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## Jackson High wins national chess title

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Miami Jackson High School chess players have won another national championship, the fourth in four years under coach F

Senior Clifton Brown, junior Victor Agosto, and sophomores Alan Estrada and Joseph Lopez, defeated 600 students on 80 capture the U1300 division -- a ranking-point designation -- of the U.S. Chess Federation's 2002 National High School Chess Championship. The tournament was held April 11 through Sunday in Louisville, Ky.

None of the winning students had played competitively before joining Jackson's team.

Marcel Martinez -- no relation to the coach -- won the individual junior championship in 1999 at 19, just after leading the place finish in the scholastic division.

"I never thought it would happen again," said an elated Mario Martinez.

After the fourth round, Jackson was in 13th place. Then "not one of them lost in the last three rounds," defeating Columbus Alternative High School for the championship.

Agosto, the team captain, said, "Our prospects didn't look good. We were all pretty down. But Coach told us to go out and think out our moves. . . . Going into the last round, we were a point behind first place, and we weren't sure if that was going to overtake the first-place team."

It was. "We were ecstatic," Agosto said.