

January 1, 2023

Volume 6, Issue 7

MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Kidding Aside

Results...

Rona

TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
1 Hsieh	149	27	35	44	43	
2 Qian	112	41	15	28	28	

U21, USA2

The colored score boxes indicate the team with seating rights for that segment of play.

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
2	Zhou	174	52	38	30	54	
3	Derman	100	22	19	28	31	

U26, USA2

TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
2 Xiao	147.25	42.25	35	27	43	
3 Chen	125	32	49	12	35	-3

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Jonathan Yue, Rory Xiao, Arthur Zhou, Michael Hu, U21 USA2...

pics of the other teams on pages 16 and 18!



Michael Seamon

Teams Entered

ALL KIDDING ASIDE

RONA (GIRLS):

U26:

Berk	Hakan Berk, Capt Sophia Chang	David Soukup Lucy Zhang
Chen	Tianyang Chen, Capt Jiahe Shen Zhenling Wang	Fangqing Yuan Qian Sun Yifu Ouyang
Goyal	Sarik Goyal, Capt Derek Wong	Sheldon Tan Gan Yang
Hallerman	Raphael Hallerman, Capt Sean McNally	Ilan Wolff Isaac Stephani
Johnstone	Morgan Johnstone, Capt Isaac Stone	Vincent Zhu Robert West
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Ben Kristensen Emma Kolesnik	Zach Grossack Kevin Rosenberg Jacob Freeman
Scott	William Scott, Capt Luke Williams	Reese Koppel Jake Williams
Xiao	Brent Xiao, Capt Stella Wan Cynthia Huang	Richard Jeng Cornelius Duffie Amber Lin
Y Xu	Yuchen Xu, Capt Jeff Hu Nathan Finkle	Zhiyu Cheng Dingjia Mao Henry Xing
Yeung	Alan Yeung, Capt Handi Yang Jakob Reinke	Ian Dunbar Victor Xu Patrick Delos Reye

Farley	Abbie Farley, Capt Khanh Tran Nguyen	Jessica Udomsriunguang Laura Chen
Hsieh	Helena Hsieh, Capt Ava Donnellan	Jessie Cai Margot Donnellan
Linkel	Lorelei Linkel, Capt Cecilia Ehrlichman Jay Sullivan	Katie Sullivan Kyra Helmbold
Qian	Nicole Qian, Capt Katherine Hwang	Helen Chow Helen Levy

U21:

A Zhang	Andy Zhang, Capt Ethan Xie Tiger Li	Matthew Rippin Zach Posternak Darwin Skalski
Derman	Ethan Derman, Capt Michael Haas Daniel Balof	Levi Katriel Sam Pahk Kai Eckert
Gong	Nathan Gong, Capt Edward He	Arthur Gong Eric He
Hu	Michael Hu, Capt Andrew Jin Luke Tong	Jerry Yao Oliver Que
Klein	Aidan Klein, Capt Owen Jiang Cedric Xiao	Kevin Jiang Philip Wang
M Xu	Michael Xu, Capt Harrison Luba	Olivia Schireson Bo Han Zhu
Zhao	Derrick Zhao, Capt Avery Silverstein	Caroline Zhao Jack Boge
Zhou	Arthur Zhou, Capt Rory Xiao	Michael Hu Jonathan Yue

“Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get.” —W. P. Kinsella

See page 6 for updated team rosters reflecting travel & Covid upsets for players. Original lists on this page!

Thank you Everyone!

Another successful Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championship in the books! Congratulations All!!!

You played great and conducted yourselves in a very grown up manner. We are proud of how well you did and look forward to seeing you again next year... same time, same place... with even more confidence and self assurance!

Thanks to **Jan Martel**, the force behind the USBF. Jan inspires the team to work together and the expertise and loyalty she exudes insures our success!

Thanks to **McKenzie Myers** and to his great directing and great staff at our tournaments. Speaking of staff, thanks to Chris Wiegand for her amazing organizational skills, the true support behind the scenes.

Thanks to **Al Hollander** for keeping our high tech in order. Thanks for commentating when needed and for your great knowledge of systems and conventions. We rely on you for a lot and you always come through for us.

Thanks to **Joe Stokes** for chairing the Junior Committee of the USBF and for supervising this event year after year.

Thanks to **Adam Grossack** for arranging and managing the VuGraph operation and providing great commentators for the sessions online.

Thanks to **Alex Kolesnik** for not only producing two excellent junior players (Emma and Finn) but for running the ongoing USBF Junior Training Program from which most of the participants come to this event.

Thanks to **Suzi Subeck** for producing the Daily Bulletins and to **Stan Subeck** for proof reading and critiquing the hand analysis. Thanks to Suzi for arranging the Appeals Panel and to the wonderful volunteers who operate on standby during the event, not knowing if they will be called upon to serve.

