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CHESS STAR WINS PM'S NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



CM Jaden Shaw

The Prime Minister's National Youth Awards for Excellence salutes young persons between the ages of 15 and 29 who have distinguished themselves in various sectors. This year, among the 150 nominations from various fields, chess star Candidate Master Jaden Shaw was honored as the male awardee, surpassing notable finalists including Cricketer Rovman Powel, Triple Jumper Jaydon Hibbert, Sprinter Bouwahjgie Nkrumie, and Bodybuilder Daniel Haughton.

Jaden's journey in chess began at the age of seven, and now, as a 15-year-old student at Wolmer's Boys High School, he has achieved numerous remarkable accomplishments in the game. He earned the title of Candidate Master (CM) in 2022 and currently ranks fifth among all active players in Jamaica, despite still being

classified as a junior. Jaden humbly shared, "It's an honor to be recognized nationally, and any of the nominees could have won this award as they are all excelling in their respective fields." He expressed his deep gratitude to his coaches, NM Ryan Blackwood and IM Jomo Pitterson, his training partners at the Pitterson Chess Institute, John Stephenson and Darren McKennis, and above all, his parents and faith in God for their unwavering belief and support throughout his chess journey.

The PM's Youth Award serves as a wonderful recognition not only for Jaden but also for chess as a sport. Jaden now joins the ranks of previous chess athletes who have received this esteemed award, including CM Brandon Wilson, WIM Rachel Miller, and David Rose.

While chess may not involve physical exertion like traditional sports, it is widely acknowledged as a mind sport. The game requires strategic thinking, mental agility, concentration, and tactical skills. Competitively played in tournaments and championships at various levels, chess players undergo training, practice, and strategic preparations similar to athletes in other sports. Furthermore, chess is recognized by international sports organizations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and governed by FIDE (the World Chess Federation), an international sports governing body. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jaden for this remarkable achievement and prestigious award!

-CM Mark Cameron

RJRGLEANER SPORTS AWARDS HONOR CHESS ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Winners Gabriella Watson & CM Jaden Shaw

The RJRGLEANER Sports Foundation honors, outstanding achievement in sport by Jamaican athletes each calendar year. The RJRGleaner Sportsman & Sportswoman of the year award ceremony for 2022 was held on January 20, 2023, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

The category award for Female in Chess went to Ms. Gabriella Watson while the Absolute award went to Candidate Master (CM) Jaden Shaw.

Gabriella Watson, a student at Immaculate Conception High School, holds an impressive record. She is a former National Junior U20 Female Champion and became one of the youngest to achieve that title in 2022. Additionally, she has won multiple age group championships and is the reigning Under 16 Female National Champion. Gabriella currently trains with the esteemed R&D Chess Academy under the guidance of Woman International Master Deborah Richards-Porter, who herself has received the esteemed RJRGLEANER SPORTS award and has represented Jamaica in five Chess Olympiads.

CM Jaden Shaw is the current National Junior U20 Absolute Champion, the current U16 National Age Group Champion, and the recently crowned National Absolute Champion for 2023. A Wolmer's Boys High School student, Jaden is no stranger to prestigious awards, having demonstrated exceptional talent and achievements. He currently trains with the Pitterson Chess Institute under the tutelage of Jamaica's first International Master, Jomo Pitterson. IM Pitterson is widely recognized as one of the greatest chess players Jamaica has ever produced, and has represented Jamaica all over the world, playing in 6 Olympiads.

The Jamaica Chess Federation celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of these exceptional chess athletes and their contributions to the sport in Jamaica.

-Richard O. Shaw



Awardees Jaden & Gabriella with their mothers Terry-Ann & Janine



Gabriella Watson, Shericka Jackson, CM Jaden Shaw

WOLMER'S BOYS HIGH SCHOOL WIN 2022/2023 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



CHAMPIONS TEAM -WOLMERS BOYS "A" TEAM

(L-R, Coach Warren Elliott, CM Jaden Shaw, John Stephenson, Kamari Stephens, Corbin Harvey, Orion Isaacs)

After an exhilarating series of preliminary tournaments held at various locations island wide, the twenty best teams in the country came together on March 9th and 10th 2023 for the Finals to determine the 2022/23 National High School Chess Champions. This team event saw teams of 4 players from schools island-wide battling their opponents in a six-round final, where points were awarded based on a win, loss, or draw.

