



# Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

Spring 2025 -- Vol. 28, No. 2

President: Josh Turner  
Vice President: Morgan Scheer  
Secretary: Kyle Churchill

Treasurer: David Long  
Publicity Director: Jimmie Cecil  
<http://www.springfieldchessclub.com>

## Maddox Todd Wins First Tournament

The club's first full-day tournament of 2025 was held on March 29, and it drew 33 chess players. In his first tournament, Maddox Todd swept with a perfect 4-0 score and took first place, just ahead of James Healy, who had 3½ out of 4.

Jimmie Cecil and Jeffrey Smith scored 3 points and tied for first in Class B-C, while Marshall Bigler, Sean Pepper, and Andres Maldonado shared first in Class D-E, also scoring 3 points. Jon Ommen and Kirk Brackenhoff each had 2 points and split first in Class F and below.

Three unrated players had 2 points and shared first in that division, these were Sawyer Casey, Anthony Romero, and Kenadi Malone. In addition, the club would like to recognize six other players for their first tournament: Brian Wilson, Kesava Gattu, Audrey Odenkirk, Arjun Patel, Namiesh Songa, and Ronit Sukthanker. Complete results are on page 2.

## 20 Attend Fourth Mini Tournament

The club's latest "mini tournament" was held on February 22 at Lincoln Library. Twenty players attended; this is the largest turnout for the mini tournaments so far. Evan Gresen won the rated section with 3 points.

In the unrated section, not everyone played the same number of games. The highest raw score was Brayden Blosser, with 6 points out of 7. By winning percentage, the highest score was Oscar Chavez, with 5½ points out of 6.

Complete results are on page 3.

## Next Regular Tournament June 28

Our next regular tournament will be held Saturday, June 28, at the Southern View Village Hall, 3410 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Registration ends at 9:45; round times are 10, 1, 3:30, and 6, with a lunch break after round 1. Entry fee is \$17 in advance, \$20 on site, with a \$2 discount to SCC members. Prize fund is \$400 based on 30 paid entries. Mark your calendars today!

## Next Mini Tournament May 17

The club will hold its fifth mini tournament on Saturday, May 17, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., in the second-floor multipurpose room of Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. We will play at least 3 games of G/30. As before, the event will be **free**; no entry fees and no prizes.

**Be sure to listen to Josh Turner and Jimmie Cecil's interview on NPR here:**

<https://www.nprillinois.org/arts-life/2025-03-03/springfield-chess-club-builds-community-one-move-at-a-time>

# Complete Results, March 29, 2025

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	Brooks Sonethongkham	1830	W17	W10	W11	L32	3
2	James Healy	1600	W18	W9	D13	W16	3½
3	Evan Gresen	1593	W20	W12	L16	L10	2
4	Noah Leichty	1540	W21	L11	LH	W15	2
5	Shrinidhin Senthilkumar	1470	W22	W14	L32	D13	2½
6	Jeffrey Smith	1433	W23	L13	W17	W9	3
7	Jimmie Cecil	1429	W24	L16	W20	W11	3
8	Luke Robertson	1414	W25	L32	W21	D14	2½
9	Shrihan Aleti	1380	W26	L2	W22	L6	2
10	Marshall Bigler	1345	W27	L1	W26	W3	3
11	Orion Ringel	1301	W28	W4	L1	L7	2
12	Michael Leardi	1241	W29	L3	----	----	1
13	Sean Pepper	1199	W30	W6	D2	D5	3
14	Brysen Lovell	1177	W31	L5	W33	D8	2½
15	Nabhya Shah	1045	L32	W25	W30	L4	2
16	Andres Maldonado	1030	W33	W7	W3	L2	3
17	Jon Ommen	867	L1	W27	L6	W28	2
18	Jayden Li	615	L2	L26	W27	HALF	1½
19	Jashwanth Gaggara	578	HALF	LH	----	----	½
20	Taran P. Patel	555	L3	W29	L7	L25	1
21	Shreya Aleti	498	L4	W28	L8	L30	1
22	Kirk Brackenhoff	433	L5	W31	L9	W33	2
23	Suvan Panthi	101	L6	L30	L28	W29	1
24	Sawyer Casey	unr.	L7	L33	W29	W26	2
25	Anthony Romero	unr.	L8	L15	W31	W20	2
26	Brian Wilson	unr.	L9	W18	L10	L24	1
27	Kesava K. Gattu	unr.	L10	L17	L18	W31	1
28	Audrey Odenkirk	unr.	L11	L21	W23	L17	1
29	Arjun Patel	unr.	L12	L20	L24	L23	0
30	Kenadi E. Malone	unr.	L13	W23	L15	W21	2
31	Namiesh Songa	unr.	L14	L22	L25	L27	0
32	Maddox Todd	unr.	W15	W8	W5	W1	4
33	Ronit Sukthanker	unr.	L16	W24	L14	L22	1
H	Seth Chiles	1587	HALF	W19	W4	----	2½

