

Veni, vidi, vici. And, having achieved that victory, I glanced across the board and snapped, "Vae victis," before coldly moving in for the checkmate. Yet not every moment is a triumph. In between the victories, I was forced to examine my position and mutter, bitterly, "shah mat", the king is dead. Yet that is the dialectic of chess, the contrast between glorious victory and utter defeat, the knowledge that even a single mistake can cost a game, swift move and countermove in a desperate effort to outmaneuver the opponent. All the while trying to hold onto three key principles, outthink, outmatch, outplay. Thus is chess, and something that I genuinely regret having to give up is my place in the Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series, which I have participated in since its inception.

Seven years ago when the series started, my dad took me to the very first round of the very first CSC series, thinking it might be a fun thing to try. Seven years later, after participating in every single round of every single CSC series, I am still having fun. That's the main reason I keep coming back. I don't always win, and thank goodness, I don't always lose, but each and every event has provided enjoyment. This series has allowed me to meet, and play against, new people round after round, while still providing the comfort of familiarity that I enjoy. Since each round is played at a different school, students who otherwise might not have participated are able to do so, and then, since many of the participants play in all the rounds for the overall series tournament, I see many familiar faces as well. This really provides for a good mix. I looked forward to each round with anticipation and will really miss participating in this chess series.

Thank you Mr. Dysart, Dr. Brackenridge and Mr. Hodge for starting and organizing this event, and for all the time you have invested in it over the years. It is really appreciated.

*—Essay written by Tim Bay, provided by email on February 21, 2014*

[Tim began playing in the CSC Series at its very first tournament in October 2007 as a 6th grader and played every round of every tournament in every season until March 2014, his senior year.]