Wolmer's Boys High School "A" team emerged victorious as the undefeated champions of the event, securing 5 wins and 1 draw. Wolmer's Boys also secured the Urban Champion prize. The team consisted of Jamaica U20 Absolute Chess Champion and Candidate Master (CM) Jaden Shaw, Kamari Stephens, John Stephenson, Corbin Harvey, and Orion Isaacs. Shaw demonstrated his mastery over opponents, finishing with an

impressive 5 points and no losses in the tournament (4 wins, 2 draws). Stephens also delivered an excellent performance, accumulating 4.5 points with 4 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss.

St. Catherine High School "A" team claimed the second position on tiebreakers, with 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. They were named Rural Champions for the event. The defending champions,



St Catherine "A" team at work



St Jago "A" team at work



Champions John Stephenson, Richard Shaw, CM Jaden Shaw

St. Jago High School "A" team, finished in third place, also on tiebreakers, again with 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. Glenmuir High School "A" team secured fourth place on tiebreakers, recording 4 wins and 2 losses, while Green Island High "A" team rounded out the top five with 2 wins, 3 draws, and 1 loss.

The best performances on Board 1 came from CM Jaden Shaw of Wolmer's Boys High School "A" team and Christopher Lyn of Jamaica College "A" team, both finishing with 5 points. CM Shaw secured the award by virtue of defeating Lyn in the 1st round tie against JC "A".



Number 1, champions- Orion Isaacs

Angelus-Seren McDonald from St. Catherine High School "A" team excelled as the best performer on Board 2, accumulating 5.5 points.

Rinaldo Hill from Titchfield High School "A" team emerged as the winner on Board 3 with 5 points, showcasing another stellar performance.

On Board 4, the best performers were Aldain Kerr from Green Island High "A" team, Aayush Jain from Ardenne "A" team, and Jaheim Smart from Champion College "A" team, all finishing with 5 points.

-Richard O. Shaw

FINAL RANKING OF FINALIST TEAMS:

1. Wolmer's Boy's School A	6. Campion College A	11. Manning's School A	16. Wolmer's Boys' School B
2. St. Catherine High School A	7. Ardenne High School A	12. Kingston College B	17. Wolmer's Boys' School C
3. St. Jago High School A	8. Jamaica College A	13. Glenmuir High School B	18. Campion College C
4. Glenmuir High School A	9. Campion College D	14. Morant Bay High School A	19. DeCarteret College A
5. Green Island High A	10. St. Jago High School B	15. Titchfield High School A	

IOC THOMAS BACH VISITS JAMAICA



Christopher Lyn and Tevaughn Jones engaged in a blitz game while IOC President Thomas Bach, JOA President Christopher Samuda & Jamaica Chess President NM Peter Myers looks on

President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, paid a three-day visit to Jamaica as part of his recent travel itinerary covering the Caribbean and Central America. The purpose of the trip was to strengthen the relationship between regional Olympic sporting bodies and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), as well as to promote the Olympic agenda. On March 3, President Bach arrived in Jamaica and received a warm welcome from Christopher Samuda, President of the Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA), along with members of the Executive Committee and representatives from national sports federations. The following day, a sports demonstration took place, where the President had the opportunity to meet athletes from both Olympic and non-Olympic sports. The Jamaica Chess Federation was present at the event, and showcased the beautiful game of chess to the delegates at the Montego Bay Convention Centre. Representing the Jamaica Chess Federation were President and National Master Peter Myers, council member Richard Shaw, and chess athletes Tevaughn Jones and Christopher Lyn.

While Chess is not included in the official program of the Olympic Games, chess has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as a sport and it has been granted the status of an “Olympic sport without an Olympic program.” This means that chess is eligible for recognition and support from the IOC, but it does not currently have a place in the actual competition of the Olympic Games.

