

# CHESS ADVENTURES

The 2023 U.S. Junior champion, GM Abhimanyu Mishra, and the 2023 U.S. Girls' Junior champion, IM-elect Alice Lee, share their paths to victory.

WITH ALICE AND ABHI

I was honored to be invited to play alongside some of my strongest female counterparts. Plus it's a fun, prestigious, well-run tournament. It's always great to be in St. Louis, especially because I've been there a lot and I'm familiar with the area around the Saint Louis Chess Club.

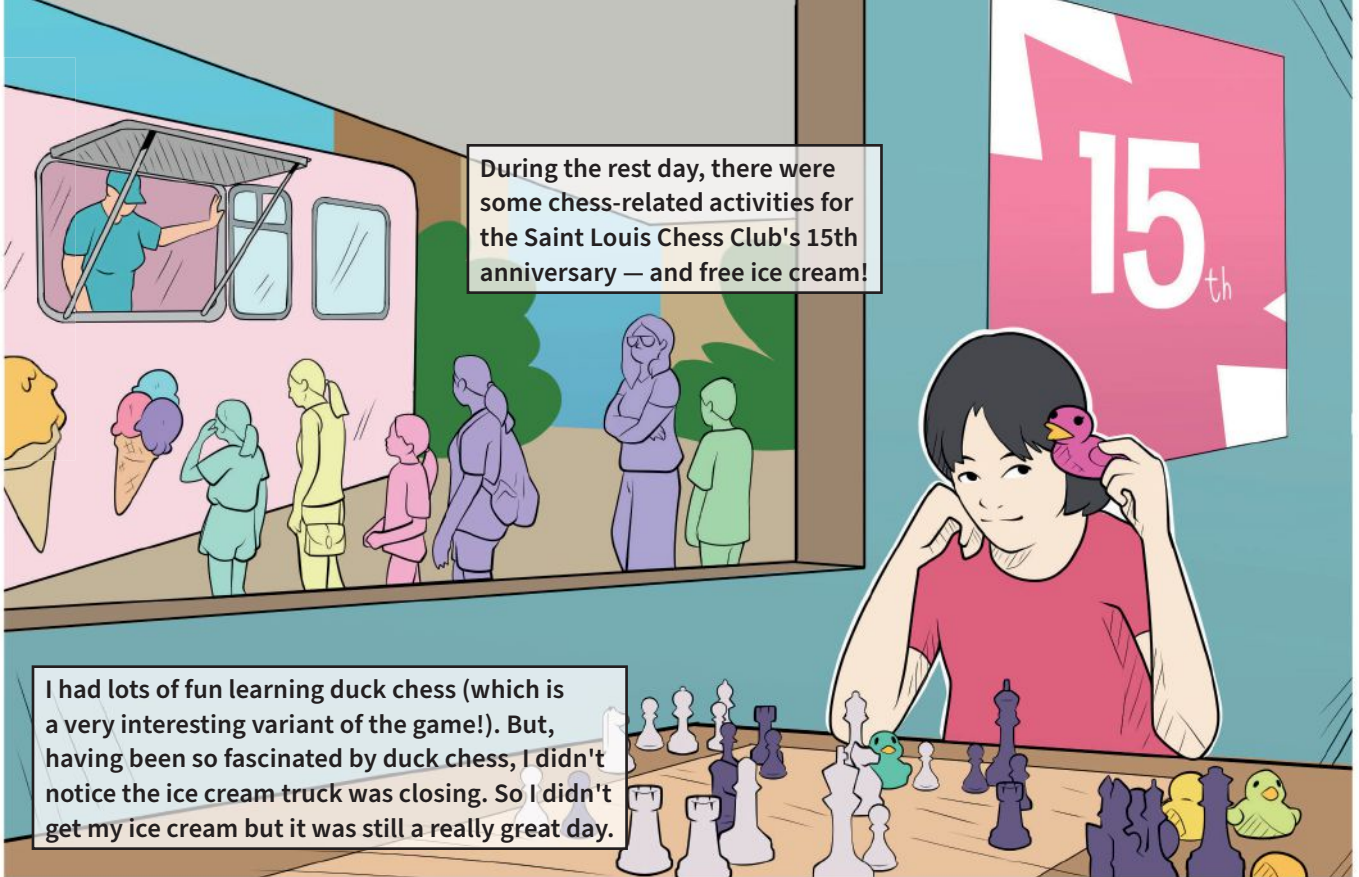


I was motivated to win this year because I wanted to qualify for the U.S. Championship. Now I get to play against some of the best!

