



Daily Bulletin

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Sunday, July 31, 2011

Snowden team comes on strong to win Aileen Osofsky Swiss

The team captained by 13-year-old Burke Snowden surged into the lead in the next-to-last round with a blitz and then sealed the deal with a near-blitz in the final round to win the Aileen Osofsky National Swiss Teams on Saturday.

With the victory, Snowden and his partner, Ben Kristensen, swept the two national events at the Youth NABC. On Friday, they forged their first late comeback to win the Baron Barclay National Youth Open Pairs.

Snowden, Fort Collins CO, and Kristensen, Duluth MN, played with Hakan Berk, Potomac MD, and David Soukup, Arlington VA.

Second place went to Evan Berman, Sarasota FL; Zach Brescoll, Versailles KY; Allison Hunt, Charlotte NC; Asya and Nikita Ladyzhensky, Ellenton FL, and Blake Sanders, Jonesboro AR.

Each member of the winning team receives a \$1000 scholarship provided by the Aileen Osofsky Memorial Fund. Snowden and Kristensen each won \$1000 for their Open Pairs win on Friday.

After four of the six rounds on Saturday, the Snowden team was lying fifth with 89 Victory Points (30-point scale) but close to the leaders. They took all 30 VPs in round five then added 28 in the final round to win going away.

They were presented the trophy at the closing ceremony, which included awarding of trophies for the Open Pairs and Open Pairs consolation.

Other announcements:

- The 2011 Youth Ambassadors – Konner



Winners of the Aileen Osofsky National Swiss Teams: Burke Snowden, David Soukup, Hakan Berk and Ben Kristensen.



Second place in the Swiss Teams went to Evan Berman, Nikita Ladyzhensky, Asya Ladyzhensky, Zach Brescoll, Allison Hunt and Blake Sanders.

Spalding, Ruth Wexel, Jacob Wexel and Peter Ku.

- Jason Miller as the winner of the Mystery Bridge Hand drawing from among those who correctly guessed that the Duke of Cumberland was on the Youth NABC logo.
- Ryan Miller as the winner of the Sportsmanship Trophy (see separate article).



Atlanta Junior Bridge has had a huge presence at each of the four Youth NABCs, the first being held in the Atlanta area in 2008. Here are some of the Atlanta contingent in Toronto.

See you at the 2012 Youth NABC, July 19, 20 and 21 in Philadelphia. Don't miss it!

Mission accomplished: young players had fun in Toronto

Grace Park of Moncton NB stood near the director's table at the end of the Aileen Osofsky National Swiss Teams on Saturday. Asked how her team did, Park said softly, "We were above average."



Carol Bongard

Then she perked up and, with a smile on her face, added: "We had fun, and that's why we came."

Park said that when she returns to Moncton, she will visit the Lion's Club facility every Wednesday to play bridge to sharpen

her skills in hopes of doing better next year in Philadelphia, when the fifth Youth NABC is scheduled (July 19-21). "I'm planning to be there," she said.

As with the three previous Youth NABCs, participants and observers alike had nothing but positive comments about the event.

Youth NABC Chair Dana Norton assessed the three-day tournament as a success, certainly

continued on back page

Ryan Miller gets high praise from his peers

Each year at the Youth NABC, the players vote on who among them provides the best example of sportsmanship. The winner receives the Sportsmanship Trophy. This year, the honor went to 17-year-old Ryan Miller of Tampa FL

"I'm speechless," he said. "It's amazing."



With the award, Miller will receive a \$1000 scholarship funded by Phil Gordon, the poker star and ACBL national champion (Roth Open Swiss Teams in 2008).

Miller will be a high school senior this fall. He is

just a few silver points short of becoming a Life Master. He was taught to play seven years ago by his grandmother, Sandra Rosenblum.

Miller said he learned a lot about proper behavior at the table from his grandmother. "She taught me everything about bridge," he said. Further, he added, "There are lots of posters all over our bridge club (in Tampa) about Zero Tolerance."



The logo for the Youth NABC in Toronto features a happy-looking beaver, so these Orlando moms showed up with special beaver hats and tee shirts. They are Susan Laugen, Julie Wheaton, Anissa Dyen and Chris Koebke. Each had a child playing in the youth tournament.



Irina Ladyzhensky of Ellenton FL poses with three of her children and one "adopted son" at the Youth NABC: Alexandra, "adoptee" Evan Berman, Nikita and Asya. The young fellow who snuck into the photo at the bottom is unknown.



These four players are from the Memphis area, where ACBL Headquarters is located: Sutton Hewitt, Eric Rodriguez, Nassem Yousef and Piper Ziebarth.



Bridge isn't the only game played at the Youth NABC. These youngsters enjoyed a game of Connect prior to the start of play on Saturday.