Thanks to all the amazing volunteers who got on camera to do the commentary for the daily delayed VuGraph. It was great to see you and hear you and your expert discussion is always appreciated.

Thanks most of all to the players and their families who support youth bridge. You are all up and coming players and we know we will see you at tournaments crushing us "oldsters" very soon. Your respectful attitudes and eagerness to learn are what make this event so wonderful.

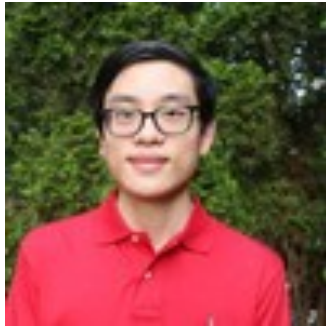
We wish everyone a Happy Happy 2023! We hope to see you "face to face" at tournaments... as well as online playing and practicing with you friends and your mentors. Thanks also to the many USBF Junior Training Program mentors who dedicate one night a week to teaching and coaching these great kids online!!

Safe travels home! See you soon!!

**Players and Kibitzers: No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.
Please turn off all cell phones and leave them outside the arena.
The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.**



Meet the Players:



Richard Jeng of Atlanta, GA, has come up through the USBF training program. He played for years as a true youngster with his brother.

Now:
Georgia Tech Class of 2020
UCLA Law Class of 2023

Bridge Information from Richard's BridgeWinner's Profile

Favorite Bridge Memory

Making 12 tricks in 5Cxx against Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver

Bridge Accomplishments

1st and a 3rd in the Young LM Pairs, Silver in 2012 U21, Gold in 2013 U21, Former YLM, NAP Flight B Winner, King of Bridge 2017

Regular Bridge Partners

Andrew Jeng, Brent Xiao

Favorite Tournaments

Labor Day Regional Atlanta, NABCs

Favorite Conventions

Multi

BBO Username

r168r

Did you get your hair cut? / A. No, I got them all cut.

Can you put the cat out? / A. Why, is it on fire?

Why are eggs bad at telling jokes? / A. They always crack each other up.

What do you call a 12-inch nose? / A. A foot.

Why did the man fall down the well? / A. Because he couldn't see that well.

Where do cats go swimming? / A. The kitty pool.

How does the moon cut its hair? / A. E-clips it.

If you have 13 apples in one hand and 10 oranges in the other, what do you have? / A. Big hands.

Why did the selfie go to prison? / A. It was framed.

Why can't you hear a pterodactyl in the bathroom? / A. Because it has a silent pee.

What do computers eat for a snack? / A. Microchips!

What did the middle schooler say to the high schooler? / A. Nothing, they texted.



It's the last day of the tournament, the last day of the year, and the last chance to win a berth to represent the United States of America in the Junior World Championships in 2023! All three matches are playing the same boards.

BOARD: 3
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ AQT974
 ♥ T83
 ♦ A96
 ♣ 3

♠ J3
 ♥ J7
 ♦ KQJ32
 ♣ J972

♠ K2
 ♥ K652
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AKT654

Par: 140

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	6	6	9	5
S	:	:	7	:	:
EW	9	7	6	4	7

♠ 865
 ♥ AQ94
 ♦ T754
 ♣ Q8

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
					NS	EW
Xiao(U26)	Chen(U26)	Open	3N	E ♠8	-2	200
		Closed	4♣	E ♠8	-1	100
Zhou(U21)	Derman(U21)	Open	5♣	E ♠8	-2	200
		Closed	3N	E ♥4	=	600
Hsieh(Rona)	Qian(Rona)	Open	4♠	N ♣A	-3	150
		Closed	4♣	E ♠5	=	130

On Board 3, according to the Double Dummy, no game will succeed... yet Arthur Zhou, East, brought home 3NT vulnerable in the Zhou/Derman match. Sam Pahk led the H4, dummy winning the jack. Zhou played the CJ to the ace and the D8 to the jack, ducked by North. The DK drew the ace and declarer pitched a small club. The SA was cashed and the contract was still doomed. North/South had reached the fork in the road... →

Of the seven remaining cards, only one will defeat 3NT. With two tricks in for the defense, Haas needs to lead the HT through the king to his partner's AQ9. If declarer ducks, he continues hearts and if declarer covers, South cashes three hearts!

Not certain that his partner held the HAQ, Haas played the SQ carefully burying the jack but allowing declarer to win the SK, cash the CK followed by a club to the nine, cash the DQ and return to hand with the C2 to cash two clubs. 13 IMPs to Zhou when E/W in the other room played in 5C going down two!

