

🇺🇸 Ehlvest Jaan (14.10.1962)



Grandmaster, born in Estonia and living in the States since the early 2000's. Graduate in Psychology and author. FIDE Delegate and President of the Baltic Chess Zone. Ehlvest was one of the strongest grandmasters in the late 80's of the (former) Soviet Union.

**European Junior Chess Champion in 1982-83 at Groningen.**

**Estonian national chess champion in 1986.**

**Estonian sportsman of the year in 1987 and 1989, a very rare distinction for a chess player!**

At Zagreb Interzonal 1987 (Korchnoi won), Ehlvest finished second / third together with Seirawan and thus qualified for the following FIDE Candidate matches, Jaan Ehlvest then was still an IM!!

**For that achievement, Ehlvest was awarded 1987 the FIDE Grandmaster title automatically.**

*As a Candidate in 1988, Ehlvest was eliminated by Arthur Yussupov (1½-3½) in the 1/8-finals (note: Anatoly Karpov was directly seeded for the next stage, thus only seven 1/8-finals played).*

**Winner at Vrsac (12th Kostic Memorial) 1989**, together with Dragoljub Velimirovic, **Tallinn (Keres Memorial) 1989** (shared with Lembit Oll and Georgy Timoshenko), **Clermont Ferrand GM (200 Anniv of French Revolution) 1989** (joint in a five-way-tie), **Reggio Emilia 1989/90**, clear first ahead of 2. Ivanchuk and 3. Karpov, followed by 4./5. Ribli and Andersson, 11 players: [http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc\\_storia/data/1989-90.htm](http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc_storia/data/1989-90.htm) (Standings at Reggio Emilia 1989/90), *Haninge, Sweden 1990, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> with Karpov, behind Seirawan, 12 players, Terrassa GM 1991*, together with Adams, ahead of Ivanchuk, **Logrono 1991, match USSR vs. Spain (Scheveningen system), best individual result**, Komotini Open 1992 (shared), **Novosibirsk GM 1993** clear first ahead of 2.-4. Epishin, Beliavsky, Goldin, 12 players, Rakvere (Keres Memorial) 1993, shared with Khalifman and Rozentalis, and Keres Memorial Rapid 1993, Saint Petersburg Open 1994 (shared), **tied for first place at New York Open in 1993 and in 1994** (best on tie-break above Lembit Oll), **Novosibirsk GM 1995**, shared with Svidler, Rublevsky, and Kharlov, 12 players, San Roque GM, Spain 1996, shared with Azmaiparashvili, *Biel 1996, sole 3<sup>rd</sup>, half a point behind the joint winners Karpov and Milov, 12 players incl. Portisch, Andersson and Miles who finished last, Pula, Open 1997 (shared), Mezezers, Zonal 2000, shared first place at World Open in Philadelphia in 1999, in 2000, in 2002, in 2006, and won as first on tie-break at World Open in Philadelphia in 2003.* American Continental Champion at Boca Raton 2008. Jaan Ehlvest won also many further Open tournaments in the United States.

**An impressive achievement was his fourth place in the GMA World Cup cycle 1988/89 behind only Garry Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, and Valery Salov (25 top players, point scoring system).**

He was a **member of the gold-medal winning Soviet Union team at the 28th Chess Olympiad in Thessaloniki 1988**, and played for Estonia in the Chess Olympiads of 1992–2004.

In 2006, unsatisfied with the lack of support from the Estonian Chess Federation, Jaan Ehlvest decided to move to the United States; since then, he has been a member of the [USCF](#) and competed internationally for the USA.

Author of *Dutch Defense* (1990), *The Story of a Chess Player* (2004), his autobiography, and *Chess Gymnasium* (2011).

Best Elo rating: 2660 in 1996 (both lists). Ehlvest was briefly a world top 10 player when he ascended to **the number 5= (fifth to seventh) of the world** on FIDE's official ranking list in **(January – June) 1991** with an Elo rating of 2650.

Famous game:

**Ehlvest, Jaan (2580) - Anand, Viswanathan (2555)**

Reggio Emilia-A 8889 31st Reggio Emilia, 1988

1.d4 d6 2.e4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Nd5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.c3 Be6 11.O-O Rad8 12.Bf4 Qd7 13.Qe1 Bf5 14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.Qg3 h6 16.Rae1 Qe6 17.a3 Na5 18.Bg5 Rd7 19.Qh4 h5 20.b4 Nc4 21.Bc1 Nb6 22.Ng5 Qc6 23.e6 fxe6 24.Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Qf2 **1-0**.

➔ **Replay:** <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1018042>

### Match versus Rybka:

In March 2007, Ehlvest accepted an invitation to play an unusual eight-game match against the chess program [Rybka](#), one of the strongest chess programs in existence. He was playing Black in all games, but was given pawn odds (Rybka was playing each game a pawn down; different white pawn was removed in each game). He lost the match by 2½:5½ (+1–4=3). In a following rematch, the pawn odds were removed, Ehlvest was given White in every game, twice the time on the clock, and significant computational handicaps were placed on the machine. Ehlvest lost clearly, 1½:4½.

Ehlvest studied psychology at Tartu State University.

Jaan Ehlvest's brother, [Jüri Ehlvest](#), was a well-known writer in Estonia.



Ehlvest playing Hjartarson, 1988 (Photo: CNC)

Sources:

<http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-551.html> (CNC)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=10065> (Chessgames)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaan\\_Ehlvest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaan_Ehlvest) (Wikipedia)

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/che-gymnasium-by-jaan-ehlvest> (ChessBase)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1013985> (Reggio Emilia 1989/90)