

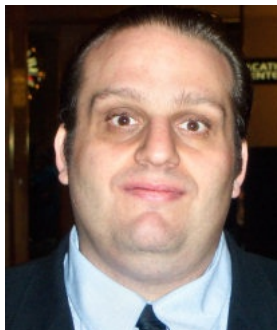


U. S. Chess Federation
www.uschess.org

PO BOX 3967
CROSSVILLE, TN 38557-3967
Phone: (931) 787 - 1234
Fax: (931) 787 - 1200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 29, 2005
Press Release #43 of 2005

Contact: Joan DuBois
(931) 787-1234 #123
jdubois@uschess.org



Chess Master Ben Finegold Awaits Grandmaster Status

(Crossville, TN) Ben Finegold of Michigan recently completed the requirements for the title of International Grandmaster, the most prestigious chess title short of world champion. Finegold earned his third and final GM “norm” at the 2005 Martinovsky Memorial, a six- player double round robin in Bolingbrook, Illinois, concluded August 23.

He scored a nine- round GM norm by winning three of his first nine games and drawing the remainder. His wins were over IM Angelo Young (twice) and IM Stanislav Smetankin, while his draws were against GM Nikola Mitkov (twice), Yuri Shulman (twice), GM Vladimir Georgiev and IM Stanislav Smetankin. He should be awarded the title no later than the next Congress of FIDE, the World Chess Federation.

Required results vary by tournament. Tournaments are assigned categories based on the average rating of the participants. Weaker events require a higher score for qualification. A grandmaster candidate, for example, is expected to attain better results than international masters and to score like recognized grandmasters in the field. When a player has achieved three norms, the results are sent to FIDE for review, and confirmation leads to the awarding of the title

Finegold's first GM norm was achieved at the July 2002 World Open in Philadelphia.. In tying for first place there, he scored 7-2, which was one half point over the norm requirement. In that event, he beat GM's Boris Kreiman and Pavel Blatny and drew GM's Ilya Smirin, Alexander Onischuk, and Arthur Yusupov.

His second GM Norm was earned in April at the 2005 Chicago Spring Invitational. He scored 8-3 in the round-robin event held in Lincolnwood, Illinois. He drew IM Stanislav Smetankin, GM Varuzhan Akobian, GM Borislav Mitkov, IM Ronald Burnett, IM Jesse

Kraai, and IM Andranik Matikozian. He beat WGM Rusudan Goletiani, FM Albert Chow, GM Vladimir Georgiev, NM Pete Karagianis, and FM Jan Van de Mortel.

Finegold has been working towards his GM title for a long time. Despite almost always being the highest rated IM in the country, he always had trouble getting the requisite norms. This year, however, he has been on a hot streak and has raised his USCF rating up about 80 points to 2649 while tying for first in the 2005 National Open. As only 12 active American GMs (out of about 40), are rated higher than he, it was hard to imagine the GM title wouldn't be coming soon.

Ben Finegold was born September 6, 1969 in Detroit, Michigan, to Ron and Rita Finegold. He has a chess family – Dad played Bobby Fischer in 1963; brother Mark is currently a USCF Master; and wife Kelly qualified for the 2006 US Championship! Ben became a USCF Master at age 14, a Life Master (300 rated games at master level) at age 15, Senior Master at 16, International Master at 20. It is clear that Ben's next chess move was to become a Grandmaster. At 2649, he is the highest-rated U.S.- born player on the current USCF rating list.



The United States Chess Federation (USCF), founded in 1939, serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and is now headquartered in Crossville, Tennessee. USCF is devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. It promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, and as a means for the improvement of society. The USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization with almost 90,000 members. For additional information on the USCF see: <http://www.uschess.org>.