-Richard O. Shaw



JCF - Tevaughn Jones, NM Peter Myers & Richard Shaw

NATIONAL U20 CHESS TITLES GOES TO AMY STEPHENSON AND CM JADEN SHAW

Candidate Master (CM) Jaden Shaw and Amy Stephenson emerged as the champions in the Absolute and Female sections, respectively, of the 2023 National Junior Under-20 Championship.

At the conclusion of the eight-round tournament, top-ranked Shaw achieved a flawless performance in the Absolute section, securing a perfect 8 points. Nathan Hare finished as the runner-up with 5.5 points, while Darren Mckennis secured the third-place position on tiebreak, tallying 5 points, just ahead of Kofi Sutherland who also accumulated 5 points.

Amy Stephenson, showcased an impressive performance in the Female section, claiming victory with 7.5 points. Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Raehanna Brown claimed second place on tiebreak with 6 points, ahead of former National Female Champion Gabriella Watson. Kaia Gayle secured fourth place with 5.5 points.

The National Junior U20 Chess Championship holds a prominent place on the Jamaica Chess Federation's calendar, drawing together some of the country's most promising young players. The tournament spanned two weekends, with four rounds played on January 7 and 8, and the remaining rounds played on January 14 and 15. The tournament follows a Swiss System format, with a time control of 90 minutes with 30 second increments.

Jamaica Chess Federation's council member, and father of Jaden Shaw, Richard Shaw, expressed his pride in his son's accomplishment, remarking, "I am very proud of Jaden's achievement in becoming a two-time Junior U-20 champion. Jaden's dedication to his preparations has paid off, and these results are truly well-deserved. Similarly, Amy Stephenson has consistently improved with each tournament, and her outstanding performance exemplifies her standing as one of Jamaica's leading female junior players. They both represent Jamaica's exceptional junior chess talent."

-CM Mark Cameron



NA IO Terence Lindo presents CM Jaden Shaw his trophy for winning The National Juniors (U20 Chess Championships)



NA IO Terence Lindo presents Amy Stephenson her trophy for winning The National Juniors (U20 Chess Championships)

A THRILLING END TO THE 2023 NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2023 National Age Group Chess Championship, held at the University of the West Indies, ended in dramatic fashion with three playoffs to decide the champions in their respective categories. The event, organized by the Jamaica Chess Federation, featured over 300 participants from more than 50 schools, competing for the title of national champion in their age groups. The proceedings were inaugurated by the Minister of Finance, the Honorable Dr. Nigel Clarke, and when the curtains closed, 12 new champions were crowned, to potentially represent Jamaica on the international stage for 2023.

UNDER 8:

Rajvir Shergil emerged as the winner of the Under 8 Absolute section, winning all six of his games. Christian Brooks and Jordan Mantock finished tied for second and third place, respectively.

The Under 8 Female section concluded in a thrilling finish as three players tied for first place with five points from six games. They had to face off against each other in a speed chess playoff. After a full round of ties, the players were asked to play another round with shorter blitz time limits. After the rigorous playoff, Dayna-Simone Swasey claimed the section's title and became the Under 8 Female champion. Leah Logan and Rhea Gardner finished in second and third place, respectively.

UNDER 10:

Raheem Gayle delivered a superb performance, securing the top position in the Under 10 Absolute section with a perfect score of 6/6. Tevaughn Tennant and Austin Xiang closely followed with 5/6 points each for second and third place respectively, on tiebreak.

In the Under 10 Female section, Candidate Master-elect Emilia-Rose Leake achieved a similar result, finishing with a perfect 6/6. Elisha Patel secured second place with 5/6 points, while Mai Chin claimed the third position, also with 5/6 points.

UNDER 12:

In the fiercely competitive Under 12 Absolute section, Aaron Mckoy emerged as the victor, concluding with 5.5/6 points to secure a narrow margin victory. Ronak Shergil finished second with 5/6 points, and Liam Logan secured third place on tiebreaks, also with 5/6 points.