U26...

Berk	Hakan Berk, Capt Sophia Chang	Victor Xu Lucy Zhang
Chen	Tianyang Chen, Capt Jiahe Shen Zhenling Wang	Fangqing Yuan Qian Sun Yifu Ouyang
Goyal	Sarik Goyal, Capt Derek Wong	Sheldon Tan Gan Yang
Hallerman	Raphael Hallerman, Capt Sean McNally	Ilan Wolff Isaac Stephani
Johnstone	Morgan Johnstone, Capt Isaac Stone	Vincent Zhu Robert West
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Ben Kristensen Emma Kolesnik	Zach Grossack Kevin Rosenberg Jacob Freeman
Scott	William Scott, Capt Luke Williams	Reese Koppel Jake Williams
Xiao	Brent Xiao, Capt Stella Wan Cynthia Huang	Richard Jeng Cornelius Duffie Amber Lin
Y Xu	Yuchen Xu, Capt Jeff Hu Nathan Finkle	Zhiyu Cheng Dingjia Mao Henry Xing
Yeung	Alan Yeung, Capt Jakob Reinke	Ian Dunbar Patrick Delos Reyes

U21...

A Zhang	Andy Zhang, Capt Zach Posternak	Matthew Rippin Owen Jiang
Derman	Ethan Derman, Capt Michael Haas Daniel Balof	Levi Katriel Sam Pahk Kai Eckert
Gong	Nathan Gong, Capt Edward He	Arthur Gong Eric He
Hu	Michael Hu, Capt Andrew Jin	Jerry Yao Oliver Que
Klein	Aidan Klein, Capt Cedric Xiao	Kevin Jiang Philip Wang
M Xu	Michael Xu, Capt Harrison Luba	Olivia Schireson Bo Han Zhu
Zhao	Derrick Zhao, Capt Avery Silverstein	Caroline Zhao Jack Boge
Zhou	Arthur Zhou, Capt Rory Xiao	Michael Hu Jonathan Yue

Coming Together:

What you see here are the updated Team Rosters for U26 and U21... hopefully there will be no changes in the Rona later this week.

Some U26 and U21 players were stranded in Buffalo because of the storms... others could not get viable flights through Chicago or San Francisco...

Three players took a bus to the site at the last minute from Upstate New York ... One took a bus from Chicago ...

One team gave up a player to play on another team...

One player tested positive for Covid and will not be here.

The cooperation among the players was gratifying. Thanks to the positive attitudes and great working relationship between the players and the staff, all's well that end's well and we are commencing on schedule. You are the BEST!!

Your dedication shows and we THANK YOU all!!



Sudoku

8			2	3		4		
		2			6		5	
		4						7
				5	8			3
		9					7	
		1			4			
		3				9		
			4					
6	7		9					

Sudoku 1

8	5	4	9	6	3	7	1	2
7	1	6	5	8	2	3	4	9
2	9	3	7	4	1	6	8	5
9	7	8	2	6	4	3	1	5
4	3	2	1	9	7	8	5	6
6	8	4	1	3	5	2	9	7
3	8	9	1	4	5	6	7	2
1	4	1	8	6	7	2	3	5
5	6	3	9	1	8	2	4	7

Sudoku 1 Solution

1	4	8	3	9	2	5	7	6
5	3	7	1	6	4	8	2	9
6	2	9	4	1	3	8	5	7
2	8	5	7	6	1	3	4	9
3	9	6	1	7	9	4	5	8
4	7	8	5	3	1	2	6	9
9	3	2	4	7	6	8	1	5
7	6	1	3	4	5	8	9	2
8	5	8	6	2	1	4	3	7
9	4	1	7	3	2	5	6	8

Sudoku 2 Solution

**Answers to Puzzles
No Peeking!**

Answer to Logic Puzzle on Page 17

Wendy	green	Ford	red	Chrysler
Larry	white	Subaru	black	Saturn
Elliot	red	BMW	white	Lexus
Chris	black	Chevrolet	blue	Mercedes
Cheryl	blue	Toyota	green	Volkswagen
Name	Leased Car Color	Leased Car Make	Bought Car Color	Bought Car Make

Sudoku 2

			1	3	9	6		
			7					
8							2	
7	2			4				
	5						3	
				8				9
			1			3		
	4		2					7
			6				5	8

Q: How did Shane Green pitch a winning baseball game without throwing a ball? A: He only threw strikes.

Q: What did the Atlanta Braves fan do when his team won the World Series?

A: Turned off his Xbox.

Q: Who walks back and forth screaming one minute, then sits down weeping uncontrollably the next?

