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5) International 6/27-7/1: GM & IM norms possible, warmup for main event.

6) Unique- big money U2400 Section!

7) Open Section fee \$100 more if FIDE 2199/below; makes section stronger.

8) Many side events; see chesstour.com or April Chess Life.

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OPEN SECTION: \$20000-10000-5000-2500-1200-1000-800-700-600-500, clear win or top 2 playoff \$300, top FIDE U2500 \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$1000. FIDE rated, GM & IM norms possible. Note change of time control to 40/90, SD/30, inc 30.

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UNDER 1200: \$5000-2500-1200-1000-900-800-700-600-500-400, top U1000 (no unr) \$1200-600, 65/over \$600. Unrated limit \$800.

UNDER 900: \$1000-700-500-400-300-300-300, trophies to first 10, top Under 700, Under 500, Under 300, unrated. Unrated limit \$300.

PRIZE LIMIT: If under 10 lifetime games played as of 7/13 official list, limit \$500 in U900, \$1500 in U1200, \$2500 in U1400 or U1600. Provisionally rated players are NOT unrated! July USCF official ratings used (June FIDE in Open Section)

Reserve early! Chess rate \$95-95, 703- 418-1234, may sell out by 5/31, 2 night min. 7/5-6.

Time limit: Open 40/90, SD/30, inc/30. U2400 to U1200 40/2, SD/1, d5 (4-day option, rounds 1-2 G/75. d5, 3-day option, rds 1-5 G/45, d5). U900 G/65, d5, July 5-7 only.

Open through U1400 entry fees: Online at chessaction.com, \$318 by 4/15, \$328 by 6/28, \$350 at site or online until 2 hours before first game.

U1200 entry fees: All \$100 less.

U900 entry fees: \$48 online at chessaction.com by 6/28, \$60 at site or online until 9 am 7/5.

Seniors 65/up: entry fee \$100 less in U1400 & above, \$20 less in u1200.

Mailed or phoned entries cost more. See Tournament Life, chesstour.com or chessaction.com.

5-day schedule: Wed 7 pm, Thu 11 am & 6 pm, Fri 11 am & 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 5 pm.

4-day schedule: Thu 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, Fri 11 am & 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 5 pm.

3-day schedule: Fri 11 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm & 8:30 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 5 pm.

7-day schedule (Open Section only): Mon-Wed each 7 pm. Thu-Fri each 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 5 pm.

2-weekend schedule (Open Section only): 6/29 (Sat) 11 am & 6 pm, 6/30 (Sun) 10 am & 4:30 pm, then merges with 5-day.

Under 900 schedule: Fri & Sat 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm, Sun 10 am, 1 pm & 4 pm.

Half point byes OK all, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Open must commit before round 2, others

before round 5.

Open to U1200 schedules merge & play for same prizes. No 4-day or 3-day Open Section, no 2-weekend U2000 or below, 7-day schedule in Open Section only.

Late entries end 1 hour before rd 1.

Bring sets, boards, clocks- none supplied. U2000 & higher prizes paid 7/7, others mailed by 7/22. \$15 service charge for refunds.

Special 1 year USCF dues with paper magazine if paid online with entry at chessaction.com: Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. USCF membership required.

Advance entries are posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

Chess Life

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Editor's Letter

Usually in this space I try to tease a feature or two from within the issue. Certainly I could do so this month—Macauley Peterson's profile of Hikaru Nakamura is one of the most fascinating profiles to appear in *Chess Life* in years. But this month I'm focusing on an item that only takes up about a third of a page: A *Dilbert* comic strip from February that we are reprinting (see the third page of "First Moves" on page 10). The joke arises from Malcolm Gladwell's book, *Outliers: The Story of Success* from 2008; in it he makes the claim that to succeed in any field you must practice the core skills of that field for at least 10,000 hours. Gladwell even mentions chess success specifically, writing, "... to become a chess grandmaster also seems to take about ten years." To get to 10,000 hours, the math works out to between three and four hours a day of chess study and play over those ten years, assuming about 300 days a year of chess. If you have the talent to become a grandmaster, OK, that doesn't seem undoable. But what about the rest of us plodding *patzers*? Most of us have jobs, children, or school and are saddled with the letters A, B, C, or D attached to our ratings, not the coveted G and M. Yet we all entertain dreams of improving a class level or two—and, hope of hopes—reach expert or master. This is why we continue to set up the positions from each month's *Chess Life* and try to plumb the depths of the grandmasters' minds. So while I can, like *Dilbert*, accept my mediocrity, I'm going to continue the quest. Here's to your chess life.

-Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: APRIL

SuperNationals V Is Here!

The premier scholastic chess event of the year, SuperNationals V is here! The event, held in the luxurious Gaylord Opryland Hotel from April 5 to 7, merges the Elementary, Junior High and High School nationals into one fun and intense weekend in Nashville, Tennessee. Keep track of pairings and standings at uschess.org/tournaments/2013/snv/ while *CLO* coverage will include video reports from the scene, which you can also find on our *YouTube* channel, youtube.com/user/USChessFederation. Also look for interviews and wrap-ups from a diverse cast of SuperNationals characters from chess parents to champions.



Fantasy Chess: Keep your eyes open for this year's Fantasy U.S. Chess Championship competition, where you can root on your favorite players at the 2013 U.S. Chess Championship (May 2-13), for bragging rights and prizes.

The Dragon Pose: As the summer season approaches, everyone is looking to get in better shape. Popular *CLO* writer and yogi Melinda J. Matthews talks about chess and yoga. (Photo features Michelle Tantoco from *American Chess Star*, 2005)

All-Girls in Chicago: Find coverage, including games and photos from the 10th anniversary of the All-Girls nationals in Chicago from April 26-28, presented by the Kasparov Chess Foundation, USCF and the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation.

Follow *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Online* on Facebook! Get regular updates as part of your newsfeed, post comments, and easily communicate directly with the editorial staff.

CONTRIBUTORS

Macauley Peterson

Our cover story reporter this month is Macauley Peterson, who produced the live commentary for the London Chess Classic and is a regular contributor to *New in Chess* magazine. He also produces a podcast called The Full English Breakfast, a light-hearted review of chess news, at www.thefeb.podbean.com.

Al Lawrence

The Pan Am Championship is reported by the former executive director of both USCF and the World Chess Hall of Fame. He is currently director of the Texas Tech University chess program. His latest book, with GM Lev Alburt, is *Chess for the Gifted and Busy*.

Below: "At only 25 years old, Nakamura is firmly established among the elite grandmasters, and is one of the world's most sought after players, garnering invitations to all the top tournaments," writes Macauley Peterson in his profile of Hikaru Nakamura, beginning on page 18.

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PHOTO: MACAULEY PETERSON



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**The Resolute Grandmaster:
Hikaru Nakamura's slow progress
towards the top**

By Macauley Peterson

2012 was a tumultuous year for the current U.S. champion. Competing in 11 major events all over the world, Hikaru logged more air miles than most people earn in a lifetime.

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**Our Heritage:
2012 U.S. Chess Federation Yearbook**
Our USCF's historical record.

ON THE COVER 2012 was a year full of ups and downs for our current and three-time U.S. champion. Our globe-trotting reporter Macauley Peterson was on the scene for almost all of it and tells the story starting on page 18. *Photo by Macauley Peterson at Hoogeveens, The Netherlands, during the Tata Steel tournament prizegiving ceremony.*

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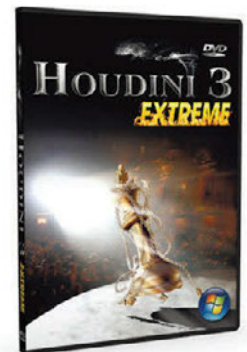
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PERSPICACITY

Would you be able to shed a little more light on the circumstances surrounding the tenth-round draw between Francisco Vallejo (White) and Fabiano Caruana (Black) at the recent Grand Slam Final tourney, split between Sao Paulo and Bilbao? That was the draw that denied any real chance for Caruana to win the tournament outright without going into a blitz tiebreak, where, as it turned out, Magnus Carlsen easily prevailed.

In the January 2013 *Chess Life*, page 22, reporter Ian Rogers recounts how Caruana purposefully allowed Vallejo to steer the game to a quick draw as a “chivalrous” gesture—even though that result was against Caruana’s interest—since Vallejo had been depressed by his recent poor form, and was intending to take an extended break from chess to recharge his engines, and so Caruana apparently did not want Vallejo to have to go out on a sour note.

Nevertheless, some *Chess Life* readers will no doubt be familiar with the much different version of the same episode, as reported by Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, written in the 2012 #8 issue of *New in Chess*.

There, on page 17, the reporter suggests that Vallejo himself engineered the draw (the well-known line in the Spanish Zaitsev, where Black plays Rf8-e8, intending to retreat the dark-square bishop back to f8, but where White can essentially force Black to shuffle his king rook back and forth between e8 and f8, by simply playing a timely Ng5, attacking the f7-pawn, and then retreating to f3, only to repeat the pattern again).

In fact, Jan ten Geuzendam writes that Caruana was “speechless,” “inwardly appalled,” and “raging inside” that Vallejo might take such an easy way out, especially since Caruana at that moment was fighting for the tournament crown, and, as the reporter adds, Vallejo had not even qualified for the tournament like the other players, but in fact was a last-minute addition to fill out the field.

There must be a story here that is begging to come out.

Bruce Radford, Washington, D.C.

GM Ian Rogers responds:

Mr. Radford is very perspicacious.

I was rather stunned when I read ten Geuzendam’s description in *New in Chess* of the Vallejo-Caruana game—I would regard it as spin by ten Geuzendam. All those emotive terms—“speechless,” “inwardly appalled,” and “raging inside”—are ridiculous given that Caruana chose the variation and could have varied at many moments. He knew that Vallejo was playing badly and might head for a draw. The



Fabiano Caruana (right) playing Francisco Vallejo in Sao Paulo during the Grand Slam Final.

side swipe by ten Geuzendam at Vallejo’s method of entry to the tournament—which was more due to the unavailability of so many strong players due to the clash with the London Grand Prix tournament than any other factor—shows only that ten Geuzendam wanted to paint Vallejo as the bad guy.

Part of the problem is that *New in Chess* depends for its reputation on access to the very best players in the world for interviews, annotations, etc. As a result, you will very rarely see criticism of the world elite;

they will almost always be painted in a good light compared to the less important grandmasters. I think that is what happened here, even though it was completely unnecessary and the short draw did not reflect badly on Caruana at all, as I indicated in my article.

Actually this example is not really typical of ten Geuzendam’s style—he usually prefers to put almost everyone (except perhaps FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov) in the best possible light, which is not such a bad attribute to have.

Send your letters to letters@uschess.org or post on the *Chess Life* Facebook group page. If *Chess Life* publishes your letter, you will be sent a copy of *Test, Evaluate and Improve Your Chess* (see ad below).

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By Danny Kopec and Hal Terrie)

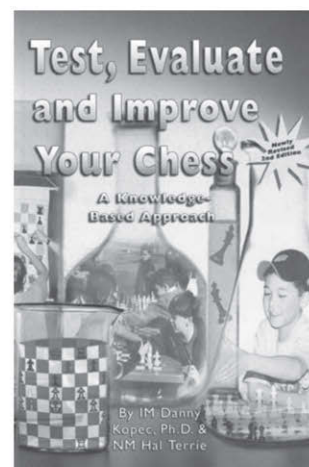
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- Under 10
- Under 12
- Under 14
- Under 16
- Under 18
- Under 20

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6:00 PM Opening Ceremony
6:30 PM Round 1

Saturday April 27

10:00 AM Round 2
2:30 PM Round 3
6:30 PM Round 4

Sunday April 28

9:00 AM Round 5
1:00 PM Round 6
5:00 PM Awards Ceremony

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AWARDS

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All events held at the Swissotel 323 E. Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL



SIDE EVENTS

Bughouse Tournament

Fri. April 26 1:00 PM
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Blitz Tournament (G/5)

Fri. April 26 3:00 PM
Entry fee: \$20 by 4/15, \$25 after/on-site.

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Above left: 5-6 rated winner, Om Borkar, first place trophy and Kindle Fire; above middle: 9-12 rated winner, Kevin Du, first place trophy and \$4,000 scholarship; above right: Alpha Phi Alpha member Tony Dunlap Sr. and iPad winner Connor Keuchel; below: First time tournament player Robert Travis (right) of Solon High School thinking about his next move against Courtney Sargent (left) of John Hay High School.

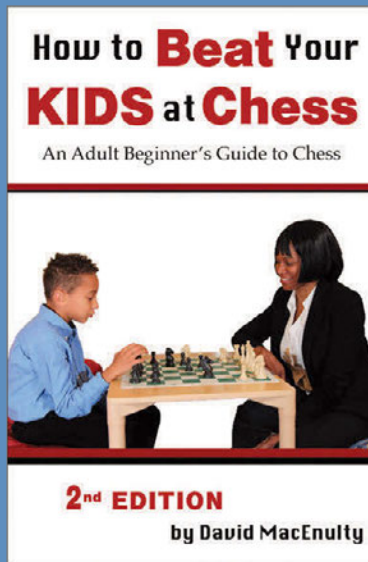


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For Adult Beginners

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By **DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM**



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR your non-chessplaying friends, to introduce them to chess, *How to Beat Your Kids at Chess: An Adult Beginner's Guide to Chess* by David MacEnulty would be a good choice. Without boring his readers, MacEnulty conveys chess rules, tactics, opening principles, and basic endings (such as king and rook versus king). To illustrate middlegame ideas, he annotates three Paul Morphy games.

MacEnulty's approach to forks illustrates how most of this book is structured. MacEnulty writes, "Kings also attack in eight directions. But with a limit of only one square in each of those directions, its ability to catch other pieces in a fork is quite limited." With these two sentences, he refers to the preceding section on knight forks, since a knight also attacks in eight directions. And he reminds the reader of how a king

moves, which is covered on earlier pages. After sections on bishop, rook, queen, knight, king, and pawn forks (each of which has two-eight puzzles), there are 20 "mixed fork puzzles."

This book is a second edition. Perhaps the proofreader was negligent with updates between editions, as there are mistakes in page numbers. On page 53, MacEnulty writes, "Pawns capture one square away on a forward diagonal. See page 38." But there is nothing about pawns on page 38. Similarly, on page 31, MacEnulty writes, "as in the diagrams on page 14" yet page 14 has no diagrams. Along with the occasional typo ("6. ... Bf8-e6!" is on page 171), proofreading errors may annoy the reader. Content understanding, however, should not be affected.

MacEnulty lists five categories of adult readers for his book. Those who:

- 1) have a child learning chess;
- 2) are in charge of school chess programs;
- 3) lose to their friends at chess;
- 4) want to learn chess for the first time;
- 5) want to keep their minds active.

For adults in the first two categories, there is not enough help. Parents and teachers would have to convert MacEnulty's chess content into child-friendly activities and lesson plans. This book does not tell how to make those transformations. Instead, MacEnulty offers, "For teachers who would like more supplemental exercises, or suggestions on how to move beyond this book, e-mail me."

MacEnulty is successful with the last three categories. Those who have been losing at chess and those who want to learn chess are both well served. After reading this book, adults will know enough to play a competent game of chess. For adults in the last category, MacEnulty states, "Neurologists have observed the neuronal interplay within the brain of people playing chess and found the whole brain teeming with activity." That sentence, which is quite a mouthful, shows why this book is for adult (rather than child) beginners. For adult beginners, *How to Beat Your Kids at Chess* is a thorough introduction to the royal game.

FACES ACROSS THE BOARD

AT THE USATE*

By **AL LAWRENCE**



BILL BLUESTONE NEW JERSEY

A tradition went to his head

At the USATE*, where the shtick's the thing, Bill's the hat guy. Everyday he's got

something else goofy on his head. It could look like a hound dog with its tongue out or like the crown from the Statue of Liberty. "For 15 years I wore funny hats. Then five years ago I decided I should stop the silly stuff. But forty people, mostly strangers, came up to me and asked me why. I had become a tradition without knowing it!"



NATASHA CHRISTIANSEN MASSACHUSETTS

Larry's mate

At 11, Natasha liked her first chess set because it was pink and green. An Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology graduate, she worked as an engineer and went on to earn her law degree—and play in two U.S. Women's Championships. She's now a patent attorney at Goodwin Procter LLP. "Chess has been helpful to me in all sorts of ways," she said, "including meeting people." GM husband Larry must agree. After 23 years of marriage, they're still playing on the same team.



CARISSA YIP MASSACHUSETTS

Most rating points per pound

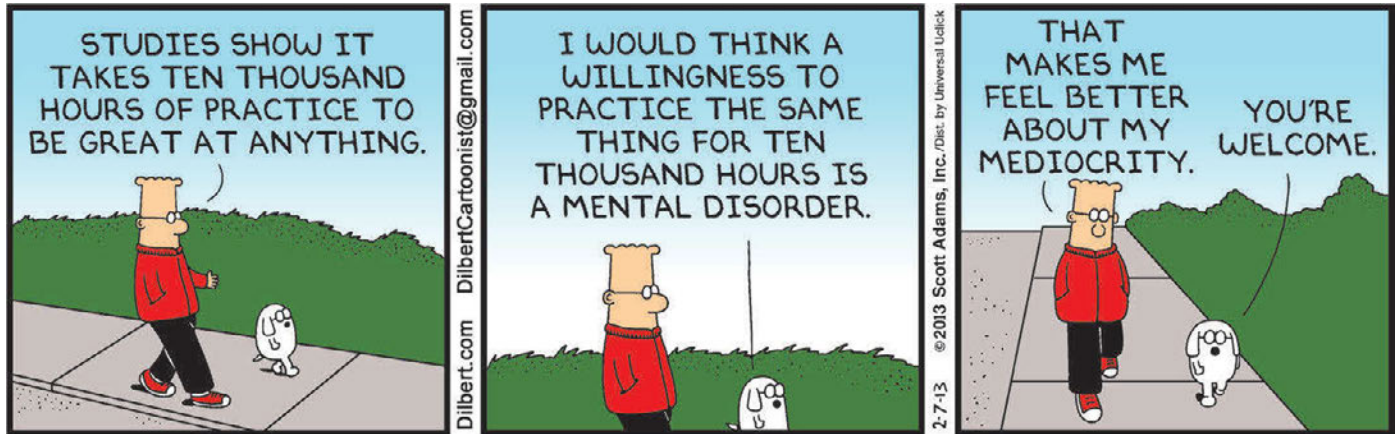
Carissa learned chess at seven and won her very first game at the Metrowest Chess

Club. A year later, she's already on USCF's top ten under nine, having represented the USA at the Maribor, Slovenia, World Youth Championship. The tiniest A-player at the USATE*, she sat pertly on fourth board for "Larry C, Larry Do," led by GM Larry Christiansen. "It was fun actually playing with my coach," she said. "I want to be the first woman to win the U.S. Championship."

*U.S. Amateur Team East.

Write to faces@uschess.org for us to consider you.

We offer this Dilbert cartoon without comment:



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Benko Remembers Fischer

Three compositions in honor of Fischer's 70th birthday (born March 9, 1943)

By **GM PAL BENKO**

Note: Problems II and III use Chess960 castling rules.

From Wikipedia: In Chess960, each player may castle once per game the same as standard chess, moving both the king and a rook in a single move. However, the castling rules were reinterpreted in Chess960 to support the different possible initial positions of the king and rook.

After castling, the king and rook's final positions are exactly the same as they would be in standard chess. Thus:

After a-side (on the left or queenside) castling, the king finishes on the c-file (c1 for White, c8 for Black) and the a-side rook finishes on the d-file (d1 for White, d8 for Black). The move is notated 0-0-0 and is known as queenside castling in standard chess.

After h-side (on the right or kingside) castling, the king finishes on the g-file and the h-side rook finishes on the f-file. The move is notated as 0-0 and is known as kingside castling in standard chess.

Castling in Chess960 has the same or similar requirements to castling under the standard chess rules.

USCF Blitz Ratings

As of March 1, 2013, the USCF has a Blitz rating system. Events that started on or after March 1, 2013, and that have a total time per player of between five and 10 minutes are now automatically part of the Blitz rating system. Add the minutes of time plus the seconds of delay/increment to determine the total time per player.

