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# CHESS LIFE

# Kids

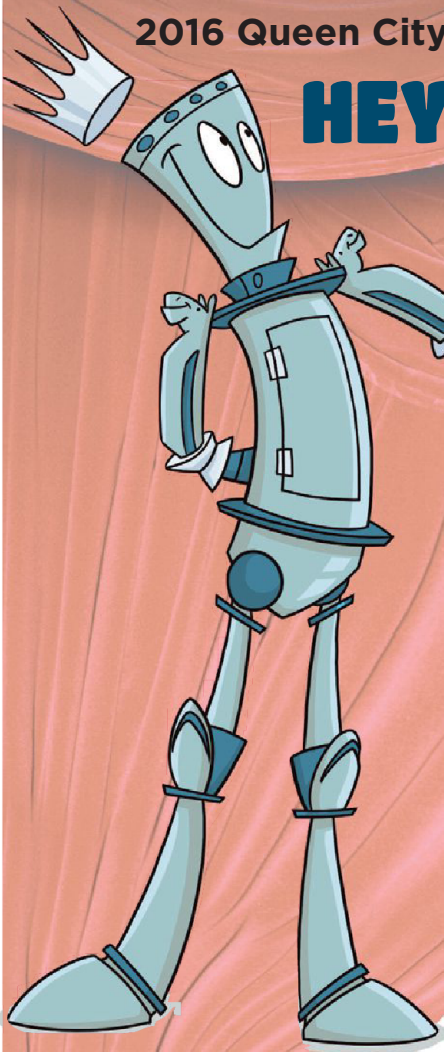
Always Look A  
**GIFT**  
**HORSE**  
In The Mouth!

I'VE GOT A  
BAD FEELING  
ABOUT THIS...



2016 Queen City Classic

# HEY GANG, LET'S PUT ON A ... CHESS TOURNAMENT!!



Stadium in Cincinnati, they just thought it would be a great place to hold a chess tournament.

Now in its 15th year, the Queen City Classic Chess Tournament was held March 11-12 at the Paul Brown Stadium Club West, drawing 625 players from nine states, including our friends from the Detroit City Chess Club (see *CLAK*, April 2015). The Queen City Classic (QCC) has become the largest, regularly scheduled scholastic event in the Midwest, due in no small part to the

continued sponsorship of the Cincinnati Bengals and the Cris Collinsworth Proscan Fund.



Getting ready for the simultaneous exhibition

Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland chose to put on a show. Jake and Elwood put the band back together for their cause. But I'll bet they never thought of organizing a chess tournament ... at a football stadium!

Brothers Corbin, Jory, and Cody Pomeranz didn't need a cause. They weren't out to save an orphanage. While attending a Bengals game at the Paul Brown

## **Google Babes in Arms and The Blues Brothers.**

### **Queen City Chess Scholarships**

The Queen City Chess Scholarships were created to recognize an outstanding 12th grade student in the Greater Cincinnati area who expresses strong leadership qualities, dedicates time to volunteering and has a profound interest and understanding of the game of chess. First (\$1,500), 2nd (\$1,000), and 3rd (\$500) place winners this year were Isaac Smearsoll, Jayren Andrews, and Kyle Costa.

## **THE REASON FOR IT ALL!**





## A FULL SCHEDULE

A lot of activity was packed into the two day schedule, for players and guests, which included Grandmasters Maurice Ashley, Irina Krush, and Gregory Kaidanov, and this year's Shining Knight Award recipients, the Queen of Katwe Phiona Mutesi and Robert Katende. Early Friday morning Ashley and Krush, and Mutesi and Katende visited local schools to interact with the students enrolled in the Cris Collinsworth Proscan Fund (CCPF) Chess in Schools Program. Started in 2013, the program now reaches students in 25 local schools.

In the evening, event emcee Cris Collinsworth introduced the honored guests, and local master and Cincinnati Chess Club champion Russell Wilson, along with the founders of the CCPF Chess Program, Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Penny Pomeranz and their sons, Corbin, Jory and Cody. The Shining Knight Award winners were introduced, and the winners of the annual scholarship awards were announced.

Then GMs Kaidanov and Krush engaged in a blindfold chess game, with GM Ashley doing what he does so well, providing commentary.

