

Hans Niemann Cheating Scandal

BY SHANNON COOK

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN guilty. That is the standard society is meant to live by. However, the world of chess has not seen much of that due to some recent events. Hans Niemann, a nineteen year old chess grandmaster from San Francisco, California was recently accused of cheating at the Sinquefeld Cup during one of the first rounds of the competition.

After Niemann defeated fellow grandmaster Magnus Carlsen, someone seen by many in the chess community as a true genius and prodigy (and possibly the greatest chess player of all time), withdrew from the competition prematurely, later claiming that the reason for this was his suspicion that Niemann was cheating during their match, ultimately resulting in Niemann's victory.

Despite being an undoubtedly talented player, Carlsen has been beaten by opponents many times before. So, what made this time different? The answer is in the body language and demeanor chess players commonly use during over-the-board matches. In general, players tend to be highly focused on their work, analyzing each move carefully before taking

the plunge and moving a piece. However, Carlsen's claims seemed to point toward Niemann making careless moves that turned out to be highly beneficial to him. Given his lack of focus and the way he seemed so relaxed while playing, Carlsen believed there was no way he had anything at stake during the game. His suspicions blatantly pointed toward cheating, implying that Niemann was somehow receiving outside help, advising him on what moves to make.

Niemann has previously admitted to cheating during online matches in his early teens, explaining that he was advised to cheat and that it would improve his performance to go up against more talented players than himself. It is unfortunate that Niemann has cheated in the past, given the stain it left on his reputation. It is highly unlikely that Niemann was able to perform any sort of grand cheating scheme during

the Sinquefeld Cup, having been subjected to a metal detector before entering. This may make some wonder: how could Niemann have possibly cheated during the game? Some of the more outlandish claims include using a spectator in the crowd to signal-playing advice, or some sort of electronic device transmitting signals meant to be some morse code and telling him which moves would be the most beneficial.

The consensus in the media seems to be that Niemann has cheated in over one-hundred online games in his life, the proof of which being his admission to cheating several years prior to becoming a grandmaster. As of now, Niemann continues to defend himself and his talent nonchalantly in the media, seemingly unphased by the scandal that threatens his career and his title as a grandmaster.



Photo Credit: Louis Hansel

Finalists Finally Selected for St. Paul Police Chief

BY DEVIN GRAY

THE CHIEF OF police is a very important position that carries out criminal and civilian justice.

To successfully combat obstacles, community problems, hurdles, and other big operations that fall into the hands of the chief, the correct person must be chosen for the job. A strong, level-headed, and overall reliable leader is needed to lead the police force. To lead, plan, and oversee law enforcement in St. Paul, the chief of police will be tasked with doing their best to protect the capital of the state. The recent chief of police, Todd Axtell, retired over the summer. So, as life goes on, someone willing to lead the charge is needed to step up.

As of October 4, there are five finalists for the job. The St. Paul chief of police examining committee has met six times during the summer. They are responsible for reviewing the applications for the position. Mayor Melvin Carter's office confirmed that around thirty applications have been submitted. Sometime in August, it was confirmed that only about sixteen of the applications were eligible and qualified to fill the shoes of Todd Axtell. Mayor Carter recommended five candidates by the committee. Jacqueline Bailey-Davis, Pamala Barragan, Kurtis Hallstrom, Axel Henry, and Stacy Murphy. The mayor will be responsible for selecting one of these candidates to become the next chief of police for the next six years.

Mayor Carter believes that selecting the chief of police is vital for the community and is a very critical decision. The committee believes that an ethical chief who can make connections to the very diverse city of St. Paul may be the best candidate. Specifically, one that can maintain the many relationships that are held within the city.

The first candidate that was selected was none other than Dr. Jacqueline Bailey-Davis. After entering the police force as a uniformed police officer in 1997, Dr. Baile-Davis climbed up the ladder on the force. Now serving as a police staff inspector, Dr. Bailey-Davis inspects all departmental policies and investigative operations.

The second choice is Pamela Barragan, who joined the police force in 1996. Just like Bailey-Davis, she also climbed positions. She serves as the unit commander for Community Partnerships. Barragan's role currently is to establish and maintain new and existing partnerships with private and government organizations.

The third candidate is Kurtis Hallstrom, who also joined the force in 1996. He started with the University of Minnesota Police force, then joined the St. Paul police force roughly three years later. He is currently serving as a senior commander of leadership and management in the eastern district.

The fourth candidate is Axel Henry, who joined the St. Paul police department in 1998. Three years before that, he served as a Roseville police officer. He is now the commander of the Narcotics, Financial intelligence, and Human Trafficking division.

The fifth and final candidate is Stacy Murphy, who is the current assistant chief of police and oversees the operations of over 500 sworn employees and over 150 civilian staff for the city of St. Paul.



Photo Credit: Wesley McLachlan