For Blitz events, the fastest available time control is G/3;d2 (Game in three minutes with two seconds of delay) and the slowest available time control is G/10;d0 (Game in 10 minutes with no increment or delay.) All rounds and games in a Blitz event must use the same time control. If an event would have previously qualified as a Quick-Rated-Only event but is within the five to 10 minute range for Blitz events, it will be a Blitz event. For more information, see the updates to the USCF rulebook:

uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/RulebookChanges.pdf

FIDE Norms

FIDE has announced procedures for tracking older norms for players. The announcement states in part, "Instead of tracking old regulations and old tournament results whenever an application is received, the QC recommended that norms achieved prior to 1st July 2005 be registered before 1st July 2013." The complete FIDE announcement may be found at:

www.fide.com.

1

Mate in two
Twin: f2->e2

2

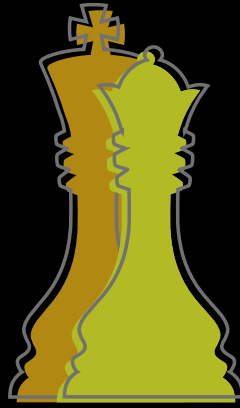
Mate in three

3

Helpmate in two
Twin: b/Rh8->Rd8
c/Rh8->Rd8 and Qh6->Qc4

Solutions on page 71.

2013



U.S. & U.S. WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

~ MAY 2-13 ~



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Executive Board Candidate Statements



Michael Atkins

I am Michael Atkins, and my four-year term on the executive board ends this August in Madison, Wisconsin. I am running again because I think there is still much work left to be done.

I am a licensed clinical professional counselor in Maryland, recently retired after 32 years in the mental health field and moved back to Baltimore, which is my hometown. Along with being a life member of the USCF and a national tournament director, I have served chess at the local, state, regional and national levels as a four-time president of the Virginia Chess Federation and region three tournament clearinghouse coordinator since 1999. I am also a FIDE arbiter and international organizer, and I am interested in how the USCF relates to the rest of the chess world.

My goal on the board has been to approach every issue objectively and do my best for the USCF.



Chuck Unruh

I stand before you as a candidate, to continue my volunteer service for the Federation. Many know of my service on the USCF finance and life member assets committees, president of the Oklahoma state chapter, and as a delegate to the annual USCF meetings. A member since the 1960s, I've enjoyed competition in USCF tournaments, both at the national and local level. My actions in the Federation have changed from fierce competitor, to extending the role of chess in American society.

I have served on several corporate boards, mostly in key times of financial duress. My primary business experience is private equity management and investment. Our family owned energy company, formed in 1986, still successfully operates and produces crude oil and natural gas properties.

Experienced leadership in a rapidly changing business climate is important. I offer my help and experience in the challenges of a growing Federation to the membership.



Randy Bauer

Chess and the USCF has been an important part of my life for over 40 years. My primary goal in serving is to help ensure that others can have that same positive experience.

I've devoted five years to executive board (EB) service as well as five years on (including chairing) the finance committee. I am proud that those years have helped bring the USCF into a position of financial solidity after many years of budget deficits.

We need to build on those efforts. The USCF needs to increase its membership and create a stable financial position that ensures its financial future and its ability to grow chess in this country at every level.

We are at a crossroads—we need experienced chess and financial professionals on the EB. I've balanced multi-billion dollar budgets in my 'day job' and I'm committed to that same approach for the USCF and its membership.

CALL FOR ADMS Advance delegate motions (ADMs) for the delegates' meeting at this year's U.S. Open are due before June 1, 2013. They can be sent to Cheryle Bruce, c/o USCF, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or e-mailed to cbruce@uschess.org.

ELECTION BALLOTS Ballots will be available to USCF members who are current members for the entire day on May 5th and who will be 16 by June 30th. More details about the ballot will be available in a future issue. If a USCF member did not register to vote by March 31, 2013 and is not a USCF member for the full day on May 5th, 2013, the member will not receive a ballot.

2013 USCF Election



Beatriz Marinello

Chess Educator. Chess Visionary. Chess Master.

In 2003, I became the first woman president of the USCF during a period in which the organization was struggling for survival. The board and I made tough decisions which saved the USCF from financial disaster; crisis management was key in turning the organization around. Now, I am running for a position on the executive board because I want to continue to make a difference for chess in America. I've dedicated my life to chess, as an organizer, promoter, developer, teacher and chess master. My expertise, hard work and commitment enables me to make lasting contributions that can help create and implement strategic plans for continued growth and success.

My vision involves furthering educational and social development, supporting clubs and affiliates, using technology to enhance marketing and supporting talented young players and chess professionals.

For more information visit: BeatrizMarinello.com or e-mail: Beatriz@chesseducators.com



Tim Redman

I am running for a position on the USCF executive board as a financial conservative. The Federation is slowly recovering from a nearly ruinous period in which our litigation expenses threatened to sink us. During my nine years on previous boards (including two terms as USCF president), I learned how to deal with crisis.

The only cash reserve the USCF has right now is the life membership assets (LMA), and the need to keep that cushion is impeding the LMA from pursuing investment opportunities. As longtime chair of the life membership asset management committee, that concerns me.

The Federation needs to build up a cash reserve of about six months of annual budget and completely pay down the line of credit at Cumberland Bank.

You may also be aware of my role in founding the chess program at The University of Texas at Dallas. I hope for your support.

Cordially,
Tim Redman



Ruth Haring

I am an avid tournament player, life member, chess mom, and USCF president, elected to the executive board in 2009. I have a management background, worked for IBM, eBay, and other companies in Silicon Valley since 1983. My experience enables me to work effectively with leadership to advance the goals and objectives of USCF. Accomplishments include settling litigation, major debt payoff, and two years of budget surpluses. The current year budget is tracking positively and membership growth is trending higher. I am optimistic that positive trends will continue in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to give back to the chess community: U.S. Women's Championships—1974-1985, over 15 U.S. Opens, five Olympiad teams. I earned the WIM title when I won a tiebreak match to qualify for the 1976 Interzonal.

I have no personal or professional conflict of interest. My income is derived from non-chess sources.

Vote for Ruth Haring: www.RuthHaring.com

USCF ELECTION

Any Youth category member who wants the May candidate's statements may receive them on request. This applies only to Youth members who will be 16 by June 30th, since otherwise the Youth member will not be receiving a ballot. In addition to the 150-word candidate statements that appear in this issue of *Chess Life*, there will be 500-word statements in the May and June issues. Youth members are not scheduled to receive the May issue.

Good Stories Come To Those Who Wait

Now it can be told ...

By **GM ANDY SOLTIS**

WE USUALLY HAVE TO WAIT MONTHS, if not a year, before we know the inside story behind a major news event, such as a presidential election or war, from a tell-all book.

No such luck in chess: We often have to wait decades to know what really happened.

Take, for example, one of Bobby Fischer's most famous losses. It was against Ratmir Kholmov—not a familiar name today but one of the world's dozen or so top players in the 1960s. Kholmov didn't reveal how he came up with the stunning strategy that undid Bobby until 40 years after their game.

Closed Ruy Lopez, Chigorin Defense (C98)

GM Bobby Fischer

GM Ratmir Kholmov

Capablanca Memorial, Havana 1965

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. c3 d6 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12. Nbd2 Nc6 13. dxc5 dxc5 14. Nf1 Be6 15. Ne3 Rad8 16. Qe2 c4 17. Ng5



The back story is that Kholmov, Vasily Smyslov and other grandmasters were staying at a Havana hotel that provided an open buffet—and bar—for their benefit. That's where Kholmov, a barrel-chested former sailor, became acquainted with, what he called, "the remarkable rum Bacardi."

Kholmov was "drinking like a shoemaker," as the Russians put it, when Smyslov found him the night before Kholmov was to play the American. "Let's go,"

Smyslov said. "I'll show you the variation you'll play tomorrow with Fischer," Kholmov told *64* magazine.

Fischer knew nothing of this. He was 1,300 miles away because he couldn't get a visa to play in Cuba. He made his moves from a board at the Marshall Chess Club and they were transmitted to the Havana playing hall.

By the time Kholmov got to Smyslov's hotel room, he was so drunk "that Vasily Vasilevich was sure that I wouldn't remember anything," he said in the 2005 interview. Nevertheless, Smyslov explained the nuances:

White is not threatening 18. Nxe6 because 18. ... fxe6 would favorably open up Black's side of the f-file—and prepare the surprising pseudo-sacrifice 19. ... Nd4!

When Kholmov got to the board the next day he struggled with a hangover and the burden of facing the number one threat to Soviet domination of chess. Just about the only thing he could remember of Smyslov's analysis was the sacrifice. Fischer fell into it with both feet:

17. ... h6! 18. Nxe6 fxe6 19. b4? Nd4! 20. cxd4 exd4

Black must regain his piece, with a positional edge to boot.

21. a3 d3 22. Bxd3 Rxd3 23. Ng4 Kh7 24. e5 Nxd4 25. Qe4+ g6 26. Qxg4 Rf5 27. Qe4 Qd7 28. Be3 Qd5!

Black made slow progress in the endgame and won on the 46th move.

One of Kholmov's colleagues, GM Evgeni Vasiukov, revealed last November what he called a key reason for another remarkable page in the Fischer story, Bobby's 6-0 victory in a Candidates match.

Vasiukov, who was considered the leading Soviet expert on Fischer, was sent as Mark Taimanov's second to Vancouver for the 1971 match. He said Taimanov played badly because of "bad nutrition."

Nutrition? Yes, even though the Soviet Sports Committee had given him \$11 a day to eat—when that was good money—and Taimanov got an extra stipend from a Canadian sponsor. But Taimanov "wanted

to economize," Vasiukov said. So the Soviet delegation bought a few items in a Vancouver supermarket and cooked in their five-star hotel room, to save every dollar.

Taimanov saved so much he was undernourished and "simply couldn't physically withstand" Fischer, Vasiukov said. "Absurd? Yes, but unfortunately it was so," he told the Web site www.tribuna.ru.

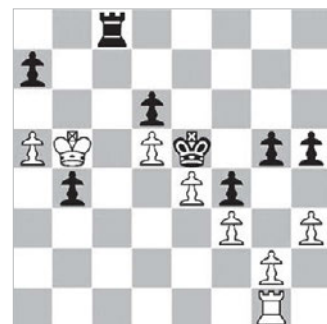
Some mysterious games by world class players are just as hard to explain decades later. For example, the game that helped deprive Efim Geller of first prize in an Interzonal tournament.

"What happened"?

IM Peter Biyiasas

GM Yefim Geller

Petropolis 1973



Black can collect his well-earned victory with the obvious 38. ... b3. For example, 39. Ka6 b2 40. Rb1 Rb8 41. Kxa7 Rb4 and ... Kd4-c3-c2.

But he blundered with 38. ... Kd4?. Then came 39. Ka6 b3 40. Rd1+—and Black froze.

What was he looking at? There's probably a draw in 40. ... Ke5 41. Kxa7 Rc4 42. Kb6 b2 43. Rb1 Rb4+ 44. Kc6 Rb3 45. a6 Ra3. But Black stared at the board until his flag fell.

His second, Eduard Gufeld, explained 26 years later: Immediately after the game he asked Geller, "What happened?"

"I was paralyzed. I couldn't raise my arm, couldn't shift my leg."

"You could have cried out, gotten the attention of the arbiter," Gufeld told him.

Gligroric Quiz

Svetozar Gligroric managed to score 13 career wins against players such as Bobby Fischer, Mikhail Tal, Mikhail Botvinnik and Vasily Smyslov. Yet his most impressive feat was defeating the unbeatable Tigran Petrosian eight times. The games of the great Yugoslav player, who died last August, provide us with six examples for this month's quiz. In each position you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. For solutions see page 71.

Problem I

GM Svetozar Gligroric
GM Ludek Pachman



WHITE TO PLAY

Problem II

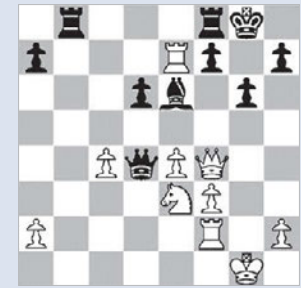
GM Svetozar Gligroric
IM Vasja Pirc



WHITE TO PLAY

Problem III

Rudolf Teschner
GM Svetozar Gligroric



BLACK TO PLAY

Problem IV

GM Svetozar Gligroric
GM Tigran Petrosian



WHITE TO PLAY

Problem V

GM Vlastimil Hort
GM Svetozar Gligroric



BLACK TO PLAY

Problem VI

Svetozar Gligroric
Pavle Bidev



WHITE TO PLAY

"My voice was taken away," Geller replied. "I couldn't do anything."

The true stories behind some games can influence the outcome of battles between amateurs. That was the case of the last of Mikhail Tal's four games with Tigran Petrosian from the 1959 Candidates tournament.

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B56)

GM Mikhail Tal
GM Tigran Petrosian
Bled/Belgrade 1959

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nbd7 6. Bc4 a6 7. Bg5 Qa5 8. Qd2 e6 9. O-O h6 10. Bh4 g5 11. Bg3 Nh5

This was a controversial opening line at the time. With three games to go in the tournament—and his chances of becoming the world championship challenger at stake—Tal unleashed:

12. Bxe6! fxe6 13. Nxe6 Nxd3 14. fxd3! Ne5 15. Rxf8! Rxf8 16. Qxd6 Rf6! 17. Nc7+ Kf7 18. Rf1! Rxf1+ 19. Kxf1 Nc4 20. Qxh6! Qc5! 21. Nxa8 Nd2+ 22. Ke2 Bg4+ 23. Kd3 Qc4+ 24. Ke3 Qc5+ 25. Kd3, Draw agreed.

What Tal needed to explain is why the game lasted only five minutes. It turns out that earlier in the tournament he and Petrosian had made three bloodless draws, which ended in 12, 23 and 15 moves. They

read in the Yugoslav newspapers that their friendship had prevented them from playing a real game.

"This angered us," Tal said in his memoirs. So they decided to play a composed game in record time to show the world what a really phony draw was.

But Najdorf Variation specialists thought it was a real game. Some of them repeated Petrosian's moves until being surprised by 17. Qc7!, which wins, e.g. 17. ... b6 18. Ng7+ Kf8 19. Nh5! Nf3+ 20. Kh1! as one later game went.

And sometimes we have to wait decades until a player's second writes his memoirs and explains a mysterious game. When Alexander Koblents, Tal's longtime confidante, wrote about Tal's career, he mentioned this position:

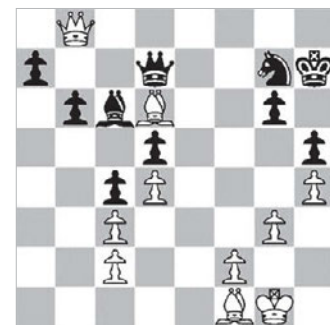
Tranquilized

Anatoly Bannik
GM Mikhail Tal
Soviet Championship 1958

(see diagram top of next column)

Despite Black's passed pawn on the queenside he has to defend carefully, with 36. ... Ne8!, to drive back the bishop. Chances are double-edged after 37. Be5 Qb7.

But Black sluggishly played 36. ... a5?



and after 37. Be5! it became clear that his intended 37. ... a4? would lose to 38. Qf8 followed by 39. Bh3! Qb7 40. Be6!

So Black played 37. ... Ne8 and dropped pawn after pawn following 38. Qxb6 a4 39. Qc5 Kg8 40. Bh3! Qxh3 41. Qxc6 Kf7 42. Qb7+ Kf8 43. Qxd5 Qc8 44. Qb5. He resigned at move 52.

What really happened, according to Koblents, is that the illness-plagued Tal had been receiving vitamin C injections to get him through the tournament.

But before this game a nurse mistakenly gave him a shot of the tranquilizer Nembutal instead. Tal's legendary ability to calculate quickly had been simply put to sleep. ♠

Read the statements on pages 12-13 by the candidates for the USCF executive board. Additional statements will appear in the May and June issues.

Tarrasch's Two Bishops

Knights? Who needs knights?

By **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

IT'S WELL-KNOWN THAT DR. SIEGBERT Tarrasch, paragon of chess wisdom, and certainly one of the leading players in the world for more than two decades, loved bishops. To be sure, much of his valued contributions to chess theory play off realizing that kind of "small advantage." We can see the emphasis he placed on using his bishops and on obtaining greater space for them from his foundational books and also from the way he conducted his own games. The following contest is a clarion call in point. Played against Max Kuerschner at Nuremberg in 1893, it displays some questionable footwork with a bishop at the start, but the ending is well worth the wait. The game began:

French Defense, Advance Variation (C02)

Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch
Max Kuerschner
Nuremberg 1893

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5



Now make sure you have the above position set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also rewarded for second-best moves, and there may be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that the note to

Black's move is over and White's move is on the next line.**

3. **Bd3** **Par Score 5**

Tarrasch plays something a little bit different—a not recommended move with his king-bishop. *Full credit* for any of the usual moves: 3. Nc3, 3. Nd2, 3. e5 and 3. exd5.

3. ... **Nf6**

This is a typical French move, attacking the e4-pawn, but here it plays into White's hands. Either 3. ... c5, or 3. ... dxe4 4. Bxe4 Nf6, yielded even chances.**

4. **e5** **Par Score 6**

Here we have an excellent version of the Advance Variation, since the pawn push comes with tempo on the knight. Accept only *4 points part credit* for the less pointed replies: 4. Nc3, 4. Bg5, or 4. exd5.

4. ... **Nfd7**

Add *1 bonus point* if on 4. ... Ne4 you knew to stay away from 5. f3?, which would be answered by 5. ... Qh4+ 6. g3 (6. Ke2 Qf2 mate) 6. ... Nxg3. Either 5. Qe2 or 5. Nd2 are right.**

5. **Nf3** **Par Score 5**

White develops and supports e5. He also gets ready to castle.

5. ... **c5**

Black commences the standard French attack against the base of White's pawn chain, as recommended memorably in Nimzowitsch's *My System*—one of the most recommended (and one of the most unread) chess books of all time.**

6. **c3** **Par Score 5**

White replies standardly, strengthening d4, while maintaining the integrity of the pawn chain. Non-standard is 6. Qe2?, self-trapping the bishop after 6. ... c4. *Deduct 3 points* if you played it.

6. ... **Nc6**

Black develops and increases pressure on d4.**

7. **O-0** **Par Score 5**

By getting the king to safety, White prepares to activate the king-rook on the e-file.

7. ... **f6**

If Black had anticipated 7. ... Qb6, menacing d4, award yourself *1 bonus point* if you had intended to continue 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. b4 Be7 10. Re1. The text move looks a bit premature with Black's king still uncastled.**

8. **Re1** **Par Score 5**

Accept *full credit* for 8. exf6 Nxf6, which opens the e-file for play against the backward e6-pawn.

8. ... **f5**

Tarrasch was critical of the text move, but that's mainly because it inhibits the c8-bishop further. He simply didn't like doing such a thing.**

9. **Be3** **Par Score 6**

Tarrasch settles for a defensive move, to strengthen d4. *Deduct 1 point* for the overly aggressive, 9. Bg5, chasing the queen to where she wants to go anyway: 9. ... Qb6, after which, Black is on the verge of winning a pawn (10. dxc5 Qxb2 etc.).

9. ... **c4**

Black might have done better with the direct 9. ... Be7 and 10. ... O-O. Black is guaranteed play on the queenside with c5xd4, so there is no reason to rush. The text is premature, a strategic mistake, since it relieves the pressure against d4.**

10. **Bc2** **Par Score 4**

One of the nice features of 6. c2-c3 is that it creates a drop-back square at c2 for the light-square bishop.

10. ... **Be7**

ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 71.

April Exercise: Chess is many things, including being a game of perspective. Usually, when playing over games, we tend to do so from one side. But that doesn't give the full picture. Now and then, try seeing it the other way. That is, when you're analyzing, and sitting with the white pieces, pretend you're situated across the way, playing Black. Just as physically shifting your viewpoint may change your take on a position, imagining you're there, on the other side of the board, can be almost as good. And since you're still back where you really were, it may even be better.

Problem I

Fork



Problem II

Pin



Problem III

Trapping



Problem IV

Skewer



Problem V

Pin



Problem VI

Driving off



Black is being too casual. He should make an effort to support his pawn chain: 10. ... a6 11. b3 b5 12. a4 Rb8 13. axb5 axb5 14. bxc4 bxc4. Even so, White is more likely to benefit from the open lines.**

11. b3 **Par Score 6**

White begins to assail the c4-pawn, to pry open the game on the queenside.

