

Tilburg University

The 11th Computer Olympiad (Oval Lingotto, Turin, Italy, May 25-June 1)

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THE 11TH COMPUTER OLYMPIAD**Oval Lingotto, Turin, Italy****May 25 – June 1***Jaap van den Herik and Johanna Hellemons¹*

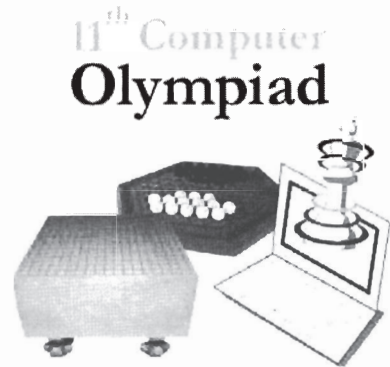
Maastricht, The Netherlands

The wonderful Oval Lingotto in Turin, Italy was the location of the 11th Computer Olympiad. This Olympiad could happen by the generous sponsorship of the Organisation for the Chess Olympiad, *Olympiadi degli Scacchi*. With much pleasure we acknowledge this sponsorship and in particular the help of Michele Cordara as well as Paolo Ciancarini who was a perfect intermediary for the organisation. Owing to Paolo's intelligent combinatorial talents we were able to have the 14th WCCC, the 11th Computer Olympiad, and the Computer and Games Conference 2006 (CG2006) in Turin, Italy.

The organisation of the Olympiad was in the hands of Paolo Ciancarini (local organiser) and IKAT (Institute for Knowledge and Agent Technology). The Institute IKAT had appointed Johanna Hellemons as chair of the organising committee. Other members were: Jaap van den Herik, Tons van den Bosch, Jeroen Donkers, Jahn-Takeshi Saito, and Mark Winands.

As usual, the Computer Olympiad consisted of many different competitions, each having their own programmes and their own rules. Jaap van den Herik served as Tournament Director and Dr. Mark Winands as Assistant Tournament Director. Frederik Niemela was privileged to lead the Hex competition.

The 11th Computer Olympiad hosted the following twelve games: Backgammon, Chinese Chess, Clobber, Connect6, 10x10 Draughts, Go 9x9, Go 19x19, Hex, Kriegspiel, Loa, Pool, and Shogi. The next pages report on the distinct competitions. Here we would like to congratulate the gold-medal winners with their victory: CRAZY STONE (Rémi Coulom, Go 9x9), GNUGO (Gunnar Faernebaeck *et al.*, Go 19x19), NEUCHESS (Wang Jiao, Chinese Chess), TD KING (Ton Tillemans 10x10 Draughts), YSS (Hiroshi Yamashita, Shogi), PAN (Johan de Koning, Clobber), NCTU6 (I-Chen Wu, Connect6), SIX (Gábor Melis, Hex), GNUBG (Massimiliano Maini, Backgammon), MIA 4.5 (Mark Winands, Loa), DARKBOARD (Gian Piero Favini and Paolo Ciancarini, Kriegspiel), PICKPOCKET (Mike Smith, Pool). Below we provide reports in the order mentioned above. Owing to space restrictions we had to postpone some reports. The reports on Connect6, Hex, Backgammon, Loa, and Pool will be published in the September 2006 issue. Full results and games can be found at www.icga.org and www.cs.unimaas/olympiad2006/.



The *Olympiadi degli Scacchi* organised a beautiful tournament for all participants. There were excursions and a splendid farewell dinner. Moreover, the Olympiad was visited by grandmasters and grandmaster programs, politicians and leaders of the world sport federations. There were stimulating speeches and Italian food. We all enjoyed the Oval Lingotto and considered it an excellent continuation of the Olympic Winter games.

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