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the clock swung wildly until, with 1 second left for Leo Paas, the game ended in a draw. The split decision left the two New York teams tied, with Tactical Titans winning top scholastic team, with Tri-Bridges Chess Club "B" for 3.5, but having played more formidable opponents throughout, the game points were not as good, and so that team finished 4th on tiebreaks, though tied for 2nd overall and 2nd among all PA teams.

In the end, it was tough to be too mad at the 2196 team, not only are they all great guys who most of the PA chess community have known for years, but they invited anyone interested to the "after party" where they went over games for tons of players and shared their thoughts on various positions and gave encouragement to many up and coming players.



The "after party" with numerous groups celebrating a fine event. (Photo by Joshua Anderson)



"Patzers of Pennsylvania" - l. to r. Peter Minear, Joseph Mucerino, Matthew O'Brien, Michael Romero (Photo by Nathan Zeigler)

Author's note: Tri-Bridges Chess Club is a community chess club that does not require membership and, while it helps its members, it does little to restrict them. So, when a group of young men from our area who regularly attend our tournaments and seminars signed up, I did not say anything. When, on Saturday morning, a couple of team members' parents asked if they could join the Tri-Bridges Chess Club as well, we were, of course, happy to have them. They had an average rating of 1699 v. 1693 for "B," so they became the Tri-Bridges Chess Club