A: Brian Gerald Snitker – manager of the Atlanta Braves baseball team

Q: How do you know when a Braves pitcher is having a bad day on the mound?

A: When the crowd starts to sing "Take Him Out of The Ball Game."

Q: What can you do just as well as a Atlanta Braves player?

A: Watch the World Series live on TV.

Q: What rule did the zebra umpire have to explain to the Braves ?

A: Three stripes and you're out.



Puzzle Page

Pizza

Find and circle all of the pizza ingredients and toppings that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell four additional pizza toppings.

B A O N T L P O S E O T A M O T C H
A K O G I O Y E N A S E M R A P V I
C E C S A S M O P S U S C R T S H I
O C A A T I L A K P H S T E E N M Z
N B S E J O S M T R E I A V F O E U
G A R O V Y R A I O C R I G Z I S C
O S T O N B E M T H S L O Z E L M C
A A R L O E P R O N O A A N S O O H
T P L I L M P K E K A R U N I C O I
C R S M I A E A C T E L O C R C R N
H I C A V H P A L L N I P U E O H I
E C I L E P L I L A N O S G N R S G
E O L A O B L A E O J T M A G B U O
S T R S I F E E B D N U O R G E M U
E T A P L P B L A S P A R A G U S D
S A G S R E P P E P A N A N A B E A
S P I N A C H G R E E N O L I V E S

ARTICHOKE HEARTS
ASIAGO
ASPARAGUS
BACON
BANANA PEPPERS
BASIL
BELL PEPPERS
BLACK OLIVES
BROCCOLI

CRUST
EGGPLANT
FETA
GARLIC
GOAT CHEESE
GOUDA
GREEN OLIVES
GROUND BEEF
HAM

JALAPENOS
MONTEREY JACK
MOZZARELLA
MUSHROOMS
OLIVE OIL
ONIONS
OYSTERS
PARMESAN
PEPPERONI

PROVOLONE
RICOTTA
SALAMI
SAUSAGE
SHRIMP
SPINACH
TOMATO SAUCE
TOMATOES
ZUCCHINI



USBF JUNIORS v ACBL STAFF



**Vugraph commentary by
Larry Cohen & George Jacobs**

USBF Junior team trials winners challenge the
ACBL staff to a 16-board match.

SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH

8pm Eastern

5pm Pacific

<https://kibitz.realbridge.online>



RealBridge

		black	blue	green	red	white	BMW	Chevrolet	Ford	Subaru	Toyota	black	blue	green	red	white	Chrysler	Lexus	Mercedes	Saturn	Volkswagen
	Cheryl																				
	Chris																				
	Elliot																				
	Larry																				
	Wendy																				
Purchased	Chrysler																				
	Lexus																				
	Mercedes																				
	Saturn																				
	Volkswagen																				
Purchased	black																				
	blue																				
	green																				
	red																				
	white																				
Leased	BMW																				
	Chevrolet																				
	Ford																				
	Subaru																				
	Toyota																				

Answer on page 7

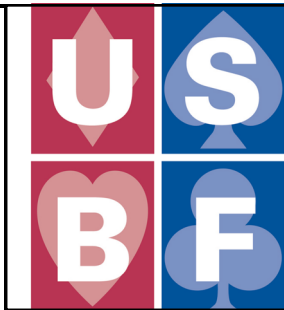
Name	Leased Car Color	Leased Car Make	Bought Car Color	Bought Car Make

Five people had the lease on their car expire at the end of the year and each decided to make a big change to their chosen vehicle. Instead of renewing the lease, each person turned in their leased car, and bought a totally different car – both the color and the make of each car bought was different from the original leased car that each returned. By some strange twist of fate however, while each person bought a different colored car than what they returned, they all picked from the same five colors – the five colors that were returned were all bought again in the new cars, but by different people. Determine the name of each person, the color and make of the leased car each returned, and the color and make of the car each bought.

1. One of the men leased the Chevrolet and purchased a blue car. The Lexus was white. Larry didn't lease 10

- the black car.
- 2. The Subaru was turned in for a Saturn. Larry didn't buy the red Chrysler. Wendy never had a white car. The Mercedes wasn't green.
- 3. Elliot didn't buy a Mercedes but he had leased a red BMW. The green car wasn't bought by the person who leased the white car.
- 4. The Volkswagen, which wasn't black, wasn't bought by the person who had leased a white car.
- 5. The black car was turned in for a blue car. The person who bought the Volkswagen didn't lease the Ford.
- 6. The green cars were the car that Cheryl bought and the Ford that was leased. Chris didn't lease the blue Toyota.

USBF Supporting Membership



If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators.

The USBF is an **all-volunteer** organization.

Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.

What is the resemblance between a green apple and a red apple? A. They're both red except for the green one.

