

QUEEN OF CHESS

The following text has sentences removed. Read the text and the sentences. Write the letter of the sentence that fits the gap.



This Queen of Chess Keeps Her Opponents in Check

"My parents wanted me to learn chess at a very young age." Mandy Smith says, "They believed that the earlier I started doing something, the better I would be at it when I grew up." The method Mandy's parents used seems to have worked. Today Mandy is one of the strongest and most gifted female chess players around. She is also one of the youngest, at only seventeen.

When Mandy's parents realized that their daughter was displaying some serious talent at the chess board, they decided to hire her a professional instructor (1) "I learnt so much from our daily matches. Slowly, I improved to the level where I was even beating my teachers. That's when chess became more than just a hobby and I considered making it a career," says Mandy.

Mandy started by entering competitions at the local level, which she quickly outgrew. Easily beating players twice or even three times her age with much more experience, Mandy started to get attention from the international chess community. (2) When asked how she felt about that, Mandy states that she had always studied with the goal of becoming a strong player, rather than just a junior or female champion.

Generally, the chess world divides competitions between male and female events. "Organizers say that they separate competitions between men and women in order to attract more women to the game," says Mandy. (3) They are also trying to encourage women to join local chess teams through advertising, websites and articles geared towards making the game appear more attractive and less male-oriented.

A At the time, she was one of the youngest players, and one of the very few females, playing at such a high level.

B I felt as if I was putting on a performance rather than just playing a game.

C She suggests a movie about girls or women in chess, or even a character on a television show.

D She was taught by a Grandmaster, the highest level of chess player in the world.

Mandy has some of her own ideas on how to encourage more participation in chess by women and girls. (4) She believes that's the way to boost the image of female chess. She also believes that professional chess matches amongst females need a steady stream of exposure, to make it clear that women play chess professionally, not just as an occasional talent show.

Mandy will start university in the autumn and wants to get a degree in English Literature. She currently writes a number of columns on chess for local papers and Internet sites. (5) One of her main reasons for writing it is to increase the exposure of women's chess and to represent it for what it is - a dynamic and exciting sport for women and girls.

In her book, Mandy recounts a match where she and her female opponent wore all black and or all white, according to their chess pieces, as a means of attracting attention to the game." (6) It really showed that chess is more dramatic than people realize. There is nothing like the excitement of winning or the terrible pain of defeat. We felt that if we added a more visual aspect to the match, it would make women more visible in the world of chess."

Mandy's main goal, through is to increase awareness of the game of chess as something fun, challenging and even cool." (7) What anyone needs to be successful, though, is motivation. Having the stamina to sit for hours at a time, thinking and analyzing, is not for the weak, but those who manage to do it will walk away with a great sense of accomplishment." And Mandy would know, since she usually walks away from her matches victorious.

E She is also in the process of writing a book about her experiences as a young, talented female chess player.

F There are many cultural reasons why women

G All different types of people can do well at chess.

H However, they are aware that this in itself is not going to draw them in huge numbers. don't play chess.