Chess team loses international title during intercollegiate tournament

By Jeff McCrea
Lantern staff writer

One of two chess teams from Ohio State placed second in an international tournament for colleges in North and South America, losing the title during the last match to Rhode Island College.

The Pan American Intercollegiate Tournament, which was held Dec. 26-29 in New Brunswick, N.J., attracted 63 teams, including the two from the OSU Chess Club. Colleges were able to send more than one team to the tournament.

As tournament winner, Rhode Island College is not only the Pan American intercollegiate champion, but also the U.S. college champion.

However, Dave Hater, a sophomore from Cincinnati who is president of the OSU Chess Club, said that if a team from another country had won the tournament and Ohio State had come in second, the OSU team would have been recognized as national champion.

During the tournament, each of the 62 teams plays eight matches, receiving one point for each match won. A tie counts one-half point.

In the seventh match, Ohio State was paired with Rhode Island College and was tied with five and one-half points.

"It was extremely likely that whoever won (the match) would win the tournament," said team member Chuck Schullen, a senior from Lima.

Ohio State lost the match.

They had four incredible players," said team member Tom Britt, a graduate student from Dayton. "It's hard to beat a team like that. It went down to a couple of moves."

"Next year the tournament is in Rhode Island and we expect to have a good recruiting year so our team will be even better," Schullen said.
Your move

Paul Raaf, left, a senior from Medina, and James Beale, a senior from Pataskala, play chess with Ben Finegold, 18, a member of the All American Chess Team. Finegold played about 15 people at once on the Oval, and was beating them all at the time the photo was taken.
Check mate!

OSU Chess Club President Matt Norby plays against 10 opponents at a time during the Medieval and Renaissance Festival at Mirror Lake over the weekend. Norby was undefeated Saturday afternoon.
Checkmate for the new Chess Club

By Eric Reigle
Lantern staff writer

After a 4-year layoff, the OSU Chess Club has been resurrected by a group of freshmen and a former club member.

About 20 student and community chess players attended the club's first meeting Nov. 2.

The former chess club was active in organizing many local and national intercollegiate chess tournaments, said Dennis Mays, club adviser and a member of the old club.

The club sponsored the Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Tournament here in 1972, the largest intercollegiate chess tournament ever. In 1981, the OSU club was national collegiate champions, said Mays, a research scientist in the Department of Pharmacology.

"I would like to see that activity returned to OSU," Mays said. "I think that it was a bright spot for OSU and the community."

The new club's goals are to provide chess instruction, hold meetings of casual chess competitions and begin organized chess tournaments, Mays said.

Walter Meiden, professor emeritus in the Department of French and Italian and adviser of the original chess club during the 1950s, co-authored three instructional books which will be used in teaching inexperienced chess players of the club, Mays said.

Club president Steven Waller said the club has members of all levels of chess proficiency.

"I came from a small high school that did not have a chess club," Waller said. "I was just surprised that there was not a chess club here either, so I was really interested in starting one up."

Funding for the club could be difficult because funds have already been allocated to other student organizations, Mays said.

"If we have 20 players, the cost for the ten sets and clocks needed would be about $530," Mays said.

The former chess club ceased in 1988 because Meiden became ill and was unable to continue as club adviser.

"A lot of chess players are getting a renewed interest in chess which is stimulating the formation of new, local chess clubs," Mays said.

Mays said he thinks this local and national resurgence is because of the re-match between 1972 American world chess champion Bobby Fischer and former Russian world chess champion Boris Spassky.

"Bobby Fischer was a chess protege who won the chess championship in '72," Mays said. "He generated a big interest in chess in the U.S. in the 70s."

The club will meet at 7 p.m. on Mondays in the North Suites A and B of the Drake Union.