

Playing Like a Girl at NorCal House of Chess

September 27, 2012
by Sam Livesay

11-year old Ashritha Eswaran tied for 1st with International Master Ricardo De Guzman at the NorCal House of Chess Summer Championship in Fremont, CA held from September 15-16. Incredibly, Ashritha played up (the section was for 1900 & above) and beat players rated 2047, 2307, 2155 & drew a 1992. All of them are higher rated than her. She gained 99 rating points after the tournament!



Ashritha Eswaran

Fremont, 2012

White: Eswaran, Ashritha

Black: FM Ronald Cusi

1.Nf3 d51. 2.g3 c63.Bg2 Nf64.b3 Bg45.Bb2 Nbd76.d3 e67.O-O Bc58.Nbd2 O-O9.c4 Qe710.Rc1 Ba311.Qc2 a512.Bxa3 Qxa313.cxd5 exd514.Rfe1 a415.Nd4 axb316.axb3 Qb417.N4f3 Ra318.Ra1 Rfa819.Rxa3 Rxa320.h3 Bxf321.Bxf3 Qa522.Rb1 Ra223.Rb2 Ra1+24.Rb1 Ne525.Rxa1 Qxa1+26.Kg2 Qa527.Qb2 Nfd728.Qc2 h629.d4 Ng630.Qd3 Qb431.Qe3 Kf832.Bh5 Ne733.Qf4 Nf634.Qb8+ Ne835.Qf4 g6 36.Qxh6+ Ng737.Bg4 f538.Bf3 Qxd439.Nf1 Kf740.h4 Ne641.Qc1 Kg742.Qa3 Qc543.Qa8 Qb644.Qe8 Qd845.Qxd8 Nxd846.Nd2 Kf647.Kf1 Ke548.e3 c549.Ke2 b550.Kd3 Ne651.h5 gxh552.Bxh5 Ne653.Be8 Nb4+54.Kc3 Ne755.Bh5 Ne656.f4+ Kf657.g4 fxg458.Bxg4 b4+59.Kd3 Na560.e4 d461.e5+ Ke762.Ke4 Nb563.Kd5 c464.bxc4 Na365.Kxd4 Ne2+ 66.Kd3 Ne1+67.Ke2 Ng268.Kf3 Ne1+69.Ke4 b370.Kd5 b2 1-0

Fremont, 2012

White: Eswaran, Ashritha

Black: Kevin Moy

1.e4 c52.Nf3 d63.d4 cxd44.Nxd4 Nf65.Nc3 a66.Be2 e57.Nb3 Be78.Be3 Be69.Qd2 O-O10.O-O Nc611.Rad1 Rc812.Bf3 Qc713.Na4 b514.Nb6 Rb815.Nd5 Bxd516.exd5 e417.Be2 Ne518.Nd4 Nxd519.Nxb5 Rxb520.Bxb5 Nxe321.Qxe3 axb522.Qxe4 Rc823.f4 Nc424.Rfe1 Qc5+25.Kh1 Bf826.b3 Na327.Re2 Nxc228.Rc1 Qd429.Qxd4 Nxd430.Rxc8 Nxe231.a4 bxa432.bxa4 Nd433.a5 Nb534.a6 d535.Rb8 Na7 36.Rb7 Bc537.Rb8+ Bf838.Ra8 Nb539.a7 Nxa740.Rxa7 d441.Rd7 h542.Rxd4 Kh743.Rd5 Kg644.Kg1 Be745.Kf2 h446.Kf3 f547.Ke3 Kf648.Ra5 h349.Ra6+ Kf750.gxh3 Bc5+51.Kf3 Be752.Rc6 Bf653.Ke3 Kg654.Rc5 Bd855.Rb5 Bf656.Kd3 Bd857.Rc5 Kf658.Rc6+ Kf759.Kd4 Bf6+60.Kd5 g661.Rc7+ Be762.Ke5 Kf863.Ke6 Bh464.Rh7 Bf265.Kf6 1-0

Girls also succeeded in the two other sections: In the U1500, NHC members Serafina Show & Antara Garai tied for 1st. In the U1900, State Champion Joanna Liu came close but lost out to Marin County kid Ladia Jirasek who ended in a tie for 1st with Srinath Goli.

Many of the top girls competing at NHC excel nationally and internationally. Ashritha Eswaran is the **12 & Under Girls National Champion** and also a Silver-Medalist at the North American Youth Chess Championship in Mexico. She also tied for 4th place in Peru at the Pan American Youth Chess Championship couple of months ago. She's now rated 1961 and hopes to cross the 2000 barrier before



Superstar coach Ted Castro with students

she [goes to Slovenia to represent USA for the World Youth Chess Championship](#). Her long-time coach, Ted Castro has been training her together with 2 other NHC in-house coaches: GM Dejan Bojkov and IM Ricardo De Guzman.

The girls are also inspired by visiting role models like [WFM Sabrina Chevannes](#), a famous coach from London who visited last summer. In 2011, CLO editor and author WGM Jennifer Shahade conducted the Girls' Camp at NorCal House of Chess and signed copies of [her aptly titled book *Play Like a Girl*](#).

Ten of the kids from NorCal who qualified for World Youth played in this strong event. NHC will be conducting more tournaments and trainings for kids who are going to World Youth Chess Championship.

Ted Castro, together with several top coaches will be conducting special trainings for those who will go to World Youth in Slovenia. This special training and sparring sessions will be sponsored by NorCal House of Chess, hence free of charge. For future events at NHC, check their website at www.norcalhouseofchess.com.