

Maurice Ashley

International Grandmaster

Summary

Maurice Ashley is the *first and only* African-American to attain chess' highest title of International Grandmaster (GM). He has been an ardent spokesman and advocate of the intellectual and character building effects in young people for over 15 years. GM Ashley is the world's premier and live chess commentator for ESPN. He is a renowned speaker and consultant who has spoken to several universities and professional organizations nationally. GM Ashley has received multiple community service awards from city governments, universities, and non-profit groups for his work. His book, *Chess for Success* (2005, published by Broadway Books), crystallizes his vision of using chess to help at-risk youth. GM Ashley (2007) signed a deal with *HBO* to make a movie about his Harlem team's victory at the National Junior High School Championships.

Accomplishments

1991

- Coached a team of students from Harlem to victory at the National Junior High School Championships in Dearborn, Michigan.

1993

- Became the first ever African American International Master in United States history.
- Finished 1st place in the prestigious Enhance International.
- Won the title of Champion at the historic Marshall Chess Club Championship.

1995

- Commentated the World Championship match between Kasparov and Anand.

1997

- Tied for 1st in the Bermuda Open.
- Lead ESPN commentator when World Champion Garry Kasparov lost to IBM's Deep Blue chess computer.

1999

- **Became the first African-American International Grandmaster in history.**
- Opened the Harlem Chess Center.

2000

- Tied for 1st in the Foxwoods Open.

2001

- Became the only back-to-back winner in Foxwoods Open history.

2002

- Became the 1st African-American in 157 years to qualify for the US Championship.

2003

- Awarded title of *Grandmaster of the Year* by the US Chess Federation.

2004

- Named *Community Educator of the Year* by his alma mater, the City College of New York.
- Hosted the ESPN broadcasts of the Man vs. Machine chess competitions.

2005

- GM Ashley's Company, Generation Chess, organized the richest Open chess tournament in history, the HB Global Chess Challenge, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in May, 2005. (*The event received world wide press coverage - New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press, and CNN International*). Generation Chess has also produced and distributed an instructional DVD named *Speed Chess*.
- Won the US Chess Federation's *Organizer of the Year* award.
- GM Ashley's Book: *Chess for Success: Using an Old Game to Build New Strengths in Children and Teens*, hit bookstores August 9, 2005.

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Noteworthy Comments

- GM Ashley's champion chess students, all African-American and Latinos from Harlem and Washington Heights, have graduated from major universities, including Harvard, Yale, NYU, Vassar and the University of Michigan, to name a few.
- His CD Rom chess tutorial, *Maurice Ashley Teaches Chess*, has been hailed as a "proven method for creating tournament champions".
- The *Maurice Ashley Foundation* hopes to establish chess as a key component in the development of thinking as a skill in young people.

Education

1993 - City College of New York
B.A - Creative Writing

Press Coverage

A host of publications around the world has reported GM Ashley's achievements, including:

- The New York Times (multiple times)
- USA Today (cover)
- Time Magazine
- Sports Illustrated and SI for Kids
- Reader's Digest
- Ebony
- Charlie Rose Show
- CBS News This Morning
- NPR
- CNN
- Bloomberg Radio
- Nightline with Ted Koppel
- Dateline NBC
- US Chess Federation (uschess.org)

Website: www.mauriceashley.com