

## TOURNAMENT REPORT

# New Hitech Computer Chess Success

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Carnegie-Mellon University's Hitech chess computer scored 5-1 in the National Open Chess Championships held in Chicago March 18-20. The Championship Section in which Hitech competed, had 380 entries. There was a six-way tie for first with 5.5 points between: International Grandmaster Mikhail Tal (a former world champion), International Grandmaster Sergey Kudrin, FIDE Master Michael Brooks, International Master James Rizzitano, International Master Calvin Blocker, and International Grandmaster Leonid Shamkovich. Tied for seventh with 5 points were: National Master Hitech, International Grandmaster Maxim Dlugy, International Grandmaster Walter Browne, International Grandmaster Arthur Bisguier, and nine others. Hitech also finished ahead of one International Grandmaster. All the above named humans are among the top 30 players in the US No computer has ever finished this high in such elite company. Its score was achieved by beating four Experts, one Master, and losing to International Grandmaster Kudrin.

Hitech's US Chess Federation (USCF) performance rating for this tournament was 2476, and its rating should rise to USCF 2396, a new high water mark for computer chess. This places it within four rating points of becoming a USCF Senior Master, the highest title awarded nationally in chess. It also means that Hitech is now ranked about 150th among registered US chess players. This tournament is Hitech's best performance since finishing first in the Pennsylvania State Championship in August, 1987. Over its last five tournaments since August 1987, Hitech has achieved a performance rating of

2460. Over this span it has scored 18-1 against players rated below it, and 3-8 against players rated above it. Of the eight points it lost against players rated above it, three were losses to International Grandmaster's, three were losses to International Master's, and there were two draws against players rated over 2500, (one an International Master).

From previous tournaments rated by FIDE, the international chess federation, Hitech has achieved a performance worthy of a FIDE rating. However, at present FIDE is declining to rate computers. Hitech has met every qualification but one for achieving a rating—it is not a human. If Hitech were eligible for a rating, its FIDE rating would be 2350, which would qualify it for the FIDE Master title.

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