11. ... **b5**

Black plays to support his pawn chain, but next move he realizes it can't be done. The net effect to trying to do the impossible is that he weakens his position. He should settle on 11. ... cxb3 12. axb3 0-0.**

12. a4 **Par Score 6**

White undermines the b-pawn, since after 12. ... a6 13. axb5, the a-pawn is pinned and cannot recapture. Add **1 bonus point** if against 9. ... c4 you realized you had the follow-up of b2-b3 and a2-a4.

12. ... **bxa4**

The third weak move for Black in a row: He had to try 12. ... cxb3 13. Bxb3 bxa4.**

13. bxc4 **Par Score 6**

White threatens 14. cxd5 exd5 15. Bxf5 (**1 bonus point**) and stronger than 13. bxa4 (only **2 points part credit**).

13. ... **dx4**

14. d5 **Par Score 7**

White opens the center. Accept **full credit** for the alternative 14. bxa4 Bb7 15. d5, which accomplishes much the same as

the text. If 14. ... Ndb8, to restrain d5, then 15. Bb5 Qd5 16. Qa4 and Bxc4 (**1 bonus point**).

14. ... **Ncx5**

Another bad choice. Better would have been 14. ... exd5, when 15. Qxd5 leads to a queen trade: 15. ... Ndx5 16. Qxd8+ Kxd8 (not 16. ... Bxd8 17. Nxe5 Nxe5 18. Bd4) 17. Nxe5 Nxe5, and it is doubtful if White has any advantage.**

15. dx6 **Par Score 6**

Both black knights are now under fire, so material loss is unavoidable. The pawn at e6 acts like a nail in the coffin.

15. ... **Nxf3+**

16. Qxf3 **Par Score 4**

This gives a double attack, on knight and rook.

16. ... **Nb6**

Black saves the knight and guards the a8-rook.**

17. Qxf5 **Par Score 6**

Accept **full credit** for 17. Bxb6 axb6 18. Qxa8. Tarrasch figures that with the black king not castled he can swing a mate. There's one now threatened at f7 (**1 bonus point** for seeing it).

17. ... **Bf6**

The try 17. ... Rf8 runs into 18. Qh5+ g6 19. Bxg6+ hxg6 (19. ... Rf7 20. Bxf7+ Kf8 21. Q or Bh6 mate) 20. Qxg6+ Rf7 21. Qxf7 mate (**2 bonus points**).**

18. Bc5 **Par Score 6**

The bishop seizes a key diagonal, preventing castling. White's bishops have great mobility, a Tarrasch characteristic.

18. ... **Bb7**

Black overlooks the threat. But 18. ... Qd5 (vacating d8) drops the queen to 19. Bxa4+ Kd8 20. Bxb6+; and if 18. ... Qc7, then 19. Qh5+ Kd8 (19. ... g6 20. Bxg6+) 20. Rd1+ (**1 bonus point** for each line).**

19. Qg6+ **Par Score 7**

A queen sacrifice. Sometimes they can be real fun.

19. ... **hxg6**

20. Bxg6 mate **Par Score 5**

A crisscross bishop mate! Accept **1 bonus point** if you had it in mind when playing 18. Bc5. ♠



See scoreboard on page 71.

The Resolute Grandmaster:

Hikaru Nakamura's slow progress towards the top

2012 was a tumultuous year for the current U.S. champion. Competing in 11 major events all over the world, Hikaru logged more air miles than most people earn in a lifetime.

MACAULEY PETERSON followed him to eight tournaments in six countries for Chess Life's profile.



PHOTO: MACAULEY PETERSON

IN A SPORT WHERE FORESIGHT AND STRATEGIC THINKING are supposed to be the hallmarks of greatness, you might expect the professional player to go through life with a plan, charting a course way out into the future, as he would calculate a sacrificial mating attack.

But surprisingly often, you would be wrong.

“In general, with just about everything in life these days, I tend not to look more than just a few weeks, or a month ahead, because I don’t see the point really.”

Hikaru Nakamura had just notched his best result of 2012, and he was in a good mood. Scoring 4½ out of 6 games, he won the Univé (formerly Essent) tournament, a small double round-robin in the Dutch town of Hogeveen, by a point and a half margin, and netted a whopping 2856 performance rating.

At a brasserie called Raethuys—a regular hang out for Hogeveen’s competitors—our conversation had turned to one of the most common preoccupations of any elite grandmaster’s professional life: the quest for the world championship.

Under current FIDE rules, unless he can qualify by rating

“In general, with just about everything in life these days, I tend not to look more than just a few weeks, or a month ahead, because I don’t see the point really.”

alone, Nakamura has two options to reach the next candidates tournament, tentatively scheduled for March, 2014. He can either reach the final of the World Cup, a 128-player knockout tournament to be held in Tromsø, Norway this August, or he can finish first or second in the Grand Prix, a series of tournaments in which he must accumulate points in four out of six events, with the top three scores counting.

It’s a tall order either way. However, sipping red wine, in the half-empty restaurant, Nakamura was remarkably sanguine about what will undoubtedly be a difficult feat.

“Life is short enough as it is. If you start worrying about things that are years down the road, it detracts from the quality of life, the quality of everything that you’re trying to do.”

Fair enough. Worrying about anything too much can be counter-productive, adding additional stress to an already tough challenge. In all likelihood, he probably has two or three promising chances in upcoming world championship cycles to qualify for a shot at the title. Most professionals believe—and Nakamura agrees—that there is such a thing as a “prime age” in chess, somewhere in your late ’20s or early ’30s, when your old enough to possess a wealth of experience and knowledge and maturity, but young enough to remain vigorous, able to endure the grueling travel schedules and long hours of play, with stamina in reserve.

“If you look at Anand for instance, he’s retained his title, but he’s certainly not playing at the same level that he was, say five, ten years ago,” Nakamura opined. Of course, you never really know when you’re in your prime until that time has passed. It still feels like just a blink of the eye since he was 18 and starting his professional career, with one U.S. championship already under his belt.

At only 25 years old, Nakamura is firmly established among the elite grandmasters, and is one of the world’s most sought after players, garnering invitations to all the top tournaments.

“I’m probably, at the moment, playing my best, objectively. [October saw his peak FIDE rating of 2786—MP] But to me it doesn’t feel like it’s any different than how I was playing two years

ago. So, I think being on the inside makes it very hard to really know or tell how well or badly you’re playing. It’s very hard.”

A tumultuous year

Nakamura ended 2011 with a bang, but started 2012 with a whimper in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The tournament is traditionally played with its halfway mark coinciding with New Year’s celebrations, and Nakamura could toast to a sparkling score of 4 out of 5. But on the verge of winning the tournament, he lost three games in a row at the finish, ending in third place.

One week later, Nakamura returned to Wijk aan Zee, The Netherlands, for the third year in a row, to compete in the Tata Steel tournament. Forging a strong performance, he finished sixth, a point and half behind Levon Aronian, who had beaten him in the second round en route to a tremendous 9 out of 13 score. (See, “Through the Eyes of the Victims,” *Chess Life*, April 2012.)

Wijk aan Zee is the scene of what remains Nakamura’s greatest triumph to date—winning the 2011 Tata Steel tournament. It was Nakamura’s first event after starting his work with Kasparov, a

relationship that ended in late November of that year, following an unsuccessful Tal Memorial in Moscow.

When we spoke last October, Nakamura was far enough removed from training with Kasparov to reflect on its merits. It was not a ringing endorsement.

“I learned to be a little bit more serious about chess, and I think ultimately that’s the biggest thing I’ll take away from it.”

At the same time, he said he should have ended the relationship sooner.

“To be blunt, no one was in control. That was part of the problem—who was responsible for this and that. Perhaps I should have been a bit more forceful in terms of trying to suggest certain things that we should look at, but I didn’t take the initiative, and at the same time he didn’t either ... There has to be communication—a lot of communication—and you have to trust the people that you’re working with.”

After Wijk aan Zee, and a three-month break spent largely in Vancouver, Nakamura reclaimed the U.S. championship title from Gata Kamsky, with a stalwart 8½ out of 11, and a 2833 performance rating. It was his third title, and the most important individual result of the year. (See, “Two Weeks of Theater,” *Chess Life*, August 2012.)

At the closing ceremony, after thanking the patrons and staff of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, along with his parents and his second, Kris Littlejohn, Nakamura said, “I look forward to being back next year defending my title.”

From Moscow to Zürich

Just three weeks later, Hikaru was on a plane to Moscow for the Tal Memorial, which was moved from November to June to avoid conflict with potential FIDE events. In a very tight field, Nakamura finished in next to last place. That looks worse on paper than it really was; he only lost one more game than he won. The first-round loss to Aronian set the pace, and Nakamura never recovered his momentum. (See “Middling in Moscow,” *Chess Life Online*, June 18, 2012.)

Moscow is not Hikaru’s favorite city by a long shot, and he has yet to post a great result there (although he came close in 2010). After a difficult two weeks, it was a relief to return to Vancouver, which has become like a second home—that is, if anywhere can be considered home for someone who spends half the year on the road.

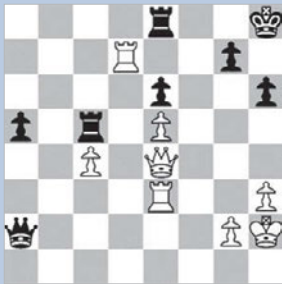
Nakamura spent as much of his free time there in 2012 as he could

THE BEST OF HIKARU 2012

By **GM BEN FINEGOLD**

Rook sac

GM Hikaru Nakamura (2874)
GM Robert L. Hess (2710)
U.S. Championship, St. Louis (1),
05.08.2012



31. Rxc7!

Nakamura finishes off the attack with a nice sacrifice. Black's ... Qa2 and ... Rc5 provide no defense for the king.

31. ... Kxc7 32. Rg3+ Kf8 33. Qh7, Black resigned.

Tactical retreat

GM Hikaru Nakamura (2874)
GM Ray Robson (2692)
U.S. Championship, St. Louis (3),
05.10.2012



43. Nd5!

Hikaru sees that Black is defenseless, even after promoting with check!

43. ... Rg3+ 44. Kf4! Bg5+ 45. Ke5 e1=Q+ 46. Kd6

Nakamura saw this position when he played 43. Nd5! and realized that Black really could not defend against the mate threats.

46. ... Bf4+ 47. Nxf4 Rd3+ 48. Nxd3 Qg3+ 49. Ne5, Black resigned.

Underpromotion

GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2778, USA)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2797, RUS)
40th World Chess Olympiad - Open,
Istanbul, Turkey (9), 09.06.2012



62. c8=N+!!

This was not only an amazing move, but probably the most important move Hikaru played in 2012. Winning this game ensured the U.S. beat Russia in the Olympiad!! (The obvious 62. Kxe2? is not winning due to 62. ... f3+ 63. Kxf3 Bxc7).

62. ... Kf6 63. Kxe2, and Black resigned at move 80.

And White easily created a mating attack with his two extra pieces.

Breakthrough

GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2783, USA)
GM Anish Giri (FIDE 2730, NED)
FIDE Grand Prix London 2012,
London, England (10), 10.02.2012



47. g5!!

A brilliant breakthrough!

47. ... hxg5 48. h6! gxh6 49. Rxe5!! fxe5 50. f6

Now White is threatening 51. Bxc5 and 52. f7+.

Nakamura got in several sets of tennis while in St. Louis winning his third U.S. championship, his most important result of 2012.



50. ... Bd7 51. f7+ Ke7 52. Bxd7 Kxd7 53. Bxc5, Black resigned on move 65.

And Hikaru easily won a few moves later.

Mating net

GM Judit Polgar (FIDE 2705, HUN)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2760, USA)
London Chess Classic 2012, London,
England (5), 12.06.2012



45. ... Rf4!

Setting up a mating net in the endgame!

46. Nc3? Rg4! 47. Nd1 Bf1, White resigned.

There is no defense to ... Nf3+ and ... Rh4 mate.

Ignore the rook

GM Alexander Grischuk (FIDE 2771, RUS)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2760, USA)
SportAccord World Mind Games (Men Rapid) Beijing, China (6), 12.15.2012



40. ... bxa5+!

Ignoring the "hanging rook" on b8.

41. Qxb8?

White has drawing chances after 41. Kc2.

41. ... Rb5+ 42. Qxb5 axb5, White resigned soon thereafter at move 53.

See "The Worst Of Hikaru 2012" on page 23.

reasonably schedule. He counts many Vancouverites among his closest friends. He enjoys the natural beauty of British Columbia, and having a more relaxed pace of life—“just chilling,” as he put it, “for lack of a better word.”

Our first meeting for this story was in Zürich at the end of July. Nakamura had just flown in from Vancouver the day before, and hadn't gotten much sleep.

I wondered if so much traveling, spending just a few weeks in Canada between events in Moscow and Biel, was worth the trouble. Couldn't it be more stressful than relaxing?

“It's good and bad,” he explained, “but I've certainly made a point, more recently, of trying to enjoy myself away from the board, much more than in the past. I'm not necessarily studying chess every day when I have breaks in between tournaments and I try to go out, I try to meet new people from different walks of life.”

While on “vacation” (a bit hard to define for a chess pro), Nakamura spends hardly any time on chess. What little chess he does study is centered mostly around preparing openings for specific opponents that he expects to face in the future, mixed in with perhaps a bit of endgame study. Only a week or so before a tournament does the work really ramp up. Over the course of the year, he estimates this might amount to only an hour a day, on average, even including the intense tournament periods, when five or six hours a day minimum is the norm.

Zürich was one of his more relaxed non-tournament chess engagements. As we caffeinated on absurdly expensive coffees in the bar of the Hotel Savoy, 17 amateur players gathered expectantly, one flight up, for a simultaneous exhibition. (See “A Swiss Swing for Nakamura,” *Chess Life Online*, July 25, 2012.)

It was Nakamura's first visit to Switzerland's largest city, but a brief one. The next day, Hikaru hopped a train to the 45th Biel Chess Festival, about an hour away, accompanied by his stepfather Sunil Weeramantry (who played in the 1st Biel Festival in 1968!) and Littlejohn.

Biel/Bienne straddles the German and French-speaking regions of the country—hence the dual names—and is actually

Up in the Air

The sheer amount that Nakamura flies would give an aerophobe a convulsion. But Hikaru enjoys being airborne, ping-ponging mostly between Europe and New York, St. Louis or Vancouver, and wracking up those frequent flyer miles. He has over a million of them lifetime.

Hikaru once flew from St. Louis, via Denver, to San Francisco, to take advantage of a relatively cheap fare to Dubai on United Airlines. Yes, that Dubai, as in, the United Arab Emirates. As in, on-the-other-side-of-the-world Dubai. The itinerary had him going from SFO (fluent jet-setters use only the three-digit airport codes) back via DEN to IAD (Washington D.C.) and on to DBX ... on Christmas Day. Only here's the kicker, there was no reason for him to be in Dubai, other than the fact that the round trip ticket would net 16,000 miles, enough to increase his frequent flyer status and earn a bunch of transatlantic business class upgrades for the coming year. He stayed in the Dubai airport for less than three hours before boarding the return flight back to San Francisco (via D.C. and Denver). The whole trip took two full days.

That was a bit too much, even for a hard-core flyer, and Hikaru later called it, “far and away the most depressing Christmas of my life.” Still, business class to Europe is a nice perk. And sometimes ... maybe ... it can offer that little extra boost at the start of a tournament, when jet-lag still lingers, that makes the difference between middling and magical. *M.P.*

Switzerland's only officially bilingual city (most are either one or the other).

Nakamura participated in the grandmaster tournament once before, seven years prior, as a 17-year-old U.S. champion. The 2012 field included two opponents who are particularly challenging for him: Magnus Carlsen and Wang Hao. Carlsen, as the world number one, is hard for anyone to handle, but Nakamura has never beaten him at classical time controls, unlike most of his peers.

Wang and Nakamura have played just a handful of games, but Wang won both games in Biel, and added another win later in the year to his lifetime score of four wins, three draws, and one loss.

Nakamura's two draws with Carlsen and Anish Giri, and 2-0 sweeps of Étienne Bacrot and Victor Bologan, left him tied for third place, with yet another 2800 performance rating.

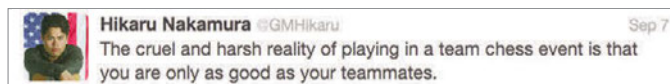
The Olympiad, a favorite tournament

Istanbul marked Nakamura's fourth appearance in the bi-annual Olympiad, which he calls, “almost certainly my favorite,” having played previously in Turin, Dresden and Khanty-Mansiysk. “I guess I'm getting a bit old,” he joked.

Sporting his first pair of glasses, he looked, if not older, at least a bit more professorial. Nakamura's mild nearsightedness doesn't require him to wear his new spectacles at the board, although he often does.

Istanbul was going according to script for much of the way. The underdog American squad stumbled early, but fought their way back with a clutch win against the “big bad Russians” (as Nakamura tweeted the night before the match), giving them an excellent shot at a medal. His critical win over Kramnik, which included a rare under-promotion, was a highlight of the year. (See “The Best of Hikaru 2012” on page 21.)

USA's hopes for gold were dashed in round 10, when they lost to China. Shortly after GM Alexander Onischuk's uncharacteristic failure to hold a drawn rook and pawn ending against China's GM Liren Ding, Nakamura posted the following to his Twitter account:



Given the timing, the remark was widely regarded by fans on Twitter and online chess forums as a slight towards Onischuk, who was already devastated by the loss, calling it, “the worst day in my chess career as a player.” Nakamura insists the tweet was not directed at his teammate, but was rather a general observation.

“Perhaps I should have thought a little bit more before posting it then, as opposed to a week later or a week before the tournament ... Sure if you do read into it, yeah, I can very easily understand where people are coming from, but that wasn't the intent.”

He hastened to add his tremendous respect for Onischuk, and said that as a chess professional, Onischuk wouldn't pay any attention to a Twitter post anyway.

Onischuk, reached for comment in his office at Texas Tech, said, “I didn't really take it personally. Believe me I felt bad that night without any comments from Hikaru or somebody else.” He broadly shared Nakamura's account of the positive team chemistry in Istanbul and said there were no hard feelings.

After drawing GM Wang Hao, Nakamura's 6 out of 8 put him in strong contention for an individual gold medal on board one, but he needed a win with black against Radoslaw Wojtaszek in the last round. Nakamura tried a sharp Queen's Gambit Accepted, but Wojtaszek remained firmly in control and won in fine style. (See “The Worst of Hikaru” on page 23.)

Ironically, as Nakamura explained to me in October, although a draw would not have been enough, if he had sat out the final round against Poland he would have won the **Continued on page 24**



Unlike most of his peers, Nakamura has never beaten Magnus Carlsen (right) using classical time controls.

THE WORST OF HIKARU 2012

By **MACAULEY PETERSON**

Bleak

GM Michael Adams (FIDE 2722, ENG)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2783, USA)
FIDE Grand Prix London 2012,
London, England (9), 10.01.2012



26. Rhd1

The position is bleak for Black, but Nakamura's choice loses by force.

26. ... Rb8? 27. Rd8+ Rxd8 28.

Rxd8+ Kh7 29. Qc2+ g6 30. Rd7
Kg8 31. hxg6 Kg7 32. gxf7 Nxf7
33. Qe2 Kg8 34. Qf3 Qf8 35.
Rxb7 Qg7 36. Kb2, Black
resigned.

Bishop invasion

GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2825, ARM)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2775, USA)
M. Tal Memorial 2012, Moscow,
Russia (1), 06.08.2012



21. Nd5 g5?

Black would be doing fine with a move like 21. ... Rad8.

Unfortunately Nakamura had missed the strong thrust:

22. Bd7!

Winning material.

22. ... Re6 23. Bxe6 Bxe6 24.
Nxf6 Qxf6 25. Rxc6!

Aronian gives back the Exchange to simplify into a winning ending.

25. ... bxc6 26. Qa1 a5 27. Qxe5
Qxe5 28. Nxe5, Black resigned
at move 53.

Losing to Radek

GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek (FIDE 2717, POL)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2778, USA)
40th World Chess Olympiad - Open,
Istanbul, Turkey (11), 09.09.2012

(see diagram top of next column)



42. Rc8 Bf7?

Black could try to hang on by trading pieces with 42. ... Bc6 43. Rxf8+ Qxf8.

43. Qc1

The prosaic deflection 43. Nd7! would have ended Black's suffering immediately. The continuation would be 43. ... Qxd7 44. Qe5 Be8 45. Rc7.

43. .. Be6

Now it's just a mop-up job.

