

## Checkmates First Tournament Not Stale, Mate

James Walla and Julie Thomson  
*4-H Leaders*

May 3 was a great day for Nebraska 4-H. The Checkmates, a Lancaster County 4-H club which began two years ago as a pilot project, hosted its first chess tournament. Fifty-one young chess enthusiasts participated, traveling from as far away as Albion, Columbus, Fremont and West Point. Eighteen of the players were 4-H'ers. Twelve youth had the opportunity to play a "simul" against a former chess master, King Christian.

The tournament was non-rated, with four rounds, and used the Swiss system of pairing players where winners play winners in the next round. There were four sections, K-3, K-6, K-9, and K-12. However, K-9 and K-12 sections were combined due to limited registrations. The tournament used a game/30 format, which means that each player had 30 minutes for a game total of an hour. In a few instances clocks were placed on

chess games after 50 minutes, with each player having 5 minutes.

Special prize drawings were held between rounds, with many winners. T-shirts, memo pads, pencils, books, decals and even a chess computer were given away to the lucky children assembled in the "skittles" room, who could hardly wait to see if their names would be drawn next.

The awards ceremony took place at the end of the day. Each participant won a ribbon. A purple ribbon was handed to those with 3 to 4 points. Blue was given for 1.5 to 2.5 points, and red was awarded to players who finished with 1 point or less. This made for 17 purple ribbon winners, 19 blue ribbons winners, and 15 red ribbon winners. Trophies were also awarded in all three divisions to 1st place and 1st 4-H member, and to 2nd, 3rd or 4th place, depending on ties. This made for a total of 19 trophies!

As club leaders, we orga-



Former Chess Master, King Christian (above center), plays 12 tournament participants simultaneously during the lunch break. (At left) Checkmates 4-H members Justin Minchow and Kyle Pedersen (left & right) and Kevin Rock of Randolph Chess Club (center) prepare to play in the simultaneous chess game.



nized the event. Tom Lombard served as Tournament Director. Kent Nelson and Matt Turner assisted as room monitors. The Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) group sold concessions to raise funds for their Washington trip. We wish to give a heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for making the tournament so successful!

### Tournament Results

Here are the trophy winners. Full results are posted online at: [lancaster.unl.edu/4h](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h).

**K-12 Division** — 1st place: Kevin Swartz. 2nd Place (three-way tie): John Baltaro, Austin Fritz, Andrew Wolf and John Ward. 1st place 4-H: Kevin Swartz.

**K-6 Division** — 1st place (three-way tie): Terra Thomson, Eric Rock and Aleem Malik. 4th place (five-way tie): Chung-Geon Rhee, Joseph Knobbe, Seth Johnson, Kyle Pedersen and Ben Nability. 1st place 4-H: Terra Thomson.

**K-3 Division** — 1st place: Ahsan Kamal. 2nd place (three-way tie): Michael Liou, Ryan Kirkpatrick and Andrew Peterson. 1st place 4-H: Paul Lombard and Salem Boehm.

## HORSE BITS

### 2002 Horse Incentive Program Recipients

The 4-H Horse Incentive Program helps 4-H'ers set goals and measure their progress. 4-H horse exhibitors document the number of hours spent working with their horse, cleaning stalls, showing at horse shows, attending clinics and performing community service.

The following 4-H'ers successfully completed and documented their goals in 2002: Elise Edgar, Erin Fitl, Jessica Fitl, Jessica Harris, Taylor Holliday and Kalvin Lonowski. Various awards were given based on number of hours.

Congratulations to these 4-H'ers!



Taylor Holliday received a belt buckle.



Elise Edgar received a jacket.

Documentation forms for the 2003 Incentive Program are currently available from the Lancaster County Extension office. They need to be turned in by

July 15 to either Donna Stading-Smith or the extension office. (EK)

### JUNE



### Gary & Rhonda Chubbuck

Lancaster County 4-H and 4-H Council are proud to announce Gary and Rhonda Chubbuck as co-winners of June's "Heart of 4-H Award" in



recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Gary and Rhonda are 4-H parents of daughters Shelby, Kaitlyn and Hannah who are members of the Western Pride 4-H horse club. Gary and Rhonda have been active in Western Pride for 1-1/2 years and they volunteer for meetings, play days, ring practice and more.

They were nominated by Terri and Jamie Whisler (Terri is co-leader of Western Pride and Jamie is her daughter). Terri says, "Gary and Rhonda are truly unselfish, giving people and it's parents like them that are leaders to our children. Last year, none of their daughters entered the County Fair, but they were there every minute of every day making sure that everything ran smoothly for the other children." Jamie added, "Gary is good with kids and has a great sense of humor. Rhonda is a wonderful person and is always willing to help."

Gary says, "I love working with kids. Helping them learn and watching them grow and work together as a team is a real joy to see." Rhonda also enjoys seeing the kids learn. She says her favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer was helping with the County Fair last year. "It was our first experience and we really learned a lot." She helped in the food booth when they were short-handed. Gary brought his grill and cooked for club members. Gary adds, "Those kids really worked hard. It was a good experience."

They also volunteer at their daughters' school, Lakeview Elementary. Gary works at Nebraska Machinery and Rhonda works in the surgery department at BryanLGH-West.

Congratulations to Gary and Rhonda. Volunteers like them are indeed, the heart of 4-H!

### Nominate Your Favorite 4-H Volunteer!

A "Heart of 4-H Award" is awarded to a Lancaster County 4-H volunteer each month! Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer or leader by submitting the following form (also available online at [lancaster.unl.edu/4h](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h)). Nominations of co-volunteers accepted.



I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for a "Heart of 4-H Award" because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I can be reached at (phone) \_\_\_\_\_ or (e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: UNL Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528.