Why did Adele cross the road? A. To sing, "Hello from the other side!"

How do you drown a hipster? A. In the mainstream.

What did the Baby corn say to the Mama corn? A. Where is popcorn?

What did one DNA strand say to the other? A. Does my bum look good in these genes?

How do Minecraft players celebrate? A. They throw block parties.

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? A. It gets toad away.

Why do rappers need umbrellas? A. Fo' drizzle.

What gets sharper the more you use it, but dull if you don't use it at all?
A. Students.

How did the bullet lose its job? A. It got fired.

Where do cows go on Friday nights? A. The moo-vies!

What is a cow without a map? A. Udderly lost.

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.

What do you call Jay-Z's former girlfriend? A. Feyoncé.

Why can't dinosaurs clap their hands? A. Because they're extinct.

Where do fish keep their money? A. In the river bank.



Cross IMPs...

1.	Arthur Zhou - Michael Hu	Zhou(U21)	1.41	84.80	60
2.	Ava Donnellan - Margot Donnellan	Hsieh(Rona)	1.10	66.25	60
3.	Yifu Ouyang - Zhenling Wang	Chen(U26)	0.84	25.05	30
4.	Stella Wan - Cornelius Duffie	Xiao(U26)	0.78	23.35	30
5.	Nicole Qian - Helen Chow	Qian(Rona)	0.25	15.25	60
6.	Jonathan Yue - Rory Xiao	Zhou(U21)	0.24	14.55	60
7.	Richard Jeng - Brent Xiao	Xiao(U26)	0.19	8.60	45
8.	Cynthia Huang - Amber Lin	Xiao(U26)	-0.16	-7.00	43
9.	Fangqing Yuan - Tianyang Chen	Chen(U26)	-0.19	-10.80	58
10.	Yichen Cai - Helena Hsieh	Hsieh(Rona)	-0.25	-15.25	60
11.	Ethan Derman - Levi Katriel	Derman(U21)	-0.51	-23.15	45
12.	Michael Haas - Sam Pahk	Derman(U21)	-0.76	-34.40	45
13.	Katie Hwang - Helen Levy	Qian(Rona)	-1.10	-66.25	60
14.	Yifu Ouyang - Qian Sun	Chen(U26)	-1.31	-39.20	30
15.	Daniel Balof - Kai Eckert	Derman(U21)	-1.39	-41.80	30

This is the final newsletter for 2022.

This is the final Cross IMPs for 2022.

Stay safe everyone!!

It is likely the Junior Championships will be in Eindhoven, Netherlands,
the first week in August, 2023

Still rumor but it has sound basis! Will keep you posted when we learn more.

Good luck to you all.

Safe trips home!

BOARD: 5
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ A J 9 2
♥ 4
♦ T
♣ A Q 8 7 4 3 2

♠ 8 5
♥ 5 2
♦ A 8 7 6 5 3 2
♣ K 5

♠ Q T 7 6
♥ K J T 3
♦ K Q 4
♣ J 9

♠ K 4 3
♥ A Q 9 8 7 6
♦ J 9
♣ T 6

Par: 1100

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	12	6	9	9	6
EW	1	7	3	2	1

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
						NS EW Home Visiting
Xiao(U26)	Chen(U26)	▶	Open	4♦	W ♥4	-3 150
		▶	Closed	4♦	W ♥4	-3 150
Zhou(U21)	Derman(U21)	▶	Open	5♦x	W ♣A	-1 100
		▶	Closed	5♦x	W ♥4	-4 800
Hsieh(Rona)	Qian(Rona)	▶	Open	3♣	N ♦K	+1 130
		▶	Closed	5♣x	N ♦K	= 750

Only one pair of six bid and made the club game. In actuality, the game is a low percentage. Declarer needs to bring in the spade and club suits for a combination of no more than one loser. The auction at the table:

Given the takeout double, a spade loser is almost a certainty. Declarer, therefore, needs to lose NO club tricks (requiring the king inside doubleton). Even then, declarer must deal with their fourth spade. But, again, the takeout double makes it likely the HK is inside to provide a discard.

Declarer cannot really test spades before playing hearts because the opponents will force the situation by playing a heart through early.

Margot D	Hwang	Ava D	Levy
W	N	E	S
	1♣	DBL	1♥
3♦*	4♣*	4♦	5♣
DBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

As it is, the position is incredibly lucky. Ava led the DK followed by the DQ which declarer ruffed. Hwang played a spade to the king and finessed the CK and pulled the trump. She led the H4 from hand and when the queen held in dummy, she had a pitch for one of her losing spades. She pitched a spade, conceded the SQ, and claimed 11 tricks.