44. Rc7 f4 45. Rxb7 g5 46. Rxa7
g4 47. Qc7 Qxc7 48. Rxc7 Rf6
49. Rg7+, Black resigned.

Continued from page 22 gold. That wasn't really an option, of course, with the USA so close to medalling as a team, not to mention that it would be a pyrrhic victory—he would have played fewer games (eight) than nearly all of the top board one players. (By contrast, gold and silver medal winners Aronian and Wojtaszek each played 10 of the 11 rounds.)

On board two, Kamsky managed to win his game (and with it a gold medal), and Onischuk rebounded from his tragic loss to draw on board three, so the match hinged on the outcome of Ray Robson's game. As his teammates watched anxiously, Ray eked out the victory allowing the USA to finish in fifth place.

In May, during the U.S. Championship, Nakamura publicly questioned the selection criteria used by the USCF to give Robson the last Olympiad spot, indicating he was unhappy with the outcome. After Istanbul, however, he acknowledged that Ray had played quite well:



On tilt

Later in September, for his first appearance in FIDE's Grand Prix series, Nakamura produced his worst performance of the year. He harkened the experience to his three game losing streak in Reggio Emilia. Only in London, he lost four in a row—one of his worst losing streaks ever. He also obtained several winning positions, but failed to convert.

"I was certainly feeling a little bit tired and fatigued from the Olympiad. When you play a lot of long games and you come very close to winning, and throw the opportunities away, it just builds and builds and builds."

Hikaru's facial expressions and body language at the board are remarkably pronounced. You can very often read what's going on in the game just by looking at him. In round seven, he faced the tournament leader, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, with black. I had a unique vantage point in London, sitting in the playing hall to supervise the live video feeds of each table. Nakamura struggled

throughout the game, finally reaching a dead lost position at the end of the first time control. On the verge of being checkmated, he turned partly away from the board, as though loathe to face the reality of his impending defeat. While Mamedyarov paced about the hall, Nakamura slouched, despondent, sometimes examining his scoresheet to divine where he went wrong. Several minutes went by like this, before he finally nodded to his opponent, indicating his resignation.

The fourth game of the losing streak witnessed one of the biggest meltdowns I've seen in elite play. After blundering (26... Rb8 against Michael Adams [see "The Worst of Hikaru 2012" on page 23]), it was hard for Nakamura to conceal his dismay, as he realized he was suddenly hopelessly lost. Viewers of the live video at home could not see his face, because his head was hidden from view as it rested in his left hand, but from where I sat he looked absolutely gutted.

After the tournament, Hikaru was admirably unperturbed about the whole experience, despite slipping out of the top ten in the world for the first time since early 2011.

"I mean, sure I went on tilt (a poker term, which means [according to Wikipedia] a state of mental or emotional confusion or frustration in which a player adopts a less than optimal strategy, usually resulting in the player becoming over-aggressive.) ... but it's not all that bad, because I still got good positions. It's not like throughout the whole tournament I was worse, and then you know I had a bad streak, and that's the end of the story."

One bad result in the Grand Prix is not catastrophic, as your final score combines your *best three* performances. He has yet to play his second tournament.

Nakamura's decision to participate in the series was an easy one. Word came of his inclusion right after the U.S. Championship, and he signed the players' contract almost immediately.

"It's a good opportunity to gain experience, but also having the chance, potentially, to qualify for whatever format ... to determine the challenger for the world championship. There are almost no negatives to playing."

The Grand Prix idea has had problems in the past, however, including funding challenges, player withdrawals, and unex-

Kibitzing in London

Highlights from Nakamura at the London Chess Classic:

"In general, I try to surprise my opponents much more, as opposed to having a set repertoire of one or two openings. The more weapons you have—the more chances to surprise your opponents and reach positions that you're more familiar with—the better off you are. That's why, I would say, Carlsen has such great results. He's very good in pretty much every structure that's out there. He knows the concepts and the piece play a lot better than some of the other players."

"With the computers now, you can't just be successful with one opening. You look at players like Karpov or Kasparov. Karpov for almost his whole career played the Caro-Kann, and some Frenches as well, and he did great. And with Garry, he played the Scheveningen and then the Najdorf for the better part of 20 years, whereas nowadays you really have to know more than that because with the computer you can analyze any opening and probably within one day you can have a very good understanding of it. So, because of that it's really changed the whole landscape of chess."

"I really like Chess960 [also known as Fischer Random chess—MP]. I think it is the future of chess. For now classical chess is still very much alive, but at some point I think ... most people will be playing [960] ... The pieces are more random

but still the skill factor is there, and I really enjoy it because it's really playing pure chess, there isn't the same preparation the way there is now ... I wish there were more opportunities to play it."

On Magnus Carlsen: "There's a certain psychology and at a certain point he keeps finding the best defenses and not cracking, so a lot of people they tend to get a little bit nervous or a little uncomfortable, and it's a lot easier to make a mistake then."

"I think what Magnus does is quite brilliant. I think that both he and Kramnik—if you look at the way they play—they're just trying to play very solidly and avoid heavy, heavy theory for the most part, and when you do that I think that you're more capable of thinking about deeper ideas and deeper plans, than if you just turn on the computer and say, oh this one move is equal, as opposed to trying to figure out why is it equal. Because during the game you don't have that luxury. You have to think."

Classical chess over blitz: "I enjoy the quality much more ... I would say someone can get better from blitz until IM strength or maybe GM strength, but passed that point it's much more about coming up with ideas and concepts in a way that you can never really learn from blitz. Whereas blitz is mostly about obtaining better tactical vision, seeing these tricks a lot quicker."

You can view the full hour on Chess Life Online this month.

An Ordinary Citizen

The first book exclusively covering our three-time U.S. champion.

By JAMAAL ABDUL-ALIM

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WITH AMERICAN chess is that the strongest players spend too much time teaching weak players.

That paradoxical statement represents one of several idiosyncrasies that U.S. chess champion Hikaru Nakamura expounds upon in a new book billed as the first ever to focus exclusively on the young player's life.

For those who like when people name names, Nakamura does not disappoint and proceeds to identify a couple of "very strong players" who coach on the side and whose tournament play he says suffers as a result.

"You can see when they compete in tournaments and have what I would say are bad results," Nakamura says in an exclusive interview with German chess journalist IM Georgios Souleidis that is featured in the book, titled *Fighting Chess with Hikaru Nakamura*, (Edition Olms, 232 pages, \$29.95). "It shows in their play, just because they are teaching all the time."

While teaching may help weak players reach a higher level, Nakamura says there is a toxic drawback in that "when you are teaching weaker players it can affect your own ability."

The interview provides a glimpse into the ideas that shape the mindset of a player whom the authors describe as "the legitimate successor of the 11th world champion, the great Robert James Fischer."

While that is a statement that is aspirational at best—Bobby Fischer, after all, was once the world champion and Nakamura is a wannabe world champion—the book nevertheless delineates the various elements that make up the mettle of the player who is currently rated as the top U.S. player in the world.

Those elements include determination and grit, a disposition to never give up and put forth the best defense even in seemingly lost games.

At the same time, there are times when the chess champ sounds wistful, complaining that while players such as Magnus Carlsen and Levon Aronian are treated as "superstars" and "heroes" in their home countries of Norway and

Armenia, respectively, he gets no such fanfare at home.

"When I go back to the U.S., I am essentially just an ordinary citizen, I am not anything special," Nakamura laments in the interview.

"It is quite difficult sometimes to reconcile that with the fact that these other really strong players get so much

he ever played.

The book deals with Nakamura's fondness for the King's Indian and why he was once enamored with playing the "outrageous" 2. Qh5 even at the 2600+ level.

Nakamura also speaks about why he shuns coaches and doesn't invest too much trust in computers, given the fact that various computer chess programs have often concluded that he was "completely lost, when in fact I was completely winning."

At the same time, Nakamura, having been raised in the digital age, says computers and the vast knowledge that they place at the fingertips of today's players are the reason chess books have ceased to have practical value. That's a rather curious thing to say in a book.

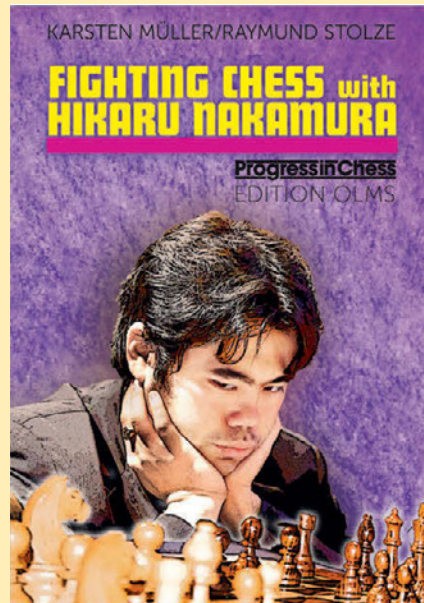
Books aren't completely absent from Nakamura's arsenal of training tactics, though. For instance, in chapter three, titled "Flying high with endgame skills," the authors discuss Nakamura's "mastery of technical endgames and his knowledge of Mark Dvoretzky's excellent *Endgame Manual*."

Several "tests" in the book invite the reader to figure out how Nakamura achieved various feats in games, such as how he broke through a stronghold, stormed a position or realized an advantage through liquidation.

Chapter 10, "Nakamura's best games," cites magazine articles about the games. The games include one he played against World Champion Vishy Anand during the 3rd London Classic in 2011—a game in which Nakamura compares himself to the character Neo dodging bullets in the movie *The Matrix*.

Nakamura is seemingly annoyed by the book's publication, Tweeting in May 2012: "It is truly disgusting that people are allowed to write books and profit off of our games without our permission."

But while the subject is disgusted, there is much here to appeal to the chess reader hungry for more information on the man likely to have a stranglehold on the U.S. championship for many years to come.



Fighting Chess with Hikaru Nakamura
by Karsten Müller & Raymund Stölze,
232 pages, Edition Olms (2013), \$29.95
from uscsales.com (catalog number B00190E)

attention in their own countries."

The book itself is a reflection of that reality insofar as it comes courtesy of a publisher based in Germany.

If you can overlook the linguistic peculiarities, the book is rife with factual gems about Nakamura's early chess life.

For instance, Nakamura explains in an interview how his "hate" for losing turned him into a formidable player at a very young age, and how his stepfather had a way of encouraging him to press on, such as when a very young Nakamura lost all four games in the first tournament



“It’s all about the ride, it’s about the journey, and I’m just going to enjoy it, because really that’s all you can do.”

pected changes of venue. Nakamura is well aware of this, but he’s not worried about what could go wrong with the cycle just yet. “I don’t really see the need, frankly, to think that far ahead. It’s simply a matter of playing well, and doing the little things correctly.”

The same goes for the World Cup, and he doesn’t expect to decide whether or not to participate until June or July.

After London there was no respite, as Nakamura, along with several other competitors, left directly for the European Club Cup in Eilat, Israel. There he represented the Italian Club, Obiettivo Risarcimento, from Padova, for which he also played three games alongside Fabiano Caruana in the Italian Team Championship in April.

Hikaru has developed a fondness for all things Italian, and has been spending a bit more private time there, lately, and is even learning the language.

In Eilat, facing mostly weaker opposition, he scored five out of seven, but was upset in the first round by the up and coming Russian GM Dmitry Andreikin.

In light of such a busy schedule, replete with disappointment, it was a relief to bounce back strongly at the Univé tournament in the Netherlands, where he won with white and drew with black against each of his opponents. (See “A Dutch Treat for Nakamura,” *Chess Life Online*, October 29, 2012).

Finally, after two months solid of chess, Nakamura enjoyed a brief break. He turned down an invitation to the Romanian King’s Tournament, which had been moved from June to November, so as to recover in time for yet another trip to London for the Chess Classic.

Building a team

The month off allowed Nakamura to work on another important professional task, developing a team of people who could help him prepare, and who eventually might serve as seconds at important events in the future. To date, Nakamura has been accompanied to tournaments almost exclusively by Littlejohn or his parents.

Most top players rely on other grandmasters to help with opening research, training and psychological guidance. Nakamura is unique in working with an untitled player (Littlejohn) who is adept at computer-assisted opening research. But he acknowledges that eventually, he will need more.

“It’s a process. You have to assess how things are going ... after London [the Grand Prix] ended I was already drawing some conclusions and thinking I had to do quite a few things completely differently, but at the end of the day you have to step back and look at everything and just try and figure out what went wrong.”

Naturally, when things are not going well, the first impulse is often to change something in your routine, but after four years of progress, he's not planning to replace Littlejohn any time soon.

"Really I think the most difficult thing about working with Kris as opposed to, say Garry [Kasparov] for instance, is that Kris is a very good friend too. I mean we work together on chess, but he's also one of the best friends I have out there, so it's very difficult when you're trying to mix business with pleasure—it's very difficult because of the loyalty there ... But, having said that, everything is going quite well, and I think that going forward, Kris is going to be around. He's an integral part of my success—I mean he's been there since I was 2700."

Professional players have seconds who come with them to tournaments but also others—often many others—who are kept out of the limelight, and a closely guarded secret. It is the nature of the sport that if your opponents know who is on your team, they can sometimes make useful inferences about what openings you may try to play. One would think that for someone like Nakamura, who is known for playing almost any opening, this would be less of an issue, yet he is quite coy as to who they might (or might not) be.

"Everyone has their role. I am working with Kris ... [but] he's not the only one. There are people I'm working with and they do know each other. We haven't met in person, but we will soon in preparation for the London Chess Classic," he told me in October.

"It is what it is."

So far in 2013, Nakamura has played in only one event, The 75th Tata Steel Chess Tournament. Fans of the brief "En passant" videos on the official website could not fail to notice a common refrain from the only American in Wijk aan Zee:

ROUND 2: "I played like an idiot ... I managed to get a little bit lucky. **It is what it is.**"

ROUND 3: "I was a little bit lucky that I was able to force a repetition at the end. So, **it's what it is.**"

ROUND 5: "I think Hou felt the pressure, and she blundered with the move 21. f4, and after that it's more or less just lost. **So, it's what it is.**"

ROUND 7: "And after 30. Bd3 it's still a game, I'm obviously better and I'll be playing 20 hours. **But it is what it is**, and I'll certainly take it after having a little bit of bad luck the previous rounds."

ROUND 10: "Fabiano I think just got careless, he made this one slip with 51. Nf2 and maybe he can still hold, but it's extremely difficult after that. So, **it is what it is**, I'll certainly take it, I mean plus three—at least I have a chance for second place."

After this, Nakamura lost to Aronian, then was crushed by Carlsen in just 31 moves, and stopped giving comments for the official website. A plus one score was only good enough for clear sixth place, and he even lost a few rating points.

Judging from his Twitter feed, he recovered quickly, returning to Italy in time for Carnival festivities, during which he posted a striking picture with WFM Maria De Rosa, both of them in colorful costumes.

Nakamura is one of the more active grandmasters on Twitter (@GMHikaru), where he posts anywhere from a few times a month to several times a day.

"People are going to take things a certain way. Nearly everything I post—that I post on Twitter—everyone assumes there's some hidden meaning, when most of the times there isn't."

But it's worse than that. For better or worse, he has become a polarizing figure in the chess world. There are some chess fans who seem to harbor a great deal of Nakamura *schadenfreude*. For instance, whenever he is playing, the unmoderated chat comments on the popular ChessBomb Web site often border on histrionic, or even vicious. Hikaru apparently takes it all in stride.

"If everyone wants to make me out as the bad guy, so be it.

That's just how it goes. There's nothing I can do to change what people think." (See [Sidebar: Kibitzing in London for more Hikaru musings.](#))

It's hard to know what to make of that statement of indifference, which is oddly fatalistic for a chess player. Insofar as the negative impressions some people have of him are based on misunderstandings of his words or misperceptions of his character, it may be an uphill climb. But chess aficionados must value objectivity, self-improvement and open-mindedness. In the face of new evidence they are capable of reappraisal, perhaps even more so than most. The point is, there is a choice involved, on both ends.

The road ahead

"It's all about the ride, it's about the journey, and I'm just going to enjoy it, because really that's all you can do."

Hikaru is no stranger to journeys, with tournaments in Italy, Holland, Canada, the USA, Russia, Switzerland, the U.K., Turkey, Israel and China, just in the past year! He has been in high demand, so much so that he's in the enviable position of declining tournament invitations.

In January he decided to skip the 2013 U.S. Championship (to be held May 2-13), in favor of a new tournament in Norway which will include eight of the worlds' top ten players, including Carlsen, Kramnik, Aronian and Anand. Considering that this may turn out to be the strongest tournament in history, the move is understandable, but it is certainly a blow to the Championship and the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, and it will undoubtedly dismay some of his American fans. (Nakamura declined several requests to be interviewed on the subject for this story.)

There are many qualities that make Nakamura a potent force behind a chess board: Fearlessness, an amazing will to win, confidence and tenacity. The one that is most frustrating for those who interact with him away from the board is his unpredictability. One day he is extremely open and laid back, the next day he has other things on his mind, and may not give you the time of day. Still, professional chess needs more people like him; an uncompromising player, and a complex character, he's capable of ginning up popular interest in the sport whenever and wherever he plays.

Success at the elite level is not just about calculating a little further ahead, but finding the self-awareness and equilibrium that enables peak performance and consistency. Chess sometimes seems like a burden for Nakamura, when it needs to feel effortless. In that sense, maybe it is better not to worry about the future.

And just play. ♣

Results in major 2012 events

Event	Place	Score ¹	TPR ²
Reggio Emilia	3/6	5½/10	2777
Tata Steel	6/13	7½/13	2811
U.S. Championship	1/12	8½/11	2831
Tal Memorial	8/10	4/9	2738
Biel	3/6	6/10	2814
Olympiad	5th (team)	6/9	2794
Grand Prix London	12/12	4/11	2633
Univé	1/4	4½/6	2858
London Classic	3/9	5/8	2839

Other events

Grand Pacific Open | Italian Team Championship | European Club Cup Sport | Accord World Mind Games (Rapid/Blitz)

¹ Classical scoring used for comparison, although Reggio Emilia, Biel, and the London Classic used 3 points for win, 1 for draw.

² Tournament performance rating



A Winning Composition By Ludwig

IM Daniel Ludwig Dominates the 39th Eastern Open

Some of the key games from the 39th Eastern Open.

Gruenfeld Defense, Anti-Gruenfeld Attack (D70)

IM Daniel Ludwig (2566)
GM Lawrence Kaufman (2404)
2012 Eastern Open (6), 12.29.2012
Notes by Ludwig and Tom Beckman

This is the first of two critical games that enabled me to secure clear first place in the tournament.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. f3

Recently, this Anti-Gruenfeld line with 3. f3 has been a popular way to avoid more well-trodden Gruenfeld variations. This line gained in popularity when it was debated in the recent World Championship match between GM Viswanathan Anand and GM Boris Gelfand and it gave Anand as white great chances in game three.

3. ... d5

This is the critical continuation for true Gruenfeld players. Most King's Indian Defense advocates are happy to enter a Saemisch Variation.

4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nb6 6. Nc3 Bg7 7. Be3 0-0 8. Qd2 Nc6

There are several main lines with 8. ... Nc6 and 8. ... e5 occurring most frequently at the top level. Gelfand chose 8. ... e5 in game three of the World

Championship match: 8. ... e5 9. d5 c6 10. h4 cxd5 11. exd5 N8d7 12. h5 Nf6 13. hxg6 fxg6 14. 0-0-0 when White has the initiative.

9. 0-0-0 Qd6

This funny looking move is designed to provoke White to push pawns, and consequently make holes in his pawn structure.

10. Kb1

A recent development came from the fifth round of Wijk aan Zee. Karjakin tried 10. Nb5 Qd7 11. f4 against Giri, after which Black played energetically and accurately to eventually equalize.

10. ... Rd8

Black could consider 10. ... a6, but the knight hop is not devastating.

11. Nb5 Qd7 12. d5 a6 13. Nc3

I spent over 30 minutes on this move and rejected 13. dxc6, and I also considered 13. Na3 Ne5 14. f4 Ng4 15. Bxb6 cxb6 16. Nc4 Qc7 17. Rc1 Qc5! after which White has no useful discovery. Black has proven equality after the alternative 13. dxc6 Qxd2 14. Rxd2 Rxd2 15. Bxd2 axb5 16. cxb7 (16. Bxb5 bxc6 17. Bxc6 Rb8 gives Black adequate compensation.) 16. ... Bxb7 17. Bxb5 f5! 18. exf5 Bd5! Once again Giri reached equality

with sharp play in Vitiugov-Giri 2011.

13. ... Ne5

13. ... Na5 is an alternative.

