

**THE OTHELLO MATCH OF THE YEAR:  
TAKESHI MURAKAMI VS. LOGISTELLO**

**August 4-7, 1997  
Princeton, NJ, USA**

*M. Buro*<sup>1</sup>

Princeton, NJ, USA

We announce a six-game match between the current Othello World Champion, Takeshi Murakami (Japan), and the program LOGISTELLO. It will be the first multi-game OTHELLO match ever between one of the strongest human Othello players and one of the best Othello programs. The event is sponsored by the NEC Research Institute of Princeton and will take place in Princeton (NJ), along with a scientific workshop on game-tree search from August 4 to 7, 1997. The Tournament Director will be David Parsons (New York City).

It is planned to report the long-timed games (2 hours per player) live on the Internet Othello Server (telnet external.nj.nec.com 5000) and to prepare a room for spectators. However, because the seating is limited, we must ask for an a priori registration. If you are interested in coming to Princeton to watch the games and/or attend the workshop, please register at the address given in the footnote.

**About the players**

Mr. Murakami (33) is a very active Othello player with great international experience. In 1987 he placed second in the annual all-Japan Championships, considered to be the strongest human Othello tournament. He won this tournament in 1996 which qualified him for taking part in the 1996 World Championships. Here he showed again a strong performance and became World Champion.

LOGISTELLO is one of today's best Othello programs. It is written in C and based on novel evaluation, learning, and game-tree-search techniques, extensively investigated in the author's Ph.D. thesis. The work has been continued while working for NECI. During the last five years LOGISTELLO has been improved in various ways. In the 22 international Othello tournaments it has played so far, it placed first sixteen times, and second five times.



Photo by P. Kouwenhoven

**THEY MADE IT!**

The DEEP BLUE team (from left to right) C.J. Tan, Feng-hsiung Hsu, Joel Benjamin, Joseph Hoane, Murray Campbell, Jerry Brody enjoying the result of their long days of hard work.  
New York, Kasparov-DEEP BLUE Rematch, May 1997.

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