

Youth Bridge Update 2023

Buffalo Youth players win National Youth Swiss Teams in Chicago



ACBL Educational Foundation President Robert Todd, right, present trophies to the winners of the National Youth Swiss Teams: Tiger Li, Samuel Li, Han Wu and Darwin Skalski.

The team of **Han Wu, Samuel Li, Tiger Li and Darwin Skalski** won the **ACBL Educational Foundation and BridgeWhiz National Youth Swiss Teams** on Saturday.

Wu and Samuel Li are from the Toronto area;Skalski and Tiger Li are from Buffalo NY. The team started out getting blitzed in the first round and finished in fifth place out of 10 qualifiers, 17 victory points behind the leaders with about half as much carryover. They never met that team in the final session, but they got big enough wins in three of their matches to win by 4.28 VPs with a score of 65.38.

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Front row: **Melanie Skalski, Carol Li**

Back row: **Aditiya Gupta, Julian King, Daren Liu, Tyler Mu, Tiger Li and Darwin Skalski and of course, Jim Gullo** :)

The **2022 Youth National Bridge Championships** for ACBL members under the age of 20 was held during the final weekend of the Providence Open North American Bridge Championships during July 2022. A big thank you to **Jim Gullo** who prepared nine students for the tourney. Eight of the students went on to compete in the YNABC in Providence, Rhode Island.

Unit 116's newest students, **Carol Li** and **Melanie Skalski**, competed in the Thursday morning Cardrök pairs, a competition for beginners, and excelled in their field achieving a 60% game, good enough for 4th overall A for **0.51 red** points. The young ladies left the beginner pairs in their dust and moved on to the Open Youth competitions. We should all be very proud of these young ladies!

In the open Thursday morning pairs, **Tiger Li** and **Darwin Skalski** placed 3rd overall in Strat A earning **3.44 red** points with a 66% game. Also in their field were **Aditiya Gupta** and **Julian King**, who placed 4th in A and second in B in their section with a 50% game, earning **0.75 red**.

Thursday afternoon was the Youth Open Swiss and the Buffalo area juniors fielded two teams, one with two brother-sister pairs, **Carol and Tiger Li** and **Darwin and Melanie Skalski**. It was the girls' first Swiss team event and they earned some more red points with a tie. The King team, consisting of **Julian King, Tyler Mu, Daren Liu and Aditiya Gupta**, came in third overall in B.

Friday was the 2-session Baron Barclay National Youth Open Pairs with the opportunity to win some gold points if your pair qualified to play in the second session. **Darwin Skalski and Tiger Li** did just that, qualified.

Although **Darwin and Tiger** did not place in the overalls and earn gold, they came in the top half of the event. **Daren Liu and Tyler Mu** literally just missed the cut to qualify.

Meanwhile, for those who did not Q, players had their chance to excel in the 1-session Friday afternoon Youth Pairs and excel they did! **Daren Liu and**

Tyler Mu came in 2nd overall in Fight A with a 64% and earned **2.47 red**. **Aditiya Gupta and Julian King** came in 3rd overall B with a 51% and earned 0.79 red.

On Saturday, the Buffalo youth played in the 2-session Youth National Swiss Teams where **Tiger Li and Darwin Skalski** teamed up with **Andy** from California and **Nicole** from Florida to place 5th Overall in A and 2nd overall in B, earning **2.18 GOLD** points. Our all Buffalo team, **Julian King, Tyler Mu, Darien Liu and Aditiya Gupta** placed 3rd overall in B and first overall in C earning **1.54 red** points.

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