



D21 NAP Report

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Double Dip!!

The St. Louis NABC opened with a wild and incredibly exciting beginning for District 21. Both the Championship and A Flights of the NAP were played on the Wednesday before the NABC and Thursday which was the first day of the NABC. District 21 won both!!



The Championship Flight:

In the Championship Flight, Bo Han Zhu and Brent Xiao won a relatively close match beating out last year's champions, Iftakhar Baqai and Mitch Dunitz, by less than 7 match points. Going into the last session Bo and Brent were in 3rd place, about 16 matchpoints behind Ifti and Mitch who were leading the event.

Bo and Brent proved the value of simply getting qualified because they were the third-place qualifiers, which was the last qualifying position in the District 21 NAP Finals. They are a younger pair, and I would have called them "up-and-coming" players except this event shows they have arrived! Congratulations!!



Winners of the North American Pairs Championship Flight, Brent Xiao and Bo Han Zhu

Flight A:

Chris Chung and Sriram Ganesan won the Flight A in true championship form. They led after the 1st round, after the 2nd round, after the 3rd round, and finished in 1st at the end. Their lead starting the 2nd day was over 11 matchpoints. After the 3rd session it increased to over 14 matchpoints, and they finished the event with a 16+ matchpoint lead. This doesn't mean they won every session. They simply built a lead over the 2nd place pair and kept it. A very steady performance!

Similar to our Championship Flight, Chris and Sriram didn't finish high in the District 21 NAP Finals. In fact, they didn't qualify! But the 3rd place qualifiers had to withdraw and NAP rules state that the next highest finisher should be promoted to qualifying. So, it doesn't matter how you qualify, once you qualify, play to win!



Winners of the North American Flight A, Chris Chung and Sriram Ganesan

Like our championship winners, Chris and Sriram are a younger pair. The future looks bright for District 21!

Flight B:

While we would have loved to continue the 1st place fireworks, unfortunately D21 had to come back to earth a bit. But we must give credit to Rick Jasper and John Wachsman for a solid result in the B Flight



NAP. They finished 9th overall. Considering that there are 25 ACBL districts fielding a total of 84 pairs, this is a nice result.

Our two other D21 pairs, Anne Wilson & Alan Simon and Kathryn LeGro & Mark Marty, both qualified for the second day. Anne & Alan missed the overalls by only a few matchpoints.

Flight C:

Our top finishers in Flight C were Milind Girkar and Shailesh Sampat who finished in 6th place overall. At the end of the first day, Milind and Shailesh were leading the event slightly ahead of the second-place pair that eventually won the event. But unfortunately, a mildly above average 3rd session left them in a difficult position versus a few pairs that had excellent sessions.

The only other D21 pair in Flight C, Jayson & Katherine Lee, qualified for the 2nd day.

Summary:

D21 had a vintage NAP with two 1st place finishes, a 6th place and a 9th place which is outstanding! Congratulations to our D21 NAP team on a wonderful showing at the St. Louis NABC.