

Shankland and Kraai Draw Top Honors

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IM Sam Shankland versus
GM Jesse Kraai

(Photo of Shankland versus Kraai at top left.) With a performance over 2600 for his last 12 rated games, Zierk (photo at right) will break 2400 USCF.

reported by Michael Aigner

IM **Sam Shankland** and GM **Jesse Kraai** shared first at 4.5/6 in the **CalChess State Championship**, held at a new venue in **Santa Clara**. Shankland (photo at left) had superior tiebreaks and *earned the title for the second year in a row*. Congratulations *Sam!!* Still a teenager, "Shanky" now has two adult trophies at home; although in a bit of an irony, he never won the **CalChess Scholastic Championships!**

The winners faced stiff competition from IM **Ricardo DeGuzman**, IM **Dmitry Zilberstein** and two teenagers: FM **Steven Zierk** and NM **Greg Young**. DeGuzman, Zierk and Young tied for third at 4.0/6, with Young claiming top U2300 honors as well. One interesting tidbit: Shankland, Kraai, DeGuzman and Zierk completed a quad amongst themselves, drawing every single game.



The tournament **attracted 153 players**, almost all from the San Francisco Bay Area. Organizer **Salman Azhar** of **BayAreaChess.com** **paid out 100% of the \$8,100 advertised prize fund**, even though it was based on 166 paid entries. *In a sure sign of the future, at least 60% of the players were kids, including a majority of the prize winners.* And here's one unusual sight: a WIM and a FM played *up* in the Expert section!?

- [Final crosstables and Prize winners](#)
- [USCF rating report](#)
- [Fpawn's Slideshow on Flickr](#)
- [Awesome Photos by Richard Shorman](#)

State Champions!

- **Master:** IM Sam Shankland and GM Jesse Kraai; U2300: NM Greg Young
- **Expert:** Karim Seada
- **Class A:** James Kwok
- **Class B:** Thadeus Frei (6-0!!)
- **Class C:** Jonathan Uesato and Udit Iyengar
- **Class D/E:** Leyton Ho; U1200: Rupa Gudiseva