

Serious Chess Players (Affiliate Name: Texas Armed Forces Chess)

Contact: texaschessteam@yahoo.com

Official Press Release for Immediate Distribution

Tarrant Cruises by Waco 12.5 to 7.5

By Victor Yaward, Ace Chess Reporter for Texas Knights

Hillsboro, Texas (27 October 2018). The Tarrant Chess Team, led by rookie Team Captain Jeff French, defeated the Waco Chess Team 12-1/2 to 7-1/2 in BRAZOS III, the annual team match between the most serious chess players in North Central Texas. This was the third straight victory for Tarrant. Chief Organizer and TD Jim Hollingsworth commented "I looked at every game. The final score does not reflect the high quality of play by both teams. The players knew who they were going to play two weeks out and it was obvious they came prepared. Overall I think most players demonstrated skill levels at least 400 points above their rating."

Heywood "Woody" Allen is an American director, writer, actor, and comedian and is credited for saying "80 percent of success is showing up!" This is especially true in BRAZOS. All players are vetted and promise to show up or notify their team captain before the team rosters are finalized and published. Because "Life" happens both teams recruit reserve players, just in case. Unfortunately for Waco, two players withdrew after the rosters were final. Their one reserve player, Randy Dixon scored an "ace" (2-0 sweep) to keep Waco in the match. However, they still forfeited one game before any pawns moved and, despite gallant efforts, could never dig themselves out of a hole. Tarrant led 7 to 3 at halftime. In the second round Waco, playing with the White pieces, split all boards with Tarrant, 4-1/2 to 4-1/2. But a second forfeit combined with Tarrant's early lead was just too much.

There were individual stars shining on both teams. Waco's Jason Lund scored 1/2 point enabling him to move to the top of the All-Time BRAZOS Scorers List. On Tarrant's Board One, Chris Johnson, "aced" his opponent. Two of his teammates, Troy Gillespie and Sheryl McBroom, also "aced" their boards. Randy Dixon scored an "ace" for Waco.

The BRAZOS team matches are run like RRSO, the annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. Both tournament directors and nine BRAZOS III players are members of the Texas Chess Team. They are: Jim Hollingsworth, Louis Reed, Carmen Chairez, John De Vries, Jim Anderau, Chris Johnson, Nicole Niemi, Russ Heise, Bob Curtis, Jeff French, and Chris Wood (Texas Chess Team Captain). During downtimes Chris Wood was recruiting new Texas Chess Team players. "Man," he said, "If we could get Randy, Jason, Troy, Gary Lee, and a few others on our team there's no way the Okies can win!"

The Honorable Edith Omberg, Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, officiated the opening ceremonies and the annual BRAZOS Halloween costume contest at Hill College. She was accompanied by Laura Harborth, Board Chair of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and her daughter, Hadley Harborth. Together they inspired both teams to greatness. The players received several gifts as mementos." At the Victory Dinner Mayor Omberg presented the BRAZOS trophy to Jeff French, Tarrant Chess Team Captain. She also announced her pending retirement. "I have enjoyed four good terms as the City's first woman mayor. After our May election it will be someone else's turn. I have lived in Hillsboro all my life and I am

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very happy I could give something back to the community. I also really appreciate having you chess players in our city each year. It means so much."

Jim Hollingsworth expressed the feelings of all present when he said, "Mayor, you will always be our Mayor!"

BRAZOS IV is scheduled for October 26, 2019 in Hillsboro. Details are on the SERIOUS CHESS PLAYERS website: http://seriouschessplayers.com/scp_brazos_4.html

BRAZOS III

Tot		Waco (Visitors)		Tarrant (Home)		Tot
7.5	Rtng	Player	Board	Player	Rtng	12.5
0.0	1758	Carmen Chairez	01	Chris Johnson	1821	2.0
1.0	1702	Gary Lee Webb	02	Nicole Niemi	1778	1.0
0.5	1571	Jason Lund	03	Russ Heise	1683	1.5
1.0	1420	Forrest Marler	04	Bob Curtis	1553	1.0
1.0	1226	Robert Morgan	05	Chris Wood	1248	1.0
1.0	1226	John De Vries	06	Jeff French	1202	1.0
1.0	1187	Jim Anderau	07	Doug Stephens	1194	1.0
0.0	1133	Craig Smith	08	Troy Gillispie	1037	2.0
2.0	1301	Randy Dixon	09	Rick Gran	0640	0.0
FF	0978	Dane Fowlkes	10	Sheryl McBroom	0185	XX

Reserve Section = Odrie Aponte 2.0, Sheryl McBroom 0.0

Jim Hollingsworth, Chief Organizer and TD

Louis Reed, Chief Assistant TD

Sheryl McBroom, Chief Photographer

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BRAZOS III Champions Tarrant Chess Team. Front Row (kneeling left to right): Chief Organizer and TD Jim Hollingsworth; Chief Assistant TD Louis Reed. Second Row (left to right): Team Captain Jeff French (Board 6); Sheryl McBroom (Board 10); Chris Johnson (Board 1); Troy Gillispie (Board 8); Nicole Niemi (Board 2); "Submarine Bob" Curtis (Board 4); Doug Stephens (Board 7). Third Row (left to right): Odrie Aponte (Reserve); Russ Heise (Board 3); Christopher Joseph Wood (Board 5); Rick Gran (Board 9). Photo by Carmen Chairez.

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Second Place Waco Chess Team. Second Row (left to right): Randy Dixon (Board 9); Jason Lund (Board 3); BRAZOS Booster Club President Tammy Anderau; Texas Chess Association Vice President Forrest Marler (Board 4). Third Row (left to right): Robert Morgan (Board 5); Craig Smith (Board 8); Jim Anderau (Board 7); Gary Lee Webb (Board 2); Red-Hot-Dot-Com-Liaison Harri Eloranta. Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

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The Honorable Edith Omberg awards the BRAZOS Trophy to Tarrant Team Captain Jeff French.
Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

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