AAA-98 Hall of Champions Results

Scrabble

Maven (Brian Sheppard) Versus Grandmaster Adam Logan

Maven by 9-5.

Average score: 417.3 to 388.6.

Brian writes:

"Adam may have been unlucky in the draw, but it wasn't terribly so. Adam figures that 8-6 is about the right result, which would agree with my prematch estimates. I have begun the analysis process, but we have no conclusions yet, and probably will not have any until the third week of August.

"Maven's best game was a comeback from a 160-point deficit. Its second-to-last play was to fish one tile in an attempt to draw a U, which would give it MOUTHPART through an MO on the board. When the U turned up, MOUTHPART was a 92-point bingo out, which was just enough to win, 440-438.

"Adam's best game was a 427-417 strategic masterpiece involving endgame Q tactics. Adam closed the gap with THENARS (90 points), and then systematically played to deny Maven the chance to play a Q if Maven drew one. Maven drew the Q, and Adam won by virtue of scoring 34 points from Maven's tiles."

Backgammon

TD-Gammon (Gerry Tesauro) Versus World Champion Malcolm Davis

Exactly 100 games were played, with Davis winning by 8 points. This is a very close result and the margin of victory is not significant. The biggest swing in the match was a 32-point game for Davis, when TD-Gammon perhaps unwisely doubled and ended up getting gammoned.

Bridge

GIB (Matt Ginsberg) Versus World Champions Zia Mahmoud and Michael Rosenberg

Matt Ginsberg writes:

"They played 16 hands over the Internet (Mahmoud and Rosenberg were in Chicago at the time playing in the U.S. Nationals). The final result was a 4 IMP win win for the world champions (the 4 may be off by a bit; I can check if you want the right number). This was an
impressive result for the computer; no one predicted it would be that close.

**GO**

**The Many Faces of Go (David Fotland) Versus James Kerwin**

Three games were played, each won by the human. The first game was played at even strength, but in the second and third games Kerwin gave the program a head start.

**Demonstrations**

There was another bridge demo (Bridge Baron — Nau and Smith) against members of the audience. There was a poker demo (Loki — Billings, Papp, Schaeffer, Szafron) against 9 other people on the Internet.

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