

# Weibel girls rule at All-Girls Chess Nationals



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During the weekend of April 11-13, ten girls from Weibel Elementary School in Fremont attended the 11th Annual All-Girls Nationals in Northbrook, Illinois.

For the second straight year the Weibel girls took a first place in the Under 12 division. This was accomplished even before the last round started. Weibel proved unquestionably that they were the best in the country in the Under12 category. The team finished with 14.5 points compared to the second place team from Florida with 9.5 points and the third place team with 8 points from Connecticut. Weibel Elementary School Chess has now won four national girls titles. The school chess team has also won two very prestigious Elementary School National Championships.

In the individual competition this year, four Weibel girls brought home trophies (no matter how many on your team, only the top three players' scores count). Competition organizers awarded 15 trophies in each section. In the Under 12 section there were 74 entries; this year's championships were the largest to date with 322 players.

All Weibel competitors did wonderfully. The youngest 'wonder girl', Prisha Jain, and the only girl from Weibel to compete in the All-Girls National in a non-Under 12 section, tied for fifth in the Under 8 [age] section. In the second round, Prisha was paired with the only other Fremont girl in her division, Allyson Wong from Fremont's Mission San Jose Elementary School. Prisha won the game, but Allyson bounced back to win her other games and tie for third in the Under 8. This division was won by a seven year old Women's Candidate Master from Silver Oak Elementary in San Jose, Aksithi Eswaran. This was Aksithi's second time as champion in this division. Ted Castro, who runs the NorCal House of Chess in Fremont, where most of the young chess champions in the Bay Area train, is her coach.

#### Team members from Weibel:

Serafina Show, Weibel student school president

and number one 'Wunder Kind,' (Wonder Child) went undefeated. She drew two and won four. Her two draws were against the two highest ranked players. In the last round she fought hard for the National title and a trip to the World's competition. Her draw placed her in a tie for second place.

Enya Mistry, with five wins and one lose, also tied for second. She had, perhaps, the best tournament of her life. Enya came in ranked 24th in the competition.

Raisah Khan went 4.5-1.5 and tied for eighth. Raisah defeated a 1731 rated player in her way to winning a trophy. Raisah came into the completion ranked number 29.

Shivangi Gupta had a great day as well. If she had won her last round she would have tied for second rather than 10th. Shivangi's rating was 1308 and that of her last round opponent, 1711. Shivangi ranked 19th at the beginning of the competition.

Aria Lakhmani, from Warm Springs and former Weibel student, attended Weibel Chess again this year even though she moved out of our attendance area last year. She also tied for 10th. Aria entered the championships ranked number 20.

Sashrika Pandey, Amir Rafi, Ambika Tiwari and Anvi Surapaneni finished the weekend close to the rankings they entered with.

Second grade student, Prisha Jain entered ranked number 20 and finished tied for sixth.

Two other girls from Fremont attended: Chenyi Zhao from Chadbourne Elementary in the Under 12 and Alisha Chawla from Stratford School in the Under 14 Section.

Although excellent training by Weibel chess instructors and private tutors helped, inspiration provided by many other chess teachers and family members provided the finishing touch to our entrant's victories. Although credit is often given to one person, in reality it takes a village, within which a child lives, to create their success. So kudos to all those who helped our girls learn to finish a competition in style.