

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY CHESS TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Amarasinghe And Dahl Share Individual Championship Title

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., March 31, 2010 – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that its Chess team won the 2010 Minnesota Scholastic Chess Association High School Chess Championship <<http://www.chesscastle.com/>>. Individually, **P. Amarasinghe '12** and **M. Dahl '12** were both crowned state co-champions, by virtue of each having the highest game tallies and tie-breaks in the tournament.

The Academy's chess team moderator, John Geroux, said, "The boys worked long and hard since last August to reach two conference titles this school year, one in the fall as well as this spring. The addition of the state's new individual co-champions to the team was critical in the team's success, as was the inter-team mentoring program the players provided. I could not be happier with how well they did and the class they showed. I am very proud of each and every one of them."

The team line-up included:

A. Bute '10	P. Amarasinghe '12
S. Dichtel '10	M. Dahl '12
T. Mulvey '10	R. Hughes '12
M. Johnson '11	D. Sosa '12
D. Patrick '11	

The competition was played at Robbinsdale-Cooper High School over two days and six matches, with scores of the top four players from each team used to determine the final team score.

Leading the team's winning effort were Amarasinghe and Dahl, each with 5-1/2 points out of 6. Dichtel and Bute followed with 4 and 3-1/2 points respectively. In reserve was Johnson, also with 3-1/2 points.

The final team standing had Saint Thomas Academy with 18-1/2 points, and a tie-break; Eden Prairie with 18-1/2 points and no tie-break. Rounding out the top three was Minneapolis Southwest with 17-1/2 points.

On an individual level, Dahl is ranked 465 in the world in the under 16 category and has earned a master title. Amarasinghe is ranked 747 in the world in the under 16 category.

The team's next challenge and chess finale of the year is slated for April 16, when they travel to Columbus, Ohio, for the three-day, seven-round, 28-hour National High School Championships, playing in Open Class against teams from across the nation.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com <<http://www.cadets.com>> .