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Local chess champion makes it three straight

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James Demos of Elmwood Park won his third championship chess trophy cup on Dec. 6, 2009 in "The Knights Quest" championship tournament.

He has won three consecutive years, starting in 2007, and is trying to win his fourth championship cup.

Demos joined the U.S. Chess Federation in March 2006 and started playing competitively in tournaments in Oak Brook, Joliet, Northbrook, Lombard, Chicago and Wheeling, to name a few, trying to gain experience in the game.

It wasn't long before he discovered that not only is competitive chess mentally demanding, but it is also physically demanding.

Then in 2006 he heard of a chess club called "The Renaissance Knights" in Northbrook. They had tournaments called "The Knights Quest" played once a month at the Renaissance Hotel in Northbrook.

This is a year-long event starting in January and ending in December in four-sections: U600, U1000, U1400 and the open section, which includes fide masters, masters, experts and anybody who wants to play in the open section. Competitors play in the section they are rated for.

There are four games per tournament, one tournament per month for 12 months.

The time limit is 30 minutes per game. Competitors must hit a clock after each move and take notation for every move that's been played. There are 60 to 70 players a month per tournament.

The Renaissance Knight is a gold affiliate of the U.S. Chess Federation.

For more information, go to www.renaissanceknights.org, or call David Heiser at (773) 844-0701.

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