12 IMPs to Qian

Note that Margot's double is pretty risky. Her CK is slotted and her partner raised her 7-card diamond suit making the chance of taking even one diamond trick suspect.

On the other hand, if 5C had failed, it could produce a big gain with the opponents vulnerable, and as it was, with the other table missing game, the double cost almost nothing.

BOARD: 6
DEALER: EAST
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ J82
♥ 63
♦ A9654
♣ K43

♠ QT3
♥ T4
♦ 8
♣ AJT9876

♠ AK976
♥ KJ98
♦ KT72
♣

♠ 54
♥ AQ752
♦ QJ3
♣ Q52

Par: -140

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	5	7	6	3	5
E	8	6	7	9	8
W	:	:	:	:	7

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Xiao(U26)	Chen(U26)	Open	4♠	E	♦Q	=	620	
		Closed	4♠	E	♦Q	-1	100	
Zhou(U21)	Derman(U21)	Open	4♠	E	♠5	=	620	-
		Closed	4♠	E	♦Q	=	620	-
Hsieh(Rona)	Qian(Rona)	Open	4♠	E	♦Q	=	620	-
		Closed	4♠	E	♦Q	=	620	-

Katriel	Yue	Derman	
W	N	E	S
		1♠	2♥
2♠	PASS	2NT	PASS
3♣	PASS	3♠	PASS
4♠	PASS	PASS	PASS

Board 6 was tough for both the defenders and the declarers. Only a trump lead legitimately defeats the spade game... and only one defender found the lead... and then... as happens so often in bridge, the defense became busy and the defenders got sidetracked.

Derman won the killing spade lead in dummy with the queen. He played a diamond, North winning his ace. At this point, Yue MUST play a heart through declarer's KJ98 to defeat 4S. Since partner overcalled hearts, Yue should find the play. For one thing, if it's wrong, he can blame partner for bidding!! (J/K) Unfortunately for Yue, he had a blind spot and returned another spade. Declarer won the king, ruffed a diamond in dummy, cashed the CA tossing a diamond from hand. Now it was declarer's turn to pivot on the dime! Dummy was down to H:T4 C:JT9876. Any of the six clubs and declarer could not be stopped. Derman chose the HT, and once again, he was in danger of failing. Xiao won the HQ... and he HAD TO continue with the HA to destroy the game when he gave his partner a heart ruff with the SJ. Xiao faltered and played a club. Declarer won, pulled the last trump, knocked out the HA and claimed 10 tricks for a push board.

The hand succeeded at most tables when a diamond was led to North's ace. North put a heart through to partner's queen and ace. A third heart came back and declarer ruffed with the queen. Declarer played the CA, pitching a diamond, the S3 and when North played small, he inserted the nine! A variation of this worked at four of the five tables where a diamond was led.

In U26, Cynthia Huang misguessed and ruffed the third heart with dummy's ten! Yuan overruffed and N/S took four tricks. Cynthia probably should have worked out to ruff with the queen because the echo in hearts was likely a doubleton giving a slight edge to the possibility that North had more spades because South had more hearts. On the other hand, others had a heart overcall to confirm the heart length and at Cynthia's table, Chen wisely stayed silent. Challenges like this keep us coming back to the game!

BOARD: 7
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ QJ9842
 ♥ A2
 ♦ AK864

♠ T7
 ♥ KT874
 ♦ K853
 ♣ J7

♠ K5
 ♥ QJ2
 ♦ JT96
 ♣ QT52

♠ A63
 ♥ A9653
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ 93

Par: 1430

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	11	7	7	12	10
EW	2	6	6	1	3

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP			
						NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Xiao(U26)	Chen(U26)	Open	6♠	N ♦ J	=	1430			17
		Closed	6♠	N ♦ J	-1		100		
Zhou(U21)	Derman(U21)	Open	4♠	N ♦ J	+1	650			13
		Closed	6♠	N ♦ J	-1		100		
Hsieh(Rona)	Qian(Rona)	Open	6♠	N ♦ J	-1		100		13
		Closed	4♠	N ♦ J	+2	680			

Board 7 produced double-digit swings in all three matches. Four pairs bid the slam and two stopped in game. Three of the four declarers in slam failed by disdaining the spade finesse in order to take an early diamond discard. One declarer, playing on another line, was successful.

Everyone led the DJ and the first trick in every room was a high wish trick going around the table in order... Good job!



Stella Wan was the only declarer to take 12 tricks. At trick two, Stella played the SJ. When this held, she played a spade to the ace, cashed the HA to discard a losing diamond and played on clubs, trumping the third club in dummy. When clubs did not divide evenly, she concede a club to East. 17 IMPs to Xiao when at the other table, declarer played a spade to the ace at trick two and cashed the HA discarding a diamond. The ace/king of clubs followed with a third club trumped in dummy and overruffed by West. Declarer was able to trump another club in dummy but still had to lose the trump king.

