



Rob Hoyt

Grandmaster Ildar Ibragimov shows the New Britain Chess Club members the moves he made in a chess match that he won this year in the New York State Championship. See story on Page 10.

Learning from a master

**Grandmaster teaches
New Britain Chess Club**

Playing a grandmaster

International champion teaches strategies of chess, then took on 30 members of New Britain Chess Club

By FRAN MORALES
HEARALD STAFF

NEW BRITAIN – The game of chess can be played in countless variations through logic and strategic planning.

On Tuesday when national grandmaster Ildar Ibragimov stepped into the local Chess Club's main hub – the Quartette Club at 225 Wooster St. – it was all game for 12-year-old Daniel Rozovsky.

“Every move needs to have a purpose,” said Rozovsky of West Hartford who prepared his strategic plan to take on the grandmaster.

While Ibragimov taught local kids winning techniques, Rozovsky followed his suggestions moving his pieces. The boy was ready to take Ibragimov.

For many diehard chess players, like Rozovsky and Robert Kozlowski, vice president of New Britain's Chess Club, its more than a recreational game, it's a sport.

New Britain's Chess Club is the largest and the strongest in the state. The Quartette Club, which has been home to the city's Chess Club for more than 30 years, was packed with chess players from across the state who came to listen and learn moves from Ibragimov.

Tuesday's lecture also came with simultaneous chess exhibition by Ibragimov, who is one of the nation's strongest players.



Rob Heyl

Daniel Rozovsky, 12, of West Hartford makes his moves against chess Grandmaster Ildar Ibragimov at a New Britain Chess Club meeting at the Quartette Club in New Britain. The Grandmaster was playing 30 members simultaneously.

“Not many people get a change to play a grandmaster.”

ROBERT KOZLOWSKI
Vice president of the New Britain Chess Club

The 40-year-old Russian native who resides in Stratford has been ranked as one of the highest players in New England. He ranks 10th in national's Chess Federation. Most recently he tied for second place at the 2007 National Chess Congress, and tied for first place at the 2006 World Open Chess Championship. Grandmaster is

the highest title a chess player can attain.

During the lecture, Ibragimov played himself and provided techniques and hypothetical moves on how to beat an opponent. “It's probably the most excited game I've played this year,” the grandmaster joked.

After the lecture, Ibragimov played 30 opponents at the same time. The first player to defeat the grandmaster would be presented with a chess book signed by Ibragimov.

“It's a lifetime experience,” Kozlowski said. “Not many people get a chance to play a G*****randmaster.”