A similar score of 5.5/6 points crowned Victoria Salazar as the champion of the Under 12 Female section. Sofia Petrut-Trandafir claimed second place with 5/6 points, while Victoria Powell finished in third place with 4.5/6 points.

UNDER 14:

The tournament took another exciting turn in the highly competitive Under 14 Absolute section, where three young players tied for first place with five points each. In the end, Corbin Harvey, Cameron Coe, and Zahmir Smikle had to battle it out in a speed version of the game to determine the champion. Corbin Harvey emerged victorious by winning both playoff games, becoming the Under 14 Absolute Champion, while Cameron Coe secured second place, and Zahmir Smikle finished in third.

Olympian player Kaia Gayle dominated the Under 14 Female category, securing the title with a perfect score of 6/6. Glory Murphy claimed second place with 4.5/6 points, closely followed by Dedipya Sunkara in third place with 4/6 points.

UNDER 16:

Candidate Master Jaden Shaw registered another impressive victory, finishing with 5.5/6 points to claim the Under 16 Absolute title. J-Loy Chin and Gabriella Watson both finished with 4.5/6 points, securing second and third place, respectively.

The merged section crowned Gabriella Watson as the Under 16 Female champion with 4.5/6 points. Suraiya Matandara-Clarke secured second place with 4/6 points, and Arielle Mckoy claimed third place with 3/6 points.

UNDER 18:

Moving on to the Under 18 category, more excitement unfolded in the Absolute section as top juniors Darren Mckennis and Woman Candidate Master Raehanna Brown finished tied with 5.5/6 points. They engaged in a speed chess playoff, which also ended in a tie. After a 1-1 tie in the blitz portion of the playoffs, a sudden death Armageddon match determined the winner. Raehanna emerged victorious, claiming the Under 18 Absolute title to complement her previously won Under 18 Female title. Darren Mckennis secured second place, while Aayush Jain finished in third with 4/6 points.

In the Under 18 Female section, Amy Stephenson took second place, and Kaitly Gayle earned third place.

The annual Jamaica Chess Federation Championships was proudly sponsored by Grace Vienna Sausages and Tile City Home & Center. Melissa Moses, Parent & Director of Tile City & Home Center, expressed her delight in being a part of the event, extending her congratulations to all the participants who made the championships truly amazing. Co-Organizer Warren Elliott also expressed his satisfaction with the massive turnout of players, stating, "When a room is filled with over 300 players participating in any intellectual endeavor, you can only smile and be happy for the future of the country."

St. Andrew Preparatory was recognized as the top primary and preparatory school, while Champion College emerged as the top high school. IM Jomo Pitterson was acknowledged as the top coach of the tournament.

-FM Warren Elliott

RESULTS OF 2023 NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

CATEGORY	Champion (1st place)	2nd Place	3rd Place
Under 8 Absolute	Rajvir Shergil	Christian Brooks	Jordan Mantock
Under 8 Female	Dayna-Simone Swasey	Leah Logan	Rhea Gardner
Under 10 Absolute	Raheem Gayle	Tevaughn Tennant	Austin Xiang
Under 10 Female	Emilia-Rose Leake	Elisha Patel	Mai Chin
Under 12 Absolute	Aaron Mckoy	Ronak Shergil	Liam Logan
Under 12 Female	Victoria Salazar	Sofia Petrut-Trandifir	Victoria Powell
Under 14 Absolute	Corbin Harvey	Cameron Coe	Zahmir Smikle
Under 14 Female	Kaia Gayle	Glory Murphy	Dedipya Sunkara
Under 16 Absolute	Jaden Shaw	J-Loy Chin	Gabriella Watson
Under 16 Female	Gabriella Watson	Suraiya Matandara-Clarke	Arielle Mckoy



NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS PHOTO GALLERY





JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION

 jamaicachess  jamchess  Jamaica Chess Federation  www.jamchess.com

Email: jamchessfed.president@gmail.com | jamchessfed.secretary@gmail.com | jamchessfed.publications@gmail.com