Two other declarers followed a similar line with the same sad result. There are two lines of play that could work. It is not clear which line is the best.

One choice is to play for the spade suit working perfectly as Wan did. However, if the SK is offside, it's instant failure!

The alternative line is to lead a spade to the ace and discard a diamond on the HA immediately, hoping that clubs are 3-3. If clubs are 4-2, declarer can still make the hand when hand with the short clubs has no more spades or just the SK.

If the SK is singleton in either hand, declarer will have a fighting chance to score 12 tricks.

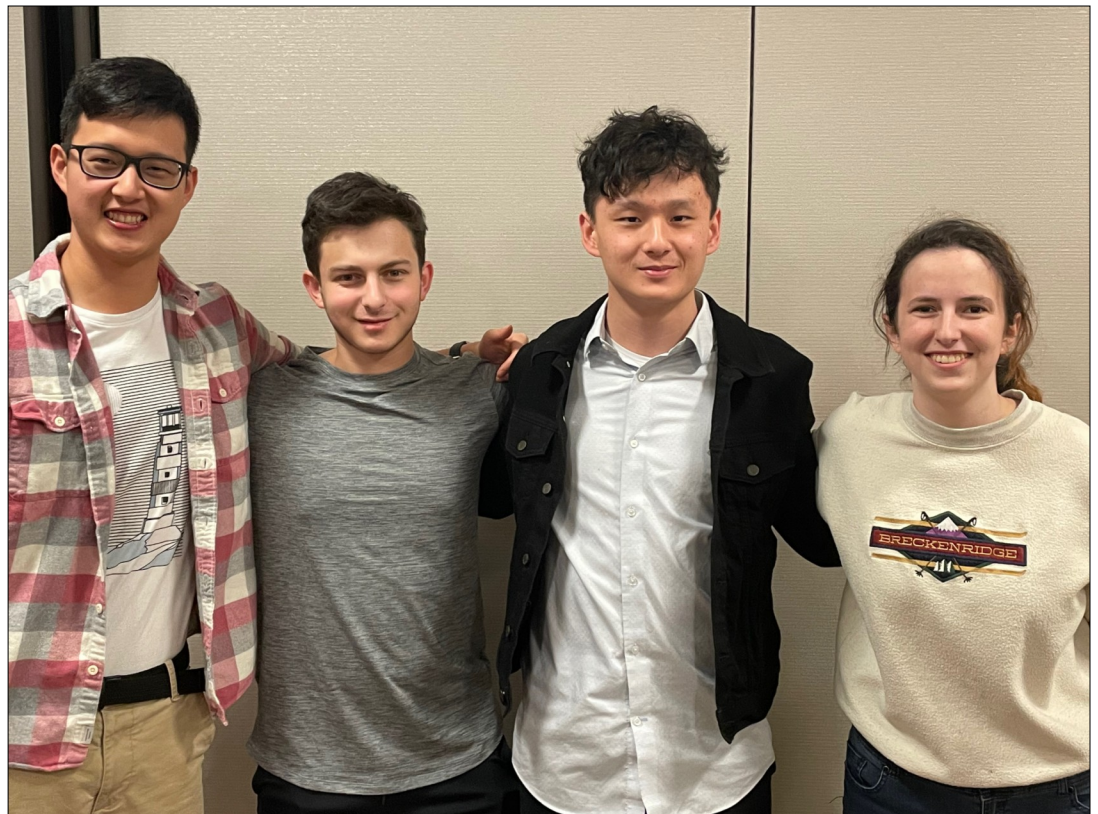


**Playing on
LoveBridge!**

**Photo Credit:
Joe Stokes**

**Congrats
Team Xu
USA1 U21**

Bo Han Zhu, Harrison
Luba, Michael Xu, Olivia
Shireson



BOARD: 46
 DEALER: EAST
 VULNERABLE: NONE

♠ J64
 ♥ JT742
 ♦ KQJ86
 ♣

♠ AKJ
 ♥ T987
 ♦ K93
 ♣ 952

♠ QT9865
 ♥ K32
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AT3

Par: 300

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	10	11	7	4	5
S	:	:	6	:	:
EW	3	2	6	9	8

♠ 7432
 ♥ AQ5
 ♦ AQ65
 ♣ 74

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
						NS EW Home Visiting
Xiao(U26)	Chen(U26)	Open	5♦	S	♠A	= 400
		Closed	2♠	E	♣7	= 110
Zhou(U21)	Derman(U21)	Open	3♠	E	♣7	-1 50
		Closed	3♣	N	♦8	+1 130
Hsieh(Rona)	Qian(Rona)	Open	2♠	E	♣4	= 110
		Closed	3♠	E	♣7	-1 50

On the first board of the last segment, five out of six tables played this hand in a black suit part score. Only Jeng/B Xiao reached the cold 5D contract. At every table, East opened a weak 2S. Four E/W pairs declared 2 or 3 spades, taking eight tricks.

