

Chess brothers team up to checkmate opponents

By Dennis Onnen

In an individual sport like chess, good old-fashioned team spirit may seem hard to come by. But UNL Chess Club member Michael Chess says team spirit was one of the biggest factors in UNL's victory at the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship in Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 26 through 30.

Chess, a senior from Omaha, said some teams had high-ranking individuals who tried to win every match, but sometimes lost because of risky play. On the other hand, UNL members would play conservatively for a draw if a draw was all the team needed to win, Chess said.

Chess, his brother Richard, a junior, senior Loren Schmidt of Lincoln and senior Curtis Carlson of Wheatridge, Colo., formed UNL's four-man team which tied Harvard with 7.5 points. The Huskers took home the first-place trophy by winning the tiebreaker, 54.5-54.

Michael Chess said the 123 teams from 87 colleges in the United States, Canada and Latin America were seeded according to the average of the team members' individual rankings. Yale was seeded first, Harvard second and UNL fifth.

The top schools were matched against the bottom ones, and the winners then played other winners in successive rounds. In the eight rounds, the only mar on UNL's record was a sixth-round 2-2 draw with Harvard.

"Most of the good players there were from the Mid-western states," Michael said. For example, second-place Harvard had two players from Iowa and one from Illinois.

This was the fourth trip to the tournament for the Chess brothers and Schmidt, who founded the UNL Chess Club four years ago. The team finished 12th then, improving to tenth and fourth the next two years. This year's addition of Carlson, a correspondence student, propelled

the Huskers to the championship.

Prospects don't appear so bright for UNL next year. Michael Chess, Schmidt and Carlson all graduate, and Richard Chess may not return to school, his brother said. But Michael still is optimistic.

"There still are some good players left, and I hope they'll get more money," he said. This year's team got \$100 from the Fees Allocation Board, with team members paying any expenses beyond that. Some Eastern schools, not only pay expenses but award tuition scholarships to team members, he said.

Michael said the four champions now will concentrate on getting Master rankings, which require an accumulation of 2,200 points from tournament play. All four hold the 2,000-point Expert rankings. There are no Masters in Nebraska and only about 200 in the United States, he said.

sports shorts

Students interested in officiating intramural basketball games for the Recreation Office are asked to attend a clinic at 7 p.m. tonight in the Nebraska Union Small Auditorium.

Students unable to attend the clinic can contact Gale Wiedow, coordinator of intramurals, at 472-3468, or apply at the Recreation Office at 1740 Vine St.

Jim Pittenger, UNL ticket manager and assistant athletic director, is in good condition at Bryan Memorial Hospital, according to hospital officials.

Pittenger was hospitalized Jan. 2 after apparently suffering heart attack.

UNL junior Vince Ferragamo, varsity quarterback, has been named Richman Gordman's third annual "Big Red Player of the Year."

Ferragamo was elected by more than 5,000 fans who voted during the 1975 football season at the

Lincoln Richman Gordman store.

Richman Gordman has given a \$1,000 scholarship in Ferragamo's name to Tricia Madison, UNL senior retailing student of Omaha.

Practice for UNL's soccer team starts Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse north of Memorial Stadium. Students interested in playing are asked to attend.

Senior Jerry Fort, a starting guard on UNL's basketball squad, ranks 34th out of 62 players in votes for the West team in the Pizza Hut Basketball Classic.

The top eight vote getters for the East and West squads when balloting ends March 8 will be invited to participate in the fifth annual Pizza Hut Classic on April 5 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Husker fans can cast votes for Fort at Lincoln's three Pizza Hut locations at 2435 S. 48th St., 4601 "O" St. and 239 N. 14th St.

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