

Larry Smith

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Chess Master / Trainer

Philosophy: *"I favor the dynamic, creative side of chess, with an emphasis on mental preparation, practical play and fun."*

Chess Background

- Learned chess at 9 years of age; joined the USCF at 14
- Became a National Master (rating of 2200 or higher) in 1985
- Peak rating of 2312
- Favorite Player / Influence: Alexander Alekhine

Chess Experience

- Tied for 3rd in 1972 California Junior, and won numerous other tournaments
- Won the club championships for the Conejo Valley, Simi, Ventura, and Hughes (San Fernando Valley, now West Valley) Chess Clubs
- Scored 16-2 in the 1989 Golden Knights (Correspondence Chess)
- Current Thousand Oaks Chess Club (TOCC) champion (5 straight years)

Chess Exhibitions

- Scored 20 wins, 3 draws, & 3 losses while giving 2 simultaneous exhibitions (simuls) at The Oaks Mall sponsored by The Gamekeeper
- Gave a 16-board simul at the TOCC in 2014, scoring 14 wins and 2 draws
- Played in 2 Master vs Junior simuls in Valencia, scoring 15-1
- Moorpark College, 1976: Scored 6-0 in a simul while playing 1 game blindfolded
- Participated in several club and business exhibitions (e.g., Bunker Ramo)

Teaching & Tutoring

- Mentored a Top Ten Under 12 Player (who became a Master) & a Junior Expert
- TA for San Francisco State University Chess class
- Taught chess classes at Learning Tree University, Chinese Day School (TOHS)
- Gave a seminar on "Bobby Fischer: Chess on the World Stage" at California State University at Channel Islands (CSUCI), July 2018
- My article "Antecedents" was published in *Rank & File* chess magazine, July 2018
- Taught *Win At Chess!* course at Conejo Valley Adult Education center, Fall 2018
- Provided individual, customized lessons for 30+ students over the past 15 years

The Benefits of Chess

- Enhanced brain development
- Increased focus & clarity, mental strength & endurance
- Improved self-confidence & self-reliance
- Enhanced problem solving abilities
- Character development & sportsmanship

Training rates available upon request