

# Chess Club Players Given USCF Ratings

Several members of the Wachusett Chess Club of Fitchburg have received national ratings by the United States Chess Federation, the country's governing chess body.

Phil Leasure of Gardner, the current WCC champion, heads the list of local and area players with a Class A rating of 1941 points.

Ron Burris of Fitchburg, a former UMass chess star, received an 1874 Class A rating. George Mirijanian of Fitchburg, who is editor of the state Chess Association's bi-monthly magazine, "Chess Horizons", is third with an 1848 total. Steve Gerzadowicz of East Templeton, president of the state Chess Association, has an 1836 Class A rating.

Dave Thomas of Fitchburg heads the Class B ranks with a 1685 total, while Evert Siiskonen of Ashburnham was given a 1637 rating and young Eric Jakobowicz of Ashby was close behind with a 1636 total.

Thomas Smith of Gardner was given a 1538 total to top the Class C list. Westminster's George Putika received a 1534 rating. Don Oksanen of

Lunenburg was ranked at 1523, and WCC president Robert Fortier was assigned a 1481 rating.

Richard Theadgould of South Lancaster, newly elected WCC treasurer, led the Class D list with 1379 points. WCC librarian Joe von Deck received a 1342 rating, and George Vallière, was third at 1236.

The WCC players received the national ratings by competing in sanctioned tournaments through the end of November of 1972.

The fifth of seven preliminary rounds in the WCC's 1973 championship tournament will be staged tonight at 8 p.m. in the Oak Room of the Fitchburg YMCA. The qualifying events will be completed in time for the finals to begin midway through March, according to tourney director Ron Burris.

The third annual Central New England Quadrangular, a three-round tourney, will be held beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday the YMCA. Players who are members of the USCF and the MCA are eligible to compete in the tournament, which will be directed by Stephan Gerzadowicz.