14. Bd4 Nbc4



Black needs to get rolling on the queenside. As a general rule in the Gruenfeld, Black is looking for precarious complications where his lead in activity will compensate for lack of space.

15. Qe2?!

It was tough to find a promising continuation. After considering several continuations, 15. Bxc4, 15. Qe1, and 15. Qf2, I chose 15. Qe2 by process of elimination. The most logical 15. Bxc4 is followed by 15. ... Nxc4 16. Qe2 e5 17. Bc5 b5 and Black is doing great. If 15. Qe1, then 15. ... Qd6 16. f4 Qb4! and Black has adequate attacking lanes despite White's strong center. An alternative that

I didn't consider at the board is 15. Qc1, maintaining harmony among White's pieces.

15. ... b5! 16. f4 Ng4 17. h3?!

Maybe not bad strictly speaking, but there was no need to force the exchange. Simply 17. Nf3 is better.

17. ... Bxd4 18. Rxd4 Nge3 19. Nf3



19. ... c5?

The compensation is insufficient for the material sacrificed. Better is 19. ... Qd6! and there ensues some wild tactics: 20. Ne5 Nxf1 21. Nxc4 Qc5 22. Rd3 bxc4 23. Rf3 Nh2! 24. Qf2 Qd6 25. Rxh2 with a game.

20. Rd3?

Here I thought that 20. dxc6! e.p. was weak after 20. ... Qxd4 21. Nxd4 Rxd4 with Black's pieces dominating White's uncoordinated pieces. However, White

is just winning after 22. Kc1! Be6 23. f5! This strong computer move refutes the sacrifice due to the weakness of the black king.

20. ... b4?

Black missed an excellent chance with 20. ... Nxf1 and now either 21. Rxf1 b4 22. Nd1 (not 22. Rdd1 Nb6) 22. ... a5! followed by 23. ... Ba6, or 21. Qxf1 b4 22. Ne2 Nd6 23. Ng3 c4 24. Rd4 Qb5 with a nice edge for Black.

21. Rxe3!

Giving up the Exchange but keeping all the play.

21. ... Nxe3 22. Qxe3 bxc3 23. Qxc3 Qd6 24. Ne5 Bd7



25. g3!

Keeps the bishop and supports the long diagonal.

25. ... Bb5?!

Black decides on activity (it is a Gruenfeld after all), but this bishop is needed for defense against White's protected passed pawn after 25. ... Rab8 26. Bc4 Be8 27. h4 h5 28. b3 Kh7 29. Re1 Rb6 30. Nf3 with only a small edge for White.

26. Bg2

Inserting 26. Ng4! first is more accurate, then the game could follow 26. ... f6 27. Bg2 Rab8 28. e5 fxe5 29. fxe5 Qb6 30. d6 and White is dominating.

26. ... f6?!

Black should hunker down with 26. ... Be8 27. Rc1 Rab8 28. b3 Rdc8 29. h4 Qb6 30. Kb2 and White is only modestly better.

27. Ng4

And now mates loom.

27. ... Qb6?

If now 27. ... h5? 28. e5! Qb6 29. exf6! hxg4 30. fxe7 Rd7 31. hxg4! and the threats on h8 are too much. Black must try to hang on with 27. ... Rab8 28. e5

fxe5 29. fxe5 Qb6 30. d6 Bd3+ 31. Ka1 although White is close to winning.

28. e5 f5?

Opening up the position where your opponent would like to attack is rarely a good idea. Still losing but much better is 28. ... Bd7 29. d6 Bf5+ 30. Ka1.



29. Ne3?

29. Nh6+! Kg7 30. e6+ Kxh6 31. g4 is crushing. I had seen this but missed after 31. ... Be2 (If 31. ... Bd3+ 32. Ka1 Rab8 33. g5+ Kh5 34. Bf3+ Kh4 35. Qe1 mate.) 32. g5+ Kh5 33. Bf3+ Bxf3 34. Qxf3+ Kh4 35. Qf2+ Kh5 36. h4! is mating.

29. ... Rab8 30. d6 Bd3+?!

If 30. ... exd6 31. Bd5+ Kg7 32. e6+ Kh6 33. Nxf5+! gxf5 34. Qf6+ Kh5 35. Qg5 mate. However, Black is in the game after 30. ... e6 31. Rd1 Kf7 32. Ka1 Bc6 33. Nc4 Qb5 34. Bxc6 with a moderate White edge.

31. Ka1 e6 32. Bf1?

A tough decision made somewhat quickly due to time constraints. The obvious 32. Rc1 would be better, and maybe if extremely brave, 32. Nd5! exd5 33. Bxd5+ Kg7 34. e6+ Kh6 35. g4.

32. ... Bxf1

Black had a nice chance here with 32. ... Qb7 33. Rg1 c4 34. Bg2 Qb6 with near equality.

33. Rxf1 Qb4 34. Rc1 Qxc3 35. Rxc3 Rb5?!

Unfortunately, Black again chooses activity over hunkering down. Better was 35. ... Rdc8 36. Nc4 Kf7 37. b3 h6 38. Nb2 Rb4 39. h4 with near equality.

36. b3?!

In retrospect, I think committing my pawns was a mistake, but Black's position is still difficult to crack regardless.

However, White is doing well after 36. Nc2 Rdb8 37. b3 Kf7 38. Na3 Ra5 39. Nc4.

36. ... Rdb8?!

Somewhat better is 36. ... Kf7 37. Nc4 Rg8 38. h4.

37. Kb2?!

Instead, 37. Nc2 Kf7 38. Na3 Ra5 39. Nc4 Rab5 gives White a strong edge.

37. ... Kf8 38. Nc4 Ke8 39. a4?!

Attempting to open a second front with 39. g4 Kd7 40. gxf5 exf5 41. Kc2 Ke6 42. h4 h6 43. Rh3 leaves White significantly better. The committal 39. a4 was clearly a mistake.

39. ... Rb4 40. Na5



40. ... Rxa4?

This move lets White get active and the rest is easy. Perhaps if Black had more time to consider his 40th move, he would have defended with 40. ... Rc8 41. Kc2 Kd7 42. Nc4 Kc6 43. Nb2 Rb7 and the struggle continues.

41. Rxc5 Rab4?

Black might have been able to hang on with 41. ... h6 42. h4 h5 43. Nc6 Rb6.

42. Rc7 R4b5?

Now it ends quickly.

43. Nc6 Rxb3+ 44. Kc2 Rb2+ 45. Kc3 R2b3+ 46. Kc4 Kf8 47. d7, Black resigned.

Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation, English Attack (B80)

Andrew Samuelson (2267)

IM Daniel Ludwig (2566)

2012 Eastern Open (7), 12.30.2012

Notes by Ludwig

This game won the first prize for the Best Played Game, and cemented Ludwig's tournament win.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6

A useful move order for avoiding certain sidelines.

4. Nc3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 a6 6. Be3 e6

6. ... e5 7. Nb3 Be6 is a major alternative.

7. f3 b5

This is the English Attack, notoriously dangerous for both sides. Though the moves might appear hyper-aggressive, there are actually a number of nuances in this sharp line.

8. g4

This is the first critical juncture. White can play 8. Qd2 instead, but this allows a different maneuver. After 8. Qd2 Nbd7! 9. g4 Nb6 10. a4 Nc4 11. Bxc4 bxc4 12. a5 Bb7 13. Na4 d5, Black has proven that he has enough in this sharp position. The nuance is that 9. ... Nb6 clears room in case of 10. g5 Nfd7.

8. ... h6

I wasn't sure what my opponent had prepared, so I took some time here. I have games with both 8. ... h6 and 8. ... Nfd7. 8. ... Nfd7 is an attempt to transpose into the line mentioned above, however, 9. Qd2 Nb6 10. a4! is stronger when Black has a knight on b8 instead of f6.

9. Qd2 b4

The Najdorf has been extremely successful over the years, so successful that various lines go out of fashion even though White has no way of attaining an advantage. The latest rage is 9. ... Nbd7 10. 0-0-0 b4 11. Nce2 Qc7. This modern treatment relies heavily on computer analysis, and I find that it is harder to play this way than by 'feel'.

10. Nce2

10. Na4 used to be employed, but Black can simply leave b4 unprotected for a long time. After 10. Na4 Nbd7 11. 0-0-0 Ne5 12. b3 (Kramnik discovered against Topalov [Wijk aan Zee, 2005] in just 20 moves why 12. Qxb4 was bad.) 12. ... Bd7 13. Nb2 d5! 14. Bf4 Qc7 and Black has at least equality thanks to White's terribly poor coordination and shaky structure.

10. ... e5!



This pawn push gains valuable space and time.

11. Nf5

This variation is not considered a threat to Black, but it is obviously the most menacing. The alternative is to play 11. Nb3 and I reached this position against GM Sergey Erenburg via transposition. After 11. ... Nc6 12. c4 Be6 13. Ng3 g6 14. h4 h5 15. g5 Nd7 16. Rc1 a5 17. Bh3 a4 18. Bxe6 fxe6 19. Na1 Nc5 put Black solidly in control, though I was outplayed later and lost.

11. ... d5!

With 11. Nf5, it is useful to undermine the outpost by reducing White's center. Also, the reader might notice that Black pushed pawns ten out of the first 11 moves. Black makes so many pushes to claim space and also create an edge. Of course, his lack of development is risky.

12. exd5 Qxd5 13. 0-0-0

GM Becerra played 13. Bg2 against me in 2005, and while I think the two moves are equally strong, 13. 0-0-0 at least feels more threatening to Black.

13. ... Be6

Initially 13. ... Bb7 looks better because of the weakness on f3, but 13. ... Be6 sets up my later idea of ... Nc6.

14. Bg2



14. ... Nc6!

This is a nice novelty as we will see later. Black needs to play

extremely precisely. 14. ... Nbd7 is okay, but 15. Qxd5 Bxd5 16. Rxd5 Nxd5 17. f4 Nxe3 18. Bxa8 among other variations leaves Black without winning chances.

15. Qxd5 Nxd5!

After 15. ... Bxd5 16. Rd2 0-0-0 17. Rhd1 I had difficulty seeing how Black could untangle.

16. f4 0-0-0

This move is relatively forced, but it is still unexpected due to the timing and setting.

17. Rd3?!

Better is 17. Bf2 g6 18. fxe5 Nxe5 (18. ... gxf5 19. gxf5) 19. Bd4 f6 20. Nh4 with near equality.

17. ... Nxe3?!

The variation I chose is still better for Black, but I missed a great opportunity here with 17. ... h5 which causes White's kingside to crumble, and Black is already nearly winning. For example, 17. ... h5 18. Rhd1 (Otherwise, 18. h3 hxg4 19. hxg4 Rxh1+ 20. Bxh1 g6.) 18. ... hxg4 19. Bxd5 Bxf5 20. Bxc6 Bxd3 21. cxd3 Rxh2 since the pawns are too strong.

18. Rxe3



This is a key position in the game. Even though so many pieces are now off the board, there is still a ton of play left for both sides. I really wanted to win this game since that would guarantee overall victory with a round to spare, but many variations seemed to leave Black without winning chances. The unusual structure caused me to explore imbalances and mismatches that I could exploit. I wanted to somehow keep the two bishops, or trade on f5 and damage White's pawn structure, but in the end Bg2 is always much too strong. For example: 18. ... Bxf5 19. gxf5 exf4 (19. ... Bc5 20. Re4!) 20. Re4! (20. Nxf4 Nd4) and 21. Rc4 is

tough to meet. My conclusion was that Bg2 was White's strongest asset, and the long-term imbalance I should exploit was the dark-squared bishop versus knight.

18. ... Bd5! 19. Bxd5 Rxd5 20. Rd1

Perhaps 20. Re1 or something similar is better since it avoids descending into the unfavorable bishop versus knight ending.

20. ... Rxd1+ 21. Kxd1 g6 22. Nfg3 exf4 23. Nxf4 Bg7 24. Nd3 Rd8 25. Kc1

White is trying to avoid the ugly b3 as long as possible. If 25. Ke2 Nd4+ 26. Kd2 Ne6 allows Black to relocate the knight to a superior square while applying the same threat.

25. ... h5

A tough decision. I'm not trying to play for cheap shots, but the idea of ... Bh6 does loom. The question is whether or not fixing the pawns is good or bad for Black. After 25. ... h5 I concluded that 26. g5 could not hurt Black since it locked White's pawns on the dark squares. That said, there is a lot of work left to convert this position, and Black will certainly have to be patient. My opponent told me later that putting the pawns on the dark squares was sort of a last resort, and he assumed that sooner or later I could exploit the weaknesses. I think 26. g5 was forced for concrete reasons, but also taking space is good for White, even though space is less significant in the endgame.

26. Re4? hxg4 27. Rxg4 Ne5! 28. Rh4

White avoids 28. Rxb4? Rxd3! 29. cxd3 Nxd3+ netting a piece. Also, 28. Nxe5?? Bh6+ leads to a quick mate.

28. ... Nxd3+ 29. cxd3



29. ... Rh8!

This move is extremely precise. Being greedy is the wrong response! 29. ... Rxd3 30. Rh7 Be5 31. Rxf7 Bxg3 32. hxg3 Rxd3 33. Ra7 is an easy draw for White. The key is to keep bishop versus knight, since as they say, "all rook endgames are drawn."

30. Rxh8+

White is almost without a choice in the matter. If 30. Rc4+ Kd7 31. Rxb4 Rxh2 32. Rb7+ Ke6 33. Rb6+ Kd5, Black dominates due to superior pieces even though the material is technically even.

30. ... Bxh8

Thus my dream from move 18 has now become reality. Now Black is already practically winning thanks to White's poor pawn structure and his stronger minor piece. Bishops are especially better than knights when pawns are spread out on both ends of the board.

31. Ne4 Be5 32. h3 f5 33. Nc5 Bd6! 34. Ne6

Worse is 34. Nxa6 Kb7.

34. ... Kd7 35. Nd4 Be5 36. Nf3 Bf6 37. h4

White's last hope was to create a blockade, but Black has one important path of entry left for the king via e6-f5-g4.

37. ... Ke6 38. Kc2 f4 39. d4 Kd5!

Not 39. ... Kf5? 40. Kd3 Kg4 41. Ke4 when Black is now in danger of losing since White commands the center. After 39. d4, White creates a new weakness to create a path for the king, and Black can divert attention from the kingside to the d4-pawn.

40. Kd3 a5 41. b3 Bg7

Zugzwang. One advantage of bishops over knights is that bishops can lose tempi.

42. Nd2 Bxd4 43. Nc4 Bf2 44. h5

The alternatives are equally hopeless.

44. ... gxh5 45. Nxa5 h4 46. Ke2 Bg3 47. Kf3 h3 48. Nc4 h2 49. Kg2 f3+ 50. Kh1 Bf4, White resigned.

(see next game, next page)

English Opening (A26)

David Filipovich (2183)

IM Bryan Smith (2525)

2012 Eastern Open (7), 12.30.2012

Notes by Smith

This game won the second Best Played Game prize.

1. Nf3 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 e5 4. d3 Nc6 5. O-O d6 6. c4 f5

The game has transposed to an English Opening. The setup I adopted here I have used several times in the past. In principle, Black should be happy—he has plenty of space and the pieces will all be working, without creating any weaknesses. On the other hand, White has a clear plan for attacking the queenside and the Bg2 can be strong. Black's counterplay is found on the kingside—however, unlike in the King's Indian Defense, the center is fluid so play over the entire board is required.

7. Nc3 Nf6

It is possible to prevent Bg5 by playing 7. ... h6 at this point, which is what I did at a previous event against GM Vlad-Cristian Jianu (he had a rook on b1 instead of O-O). Here I was afraid of 8. e4, but it doesn't seem too good. After 7. ... h6 8. e4 Nge7, in view of Nh4 ideas, the knight needs to go here. But this is a good setup as well, and because of White's e2-e4 move he will have to watch carefully for ... f5-f4.

8. Rb1 O-O 9. b4

9. Bg5 is possible, and would have been more annoying for me. White trades off the ... Nf6, pretty much ensuring that he won't be mated on the kingside anytime soon (for which Black needs the knight). However, Black's two bishops could become relevant as the game opens up later. And Black has done pretty reasonably well from

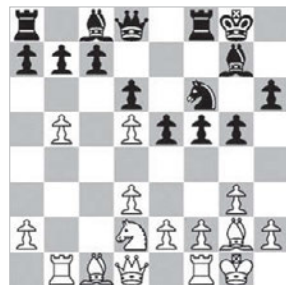
the position that arises after 9. ... h6 10. Bxf6 Qxf6 11. Nd5 Qf7.

9. ... h6

It is a tough question—whether Black should have played ... a7-a6 or ... a7-a5 (in response to Rb1), forcing White to support the b-pawn with a2-a3 or a2-a4, leading to the open a-file. I have always avoided moving the a-pawn on principle, since the queenside is White's part of the board. However, there are some points to this—in many cases, an early Ba3 would be prevented.

10. b5 Ne7 11. Nd2

I was happy to see this, being more afraid of 11. c5. Naturally, the position has been seen before, and Black is doing pretty well after 11. c5. However, this move would allow White to get some more play going, at least. 11. c5 Be6 12. Ba3 Ned5 (Also 12. ... Rc8 has been played here) 13. Nxd5 Bxd5.

11. ... g5 12. Nd5 Nexd5 13. cxd5

So White has the open c-file, and can attack the weakness on c7. However, there is hardly any other way for him to open the queenside or center, so Black just needs to defend this one point. Meanwhile, Black can slowly prepare the attack on the kingside, and I think Black's game is already somewhat easier to play.

13. ... Bd7

I wanted to play 13. ... Qe8 immediately, but 14. Qc2 was an

annoying answer. Meanwhile, 13. ... f4 could be met by 14. Ne4, which seemed reasonable for White.

14. a4?!

At the time I thought this move was rather pointless and maybe a little harmful (White won't be able to attack a7 as easily, by e.g. Qa4 at some later point). Instead, it seemed that he should stop Black's play on the kingside by 14. f4.

14. ... Qe8 15. Nc4

Now it is too late for 15. f4 because of 15. ... exf4 16. gxf4 Ng4 17. Nc4 Bd4+.

15. ... f4 16. e3

More challenging was 16. Na5, when attacking directly does not quite work: 16. ... Qh5 17. Nxb7 Bh3 18. e4 Ng4 19. Qf3, and White holds on. Instead Black could just guard the b-pawn with 16. ... Rb8, and after 17. Qc2, 17. ... Bg4 looks good.

16. ... Qg6 17. a5 b6 18. Qc2

This allows the black queen to get to h5, but it was hard to find something for White to do. For instance, 18. Ba3 loses control of f4 and could be met by 18. ... g4.

18. ... Qh5 19. Qd1?

The last chance to create some uncertainty was to just take twice on f4. I looked at a couple promising continuations. Probably the best was 19. gxf4 exf4 20. exf4 Ng4! (Not 20. ... Bh3 21. f3, guarding along the second rank) 21. h3 gxf4! 22. hxg4 Bxg4 with a deadly threat of ... f3. For example, 23. Bb2 (23. f3 Bd4+ 24. Rf2 Bxf3, with a decisive attack was my main calculation.) 23. ... f3 24. Bh1 Qg6 25. Kh2 Rf5, winning.

19. ... f3! 20. Bxf3

If 20. Qxf3 Ng4 (Also quite strong is 20. ... Bg4) wins; while 20. ... Ng4 is also the answer to 20. Bh1.

20. ... Ng4

Not as clear is 20. ... Bg4 21. Nd2.

21. Bxg4

21. h4 gave more chances, but only because Black has a larger choice of possible wins. 21. ... gxh4 22. Kg2 Rxf3! (Black obviously wants to remove this bishop, but just building up with 22. ... Rf7 was also effective: 23. Rh1 h3+ 24. Kg1 h2+ 25. Kg2 Raf8 with an overwhelming attack.) 23. Qxf3 Rf8 24. Qe2 hxg3 25. Rh1 Qg6 26. f3 Nf2 and White's game is hopeless.

21. ... Bxg4 22. Qa4

22. f3 Bxf3 23. Qc2 loses in a similar way to the game after 23. ... Be2!, which is even better than 23. ... Bxd5.

22. ... Be2! 23. Bb2

White cannot move his rook: 23. Re1 is met by 23. ... Rxf2! 24. Kxf2 Qxh2 mate.

23. ... Bxd3 24. Nd2 Bxb1 25. Rxb1

Technically, 25. Nxb1 is better, but White is down the Exchange after 25. ... Qe2.

