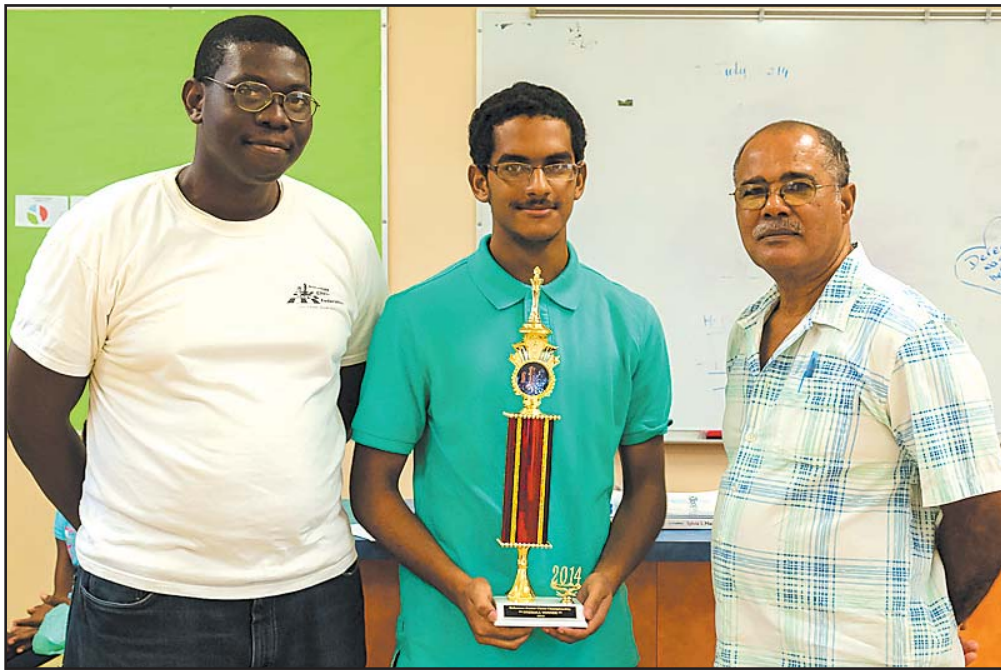


Hanna crowned Bahamas Junior Chess Champ!



●HE'S THE CHAMPION (L-R): Arbiter Elton Joseph; 2014 Bahamas Junior Chess Champion Philip Hanna Jr and Dr David Sands, vice-president of the Bahamas Chess Federation



●SUPER SANDEEP (L-R): Sandeep Gali, the second-place finisher, accepts his trophy from Dr David Sands, vice-president of the Bahamas Chess Federation

★ PHILIP Hanna Jr was crowned the 2014 Bahamas Junior Chess Champion after going undefeated in five long rounds of tough mental struggle.

The eagerly-awaited contest pitted the country's top under-20 chess superstars ranging in age from seven to 19, including two-time defending champion Sandeep Gali, former champion Polina Karolina, and 9-year-old Candidate Master (CM) Nathan Smith.

Throughout the tournament, Hanna used his trademark style of careful, positional play to build an advantage before closing out with stellar tactics and end-game technique.

On his way to the championship, Hanna defeated Daijah Johnson

before surviving a near-draw against Smith in round two.

He then outlasted Gali in round three and closed out the tourney with wins over Ashley Gibson and Kelsie Thomas.

Finishing in second place with four points was Gali, whose only defeat came at the hands of Hanna. Gibson placed third based on tie-breaks, with a total of three points.

Winning their age categories were: Under-8: William Diggiss Jr; Under-10: CM Nathan Smith; Under-12: Daijah Johnson; Under-14: Kelsie Thomas; Under-16: Sandeep Gali; Under-18: Philip Hanna Jr; Under-20: Ashley Gibson.

Hanna, 18, is a Bahamas Academy graduate and now attends the College of The Bahamas.



●Ashley Green finishes in third place



●Jake Oldfield, 10, playing in his first Junior Chess Championship



●CM Nathan Smith, easily dominated the age Under-10 category



●Under-14 winner, Kelsie Thomas



●Daijah Johnson, Under-12 winner



●William Diggiss Jr, was the winner of the age Under-8 division



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