

2015 Kansas Open report

The **2015 Kansas Open** was held at the Holiday Inn east in Wichita, Kansas July 17 to 19. There were several events. On Friday there was the Bughouse event and the Blitz tourney. On Saturday and Sunday there was the main event consisting of three sections this year instead of the two sections in the past. There was the Open section, Reserve section (open to rated under 1800) and the Amateur section (open to those rated under 1400).

On Friday the first event was the **Bughouse event** at 4 pm. There were 8 teams of two players. They played four rounds each team playing two games against each opponent team. The team of Tony Dutiel and Ben Gradsky finished in first place winning all of the 8 games they played. There was a tie for second from the Abinav Suresh-Joshua Fernandes team and the Lillian Brown-William Brown team with 5 wins each.



Bughouse winners Tony Dutiel and Ben Gradsky

The **Blitz event** was held later after the Bughouse. There were 27 participants. Ben Gradsky won the event with a perfect record, 5 wins in 5 games. Tie for second with four points were Tom Braunlich and Raam Raghunathan. Then, there was a four way tie for fourth with 3.5 points for Jack Easton, Jack Woehr, Joshua Fernandes, and Marshal Lusk.

Most of the players were from Kansas. There were two Nebraska players and one player from Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Colorado.



Blitz winner Ben Gradsky with Brian Yang (tourney director)

The **main events** were the **Open, Reserve and Amateur sections**. These events were held on Saturday and Sunday. The Amateur section was new this year added mainly because the Reserve section in past several years has been rather large.

The **Open section** had 29 participants: eight from Oklahoma, two from Nebraska, two from Colorado, and two from Missouri. All the other players were from Kansas.

Ben Gradsky finished first by himself with 4.5 points. As he was also the highest finishing Kansas player, he is also our new Kansas State Champion. Finishing in second by himself with 4.0 points was Oklahoma player James Long. Then, there was a four way tie for third place at 3.5 points by Jack Easton, Chuck Johnson, David Scott, and Jim Berry. Jim Berry won the under 1900 prize.



New Kansas Chess Champion Ben Gradsky with Brian Yang
First place in Open section



Jim Berry was top U1900 in Open section and James Long was
second place in Open section (both from Oklahoma)

There were 27 in the **Reserve section** (U1800). There ended up a two way tie in the section between Brian Duke of Oklahoma and Bill Qian of Kansas at 4.0 points. As Bill is the highest rated Kansas player, he is our new Kansas Reserve section champion. There was a six way tie for third place between Jesse Erb, George Verhage, Shams Shaikh, John Tyler Madsen, Gabriel Maurer, and myself- Laurence Coker. Laurence Coker and Gabriel Maurer tied for the U1600 prize. All these

players are from Kansas except John Tyler Madsen, who is from Arkansas. There were two scholastic plaques given, one to first place Brycen Parker and one to second place Veronicka Vanska. They both scored 3.0 points. Places were determined by tiebreaks.



New Kansas Reserve section winner Bill Qian with Brian Yang

The **Amateur section** (U1400) had an interesting result. Players had the choice of playing for playing for scholastic plaques or cash awards. Finishing in first place all by himself with 5.0 points was Rajin Nagpal. But, he was not competing for cash awards, so he just won the first place scholastic award in the section. Adam Weller from Kansas and Jim Huang from Oklahoma tied for second with 4.5 points. Once again there was a scholastic player not playing for cash prizes: Jim Huang won the second place scholastic award. Thus, Adam Weller who scored with 4.5 points is our new Kansas Amateur section champion. Edward Nathan Perry, who actually was fourth overall at 4.0 points, won the second place money prize for the section. The under 1200 prize was shared by Arizona player, Lauren Epard and Kansas player Kyle Boyd, who were both playing for money prizes. Both finished tied at 3.0 points.



First place Amateur Scholastic player Rajin Nagpal and Brian Yang



Kansas Amateur section winner Adam Weller and Brian Yang

It should be noted **Ben Gradsky** had a great tourney. He won the Blitz tourney, the Open section to become our new 2015 Kansas Chess Champion, and he was on the winning Bughouse team having played this event with teammate Tony Dutiel from Nebraska. He wanted to dedicate his achievement to his grandparents Kenneth and Norma Yhap (both recently deceased) and Bea Ballard.



The Playing Hall (I heard no complaints about noise or lighting)- 99 players- Event to return here in 2017



Bill Qian and Brian Duke playing in the last round- Game ended in a draw and they tied for first place. As Bill was from Kansas and Brian from Oklahoma, Bill was awarded Kansas Reserve champion.

BELOW IS GOOGLE LINK TO ALL THE PICTURES I TOOK AT 2015 KANSAS OPEN (Laurence Coker)

<https://picasaweb.google.com/108586918080555793271/2015KansasOpen?authkey=Gv1sRgCKaX0fPfsajJ0gE>