



His concentration is amazing

SPORTS COLUMN

The chess champ

Eleven-year-old Junaid Jamall is in Karachi from Coventry, England to visit his grandparents. I was most impressed to learn that he has been playing chess from the age of four. His interest in chess started when his parents were thinking how to keep a three-year-old asthmatic child occupied while laid up in bed.

As he couldn't run about and play other games his father introduced him to chess, first at three years. By four, Junaid himself showed interest. And so his father, his mother and his younger brother Fuzail Jamall all kept playing with him. Today however, he has a grading of 116-118 while his family's grading is at 85.

His first success came in his first year at Junior School in the inter-class game when he won against a ten-year-old. He received much praise and encouragement then.

Now he is the Captain of the School Chess Team and the Vice-Captain of the under II's for Coventry. He plays for CET Whoberley Club in the 4th division. Junaid told me that he has never come third in any tournament weekly Club match. He plays for the League and won the Trophy in Group A in the under 14's.

In June '84 he was one of those selected to play in the junior inter-

national against Scotland in Edinburgh. Here he won one game and lost one. Playing in Bedworth he won the 1st. prize and was awarded the large trophy. In '83 in the inter class tournament he again won the trophy. Junaid was invited to the selections to London by Loyds Bank for their tournament where he won 2nd. prize.

Though his chess career started only as a useful and successful way of keeping him quiet and in bed, he is now hoping to be a grandmaster one day. He keeps active in other sports — like football and swimming. He has swimming certificates and 'stars' and is now going to complete the second part of the Survival Course.

During the under nine's and under II's he notes every move so that it can be studied later to find the mistakes and to improve upon the game. His parents were saying that though he is every bit as noisy and mischievous as any other 11-year-old his concentration at chess is unbelievable. He plans at least ten to twelve moves ahead.

His other pastime include playing Monopoly, Scrabble, Snooker games and he has the VIC-2 computer.

In Karachi he played a little chess but says his mind is not on it. He would rather be on the terrace flying kites as he cannot enjoy that in Coventry, as they have a different types of kite there. Even while I talked to him, he was busy letting the kite a joyous flight.

By Mrs Habeeb