

THE 8th COMPUTER OLYMPIAD

**Casineum, Graz, Austria
November 23-27, 2003**

M. Winands¹, H.J. van den Herik¹, and J.W. Hellemons¹

Maastricht, The Netherlands

The 8th Computer Olympiad was held in Graz, Austria from November 23 to 27, 2003. With much pleasure we remark that Graz played its role as the European cultural capital of the year 2003 very well. Next to the 11th WCCC, the 8th Computer Olympiad and 10th ACG conference were held in this city. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Graz by three prominent sponsors, Pro:Holz, the Casino Graz, and Fujitsu Siemens. The ICGA supported Graz in all its activities with game-technical means from Maastricht, The Netherlands, where the Faculty of General Sciences of the Universiteit Maastricht, SARA, NCF / NWO, the Maastricht Chess Club (VSM), and IKAT acted as a kind of twin city of Graz.

The Computer Olympiad was split in many different competitions, each having their own playing program and their own rules. Jonathan Schaeffer served as the Tournament Director and Mark Winands as the Assistant Tournament Director. The Olympiad hosted thirteen games: Abalone, Amazons, Backgammon, Chinese Chess, Dots and Boxes, Draughts, Go 19 × 19, Go 9 × 9, Hex, Lines of Action, Poker, RoShamBo, and Shogi. The next pages report on the distinct competitions of which we would like to congratulate the gold-medal winners (in the order of the reports published below) with their victories. GNUGO (Inge Wallin, Go 19 × 19), AYA (Hiroshi Yamashita, Go 9 × 9), MIA IV (Mark Winands, Lines of Action), ABA-PRO (Tino Werner, Abalone), BG BLITZ (Frank Berger, Backgammon), AMAZONG (Richard Lorentz, Amazons), YSS (Hiroshi Yamashita, Shogi), ZMBL (Zhijian Tu, Chinese Chess), SIX (Gabor Melis, Hex), SJENDE BLYN (Jelle Wiersma, Draughts), CONTROLFREAK (William Fraser, Dots and Boxes), VEXBOT (The University of Alberta Games Group), and GNOBOT (Toby Hudson, RoShamBo). Full results and games can be found at www.icga.org and www.cs.unimaas.nl/Olympiad2003/.

The Olympiad was opened in the Casineum on the evening of November 21, 2003 by Professor Jungwirth who had organized a splendid simultaneous exhibition of many prominent players and inhabitants of the city of Graz against a duo of simultaneous players, being the International Woman Grandmaster Eva Moser and International Master Georg Danner. The simultaneous players did very well, they did not lose a single game and gave the public only six draws. A very good start of a week full of chess and games. The organizing committee consisted of Prof.dr. K. Jungwirth (general chair), Walter Kastner, Joke Hellemons (organisational chair), Jeroen Donkers, Jaap van den Herik, Hazel den Hoed, Paul van der Krogt, Martine Tiessen, and Mark Winands.

Photo by Hiroshi Yamashita



Mark Winands, Organizer of the Olympiad and Jonathan Schaeffer, Tournament Director.

On November 22-30, 2003 the 11th WCCC took place in the Dom in Berg. A report by Omid David Tabibi on this tournament can be found on the pages 252-259.

On November 24, 25, and 27, 2003 the ACG-10 conference was held in the Dom in Berg. A report by Renze Steenhuisen can be found on the pages 283-285.

¹ IKAT, Universiteit Maastricht, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands. Email: {m.winands,herik,hellemon}@cs.unimaas.nl.