My round four game against GM Andrew Hong was my toughest. I went for a major opening surprise and played sharp moves under severe time pressure. I declined a draw and, with just minutes on the clock, I won with the black pieces. That's when I knew I could win the tournament!



ART BY NICOLAS BARRIOS

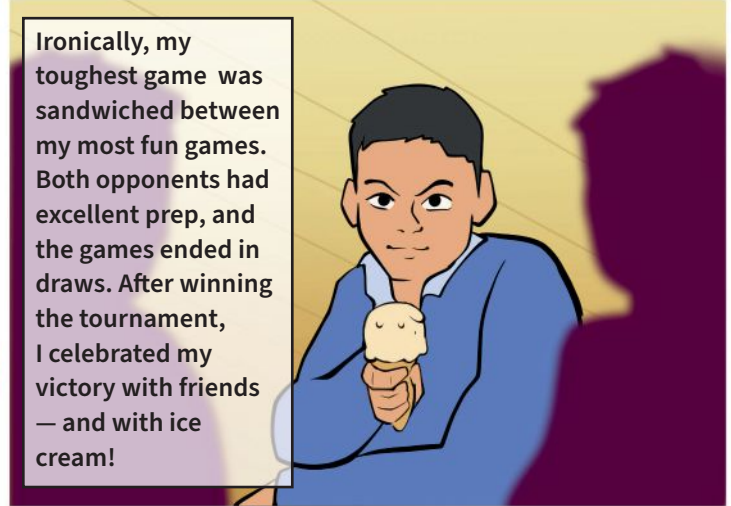


During the rest day, there were some chess-related activities for the Saint Louis Chess Club's 15th anniversary — and free ice cream!

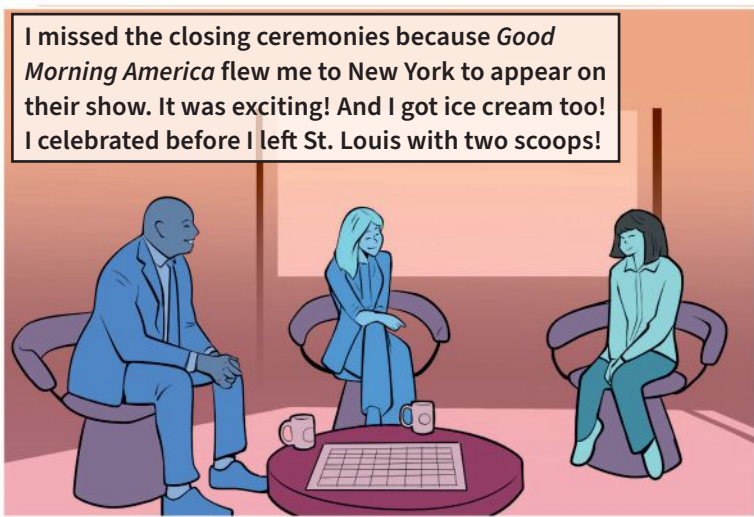
I had lots of fun learning duck chess (which is a very interesting variant of the game!). But, having been so fascinated by duck chess, I didn't notice the ice cream truck was closing. So I didn't get my ice cream but it was still a really great day.



My round seven game against IM Carissa Yip was my toughest. But after that, I realized I had a good chance of winning the tournament. By my ninth round I had already won the tournament, so I could play WCM Shreya Mangalam without any pressure.



Ironically, my toughest game was sandwiched between my most fun games. Both opponents had excellent prep, and the games ended in draws. After winning the tournament, I celebrated my victory with friends — and with ice cream!



I missed the closing ceremonies because *Good Morning America* flew me to New York to appear on their show. It was exciting! And I got ice cream too! I celebrated before I left St. Louis with two scoops!



Congratulations to GM Abhimanyu Mishra and IM-elect Alice Lee!