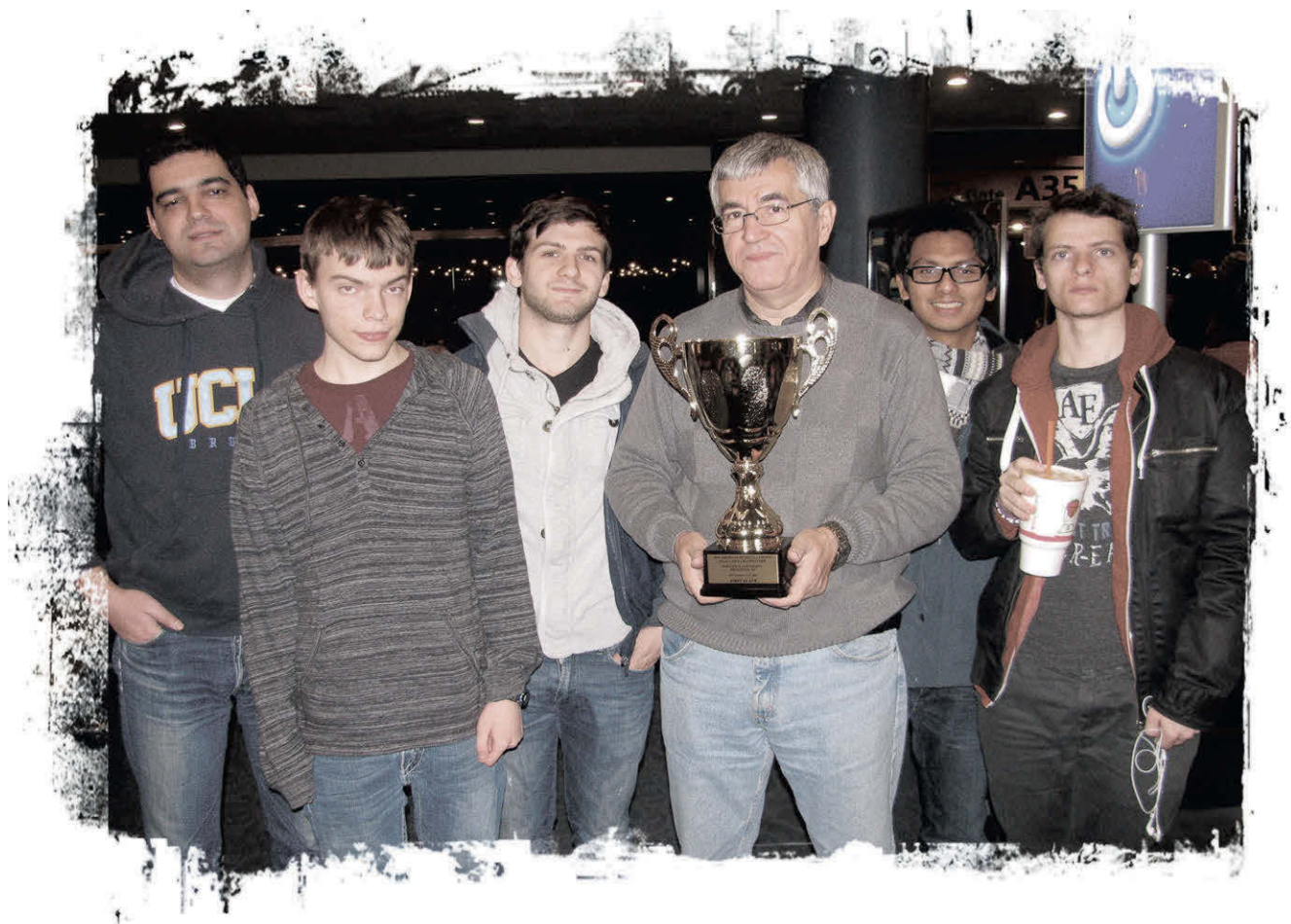
25. ... Qf7!, White resigned.

Forking d5 and f2 wins another pawn, so White resigned. ♠

See full standings and prize lists at easternopencchess.com.

At A Glance**39th Eastern Open**

Date: December 27-30, 2012 | **Location:** Westin Washington City Center Hotel, Washington, D.C. | **193 players.** | **Top Finishers:** *Open*, 1st, 6½: Daniel Ludwig; 2nd-5th, 5½: Bryan Smith, Thomas Bartell, Elmir Huseynov, Lawrence Kaufman. *Under 2200*, 1st, 7½: Darius Pour; 2nd-3rd, 6: Apurva Virkud, Andrew Zheng; 4th-5th, 5½: Bendeguz Offertaler, Kevin Huang; *Under 1900*, 1st-3rd, 6: Alfred Hurd, Jr., Saad Al-Hariri, Ryan Xu; 4th-8th, 5½: Jeffrey Jones, Fred Nelson, Steven Pettit, Yuvik Umapathy, Sebastian Fengler; *Under 1600*, 1st-2nd, 5½: Andy Huang, Tad Mrozek; 3rd-7th, 5: Delonta Richardson, Chris Giofreda, Andrew Yang, Jordan Flemer, Rodney Holmes; *Under 1300*, 1st, 6: Kai Sandbrink; 2nd, 5½: Vishal Menon; 3rd-6th, 5: Tony Qin, Timothy Vanderplas, Charles Thompson, Xinxi Qin. | **Tournament Directors (TDs):** Brennan Price, Head TD, and Andy Rea, Associate TD.



The Storm Inside

UT-Dallas A wins the Pan-Am trophy in a five-way tie with Webster A and B, UMBC and dark-horse Illinois

By **AL LAWRENCE**

It was the day after Christmas, but hush my mouth, not an airplane was flying, not even down South. December 26 let loose the biggest winter storm of 2012. That date was also the long-anticipated travel day for the most important collegiate championship in the Americas. The Pan-American Intercollegiate Championship was to begin the next day. Teams across the nation had long since purchased tickets they thought would give them a night's rest

before the clocks were started at Frick Hall on Princeton University's historic campus in New Jersey.

Four thousand flights were canceled, as many northern areas were buried in snow, and the southern U.S. was blown by heavy thunderstorms and ravaged by twisters. Hundreds of thousands were without power. Members of the Texas Tech (TTU) team, finding their home airport closed for the next two days, quickly rented a van and drove

to Dallas' smaller Love airport, only to have to fly to Houston to eventually make a serpentine connection to Newark International. Other team members spent the night in D.C.'s Reagan airport, arriving at their boards after the clocks had started. Nearly all but the East Coast competitors found themselves in the same dilemma. Ultimate winner UTD rerouted similarly, and even had to forfeit one game in round one. "Sometimes adversity helps everything else

L-R: IM Milos Pavlovic, GM Conrad Holt, GM Cristian Chirila, UTD Coach IM Rade Milovanovic, GM Julio Sadorra, and GM Valentin Yotov (the team with its trophy at 5:30 a.m. the day after, at Newark International, about to leave for Dallas).

PHOTO: AL LAWRENCE

seem easier,” Program Director Jim Stallings said. “But I don’t recommend this kind of stress test.”

Once heads were bowed over boards, the only storm that mattered was inside. Despite the weather, 44 teams—a record since 1996—answered director Glenn Petersen’s call to arms. After all, the event embodies tradition, going back to 1946, and has its roots in an even earlier U.S.-only competition, when City College of New York, with Reuben Fine leading its team, won in 1931. It’s true that the Bobby boom saw the biggest numbers—108 teams in Columbus, Ohio in 1972, when the University of Chicago won, and the all-time record of 123 teams again in Columbus in 1975, when Ivy League Harvard tied with the Nebraska Cornhuskers. But never had the tournament packed the chess muscle flexed in Princeton.

RECORD TALENT AND NEW POWERHOUSES

The new college powerhouse, Susan Polgar’s Webster University, from the St. Louis area, brought an A-team averaging 2691 USCF, a lineup that would be formidable even at the world Olympiad! Ten-time champion University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) came in at 2597, just a mere 50 points higher than Webster’s B-team. Texas Tech University coach and former U.S. Champion Alex Onischuk’s Texas Tech University team was pre-ranked fourth, at 2517, but just barely ahead of two other championship squads—the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), at 2512, and University of Texas (UT) at Brownsville at 2488. Three-time U.S. champion Yasser Seirawan was another “newbie coach” on the scene, with a strong team from another St. Louis area college, Lindenwood.

The current format requires four-player teams with a maximum of two alternates. Boards must be seated in rating order, within a discretionary range of 50 points. Winning the Pan-Am is an historic achievement. But finishing in the top four, in order to get a seat at the Final Four to have a shot at the President’s Cup—the recognized championship of college chess—is everyone’s fallback goal. Because each school is limited to one team entry in the Final Four, all the colleges scoring five points in the Pan-Am will be represented. Each is allowed to send any of its students.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS

Webster B took on the UT-Dallas A-team in round four. Both teams were a perfect 3-0. Such was the depth of the squads Webster brought to the Princeton tables. The teams ultimately drew—and also drew a clutch of self-interested spectators from other teams. The fight on board two was crucial.

Sicilian Defense, Sveshnikov Variation (B33)

GM Denes Boros (2552, Webster University B)

GM Chris Chirila (2600, UT at Dallas A)

2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (4)

Comments by GM Alex Onischuk

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Qb6

Black used to play this move to try to avoid theory. Nowadays, however, the line has become quite popular.

5. Nb3 Nf6 6. Nc3 e6 7. Bd3 d6 8. Be3 Qc7 9. f4 a6 10. Qf3 Be7 11. 0-0 0-0

I think 11. ... b5 is more flexible. Black leaves himself an option to castle long or even keep his king in the center.

12. Kb1 b5 13. Qh3 Nb4 14. g4 Nd7 15. Rhg1 Bb7 16. g5 Nxd3 17. cxd3 b4 18. Ne2 Rfc8 19. Nbd4

Now White has a direct attack, and it seems that in all lines Black is a little bit behind. It is so much harder to play the position with black. Only computers can try to survive here.

19. ... e5 20. Nf5 Bf8 21. Rc1 Qd8



22. Rg4!

This is the key move.

22. ... g6

Followed immediately by a decisive mistake. The only way here was 22. ... Rxc1+ 23. Bxc1 (White lacks the Ne3 resource in this line: 23. Nxc1 Rc8 24. Rh4 Qc7) 23. ... Rc8 24. Rh4 Qc7 25. Ne3 (25. Rxh7?? Qc2+ 26. Ka1 Qxc1+ 27. Nxc1 Rxc1 mate) 25. ... h6 26. gxh6 exf4!? (White still makes progress after 26. ... g6 27. f5) 27. hxg7 Bxg7 28. Rxf4 Ne5 29. Bd2, and the position remains very complicated.

23. Rh4 Rxc1+

Black’s defenses are overrun after 23. ... h5 24. Neg3!!

24. Bxc1 gxf5 25. Rxh7 Bg7 26. Ng3!

Now everything works for White.

26. ... exf4 27. Nxf5 Be5 28. Bxf4 Nf8 29. Bxe5 Nxf7 30. Qh6, Black resigned.

DARK HORSE QUALIFIER

Illinois A, entering the penultimate round undefeated with two draws and three points, was to most onlookers overmatched playing sixth-seeded and traditional powerhouse UT-Brownsville A. But the Illini team from University of Illinois’ at Urbana-Champaign continued to show Great Plains tenacity, winning the match 2½-1½. “It was shocking to make it to the Final Four,” Illinois’ first board Eric Rosen said. “We didn’t go into the tournament expecting very much. It was a huge surprise to all of us. We had nice pairings.” Ah, Midwestern modesty!

To score the crucial upset on board three, an expert on the Illinois team had to bamboozle an international master on the University of Texas at Brownsville’s powerful first squad.

Sicilian Defense, Smith-Morra Gambit (B21)

Akaash Meduri (2082, University of Illinois)

IM Max Cornejo (2461, UT at Brownsville)

2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (5)

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 e6 5. Nf3 a6 6. Bc4 b5 7. Bb3 Bb7 8. 0-0 b4 9. Nd5!

Houdini 3 Pro agrees that the knight’s harkari is best and gives White a slight plus.

9. ... exd5 10. exd5

Also quite strong is 10. Re1! dxe4 11. Ne5.

10. ... Bd6 11. Bg5

11. Re1+ is objectively better.

11. ... f6 12. Re1+ Kf8 13. Bh4 Ne7 14. Nd4 Qb6 15. Rc1 a5 16. Qg4?! h5 17. Qe4 Na6 18. Bg3 Nc5 19. Qe3 Ba6?

The move 19. ... a4 keeps Black in the game.

20. Bxd6 Qxd6



21. Rxc5 a4

Of course 21. ... Qxc5 loses to 22. Ne6+ dxe6 23. Qxc5.

22. Bd1 Nxd5

Black, after one surprise, falls into an even simpler trap, making White’s win easy.

23. Rxd5 Qxd5 24. Bf3 Qe5 25. Bxa8 25. Qxe3



Webster B team: GM Denes Boros, GM Susan Polgar, GM Anatoly Bykhovsky, Webster President Dr. Beth Stroble, IM Vitaly Neimer, Webster Provost Dr. Julian Schuster, GM Andre Diamant

26. Rxe3

White is simply a piece up.

26. ... Bc4 27. b3 axb3 28. axb3 Bf7 29. Nc2 h4 30. Bf3 Be6 31. Nxb4 Kf7 32. Bd5 Rb8 33. Bxe6+ dxe6 34. Nc2 e5 35. Kf1 Ke6 36. Ke2 Kd5 37. Rc3 Rb7 38. Ne3+ Ke6 39. Kd3 Rd7+ 40. Kc2 h3 41. g3 Ra7 42. Kb2 e4 43. Rc6+ Ke5 44. Rc5+ Kd6 45. Rh5 g5 46. Rxh3 Ke5 47. Rh8 Rd7 48. Rc8 Ke6 49. b4 f5 50. Rc6+ Kf7 51. Rc5 f4 52. gxf4 Rd2+ 53. Kc3 Rxf2 54. fxf5 Rxh2 55. b5, Black resigned.

Also in the fifth round, Texas Tech was paired against Toronto A, ranked 11th. Toronto is a seven-time champion with an impressive list of firsts. It was the first non-U.S. team to win the event (1965) and the first to win the Pan-Am title outright three years in a row (1980-1982). But this year, TTU set them back 3½-½. After 29 moves on board four, Oregon champion Steven Breckenridge had engineered a lethal attack against the enemy king.

Lethal

Steven Breckenridge (2389, Texas Tech University A) Jonathan Yu (2021), Toronto A 2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (5)

(see diagram next column)



29. ... d3 30. Rxh6+ gxh6 31. Rxh6+ Kg7 32. Rh7+, Black resigned.

Because 32. ... Kxh7 33. Qh5+ Kg7 34. Qh6 is mate.

CLOSING THE GATE IN ROUND SIX

The last-round match-up of Texas Tech and UMBC would open the gate for one of the previous national champions to go on to the Final Four. That gate would slam shut for the loser. A drawn match would probably lead to TTU going on. But UMBC won by the narrowest of margins. Indeed, only TTU's Faik Aleskerov, who won the board three prize with 5½-½, could score a full point against UMBC. In the game below, new UMBC recruit from the Republic of Georgia,

IM Nazi Paikidze, showed her mettle on the fourth board, contributing a key victory.

Showing her chops

IM Nazi Paikidze (2422, UM Baltimore County) Steven Breckenridge (2389), Texas Tech University A 2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (6) Comments by GM Alex Onischuk



Clearly, Black's attack should not work.

24. Qxd5!

The move 24. Qxb7! was another way to refute Black's plan 24. ... Rxb7 25. cxb7 Qb8 26. Ba3 Nxc2 27. Bd6.

24. ... Nxc2 25. Rxb7 Rxb7 26. cxb7 Qb8 27. f4 Ngxf4 28. Qc6 Rxh2+ 29. Kxh2 Nd5+ 30. Kg2 Ne7 31. Qd7 Kf8 32. Ba3, Black resigned.



The UMBC team is shown here along with GM Sam Palatnik (chess program associate director), Alan Sherman (chess program director and professor of computer science and electrical engineering) and Igor Epshteyn (chess program coach). The current team lineup includes GM Giorgi Margvelashvili (captain), GM Niclas Huschenbeth, IM Sasha Kaplan, IM Nazi Paikidze and alternates WGM Sabina Foisor and Adithya Balasubramanian.

FAILING TO FIND THAT ONE, MIRACULOUS MOVE!

No one can say that UTD got any pairing luck—they had to play both Webster teams! In the final round, the four from UTD A faced the highly touted Webster A team, who had to win the match to take the title; otherwise, the top-ranked Webster—by a team average of nearly 90 points!—would miss the mark on tiebreaks. The board-three and -four face-offs reflected this significant rating difference. But often in team play the whole is stronger than the parts. Coaching, team spirit, preparation, and the ineffable forces of the moment all come into play. Webster's board three understandably missed finding a sensational save. So in the end, the teams tied, and UTD got the trophy.

Queen's Gambit Declined (D37)

GM Julio Sadorra (2628, UT at Dallas A)
GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez (2686, Webster U. A.)
2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (6)
Comments by GM Alex Onischuk

Considering the importance of the following game, I would call it the best of the tournament.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bf4 Be7 5. e3 0-0 6. a3 c5

Other popular lines are 6. ... Nbd7 and

6. ... b6.

7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. Nf3 Nc6 9. Qc2 Qa5 10. Rd1

Today this move order is the most unpleasant for Black.

10. ... Be7

Another possibility is 10. ... Ne4 11. cxd5 Nxc3 12. Qxc3 Qxc3+ 13. bxc3 exd5 14. Rxd5 Bxa3 15. Nd4, and despite the computer-engine evaluation (0.00), it is no fun to play this position with black.

11. Be2 dxc4 12. Bxc4 Nh5 13. 0-0 Nxf4 14. exf4

Despite a pair of bishops, Black has a passive position that is hard to play. One minor mistake can lead to a loss.

14. ... a6?!

An inaccuracy—14. ... g6, as played in GM Vladimir Kramnik-GM Magnus Carlsen and GM Dmitry Yakovenko-GM Alexander Onischuk, is more precise. Black, however, lost both games.

15. Ne4 h6?!

Black should have played 15. ... g6. Now his light squares become weak.

16. Ba2

With the idea Bb1.

16. ... Rd8 17. Rxd8+ Qxd8 18. Rd1 Bd7 19. Bb1 Kf8 20. Ng3 g6 21. f5!

This is the most energetic way to gain an advantage.

21. ... exf5 22. Qd2 f4 23. Qxf4 Kg7 24. Qd2?

Another inaccuracy. The correct continuation was 24. Ba2 f6 25. Qc4! (25. Nh5+ also looks nice but is more complicated—25. ... gxh5 26. Qg3+ Bg4 27. Rxd8 Rxd8 28. Ne1!!, with a winning position) 25. ... Qe8 26. Rxd7 Qxd7 27. Qf7+ Kh8 28. Qxg6 Qd1+ 29. Nf1.

24. ... Qb6

Black does not find the one miraculous move that holds his position: 24. ... Bc8!! The point is that in case of 25. Qc3+ Bf6 26. Rxd8 Bxc3, the a8-rook is not hanging.

25. Bxg6!

Now it's all over.

25. ... Rd8 26. Bf5 Be8 27. Bd3 Kg8 28. Qxh6 Qxb2 29. Nd4 Qxd4 30. Bh7+ Kh8 31. Bf5+, Black resigned.

On board four, UTD's Conrad Holt was in a problematic position against Webster's powerful Georg Meier, a former Texas Tech teammate who went with Susan Polgar to Webster. A Meier win would give clear title to Webster.

A problematic position

GM Georg Meier (2701, Webster University A)
 GM Conrad Holt (2565, UT at Dallas A)
 2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (6)
 Comments by GM Alex Onischuk



Meier was playing very well, squeezing out a little bit better endgame. Indeed, just one step away from a win, he makes a huge blunder.

69. b8=Q??

It is hard to blame players for such mistakes. The new FIDE time control (90 minutes per game plus 30 seconds per move) does not really leave any time for the endgames. With a little more thinking-time on his clock, Georg would have easily found 69. g4! Ke5 70. Ne3 Kf4 71. Nd5+ Ke5 72. Nb6 and the pawn promotes.

69. ... Nxb8 70. Kxb8 Ke5

Now it is a draw.