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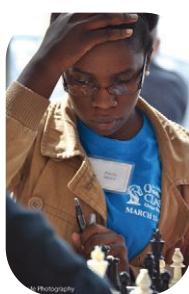
### Shining Knight Award

At the Queen City Classic Simultaneous Exhibition reception, CCPF presents the annual Shining Knight Award, which was created in 2010 to recognize deserving individuals for their commitment to their communities. Over the years, we have recognized a diverse group of people who share a common passion: improving the lives of others and being a positive role model to the children they serve.

#### 2016: Phiona Mutesi and Robert Katende

Phiona has overcome incredible odds to become one of Uganda's top chess players. At age nine, she began learning chess from Robert, a missionary whose program offered a free meal to children who stopped in to learn the game. Having grown up in the slums of Uganda, Phiona only went for the food at first, but she quickly developed a talent and love for chess.

Robert and Phiona now work together to provide chess education, using it to transform the lives of children like Phiona. Their remarkable story will be told in the upcoming Disney film, *Queen of Katwe*, based on the book by Tim Crothers.



# TOURNAMENT!!

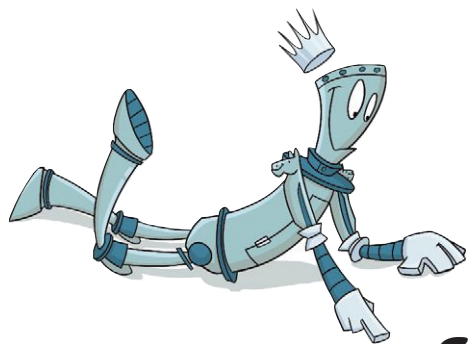
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And then 170 kids sat down to play in a simultaneous exhibition against Ashley, Kaidanov, Krush, and Wilson.

And the tournament hadn't yet started!

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

And begin they did on Saturday at 9 am. While the kids did battle, Maurice and Gregory provided running commentary on the top boards, while Irina and Russell were on hand to keep the kids occupied between rounds. Phiona and Robert



were on hand to sign books.

When the dust had cleared, we had our winners:

Non-rated K: **Eli Hu**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grade 1: **Irving Mao**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grade 2: **Druvin**

**Matalam**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grade 3: **Faraz Hussain,**

**Ved Vyas**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grade 4: **Charlton Li**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grade 5: **Sarvashay**

**Sridhar, Pranav Kannan**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grade 6: **Anresh**

**Vankara, Colin Chitwood**



### Getting ready to make their move

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grades 7-9: **Kyle**

**Sokolis, Arav Bhat**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Non-rated Grades 10-12: **Ben**

**Berja, Benjamin Knight**

Team: Walnut Hills

Rated K-3: **Nicholas Wang**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Rated 4-6: **Karthik Kallam**

Team: CCL

Rated 4-6, U800: **Sushanth**

**Koppula, Jagadeesh Mannem**

**Google Cris  
Collinsworth  
Proscan Fund.**

Team: Dragon Chess Center

Rated 7-9: **Dorian Smalley**

Team: Detroit City Chess Club

Rated 10-12: **Henrik Hahamyan**

Team: CCL

## BE INSPIRED

For more information about the Cris Collinsworth Proscan Fund and the Queen City Classic, visit <https://ccpf.proscan.com>. Be sure to watch his video. And on YouTube, check out Cody Pomeranz and his TEDx lecture on How Chess Can Revolutionize Learning:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3yDvM8apLY>

## Cris Collinsworth Proscan Fund

### Our Mission

**To fight breast cancer** by providing education, support, and early detection services, including free mammograms, to the community.

**To empower children** by fostering self-esteem, sportsmanship, and critical thinking through the game of chess.

With the success of the Queen City Classic Chess Tournament, the Cris Collinsworth ProScan Fund saw a growing enthusiasm for chess in the Cincinnati community. Inspired by the many benefits chess offers young minds, CCPF launched the Chess in Schools Program in September, 2013.

The program places trained chess instructors in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Greater Cincinnati to teach the game to local students. Providing both in-school and after-school chess instruction, CCPF empowers children by cultivating skills that will serve them throughout their lives: critical thinking, concentration, patience, and sportsmanship.