



THE BLITZ

CHESS MOVES NEWSLETTER | VOL. IV ISSUE NO. I 2020

DCC UPDATE

Thanks to all who supported the DCC in its time of need. The **Dallas Chess Club (DCC)** has moved its equipment into storage and will not be meeting until sometime in 2021. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The DCC still plans to host a tournament at least once a month at various sites around the metroplex.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DCC's next tournament is expected to be at the [Embassy Suites Park Center in Dallas](#) on August 22-23, 2020. The tournament will follow COVID-19 rules and considerations as the playing hall will be limited to 28 people. The 86th Annual Southwest Open is set to start September 4th or 5th. For more information on the tournaments visit:

<http://www.dallaschess.com/regfordccaugfide.html>

Refer to the calendar on the DCC website link below for any updates and event details.

www.dallaschess.com

Other local, state and national chess events can be found on the USCF website:

<http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php>

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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MEMBERSHIP

Use the link below to sign up for/renew your DCC membership

[Online Membership Renewal](#)

SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS

Please submit outstanding accomplishments or other noteworthy information about our members for inclusion in the newsletter as we want to know what you are doing during these extraordinary times.

Please email us at:

frutosbrothers@chessmovesinc.org

A Move to Online Chess

By Chase Frutos

With the drastic effects of COVID-19 affecting the lives of billions around the globe, in-person chess has mostly come to a halt. However, the chess world is persisting through these unprecedented times and switching to online chess tournaments. The USCF even created a new online rating system so that USCF rated tournaments and games could continue. With in-person chess taking a long break, online chess participation has doubled or tripled in some of the most popular online chess sites such as *Chess.com* and *Chess24.com*.

At the top level, online tournaments such as the Chessable Masters, the Lindores Abbey Rapid Challenge, Clutch Chess, the Online Nations Cup, and even the first ever FIDE Online Chess Olympiad, have been quite popular with games livestreamed on Chess.com. With the continuation of online chess and tournaments, short blitz and rapid games are much preferred because of the rapid excitement and to minimize the potential for cheating.

Possibly the biggest online tournament in chess history, the FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup took place May 5th – May 10th. For six days, Team United States, Team China, Team Russia, Team Europe, Team India, and Team World competed in a double round robin with the top two teams playing each other in a 'Super Final' match. A few notable players that competed in this worldwide tournament included: Fabiano Caruana (US), Hikaru Nakamura (US), Wesley So (US), Ding Liren (CN), Viswanathan Anand (IN), Levon Aronian (EU) and Sergey Karjakin (RUS). With the first round, G25:00 10 second increment, at 6:00a Pacific time, 3:00p Central European time, and 9:00p in China, the tournament began. Finishing the 10-round first stage of the tournament, China was on top with USA in a close second. Therefore, going into the Super Final match, China would merely need a tie in order to win the Online Nations Cup. Nearing the end of the Super Final match, the U.S. was in a great position to strike for glory. Hikaru Nakamura, playing at board one, had a dead equal position with black against Ding Liren coming out of a Giuoco Piano. Fabiano Caruana, at board two with white against Yi Wei, had a lovely position coming out of a Scandinavian defense, even winning a free pawn in the middle game. On board three, Wesley So had a complicated yet playable position against Yangyi Yu. And on board four, Irina Krush in an equal middle game against Yifan Hou, who had a 250-point rating advantage. With Nakamura and Krush's games ending in draws, it was up to Caruana and So to attempt to pull in the victory for Team USA. Unfortunately, Yangyi Yu had a menacing attack on So, sacrificing both a piece and an exchange to force a brilliant checkmate. With Caruana's win, Team USA tied Team China 2-2 in the Super Final match where China was crowned champion on tie breaks.

With a lack of in-person chess play, participation in online platforms like *Chess.com*, *Chess24*, *ICC*, and *Lichess*, have skyrocketed. In fact, *Chess.com*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? GM JULIO SADORRA



By Cole Frutos

GM Julio Sadorra is originally from Cavite, Philippines where he is one of the top ranked players. At the young age of six, Julio learned chess from his father. Julio said that chess only brought him and his father closer. Julio's father instilled the values of hard work, perseverance, endurance, patience, preparation, and having a positive mindset. Julio's inspiration to play chess were GM Peter Leko, the youngest GM at the time and World Champion Bobby Fischer. Julio soon became exceptional at chess, winning many national championships.

After high school, Julio moved to Dallas after receiving a full scholarship to play chess for the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). During his time at UTD he earned the coveted chess title of Grand Master. Julio graduated from UTD in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. After graduation, Julio actively coached some of the brightest young chess talent through private lessons and taught at the North Texas Chess Academy (NTCA). His experience and skill bring many students to NTCA to attend camps and sign up for chess lessons. I personally was taught by him at one of his NTCA camps and he was a great inspiration.

Julio also plays chess professionally. He represented his home country in the World Cup Chess Championship and in the international Chess Olympiad in 2014 and 2016. Another chess highlight occurred in 2016 when Julio played the number one ranked chess player in the world, Magnus Carlsen, and took the game to a draw.

In February 2019, GM Julio Sadorra became the coach of the UTD Chess Team. Julio Sadorra's amazing background makes him well suited for this role. James Stallings said, "Sadorra is a natural fit for the team." Julio lives with his wife and son. His son is named Tigran after Tigran Petrosian who is a Soviet Armenian Grandmaster.

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gained over 2,000,000 members in March and April alone, and as a result, its IT Team has been working around the clock to cope with the server overloads. In April, *Chess.com* crashed due to the vast amount of games played at once. Although face to face chess came to a temporary halt, new opportunities for online play and online tournaments have surged with quicker fast-paced games being promoted at the top levels. The future of chess looks bright with a surge of new players enjoying this beautiful game through online platforms as well as numerous new viewers watching chess matches via *Twitch* and *YouTube*.

Support our own Jeffery Xiong and the rest of the USA Team

Teams will play on *Chess.com* in separate divisions between July 25 – August 23. Playoffs will be held August 27-30.



<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-us-olympiad-chess-team>

The official website of the tournament is Olymp.FIDE.com.

GM Babakuli Annakov Continues to Live the American Dream

GM Annakov owns two chess academies offering chess lessons, camps, game analysis, lectures and more. Joining GM Annakov at the Annakov Chess Academy is Grand Master Matsenko Sergey.

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For more information on coaching and camps, please visit: www.annakov.com.

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