

# U. S. Junior Invitational Championship

by Isaac Kashdan

For the first time, the U.S. Junior Championship Tournament was moved from New York and held in Los Angeles. Also for the first time, the eight contestants were all rated masters.

Both factors were particularly gratifying to Mr. and Mrs. Gregor Piatigorsky of Los Angeles, who a number of years ago established the Piatigorsky Foundation, which has sponsored the event since its inception.

Mrs. Piatigorsky in particular has worked to develop chess interest in schools. She has started a series of activities for juniors that are showing increasingly good results, both in the number of players involved and their improvement in chess.

Four of the players were Californians, all of them ready and willing to accept the championship trophy. It sounded like a good script, but did not work out that way. The winner was the lone entry from Chicago, 19-year-old Craig Chellstorp, playing in his first national tournament.

Chellstorp started fast and kept going, winning his first six games. By that time he was a full point ahead of Ross Stoutenborough. The grandmaster reasoning prevailed over any youthful tendency to play the game at any cost. The result was a draw in nine moves.

The six-game winning streak run up by Chellstorp was by no means the only notable sequence. Stoutenborough had five straight wins between his early loss and final draw. Christiansen started with four wins, then lost his last three in a row.

Starting the last round, Christiansen had a chance to tie for second, as noted above. This would require his winning and Stoutenborough losing. If he lost, he could be tied by Craig Barnes of Berkeley and Timothy Taylor of York, Pa., each of whom had three points at that stage.

Complicating the equation was the fact that Christiansen was paired with Jon Jacobs of New York, who was the tail-ender with just half a point. What was the proper grandmaster strategy? Christiansen, who at 15 was the youngest player in the tournament, perhaps did not go through the required abstract calculations. It was a fighting game, and Jacobs won.

Barnes also started well with three wins, then dropped three games in succession. He reversed course in the final round by beating Danny Kopec of New York. That was enough to tie for fourth place with Christiansen.

Taylor's score was the exact reverse of that of Barnes. He could do nothing right in the first three games, losing them all. He was the only married man in the tournament. His wife Barbara sat near him silently for every minute of the games, reading a series of paperbacks.

Came the fourth round, and Arthur Drucker, who was taking care of many of the arrangements for the Piatigorsky Foundation, needed help in "manning" the wallboards behind each game. He asked Barbara whether she could take care of one of the boards. "Could it be for my husband's game?" she asked. "Of course," said Arthur.

In time Barbara practically took over the chore, handling from two to all four of the boards in impeccable style. Her reading was neglected. Was it coincidence, or some subtle effect? Whatever it was, Timothy started winning, and racked up three points in as many rounds. He was downed in the final round, however, to wind up in fifth place.

Takashi Kurosaki of San Francisco finished sixth with two points. Another streak was involved. He defeated Jacobs in the first round and Taylor in the last, but dropped five straight points in the interim.

Last were the two New Yorkers, Jacobs and Kopec. Each lost his first four games. They got into the scoring column in the fifth round, when they drew with each other. Each then won a game in good style, to show they were not really out-classed.

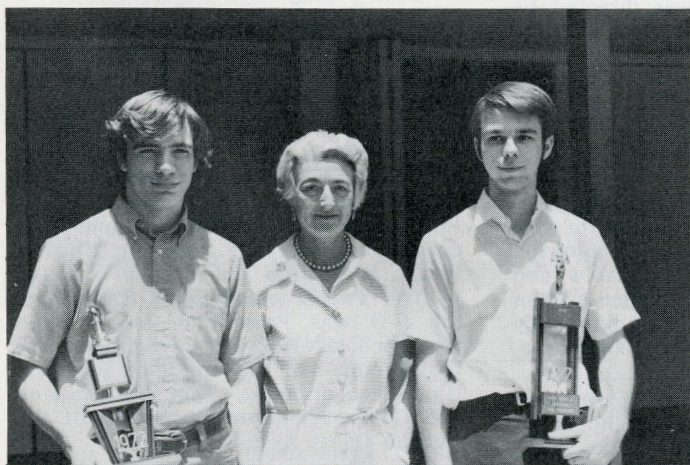
The most fantastic streak of all came in the color results of the early rounds. Here is the way it went. Round 1—Black wins all four games. Round 2—White's turn to win them all. Round 3—Black wins all four games. Round 4—White wins the first three games finished. Then Taylor with Black beats Kopec. Of course Barbara was involved, somehow. Even in the last round, White won in three of the games, the exception being the Chellstorp-Stoutenborough quick draw. Chellstorp was White, but did not have enough faith.

Unofficially there was a match between the California Juniors and those from the Rest of the U.S. This was won by the Californians by 9½-6½.

The players also engaged in a double round speed tournament. The two leaders were again tops, with 11 points for Chellstorp and 10 for Stoutenborough. Jacobs and Kopec improved their standings considerably, tying for third with 7½ points. The other scores were Barnes 6½, Christiansen 5½, Kurosaki 4½ and Taylor 3½.

All the players expressed their appreciation to the Piatigorskys for sponsoring the tournament and for their continuing hospitality throughout. This writer, who directed the event, can state that it was a pleasure to work with this fine group of young men.

(Games from this event will appear in a future issue.—Ed.)



Mrs. Jacqueline Piatigorsky, center, with Craig Chellstorp, left, and Ross Stoutenborough. Photo: Carl Budd.

## U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP LOS ANGELES, June 19-25, 1972

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Tl.
1. Craig Chellstorp, Chicago .....	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	6½
2. Ross Stoutenborough, Riverside..	½	x	1	0	1	1	1	1	5½
3. Craig Barnes, Berkeley .....	0	0	x	0	1	1	1	1	4
4. Larry Christiansen, Riverside....	0	1	1	x	0	1	0	1	4
5. Timothy Taylor, York, Pa. ....	0	0	0	1	x	0	1	1	3
6. Takashi Kurosaki, San Fran.....	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	0	2
7. Jon Jacobs, New York .....	0	0	0	1	0	0	x	½	1½
8. Danny Kopec, New York .....	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	x	1½