul Larsen of Martin JH, who picked up 92 points with his 5-0 score. Scott Sims of White County and Manish Purohit of Memphis University took the next two spots, sharing their 4-1 scores with a host of others. The Martin JH team edged Memphis University out for the Team Championship by a point, ending up with 15 points.

Oliver Tai of Auburndale captured the Elementary Championship with a perfect

score of six to lead the field by 1.5 points. Jason Balogh, also of Auburndale, and Chris Lax (Homestead) nailed down 2-3rd with 4.5-1.5 scores. Auburndale's dominance of the Elementary Division showed with their 18.5 point team victory over the other three teams, the second of which was Homestead with 12.5 points. The Elementary Novice saw Diane Corbitt squash her opposition with a perfect score of five to net the Championship and about 150 rating points. Christy Knight (Red Boiling Spr.), Cole Whitaker (Auburndale), and Nathan Carver (Fairlane) trailed with 4-1 scores. The Team Trophy went to Auburndale—again.

This year's Primary Section had 33 players, but only one team. Alec Horgan of Auburndale triumphed with a perfect score of 5. Jonathan Smith of Franklin Road took clear second place with a 4-1 score. Auburndale received the Team Championship.

Well, another good one ends. The same name are echoing again. Will Auburndale dominate the Elementary next year? What Junior High School can accept the challenge of Martin? It was a thrilling event, and Auburndale was a gracious host. See you next year.

National Junior HS Champs

The National Junior High Chess Championship will return to South Vigo High School in Terre Haute, Indiana, April 20-21. The eight-round Swiss System Tournament is held in two sections: ninth grade and below, and eighth grade and below. It is open to all U.S. students in ninth grade and below. The four best-scoring players from a school constitute a team for prize purposes. Trophies will be awarded to the top 15 teams and individuals in each section, as well as to the top three players in various rating categories. The members of the top five teams in each section will also receive plaques.

This should be of interest to our Champions. Martin's strength would certainly not go unrewarded. Information provided by USCF.