



The University of Fiji

(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)

The University of Fiji Student Wins Open Category at Chess Tournament

The University of Fiji's student, Navisheel Prasad won the highly contested Open Category at the P. Meghji-Courts Rapid Chess Championship held on 9th July, 2022.

The Year 6 MBBS student at the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences, also caused the biggest upset of the tournament beating Rudr Prasad. Rudr Prasad is part of the team that will represent Fiji at the upcoming Olympiad in Chennai at the end of the month. Navisheel and Rudr had 6 points at the end of tournament but Navisheel won on tie break.

Speaking about his win, Navisheel said the tournament was very challenging, entertaining and a nice break from University life especially since taking part in an over the board experience was like no other.

"When I played against the highest rated player in the tournament, I was a bit nervous and was just hoping for a draw, especially since I had the black pieces. When I saw that after repeated attempts by him to gain a winning advantage fail and just burning time, I drew out the end game as long as I could to burn more of his time and started to go for the win myself. After a very challenging end game I needed up winning," he said.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Fiji Professor Shaista Shameem said the University was proud to be associated with the Fiji Chess Federation which provides ongoing opportunities for the staff and students of the University to form friendships with other chess players in Fiji and refine their game. Chess is a strategic game that allows the University to fulfill its mission to become the think tank of Fiji in regards to policy in all areas of national life, Professor Shameem said.

Dr Ravikesh Prasad of the Fiji Chess Federation said he was pleased to see increasing number of participants from The University of Fiji at the tournaments and encouraged more students to take part in chess.

Dr Prasad further said he was glad to see participation from Napolioni Seru (12 years) who had travelled from Suva for the Championship. The Year 8 Rishikul Primary School student has always been interested in playing chess.

His mother, Salote Seru said that Napolioni started playing a little chess at 3 years old with his family. As he grew up, he started showing keen interest in the game playing with his cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents. Ms Seru said that after learning of the tournaments being played at The University of Fiji from her daughter (who is a MBBS student at the University), she decided to bring Napolioni to allow him to play and advance in the game of chess.

Luisa Corpuz bagged the first prize in the Women's Category. Nisheel Vignesh Chandra of Sangam Sadhu Kuppaswamy Memorial College won the Secondary category while Ricardo Luis Corpuz IV of Gurukul Primary School won the Primary Category.

The University will be hosting all national, and even international tournaments in future as requested by the Fiji Chess Federation. The possibility of having an inter-tertiary competition will also be explored if other major Universities take similar initiative.



From left: Tanvi Prasad and Navisheel Prasad during the last round of the P. Meghji-Courts Rapid Chess Championship



Dr Ricardo Corpuz, Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences participants at the tournament with Professor Ranasinghe Amaradasa and representative from the tournament sponsors, Courts.



Tournament participants during the P. Meghji-Courts Rapid Chess Championship at The University of Fiji Saweni Campus.



Navisheel Prasad receives his prize money for winning the Open Category at the P. Meghji-Courts Rapid Chess Championship.



Professor Amaradsa awarding one of the winners of the Primary category, Yash Prasad.

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