71. Ne3 Kd4 72. Ng2 e3 73. Kc7 Ke4 74. Ne1 Kf5 75. Nc2 Kg4 76. Nxe3+ Kxg3, Draw agreed

DIVISION WINNERS

Besides the overall champions in Division I, colleges in three divisions took home national honors: Illinois A in Division II, and Texas Tech in both Divisions III and IV.

Tournament organizer Jack Hutton, who despite being a graduating senior at Princeton and playing for one of their four teams, produced a universally praised event. “We had team members flying back from Christmas vacation from as far away as Korea and China,” he said. “Our top team finishing in 6-11th place was quite an accomplishment.” Chief Tournament Director Glenn Petersen, backed up by Noreen Davissou of USATE directing fame, was typically flawless. Perhaps Seirawan summed it up best and spoke for all the coaches for their teams:

“I’m very proud of each and every member of our team—especially their support for one another. Grateful thanks to the hard-working Princeton organizers for hosting a magnificent competition played in a no-holds-barred combat atmosphere filled with mutual respect. We can’t wait for next year.”

By the way, “next year” the event will be held at Texas Tech in Lubbock. ♣



Webster A team : GM Wesley So, GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez, GM Susan Polgar, GM Manuel Leon Hoyos, Webster President Dr. Beth Stroble, Webster Provost Dr. Julian Schuster, GM Ray Robson, and GM Georg Meier



Dark horse Illinois “A” looking bright: Xin Luo, Michael Augur, Aakash Meduri, Eric Rosen

STANDINGS

Pan-Am finishers with 4 points or more, in tiebreak order:

1.	Univ. of Texas at Dallas A	5	2597
2.	Webster B	5	2545
3.	Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County	5	2512
4.	Webster A	5	2691
5.	Illinois A	5	2156
6.	Univ. of Texas at Brownsville A	4	2488
7.	Texas Tech A	4	2517
8.	Lindenwood A	4	2387
9.	Univ. of Washington A	4	2181
10.	Toronto A	4	2233
11.	Princeton A	4	2243
12.	Texas Tech B	4	1964
13.	Univ. of Texas at Austin	4	2005

Division II National Champions:
 Illinois A
Division III National Champions:
 Texas Tech B
Division IV National Champions:
 Texas Tech C

For a complete list of winners, go to monroi.com.

See the video “The Scoop on the Pan-Ams” at uschess.org/content/view/full/12034/701/, which features super-coaches GMs Yasser Seirawan of Lindenwood University and Alexander Onischuk of Texas Tech, GM Ray Robson of Webster, GM Elshan Moradiabadi, FM Eric Rosen of the University of Illinois and Al Lawrence, program director at Texas Tech.



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Our Heritage

2012 U.S. CHESS FEDERATION YEARBOOK

For the most part, the information in this yearbook is current as of December 31, 2012. For the full version of the 2012 Yearbook, including contact information for USCF delegates, please see uschess.org. To notify the USCF of corrections or updates, please e-mail akantor@uschess.org.

USCF ANNUAL MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, AND FUND BALANCES

Year	U.S. Open Business Meeting	Membership (1)	Fund Balance (2)
2011	Orlando, Florida	76,151	(187,918)
2012	Vancouver, Washington	77,254	61,492.20

(1) Membership totals are given as of May 31. Totals exclude Junior Tournament Players and tournament members.

(2) Figures enclosed in parentheses are deficits.

USCF PRESIDENTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Presidents (1)	Years
Jim Berry	2009-2011
Ruth Haring	2011-current

Executive Directors (2)	Years
Bill Goichberg	2004-2005
Bill Hall	2005-current

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP

2011 Gata Kamsky
2012 Hikaru Nakamura
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • MAY 2012

U.S. OPEN

2011 Alex Lenderman, Alejandro Ramirez, Hikaru Nakamura, Tamaz Gelashvili, Alonso Zapata, Giorgi Kacheishvili, Timur Gareyev
2012 Manuel Leon Hoyos, Dmitry Gurevich, John Daniel Bryant
 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON • AUGUST 2012

U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

2011 Anna Zatonskih
2012 Irina Krush
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • MAY 2012

NATIONAL OPEN Edmondson Cup winner*

2011 Loek van Wely, Varuzhan Akobian
2012 Aleksandr Lenderman
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA • JUNE 2012

ARMED FORCES (Individual* Team)

2011 Dan Ranario* Air Force
2012 Dan Ranario* Air Force*
 NORFOLK, VIRGINIA • OCTOBER 2012

U.S. SENIOR OPEN

2011 Sergey Kudrin
2012 Alexander Ivanov
 HOUSTON, TEXAS • JULY 2012

U.S. CLASS

2011 M: Timur Gareyev, Julio Sadorra; X: Austin Jiang; A: Daniel Ng; B: Angelito Abella; C: Brian Shicoff, BenKarren; D: Cindy Nam; E: Antonio Pereria, Adrian Patterson; Unrated: Alexandrov Olzhas
2012 M: Julio Sadorra, Justin Sarkar, Salvijus Bercys; X: Ernesto Malazarte, Akshay Malhotra, Odunayo Ajiboye; A: Ramy Farrag; B: Khoa Minh Nguyen; C: Charles Ventimiglia, Dale Bird; D: Sriharsha Rangaraj; E: Matthew Minear; Unrated: Yeze Cheng
 HOUSTON, TEXAS • SEPTEMBER 2012

U.S. BLIND

2011 Daniel Steininger
2012 Daniel Steininger
 PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA • AUGUST 2012

U.S. GAME/10

2011 Sam Shankland, Levon Altonounian
2012 Tamaz Gelashvili, Sam Shankland, Mikheil Kekelidze
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA • JUNE 2012

U.S. GAME/15

2011 Sergey Kudrin
2012 Georg Meier
 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO • FEBRUARY 2012

U.S. GAME/30

2011 1800+: Vladimir Mezentssev, Raymond Kaufman
2012 1900+: Enrico Sevillano, Walter Browne, Cyrus Lakdawala, John Cline
 PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA • OCTOBER 2012

U.S. GAME/60

2011 1800+: Vladimir Mezentssev
2012 2000+: Enrico Sevillano
 PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA • OCTOBER 2012

U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONS

2011 East: Leonard Chipkin, Kimberly Ding; South: Bryan Tillis, Kevin Knight; West: Bryan Hu, Benjamin Marmont
2012 East: Michael Lim; South: George Woodbury; West: Anthony Conyers II, Amrit Gupta, Rohan Mittal
 MAY-JUNE 2012

U.S. AMATEUR TEAM

2011 West: USC (Jack Peters, Danyul Lawrence, Blake Phillips, Nathan Heussenstamm, Sriram Balasubramanian); East: West Orange Krush (Mikhail Zlotnikov, Peter Radomskyj, Jose Fernandez, Victor Rosas); North: For Whom the Azbel Tolls (Josh Friedel, Alex Betaneli, Erik Santarius, Gregory Azbel); South: Armageddon Your Pieces (Javad Maharramazade, Jeremy Mandelkern, Matt Helfst, Peter Dyson); National Playoff Winner: Team South
2012 West: Forfeit by Disconnection (Robin Cunningham, Dana Mackenzie, Julian Chan, Todd Rumph); East: Forking with Tebow's Knights Won't Lead to Mating (Robert Hess, Zachary Weiner, Shawn Swindell, Peter Hess); North: Chess X-Men (Mariano Acosta, Tenzing Shaw, Fred Allsbrook, Dmitri Sergatskov) South: Yo Doy Clase (Eric Rodriguez, Ernesto Alvarez, Bennet Pellows, Mohammad Yousef); National Playoff Winner: Team East
 FEBRUARY 2012

ARNOLD DENKER TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

2011 Michael Vilenchuk
2012 Darwin Yang, Atulya Shetty
 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON • AUGUST 2012

U.S. GIRLS JUNIOR OPEN

2011 Rachel Gologorsky
2012 Alexandra Wiener
 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON • AUGUST 2012

DEWAIN BARBER K-8 CHAMPIONSHIP

2011 Michael Brown, Justus Williams
2012 Tommy He
 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON • AUGUST 2012

SUSAN POLGAR NATIONAL INVITATIONAL FOR GIRLS

2011 Apurva Virkud
2012 Alice Dong
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • JULY 2012

U.S. JUNIOR INVITATIONAL

2011 Gregory Young
2012 Marc Tyler Arnold
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • JULY 2012

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY

2011 K-6: Christopher Wu; K-5: Cameron Wheeler; K-3: Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan, Max Aeon Chung, Andrew Lewis Titus; K-1: Ben Rood, Aydin Turgut
2012 K-6: Amir Moazami, Vignesh Panchanatham, Alex Bian, Roland Feng, Kevin Moy; K-5: Bryce Tiglon, Marcell Szabo, Danial Asaria, Advait Patel, Dex Webster, Andrew Zheng, Thomas Knoff, Zachary Tanenbaum, Luke Bohua Xia; K-3: Aidan Lawler, Ruthvik Ayyagari, Jeremy Minikes, Alex Wei, Advait Bulusu; K-1: Anthony Bi He, Logan Wu
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • MAY 2012

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY TEAM

2011 K-6: Daniel Wright JHS (IL); K-5: Regnart Elementary School (CA); K-3: New Explorations Into Science, Technology and Math (NY); K-1: Dalton School (NY)
2012 K-6: Weibel Elementary School (CA), NYC Lab Middle School (NY), Dalton School; K-5: Greenbrier West Elementary School (VA); K-3: Dalton School (NY); K-1: Mission San Jose Elementary (CA), Hunter College Campus School (NY)
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • MAY 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR CONGRESS

2011 Chinguun Bayaraa, Ben Rood, Advait Budaraju, Maiti Milind, Rayan Taghizadeh, Vignesh Panchanatham, Samuel Bekker, Bingjie Liu
2012 6 & Under: Balaji Daggupati; 8 & Under: Joaquin K. Perkins; 10 & Under: Leyton Ho, Anirudh Seela, 12 & Under: Jeffrey Tao, Pranav Nagarajan; 14 & Under: Hemang J. Jangle, Joanna Liu; 16 & Under: Charles Tang; 18 & Under: Sudarsha Seshadri; 20 & Under: Ted Belanoff
 BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA • MARCH 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH

2011 K-9: John Hughes; K-8: James A. Black, Jr., Jeevan Karamsetty
2012 K-9: James A. Black, Jr., Michael William Brown, Bryan Hu; K-8: Christopher Wu, Kapil Chandran
 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH TEAM

2011 K-9: I.S. 318 (NY); K-8: I.S. 318 (NY)
2012 K-9: I.S. 318 (NY); K-8: Kennedy Middle School (CA)
 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

2011 Eric Rosen
2012 Ben Gershenov
 MINNESOTA, MINNESOTA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM

2011 Hunter College Campus School (NY)
2012 I.S. 318 (NY), Hunter College Campus School (NY)
 MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA • APRIL 2012

U.S. JUNIOR OPEN

2011 Under 21: Michael Michaelides; Under 15: Steven Chen, Andy Shao, Andrew Jacob, Annie Zhao; Under 11: Tianming Xie; Under 8: Jason Metpally, Tristan Ma
2012 Under 21: Karthik Ramachandran; Under 15: Jackson Chen, Richard Qi; Under 11: Advait Patel, Ram Krishna; Under 8: Maggie Ni
 HOUSTON, TEXAS • JULY 2012

U.S. CADET

2011 Arthur Shen, Michael Bodek
2012 Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, Michael Bodek, Christopher Gu, Christopher Wu
 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND • JULY 2012

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC K-12

2011 K: Chinguun Bayaraa, Maurya Palusa; 1st: Aryaman Bansal; 2nd: Christopher Yu-Shuo Shen, Daniel Levkov, Rohan Suryawanshi, Constantine Oskiper, Corwin Cheung, Luke Robert Robitaille; 3rd: Marcus Ming Miyasaka; 4th: Rayan Taghizadeh;

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FIDE INSTRUCTOR (FI)

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian • John Buky • Michael Ciamarra • IM Ilye Figler • Tony Pabon • Anatoly Tonkonogoy • F. Leon Wilson

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GRANDMASTER FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

None

INTERNATIONAL MASTER FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

Richard Becker • Pal Benko • George Sphicas

INTERNATIONAL JUDGE FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

David Brown • Robert Burger • Dr. Newman Guttman • Mike Prcic

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USCF TITLES

OVER-THE-BOARD PLAY

The Tournament Life section of *Chess Life* lists hundreds of tournaments each month in varying formats—quick chess, action chess—something for everyone. If you're new to competitive chess, be sure to see "Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates" and "Information for Players" online at main.uschess.org/go/tlinfo.

Over-the-board (OTB) ratings are calculated by computer using a complex formula. An explanation of the system is available

through a link on the USCF website. Players who earn OTB ratings over 2200 are issued certificates to recognize their achievement. If you qualify for a certificate but have not received one, please write us. Here are the ratings classes:

Senior Master	2400 & above
Master	2200-2399
Expert	2000-2199
Class A	1800-1999
Class B	1600-1799
Class C	1400-1599
Class D	1200-1399
Class E	1000-1199
Class F	800-999
Class G	600-799
Class H	400-599
Class I	200-399
Class J	199 & below
Minimum Rating	100

MASTERS EMERITI

THE MASTER EMERITUS title is a special honor awarded to players, now for the most part inactive, who led distinguished chess careers before the institution of the USCF rating system. Current ratings of masters emeriti are not published if they are below 2200, in which case 2200 is the rating used for pairing and reporting purposes. • Armando Bucelo, Sr. •

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2011 Judy Misner, Joan DuBois
2012 Randy Bauer, John Donaldson

OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2011 Scott Parker, Frank Berry, Tom Martinak, Bob Smith, Mike Zacate
2012 Duane Polich, Michael Morris, Neil Dale, Barry Eacker

SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD

2011 Andy Ansel, Jeff Smith, Mark Herman
2012 Jeff Roland, Eric Holcomb, Elliott Neff, Arun Sharma

MERITORIOUS SERVICES AWARD

2011 David Causey, Caesar Lawrence, Barbara Reed
2012 Russell "Rusty" Miller, Kevin Korsmo

COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

2011 Scholastic Committee
2012 Ratings Committee

CHESS CITY OF THE YEAR

2011 St. Louis, Missouri
2012 Los Angeles, California

KOLTANOWSKI AWARD

2011 Gold: Rex Sinquefield, Silver: Doyle Engelen, Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.
2012 Gold: Rex Sinquefield, Jeanne Sinquefield

U.S. CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2011 Boris Spalko, Andy Soltis
2012 Alex Yermolinsky

SCHOLASTIC SERVICE AWARDS

2011 Bruce Pandolfini, Chess-In-The-Schools (NY)
2012 David Mehler, U.S. Chess Center (DC)

ORGANIZER OF THE YEAR

2011 Ankit Gupta
2012 Chad Schneider

FRANK J. MARSHALL AWARD

2011 Dean Ippolito
2012 Anthony Saidy

GRANDMASTER OF THE YEAR

2011 Hikaru Nakamura, Gata Kamsky
2012 Hikaru Nakamura

HONORARY CHESS MATE

2011 Ami Hall
2012 Susan Barber, Kathy Miller

THE GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CHESS JOURNALISTS

2009 Shelby Lyman
2010 John Hillery

TOP 50 CORRESPONDENCE PLAYERS

(from International Correspondence Chess Federation).

	Rtg.
1. GM Alik Samulovich Zilberberg	2606
2. GM Dr. Jason Bokar	2585
2. GM Stephen E. Ham	2585
4. GM Daniel M. Fleetwood	2578
5. SIM Tim Murray	2544
6. GM Dr. Edward P. Duliba	2531
7. SIM Keith Holzmueller	2525
8. GM Jon Ostriker	2521
9. SIM Jon Edwards	2509
10. IM Carl L. Siefing	2473
11. IM John R. Menke, Sr.	2470
12. SIM Dan Perry	2464
12. SIM Kenneth M. Rinehart	2464
14. IM Wieland Belka	2460
15. SIM Jerry Weisskohl	2455
16. SIM Michael C. Proof	2453
17. IM Wesley C. Green	2446
18. SIM John C. Knudsen	2443
19. SIM Dr. Michael Millstone	2442
20. IM Hisham N. Sunna	2431
21. SIM Thomas Biedermann	2430
22. IM Dr. Martin Stengelin	2425
23. Thomas Diehl, Jr.	2416
24. Bobby Johnson	2413
25. Edward Kotlyanskiy	2411
26. SIM David R. Myers	2408
27. IM William Boucher	2406
28. IM Allan George Savage	2405
29. Lawrence Coplin	2403
30. Harry Ingersol	2401
31. Dennis Michael	2399
31. Wilbur Tseng	2399
33. Kenneth Holroyd	2397
34. Frank Goebert	2397
35. IM Robert Merton Jacobs	2392
35. Anthony Kain	2392
37. Peter Dessaules	2386
37. Robert N. Fass	2386
39. Gary Walters	2384
40. IM John Ballow	2383
40. Steve R. Douglas	2383
42. IM Robert Rizzo	2382
43. Grayling V. Hill	2373
44. Wolff Morrow	2364
44. IM Keith A. Rodriguez	2364
46. Daniel M. Horwitz	2358
47. SIM Kristo S. Miettinen	2355
48. Humberto M. Cruz	2353
49. Donald J. Harvey	2352
50. William E. Fuller	2350

An (Almost) Effortless Win

From opening to ending to victory.

By GM LEV ALBURT

AN UNTITLED PLAYER (ONE BELOW 2000) who loves endgames has a big edge over his peers. Some games are won almost effortlessly—as the game below illustrates.

Writes the winner of this month's award, Mark Dugger (*Lev's future comments are in italics*): I have enjoyed your column for years. I selected this game with annotations for submission because of its emphasis on fundamentals and the accumulation of small advantages for victory. I hope you and your readers enjoy it.

Ruy Lopez, Exchange Variation (C68)

Mark Dugger (1554)

Gary Greenlee (1783)

Oklahoma State Championship, 06.24.2000 (2)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6

If you like endgames, this is a system for you!

4. ... dxc6



5. d4

Starting with Fischer, 5. 0-0 is most popular here, while the old 5. d4 is viewed as having been analyzed to full equality.

Still, 5. d4 sufficed to give Lasker an edge, and then a win, over Capablanca in Petersburg 1914; it probably will suffice for you, at least for awhile, in your tournaments.

5. ... exd4 6. Qxd4

I chose the variation with an early queen trade, thinking it would be less risky

against my higher-rated opponent.

See my notes to White's moves 4 and 5!

6. ... Qd6



Black's best here is 6. ... Qxd4. In fact, in the line 5. 0-0 Qd6 6. d4 exd4 7. Qxd4, Black's best is, according to the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings, 7. ... Qxd4—the same endgame a tempo down.

7. Be3 Bg4 8. Nbd2 Rd8 9. h3

I intend to castle queenside. So, I begin to set my kingside pawn majority in motion.

9. ... Bh5 10. g4 Bg6 11. 0-0-0 Qe6



Threatening both the a-pawn and the queen.

12. Qe5

Rybka prefers 12. Qa7, a move I did not consider. However, after 12. Qe5, White enjoys a clear edge in development and kingside space.

Well, Rybka and you are both correct.

12. ... Qxe5 13. Nxe5 Ne7



Perhaps 13. ... f6!? was stronger—see my note to Black's 15th move.

14. f4 f6 15. Nxf6



15. ... Nxf6

I'd seriously consider 15. ... hxg6—albeit, of course, White is clearly better there as well.

16. Nc4

With an eye toward Na5 or f4-f5.

16. ... Rxd1+

Strategically, I question this move by Black since it leaves White in sole possession of the d-file.

And allows White to play f4-f5 as in the game, while controlling the e5-square (with his knight). Better was 16. ... Bd6, with only a small edge for White. If 17. Rhf1, 17. ... h5—be active!

17. Rxd1 b6 18. f5 Ne5 19. Nxe5

Separating Black's pawns into three islands. This also converts the 4-3 pawn majority on the kingside to a 3-2 majority (even better).

19. ... fxe5 20. Bg5



20. ... Be7

Forcing the bishop trade leaves Black with scant resources for counterplay. White maintains the active rook and superior pawn structure.

White's 20. Bg5 does not force the bishop trade, as 20. ... Bd6 was possible. Still, White would then prepare the breakthrough on the kingside, with excellent (probably the same as in the actual game) winning chances.

21. Bxe7 Kxe7 22. g5 h6 23. g6



23. ... Kf6

Abandoning the defense of d7, Black commits a crucial blunder.

