

## LOCAL NEWS



## Newton teen 12th in Rubik's event

**By Patrick Golden / Tribune Staff Writer**  
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NEWTON -- Newton resident Andy Camann put his Rubik's Cube wizardry to the test last weekend in Toronto, returning with an impressive 12th-place finish at the World Rubik's Games Championship.

The 14-year-old managed to solve one puzzle in an astounding 19.39 seconds and placed sixth among United States competitors. He also placed second in the 18-and-under category.

Camann spent more than a year training for the two-day event, scrambling and unscrambling cubes while timing himself. He said the training wasn't quite like the real thing.

"It was a lot more pressure," he said.

Camann was competing against the world's fastest cubers. Many of them were more than twice his age. Last weekend's event was the first official world championship competition in 25 years. The cubers competed in front of a flock of media and onlookers.

The first round of competition included all 83 competitors. Camann scored a ninth-place finish. Of the three solves that counted, his best time was 20.54 seconds and average time was 21.54. Camann and 31 other cubers qualified for the second round. His best solve improved to 19.39 while his average slipped ever so slightly to 21.93.

Camann's effort was good enough for 12th place in the round, but only the top eight finishers proceeded to the third and final round.

The event's top cuber was Dan Knights, a 24-year-old from San Francisco. He finished the final round with a 20-second average. That was more than two seconds better than the record set at the last world championships in 1982.

He also had a blistering best-solve time of 18.76.

He received \$3,500, a trophy and bragging rights.

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Camann said a lot of people who attended the event said beforehand Knights was a favorite to win.

Two other competitors were 14. There was a 7-year-old from Poland and a 13-year-old from Japan.

The next World Rubik's Games Championship is slated for 2005.

"I'm definitely going to do it again," said Camman.

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