Volunteer has wide bridge experience

One of the volunteers at the 2011 Youth NABC in Toronto is a man who has seen the world of tournament bridge from a number of perspectives.

David Halasi was a caddy at the 1993 Summer NABC in Washington DC when he found out that caddies could get free bridge lessons. "I loved the game so much I quit caddying so I could play," he said.

Back home in Toronto, he played even more and was lucky enough to have some mentors with international credentials, notably Fred Gitelman, George Mittelman and John Gowdy. Halasi became good enough to represent Canada in international competition – thanks, he says, to the ACBL and the Canadian Bridge Federation.

Bridge, he said, "has been a great way to keep my mind focused."

He became a club director in 1994 and a tournament director three years later. He is now on the board of directors of Unit 166 in Toronto.

Halasi was helping out with the Card Rook games at the Youth NABC. He said it would have been difficult to organize such an event when he started playing because there was no networking as there is today on sites such as Facebook.

Halasi is now a financial analyst for Loblan, Canada's largest grocery chain, and is married to Wanda, a former caddy. He doesn't play as much bridge as he used to, but he still appreciates its value: "It's a great way to make friends."



David Halasi

19 Tables

	A	B	C
12.68	1		
9.51	2		
7.13	3		
5.35	4		
5.28	5	1	
2.32	6/8		
3.96	6/8	2	
2.32	6/8		
2.97	3	1	
2.23	4	2	
1.67	5	3	

7.0 Tables

1.23	1	Evan Jones, Lower Coverdale NB; Jake Rice, Riverview NB	58.17%
0.92	2	Nicholas Laugen, Altamonte FL; Spencer Dyen, Apopka FL	56.67%
0.69	3	Grace Strasen, Woodacre CA; Sedef Berk, Potomac MD	56.37%
0.52	4	Rhyanne Melanson - Rhys Melanson, Ottawa ON	54.55%
0.39	5	Sarah Carl, Orange Beach AL; Kathryn Manning, Pensacola FL	53.00%

10.0 Tables

1.45	1	Emily Kim - Nayoung Ko, Moncton NB	65.88%
1.09	2	Jake Rice, Riverview NB; Evan Jones, Lower Coverdale NB	63.30%
0.82	3	Sarah Carl, Orange Beach AL; Kathryn Manning, Pensacola FL	57.64%
0.61	4	Olivia Edstrom - Kristofer Edstrom, Apopka FL	56.70%
0.46	5	Konner Spalding, Versailles KY; Elisabeth Slighton, Hong Kong	55.76%
0.36	6	Leila Feng - Joanna Huang, Ottawa ON	54.79%

AILEEN OSOFSKY NATIONAL SWISS TEAMS

Burke Snowden, Fort Collins CO; Hakan Berk, Potomac MD; David Soukup, Arlington VA; Ben Kristensen, Duluth MN	147.00
Evan Berman, Sarasota FL; Zachary Brescoll, Versailles KY; Allison Hunt, Charlotte NC; Asya Ladyzhensky - Nikita Ladyzhensky, Ellenton FL; Blake Sanders, Jonesboro AR	134.00
Brandon Harper, Winter Park FL; Oren Kriegel, Skandia MI; Ryan Miller, Tampa FL; Ricoh Das, Alpharetta GA	122.00
Arjun Dhir - Murphy Green, Alpharetta GA; Richard Jeng - Andrew Jeng, Johns Creek GA	110.00
Xinyu Feng - John Maguire, Moncton NB; William Zhu - Chris Chen, San Francisco CA	107.00
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA; Matthew Weingarten, Safety Harbor FL; Mili Raina - Laura Green, Alpharetta GA	104.00
Anuj Das - Caleb Colburn - Timmy Green, Alpharetta GA; Geoffrey Webb, Kelowna BC	104.00
Kevin Rosenberg, Cupertino CA; Jeffrey Schwartz, Fairfax VA; Victor Lamoureux, Dartmouth NS; Peter Ku, Princeton Jct NJ	104.00
Joseph Lieberman, Los Angeles CA; Christopher Welland, New York NY; Alexandra Ladyzhensky, Ellenton FL; Morgan Compton, Dallas TX	102.00
Peter Wexel - Jacob Wexel, Lilburn GA; Armin Askari, Thornhill ON; Allen Yu, Toronto ON	96.00
Edward Li - David Yoon - Linda Cai, Bayside NY; Sarah Chen, Fresh Meadows NY	94.00

