

Season 14 - PLAYOFF Mini-tourney - 3/2/2006

February 3rd, Friday morning, it was cold and dreary when we met for our seasonal playoffs deciding the division champions for season 14.

The contestants: The top 6 players in each division competed for the title of Division Champion (there were a couple of cancellations – usually, there are 8 per division). In Zyzzyva, the division champion has the added bonus of moving into Aardvark.

The format: A five-game Round-Robin tournament in each division.

The report: In Zyzzyva, Phyllis and Agi both went 3-0, promising an exciting 4th round when they met each other. Maxine was in close pursuit with her 2-1 record and a reasonably good spread. But Omri would have none of that and proceeded to defeat Maxine in the 4th, spoiling her chances of taking the division title. It was now between Phyllis and Agi. Or was it... Phyllis defeated Agi in the fourth, taking a one-game lead going into the 5th round. If Agi beat Maxine and Phyllis lost to Omri (regardless of the spread), it would be Agi's title. Any other scenario, and Phyllis would be the newest Aardvark. And suddenly – it was all about Omri. Although Phyllis wrapped up the division title (congratulations!), Omri sneaked up to take second position beating Phyllis in the final game (the only player to do so...). Maxine beat Agi in their little match, taking the 3rd position.

In Aardvark, things were a lot less tense. Evan set off to an early lead winning his games by huge spreads. In game 4, if Hilda beat Evan and Ma'or won his game then Ma'or, who had to play Evan in the 5th, would have a good chance of taking the title. But Hilda didn't. And Ma'or had to win the 5th by close to 200 to take the title. Evan won the fifth too, finishing the tournament with a 5-0 record. And Naomi snatched second (well done!) with a 4-1 record and...a negative spread!!!

After 14 seasons, this is Evan's 10th Aardvark title and Phyllis' 2nd Zyzzyva title (oh yes, Phyllis has also been a runner-up in Aardvark...). Naomi has been Aardvark's runner-up twice (previously in season 9) and Omri's highest finish ever was 6th way back in season 12. This was also his first ever with a positive W/L record and...the best spread in Zyzzyva (second only to Evan's). Well done, all!

And now...it's back the club for season 15... And may the best Scrabbler win!

AARDVARK DIVISION

Rank	Name	W	L	Cum. Differential	Average (for)	Average (against)
1.	Evan Cohen	5	0	609	428	306.2
2.	Naomi Landau	4	1	-32	346.6	353
3.	Ma'or Eichler	3	2	23	326	321.4
4.	Hilda Ben Nun	2	3	109	362.8	341
5.	Gila Blits	1	4	-361	309.6	381.8
6.	Liliane Servier	0	5	-348	318.8	388.4

ZYZZYVA DIVISION

Rank	Name	W	L	Cum. Differential	Average (for)	Average (against)
1.	Phyllis De Castro	4	1	-4	367.8	368.6
2.	Omri Rosenkrantz	3	2	224	378.6	333.8
3.	Maxine Tsvaigrach	3	2	147	372.6	343.2
4.	Agi Brener	3	2	55	349.6	338.6
5.	Joe Guter	2	3	-96	345.6	364.8
6.	Amos Fabian	0	5	-326	311	376.2