

Tennessee and Chattanooga have lost the services of Doug Nichols

By Rea Hayes

Doug Nichols has departed by God's other door, leaving a vacancy in the hearts of chessplayers, family, church and co-workers. He leaves a wife and son who were very dear to him and he was loved by the folks at Moccasin Bend where he was an administrator.

I cannot begin to speak for all the other folks who are missing him, but I would like to speak for the chess community in Chattanooga and Tennessee. Chattanooga had become a humdrum chess club after a previous leader left town. It had settled into a dull routine where players only played chess with their buddies and gave little thought to expanding our role.

Doug Nichols became President of the Club and got us involved in tournament play, in scholastic chess and in taking our place among the other communities in Tennessee. He not only coached chess at a school himself, but he got others in the club interested in this vital source of new players. He looked beyond local matters and became Vice-President of the Tennessee Chess Association. I only realized what a commitment that was when I inherited his files with a view of turning them over to the other officers of the Association. For the first time in many years, we held tournaments in which there was an out of town presence. We did not have to go out of town to play in "real" tournaments.



Douglas Lee Nichols

1957 - 1994

While strength alone does not make a person cherished by other players, he finished with a rating of 1794, having earned the A title and 7 points toward "x". This indicates an ability to play far above his rating on occasion and, on at least two occasions, he demolished experts and masters.

Above all, a chessplayer is proud of and likes to be remembered for his games and I have selected some of Doug's best for your enjoyment. I planned to feature one of my own losses, but my scorebook broke down in the critical position and I do not find the game in the 3 scorebooks available to me.