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CARDROOK PAIRS

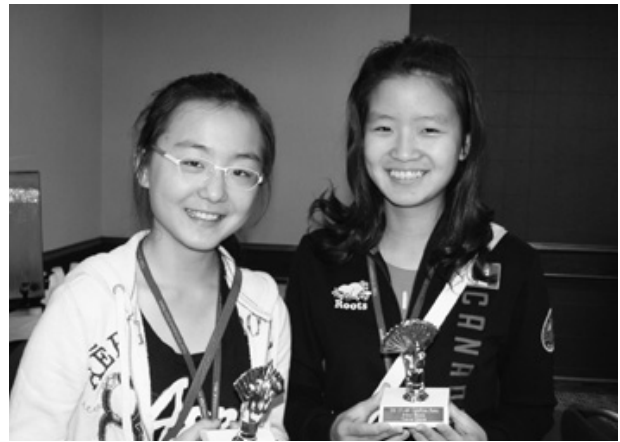
Evan Jones, Lower Coverdale NB; Jake Rice, Riverview NB	58.17%
Nicholas Laugen, Altamonte FL; Spencer Dyen, Apopka FL	56.67%
Grace Strasen, Woodacre CA; Sedef Berk, Potomac MD	56.37%
Rhyanne Melanson - Rhys Melanson, Ottawa ON	54.55%
Sarah Carl, Orange Beach AL; Kathryn Manning, Pensacola FL	53.00%

SATURDAY MORNING CARDROOK PAIRS

Emily Kim - Nayoung Ko, Moncton NB	65.88%
Jake Rice, Riverview NB; Evan Jones, Lower Coverdale NB	63.30%
Sarah Carl, Orange Beach AL; Kathryn Manning, Pensacola FL	57.64%
Olivia Edstrom - Kristofer Edstrom, Apopka FL	56.70%
Konner Spalding, Versailles KY; Elisabeth Slighton, Hong Kong	55.76%
Leila Feng - Joanna Huang, Ottawa ON	54.79%



Evan Jones and Jake Rice were first East-West in the Morning Card Rook Pairs and first North-South in the Afternoon Card Rook Pairs.



Nayoung Ko and Emily Kim were tops North-South in the Morning Card Rook Pairs.

Hi! My name is. . .

Allison Hunt

What city do you live in?
Charlotte NC

How old are you?
15

What is your favorite color?
Yellow

What is your favorite class in school?
Math

Do you have a favorite book or author?
Louis Sachar

Who is your favorite musical artist?
Brad Paisley

Do you like to dance?
Yes!

What is your favorite movie?
The Graduate

Who is your favorite actor?
Orlando Bloom

Who is your favorite actress?
Natalie Portman

Why do you like playing bridge?
Making 7NT redoubled

When you're not playing bridge, what do you like to do?
Dancing, hanging out with friends

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Rich



Hi! My name is. . .

Arjun Dhir

What city do you live in?
Johns Creek GA

How old are you?
15

What is your favorite color?
Pink

What is your favorite class in school?
Lunch

Do you have a favorite book or author?
Harry Potter

Who is your favorite musical artist?
Mac Miller

Do you like to dance?
Yes

What is your favorite movie?
Happy Gilmore

Who is your favorite actress?
Natalie Portman

Why do you like playing bridge?
It's social and I meet new people

When you're not playing bridge, what do you like to do?
Play tennis

What do you want to do when you grow up?
Doctor



Hi! My name is. . .

Angie Green

What city do you live in?
Alpharetta GA

How old are you?
15

What is your favorite color?
Orange

What is your favorite class in school?
History

Do you have a favorite book or author?
Pride and Prejudice

Who is your favorite musical artist?
I don't listen to much music

Do you like to dance?
No

What is your favorite movie?
Pride and Prejudice

Why do you like playing bridge?
It's fun to meet new people

When you're not playing bridge, what do you like to do?
Play piano, cross country, hang out with family and friends



When asked what game they were playing on Saturday before the start of play, one of the youngsters said, "We don't know - maybe a messed up game of cutthroat?"



They were first East-West in the Afternoon Card Rook Pairs: Spencer Dyen and Nicholas Laugen.

Youth wrap up

continued from page 1

in terms of fun for the participants. She had high praise for the volunteers who helped make it happen, "especially (Co-Chair) Carol Bongard and Wanda Pearce.

Patty Tucker conceived of the Youth NABC and, with help, made it a reality. She said the Toronto tournament was further proof that making bridge fun for young people is important work.

"It was built with the intention of promoting fun," she said. "Winning is nice, but what is really important is the social interactions of the kids and the connections they make that will last a lifetime."

Tucker has been working with Fred Gitelman, founder of Bridge Base Online, to establish a BBO site only for Youth players (19 and younger). All the details have not been worked out, but it's expected to go live sometime near the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Tucker said, she enjoyed being around the lively group of young bridge players, many of whom were new to her. "We get some of the same ones from year to year, but there are new ones coming all the time," Tucker said.