HOME CARDS SPLIT

W	N	E	S
		2♠	PASS
PASS	DBL	PASS	3♠
PASS	4♣	PASS	4♦
PASS	5♦	PASS	PASS

Table: OP 1, Round: 4
 N-S: Xiao(U26) 104.25 IMP
 E-W: Chen(U26) 93 IMP

OTHER ROOM
 E 2♠ = -110

NORTH WEST 46 DEALER SOUTH

Score card Frequency Final score

♠ J64
 ♥ JT742
 ♦ KQJ86
 ♣

N Richard Jeng

♠ AKJ
 ♥ T987
 ♦ K93
 ♣ 952

W Qian Sun

♠ QT9865
 ♥ K32
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AT3

E Yifu Ouyang

♠ 7432
 ♥ AQ5
 ♦ AQ65
 ♣ 74

S Brent Xiao

DDS

eight tricks.

One North player balanced with 3C and took 10 tricks.

3S=GF with no 4 card heart suit and no spade stopper

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Hand reprinted for ease of reading...

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Bidding:**
 - W: PASS
 - N: DBL
 - E: PASS
 - S: 2♠ PASS
 - W: PASS
 - N: 4♣
 - E: PASS
 - S: 4♦
 - W: PASS
 - N: 5♦
 - E: PASS
 - S: PASS
- Table:** OP 1, Round: 4
 - N-S: Xiao(U26) 104.25 IMP
 - E-W: Chen(U26) 93 IMP
- Other Room:** E 2♠ = -110
- Score Card:** NORTH 46 WEST DEALER SOUTH
- DDS:** A button at the bottom.
- Card Distributions:**
 - North (Richard Jeng):** ♠ J64, ♥ JT742, ♣ KQJ86
 - West (Qian Sun):** ♠ AKJ, ♥ T987, ♦ K93, ♣ 952
 - South (Brent Xiao):** ♠ 7432, ♥ AQ5, ♦ AQ65, ♣ 74
 - East (Yifu Ouyang):** ♠ QT9865, ♥ K32, ♦ 8, ♣ AT3

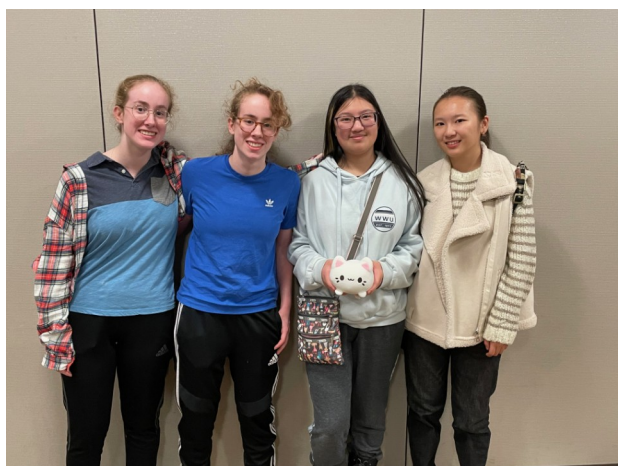
After East opens 2S, West probably does best to raise to 3S. At the table, West passed and Jeng re-opened with double on his shapely eight count.

Brent Xiao's cue bid of 3S described his hand perfectly.

When Jeng responded 4C, Xiao showed his diamond suit and Jeng was forced to raise to game.

There is no defense to 5D! Sun led the SA, trumped in dummy. Xiao ran the DJ, losing to Sun's king. Another round of spades followed. Xiao led a high club off dummy and Ouyang won the CA. Yifu played a third spade. Declarer led the DT, overtook with the ace and drew the last trump with the DQ. A club to dummy followed and declarer had the rest of the tricks without a heart finesse!!

Yifu could have made life harder for declarer by ducking the first round of clubs. As the cards lie, declarer will still be able to collect eleven tricks. 5D was a little lucky, however, it was worth 11 IMPs to Xiao who went on to win the match by 22!



M Donnellan, A Donnellan, Helena Hsieh, Jessie Cai, Rona Winners



18 Amber Lin, Brent Xiao, Richard Jeng, Cornelius Duffie, Cynthia Huang, Stella Wan, U26 USA2