THE 1996 ICCA JOURNAL AWARD

The Board of ICCA

In 1992, a novel award was instituted by the ICCA, the *ICCA Journal Award* The ICCA Journal Award is to be adjudicated to a first-time author for the best article in the *ICCA Journal* The first ICCA Journal Award (1993) covered the articles published in the issues Vol 15, No 2 up to and including Vol 16, No 1 Peter Jansen was the first winner of the ICCA Journal Award Peter Jansen has been granted the award for his article *KQKR Awareness of a Fallible Opponent* as published in Vol 15, No 3 pp 111-131 The winner of the second ICCA Journal Award was Christian Donninger for his article *Null Move and Deep Search* in Vol 16, No 3, pp 137 143 The third ICCA Journal Award has been granted to Bradley Kuszmaul for his article *The StarTech Massively Parallel Chess Program* in Vol 18, No 1, pp 3-19 The winner of the 1996 ICCA Journal Award was Michael Buro for his article *Probcut An Effective Selective Extension of the α β Algorithm* as published in Vol 18, No 2, pp 71-76

MICHAEL BURO: A SCIENTIFIC BIOGRAPHY

In the December 1996 issue of the Journal Michael Buro was announced as the winner of the 1996 ICCA Journal Award As an intrinsic part of the Award, a brief scientific biography of the winner is published below

Michael Buro finished his studies of computer science and electrical engineering at RWTH Aachen (Rheinische Westfälische Technische Hochschule), Germany in 1990, with a diploma thesis investigating techniques for partially solving the halting problem for Turing machines At the end of 1990, he joined the knowledge-based systems group of Professor Kleine Buning at the University of Duisburg (later Paderborn) as a research and teaching assistant Here, he first worked on resolution and SAT algorithms and organized a SAT competition in 1991 Inspired by the JAIR article by Lee and Mahajan on a statistical approach for learning parameters of evaluation functions, he decided to investigate learning approaches in game playing which eventually led to his Ph D thesis and to the computer program LOGISTELLO, which is still considered one of the top Othello programs in the world Since November 1995, he is working for NEC Research Institute in Princeton where he is involved in projects dealing with multi agent learning systems and new approaches for searching game trees

THE 1997 ICCA JOURNAL AWARD

The Board of ICCA

The fifth *ICCA Journal Award* covers the articles published in the issues Vol 19, No 2 up to and including Vol 20, No 1 The winner will receive a hand-lettered certificate to this effect and will have a choice of any three volumes of the Journal's back issues The name of the winning author will also, of course, be published in the *ICCA Journal* with a short curriculum vitae if so desired The judges will be computer-chess experts with proved expertise in technical writing The winner of the fifth ICCA Journal Award will be announced in Vol 20, No 4