Tom Rodriguez, from the Memphis TN suburb of Germantown, has attended all four Youth NABCs with sons Eric and Kevin. "It's a great thing," he said. Although he doesn't play bridge, Rodriguez said he approves of his sons' interest in the game. "It's great for the mind and gets them away from the TV. Eric is really good - he knows all the cards that have been played."

Irina Ladyzhensky brought her three children from Ellenton FL in the Sarasota area. Her daughter, Asya, is in high school but has been teaching bridge in middle schools in their area.

The first time they attended a Youth NABC, said Ladyzhensky, "I had to drag them to it. They thought bridge was just going to be a lot of old people, but now they want to come. Asya has played every day."

Four mothers from the Orlando area - Susan Laugen, Julie Wheaton, Anissa Dyen and Chris Koebeke - traveled to Toronto with their children. The moms are big fans of bridge. Said Dyen, "From the teaching standpoint, they are learning higher-level thinking and skills that are not part of the school curriculum."

Laurie Wexel of Lilburn GA brought six of her children to play in their 4th Youth NABC. Many aspects of bridge are good for the youngsters, she said. One of them, she noted, is that they have to set goals. "They work extra jobs to save money for the trip," Wexel said. Even better, she said, "bridge is interactive with social elements, and it helps them with logic and critical thinking, and it's something they can take with them their whole lives. Each Youth NABC is like a family reunion."

On Friday night after the Youth NABC games had concluded, all six of the Wexel youngsters still wanted to play, so 9-year-old Phoebe and 10-year-old Isaac played in a 49er game, 12-year-old Mary and 15-year-old Ruth played in a 299er Swiss and 14-year-old Peter played with 17-year-old Jacob in an Open Swiss.

Mother Wexel smiled in recounting Peter's joking reaction to the higher level of competition, "He said, 'My bridge esteem is shot, but I had fun.'"

Hi! My name is. . .

Mackenzie Curry

What city do you live in?
Riverview NB

How old are you?
12

What is your favorite color?
Blue

What is your favorite class in school?
Math

Do you have a favorite book or author?
Rick Riordan

Who is your favorite musical artist?
Linkin Park

Do you like to dance?
Yes

What is your favorite movie?
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2

Why do you like playing bridge?
I like the game big time

When you're not playing bridge, what do you like to do?
Read

What do you want to do when you grow up?
No clue



Hi! My name is. . .

Ruth Wexel

What city do you live in?
Lilburn GA

How old are you?
15

What is your favorite color?
Blue

What is your favorite class in school?
Spanish

Do you have a favorite book or author?
No, but I love mysteries

Who is your favorite musical artist?
Too many to choose from

Do you like to dance?
Yes

What is your favorite movie?
Can't pick - love too many

Who is your favorite actor?
George Clooney

Who is your favorite actress?
Love too many!

Why do you like playing bridge?
I love playing

When you're not playing bridge, what do you like to do?
Play piano and tennis

What do you want to do when you grow up?
I want to be a pharmacist



2011 Youth Ambassadors: Peter Ku, Jacob Wexel and Ruth Wexel. Not pictured: Konner Spalding.

NORTH-SOUTH	
1	Emily Kim - Nayoung Ko, Moncton NB
2	Sarah Carl, Orange Beach AL; Kathryn Manning, Pensacola FL
3	Konner Spalding, Versailles KY; Elisabeth Slighton, Hong Kong
4	Nicholas Laugen, Altamonte FL; Spencer Dyen, Apopka FL

NORTH-SOUTH	
1	Evan Jones, Lower Coverdale NB; Jake Rice, Riverview NB
2	Grace Strasen, Woodacre CA; Sedef Berk, Potomac MD
3	Rhyanne Melanson - Rhys Melanson, Ottawa ON

SATURDAY MORNING CARDBROOK PAIRS

SECTION PPP		EAST-WEST	
65.88%	1	Jake Rice, Riverview NB; Evan Jones, Lower Coverdale NB	63.30%
57.64%	2	Olivia Edstrom - Kristofer Edstrom, Apopka FL	56.70%
55.76%	3	Leila Feng - Joanna Huang, Ottawa ON	54.79%
51.88%	4	Pierce Melanson, Ottawa ON; Brandon Yu Lin, Edison NJ	54.36%

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CARDBROOK PAIRS

SECTION PPP		EAST-WEST	
58.17%	1	Abigail McClelland, Orillia ON; Rotating Person, ON	77.08%
56.37%	2	Nicholas Laugen, Altamonte FL; Spencer Dyen, Apopka FL	56.67%
54.55%	3	Sarah Carl, Orange Beach AL; Kathryn Manning, Pensacola FL	53.00%