## Jimmie Cecil's 2025 survey of Springfield area chess players produced these (abridged) results:

- A plurality learned about the club from our internet site; other methods mentioned included the club's Facebook page, chess.com page, and word of mouth.
- About 2 in 5 respondents were members of the club.
- Slightly less than 2 in 5 respondents attend club meetings at least twice monthly.
- 3 in 4 respondents found the meetings conveniently scheduled.
- Saturday afternoons were the most commonly requested alternative; we will keep this in mind when secondary monthly meetings are restarted.
- Most respondents are members of the USCF and expressed interest in tournaments.
- Friendship and socialization, and improving one's chess, were the strongest draws.
- Suggested club activities included lectures, lessons, simuls, more tournaments, outdoor events, and a club picnic.

### Mini Tournament #4 (Feb. 22, 2025)

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	Evan Gresen	1628	W6	W2	W3	3
2	Collin Mizeur	1383	W8	L1	W7	2
3	Simeon Ommen	1204	W9	W4	L1	2
4	Jon Ommen	996	W10	L3	L6	1
5	Jayden Li	615	W11	L7	----	1
6	Eleazar Smith	508	L1	W10	W4	2
7	Shreya Aleti	498	HALF	W5	L2	1½
8	Kirk Brackenhoff	467	L2	W9	W10	2
9	Isaac Thiele	250	L3	L8	----	0
10	Syed Hashmi	unr.	L4	L6	L8	0
11	Charles Hulett	unr.	L5	----	----	0

Rank	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot.	GP	Pct.
1	Casey Sawyer	x	L	W	L	L	W	W	L	L	L	3	9	33
2	Knox Henderson	W	x	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	.	2	8	25
3	T. J. Henderson	L	L	x	L	L	L	L	W	W	L	2	9	22
4	Brayden Blosser	W	W	W	x	D	W	D	.	W	.	6	7	86
5	Oscar Chavez	W	W	W	D	x	W	W	.	.	.	5½	6	92
6	Matt Vespa	L	W	W	L	L	x	W	.	W	.	4	7	57
7	Virshank Kotagiri	L	W	W	D	L	L	x	.	.	W	3½	7	50
8	Charles Hulett	W	W	L	.	.	.	.	x	.	W	3	4	75
9	Leonardo Juarez	W	W	L	L	.	L	.	.	x	L	2	6	33
10	Diego Juarez	W	.	W	.	.	.	L	L	W	x	3	5	60

### DRR #3 (Jan-Feb 2025)

Rank	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Josh Turner	1536	xx	WL	WW	WW	WW	WW	9
2	Evan Gresen	1628	LW	xx	WW	LW	WW	WW	8
3	Morgan Scheer	798	LL	LL	xx	WL	WW	WW	5
4	Eleazar Smith	508	LL	WL	LW	xx	WW	WW	6
5	Jon Ommen	996	LL	LL	LL	LL	xx	WW	2
6	Kirk Brackenhoff	467	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL	xx	0

### DRR #4 (March-April 2025)

Rank	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Josh Turner	1544	xx	WW	WW	WW	WW	8
2	Evan Gresen	1550	LL	xx	WW	WW	WW	6
3	Eleazar Smith	915	LL	LL	xx	WW	DD	3
4	Kyle Churchill	929	LL	LL	LL	xx	LW	1
5	Jon Ommen	854	LL	LL	DD	WL	xx	2

**Come join us!** The Springfield Chess Club meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-8 p.m. at the White Oaks Mall food court. Meetings are canceled on holidays when the hosting facility is closed. At other times, try the online Springfield Chess Club at <https://www.chess.com/club/springfield-chess-club-1>.

SCC memberships expire on December 31 (regular) or June 30 (scholastic). If your membership is expiring (check your mailing label), please renew today! To renew, return this stub and a check payable to Springfield Chess Club to: Springfield Chess Club, c/o David Long, 401 S. Illinois St., Springfield, Ill. 62704. Include any changes to your contact information. New members, please use the full page forms available at: [www.springfieldchessclub.com/join.htm](http://www.springfieldchessclub.com/join.htm).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \$12 Regular ☐ \$5 Scholastic