If not this, or a similar blunder (say, 23. ... Rd8 24. f6+)—can Black hold? Not likely. For instance 23. ... Rf8 24. b4 Rf6 25. Rd3 Rd6 26. Kd2 ...

(see diagram top of next column)

... with the idea of recapturing on d3 with the pawn; otherwise, 27. Ke3 and 28. Ra3. Or 23. ... a5 24. Rd3 and later c2-c3 and b2-b4 (in case of ... a5xb4 White recaptures, of course, with the c-pawn). In some lines, an already-known pawn sacrifice, f5-f6, should assure White's victory. Still—no excuse for surrendering with 23. ... Kf6.

24. Rd7 Rc8 25. h4



Leaving the black king with no moves and tying the rook to the defense of f7.

Excellent!

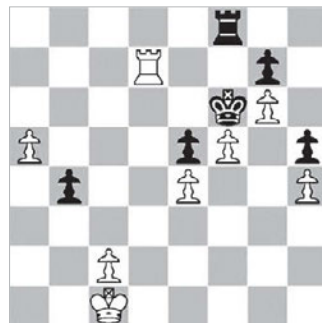
25. ... Rf8



26. Rxc7

Black is in Zugzwang. Very soon he'll run out of moves, and checkmate will follow.

26. ... c5 27. Rd7 h5 28. a3 b5 29. b4 cxb4 30. axb4 a5 31. bxa5 b4



32. Kb2

After Black's forced reply, White recaptures with the pawn to shield his king.

Another example of White's mature play and in particular, his prophylactic thinking (as on move 25).

32. ... b3 33. cxb3, Black resigned.

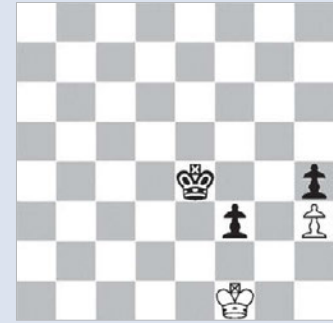
After 32. ... b3 setting up the last trap: If 33. Kxb3? then 33. ... Rb8+ 34. Kc3 Rc8+! unleashing the desperado rook.

Seemingly easy—and a well-deserved victory. Endgames generously reward their aficionados! ♣

Read the statements on pages 12-13 by the candidates for the USCF executive board.

Kasparov—50

Lev Alburt
Garry Kasparov
Daugavpils 1978



BLACK TO MOVE

Here is the finale of another effortless-looking win. It only took a few seconds for a 15-year-old to execute the winning "triangulation" maneuver:

1. ... Kf5 2. Kg1 Ke5!, White resigned.

... and White (an experienced grandmaster) finally resigned.

On April 13, 2013 Garry Kasparov, chess world champion par excellence and a slayer of the evil empire, turns 50. Many happy returns, Garry, and sincere congratulations on your truly great accomplishments.

Send in your games!

If you are unrated or rated 1799 or below, then GM Lev Alburt invites you to send your most instructive game with notes to:

Back to Basics, c/o Chess Life
PO Box 3967 Crossville, TN
38557-3967

Or e-mail your material to
backtobasics@uschess.org

GM Alburt will select the "most instructive" game and CL will award an autographed copy of Lev's newest book, *Platonov's Chess Academy* (by Lev Alburt and Sam Palatnik) to the person submitting the most instructive game and annotations.

Make sure your game (or part of it) and your notes will be of interest to other readers. Do not send games with only a few notes, as they are of little instructive value and can't be used. Writing skills are a plus, but instructiveness is a must!

The Magnificent Seven

Progress in the seven-man database, or, White to play and win in 517 moves.

By **GM PAL BENKO**

THE JOINT RESEARCH OF MARK Bourzutschky of the USA and Yakov Konoval of Russia continues to bear fruit in the continued advancement of endgame databases. An almost unbelievable record has been established for calculating a win: 517 moves with seven pieces in the case of optimal play with king, queen, and knight against king, rook, bishop, and knight, a number the researchers believe cannot be improved upon.

The record previously was “only” 243 moves. Below, you can see that even this number has now been topped.

Bourzutschky & Konoval:

The new DTZ (depth to zeroing) record



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN IN 260 MOVES

The win was not given all the way to mate, but in the end, Black loses the rook. We don't have the room to provide the moves here of course. (Likewise, changing the 50-move tournament rule would not be practical.) The whole series of moves can be found in *EG Magazine*.

Here are some examples involving similar material from top players' games. My comments incorporate the data of the two researchers (B-K).

Blunder (B-K)

GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2733, NOR)

GM Alexei Shirov (FIDE 2755, LAT)

XXV T. I Intercontinental Ciudad de Linares-Morelia, Jaen, Spain, 2008



White can win in 79 moves with optimal play. The goal is to get the white king to c8 so that Nc7 would win immediately.

64. Kd5 Rb1 65. Kc6!?

Even though it looks logical, this lengthens the win by 55 moves! Instead, best is 65. Nc5!

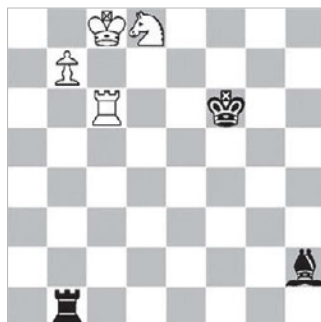
65. ... Rc1+ 66. Nc5 Bb8!?

This move reduced the resistance to 80 moves (as compared to the better 66. ... Kf6! which lengthens the game by 131 moves).

67. Rd5 Ba7 68. Kd7 Bb8 69. Ne6 Kf6 70. Rc5 Rb1 71. Nd8 Bh2 72. Rc6+

White finds the right path only later with 78. Kc8.

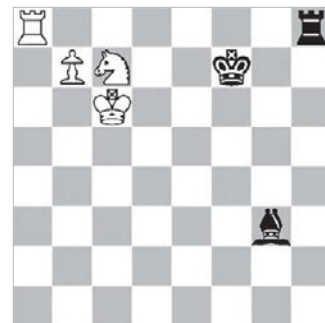
72. ... Ke5 73. Rc1 Rb3 74. Rc2 Bf4 75. Kc6 Kf5 76. Rc5+ Kf6 77. Kd7 Rb1 78. Kc8 Bh2 79. Rc6+



79. ... Ke5??

A big mistake, but in a lost position.

The longest resistance is offered by 79. ... Ke7 80. Re6+ Kf8 81. Rh6 Rc1+ 82. Rc6 Rd1 83. Rc2 Be5 84. Nc6 Bd6 85. Rc4 Re1 86. Rd4 Bg3 87. Rd3 Bh2 88. Rd2 Bg3 89. Nb4 Rc1+ 90. Rc2 Rh1 91. Nd5 Kf7 92. Nc7 Rh8+ 93. Kd7 Be5 94. Re2 Rb8 95. Kc6 Bg3 96. Ra2 Rh8 97. Ra8 wins.



80. b8=Q+, Black resigned.

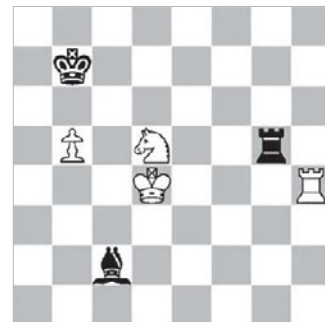
Naturally, neither player always makes the best moves. It is important that a relatively weaker move should not affect the outcome of the game decisively. But this often happens with even the very best players.

Decisive Rapid (B-K)

GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2791, IND)

GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2727, ISR)

World Chess Championship Tiebreak Game 2, 2012



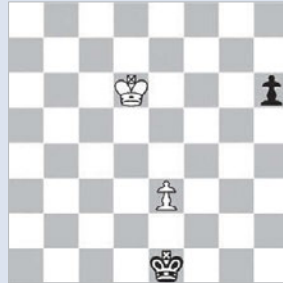
The knight pawn is farther back here so it not yet dangerous. The black king being forced to the eighth rank is a bigger fear.

Benko's Bafflers

Most of the time these studies resemble positions that could actually occur over the board. You must simply reach a theoretically won or drawn position for White. Solutions can be found on page 71.

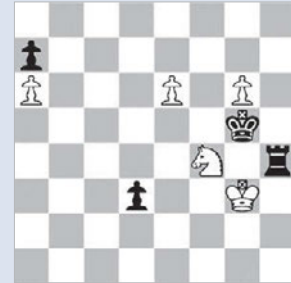
Please e-mail submissions for Benko's Bafflers to:
pbenko@uschess.org

Problem I: Pal Benko



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

Problem II: P. Benko, 1981



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

58. ... Bf5?!

Black could have equalized immediately here with 58. ... Bd3! 59. b6 Rxd5+!. Instead, he has to suffer much more as he searches for the right way to hold the draw.

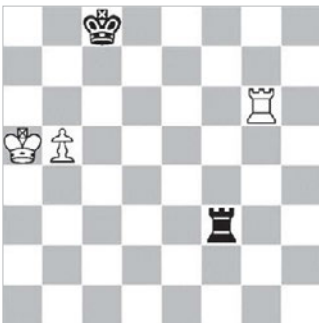
59. Rh6 Bg4 60. Rf6 Rf5 61. Rb6+ Ka7 62. Rg6 Bf3 63. Rg7+ Kb8 64. Nc3 Bb7 65. Kc4 Bf3 66. Kb4 Bd5 67. Na4 Rf7 68. Rg5 Bf3 69. Nc5 Kc7 70. Rg6 Kd8 71. Ka5 Rf5?

A significant mistake since after trades there is only a lost rook ending. Instead, 71. ... Bh1 could have held on.

72. Ne6+ Kc8

Somewhat better is 72. ... Kd7, but after 73. Nd4 Bh5 74. Rg7+ Rf7 75. Rg5! Bd1 76. b6 is winning since the bishop gets dominated.

73. Nd4 Rf8 74. Nxf3 Rxf3



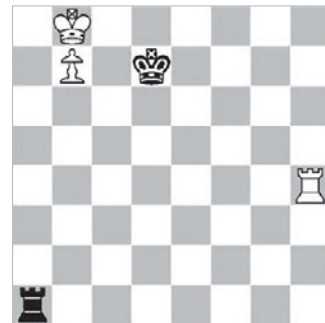
75. Kb6 Rb3 76. Rg8+ Kd7 77. Rb8!, Black resigned.

The rest is technique: 77. ... Rb1 78. Ka7 Ra1+ 79. Kb7 Rb1 80. b6 Rb2 81. Rh8 Rb1 82. Ka7 Ra1+ 83. Kb8 Rb1 84. b7 Ra1 85. Rh4 (Starts building the famous "Lucena bridge.")

(see diagram top of next column)

85. ... Ra2 86. Rd4+ Ke7 87. Kc7 Rc2+ 88. Kb6 Rb2+ 89. Kc6 Rc2+ 90. Kb5 Rb2+ 91. Rb4 This endgame decided the world championship title.

Interestingly, we had a similar ending at last year's U.S. Championship.

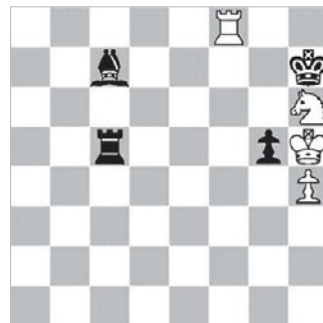


Bishop versus knight in St. Louis

GM Yasser Seirawan (2698)

GM Alejandro Ramirez (2657)

2012 U.S. Championship (4), St. Louis, Missouri 2012



82. Rf7+?

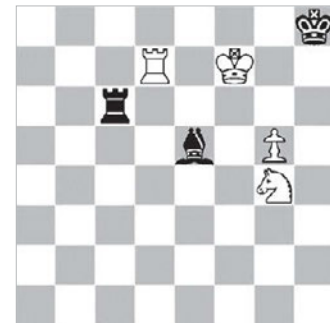
After this seemingly strong move the position is only drawn, while the immediate 82. hxf6 wins since there is no good defense against Nf5 and the g6 mate threat or if Black plays 82. ... Rc1 83. g6+ Kg7 84. Rf7+ Kh8 85. Rh7 mate.

82. ... Kh8 83. hxf6 Ba5 84. Rd7 Bc3 85. Kg6 Rc6+ 86. Kf7 Be5?

The right path was 86. ... Rc5 87. g6 Rc8, but even 86. ... Bf6 87. g6 Rc8 was possible trying for stalemate.

87. Ng4!

(see diagram top of next column)



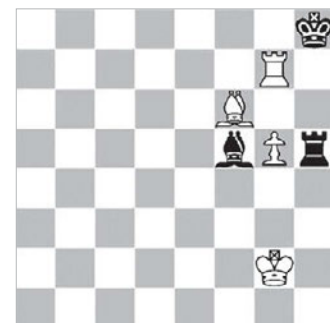
Forces a winning rook ending.

87. ... Bc3 88. Nf6 Bxf6 89. gxf6 Kh7 90. Ke7 Rc8 91. Rd8 Rc7+ 92. Kd6 Rf7 93. Ke6, Black resigned.

Alternatives?!

Other researchers are also making attempts to progress in this same area. Emil Vlasak sent me this example from a study.

Husak, Vlasak, Hlinka
1995



MUTUAL ZUGZWANG

The position is really a mutual *Zugzwang* in which if it is White to move, White cannot win. This has been verified by a supercomputer at Lomonosov University in Moscow. It contains also a genetic inheritance from IBM's Deep Blue. They started the program only in April 2012 with input from specialists. It seems that in Russia the chess (and also this branch of chess) is still taken more seriously. ♣

The Bill Wright Saint Louis Open

APRIL 12-14



The Saint Louis Zoo is one of the few free zoos in the nation and has been named #1 zoo by *Zagat Survey's U.S. Family Travel Guide* in association with *Parenting* magazine. The Zoo annually attracts three million visitors, who can see more than 19,000 wild animals.

A Saint Louis Tradition

By MIKE WILMERING

THE FOURTH ANNUAL BILL WRIGHT SAINT LOUIS OPEN begins April 12 at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL), and a number of top players have already committed including GMs Georg Meier, Wesley So, Fidel Corrales, Andre Diamant, Denes Boros, Anatoly Bykhovsky and GM Ben Finegold. This year's installment, a FIDE-rated, five-round Swiss with a time control of game in 120 minutes (G/120), features a guaranteed prize fund of more than \$10,000.

For many years, the Saint Louis Open has been one of the strongest and largest annual tournaments in Missouri.

In 2010, the event was renamed in honor of Bill Wright, a longtime tournament organizer and CCSCSL benefactor who had, for years, served as the primary organizer and promoter of the Saint Louis Open. Wright suffered health complications that left him unable to run the tournament that year, and event officials at the CCSCSL

wanted to ensure that his lasting commitment to chess in the St. Louis area was adequately remembered.

The 2010 Bill Wright Saint Louis Open featured the strongest open tournament in Missouri state history. Headlined by reigning 2009 U.S. Champion GM Hikaru Nakamura, the field also featured GMs Robert Hess, Alejandro Ramirez, Josh Friedel, Dmitry Gurevich, Ben Finegold, Mesgen Amanov and four-time U.S. Women's Champion IM Irina Krush.

Nakamura, who finished tied for first alongside Hess, Ramirez and Friedel, relocated to St. Louis shortly after the conclusion of the event.

In 2011, GM Mesgen Amanov made up for his poor showing the previous year to win the event outright, and 2012 saw a three-way tie for first place between IMs Marc Arnold and Enrico Sevillano and GM Elshan Moradiabadi.

Although St. Louis has a rich and growing chess history, the city is celebrated for much more than just chess. Known for years as a bastion of beer and baseball, those long-standing traditions remain central to St. Louis culture. The 11-time World Champion St. Louis Cardinals host division rivals the Milwaukee Brewers April 12-14, and catching a game at Busch Stadium is a fantastic way for visitors to immerse themselves in the local culture.

A number of up-and-coming St. Louis brewers are helping reshape the local beer market. In addition to the beer-giant Anheuser-Busch (now AB InBev), a vibrant craft-brewing scene featuring more than 20 breweries across the greater St. Louis area has made the city a destination for beer aficionados. These brew houses complement an equally noteworthy and growing restaurant scene.

St. Louis also is home to one of the premier zoos in the nation, which is just one of a number of world-class free attractions the city offers including the Saint Louis Science Center, Missouri History Museum and Saint Louis Art Museum, all located in beautiful Forest Park just minutes from the Chess Club.

And don't forget about the stunning World Chess Hall of Fame, located directly across the street from the CCSCSL.

Although Wright passed away in March of 2011, the tournament that shares his namesake serves as a reminder of the impact he had on the St. Louis chess scene and the lasting legacy he left behind.

Join us in St. Louis on April 12 to experience the urban renewal going on in our fair city, take part in a St. Louis tradition and to honor Bill Wright, a consummate gentleman and true ambassador to the game. For hotel, entry and more information, visit www.saintlouischessclub.org. ♠

PHOTO: PHOTO BY ROGER BRANDT/SAINT LOUIS ZOO

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ADULT	\$46	\$84	\$122
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YOUTH (2) (6 ISSUES CL)	\$28	\$51	\$73
YOUNG ADULT (3)	\$33	\$61	\$88

REGULAR USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES

CATEGORY	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	3 YEAR
ADULT	\$40	\$72	\$104
SCHOLASTIC (1)	\$17	\$30	\$42
YOUTH (2)	\$22	\$40	\$57
YOUNG ADULT (3)	\$26	\$47	\$67

OTHER USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES

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SUSTAINING (4, 8) (started prior to 2003)	\$95	\$190	\$285	\$380
SUSTAINING (4, 8) (started after 2002)	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480
SENIOR (5)	\$40	\$72	\$104	N/A
FAMILY PLAN 1 (6)	\$75	N/A	N/A	N/A
FAMILY PLAN 2 (7)	\$47	N/A	N/A	N/A
SENIOR LIFE (5, 8)	\$750	ONE TIME CHARGE		
LIFE (8)	\$1,500	ONE TIME CHARGE		
BENEFACTOR (8, 10)	\$3,000	ONE TIME CHARGE		
BENEFACTOR, EXISTING LIFE MEMBER (8, 10)	\$1,500	ONE TIME CHARGE		

A \$3 affiliate commission will apply to all memberships submitted by affiliates.



(1) 13 and under at expiration. (2) 16 and under at expiration. (3) 25 and under at expiration. (4) New sustaining memberships will not be allowed after 11/30/08. (5) 65 and over. (6) Parents and children younger than 25 at expiration living in one household with one address. (7) All younger than 25 at expiration living in one household. Both Family Plans include one monthly *Chess Life*. (8) Life and sustaining members have the option of choosing either Premium or Regular benefits. This selection may be changed at any time. USCF intends to contact these members approximately every three years to ask for confirmation of this choice. (9) Age restrictions apply. (10) Includes Life Membership, a special membership card, and recognition on a Benefactor page of our website and periodically in *Chess Life*. (\$25 foreign surcharge applies for magazine (not applicable to Canada or Mexico).

2013 Trophies Plus Grand Prix Summary

Trophies Plus awards \$12,500 in cash prizes in the 2013 Grand Prix!

2013 TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of March 12 for the 2013 Grand Prix. All Grand Prix updates are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete.

PHOTO: CHRIS BIRD



GM ZVIAD IZORIA has gotten off to a fast start in the 2013 Trophies Plus Grand Prix race.

OVERALL STANDINGS

	NAME	STATE	PTS.
1	GM Zviad Izoria	NY	69.73
2	GM Melikset Khachiyani	CA	56.33
3	GM Gregory Kaidanov	KY	50.33
4	GM Mikheil Kekelidze	NY	47.39
5	IM Andranik Matikozyan	CA	38.33
6	FM Jeffery Xiong	TX	36.33
7	GM Alexander Ivanov	MA	33.50
8	GM Aleksandr Lenderman	NY	32.66
9	IM Ricardo De Guzman	CA	32.00
10	GM Sergey Kudrin	CT	30.66
11	GM Alexander Shabalov	PA	27.66
12	IM Dionisio Aldama	CA	24.50
13	GM Carlos Matamoros		24.50
14	IM Vladimir Mezentsev	CA	23.00
15	IM Kayden W. Troff	UT	23.00

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2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

Name	State	Pts.	Name	State	Pts.
TOKATYAN, SHANT	CA-S	3850	YURCHENKO, ILYA	NY	2182
MCCARTY-SNEAD, CALLAGHAN	CA-N	3160	DEDONA, MARK	NY	2173
PETERSON, GIA	CA-S	3063	SOSSAN, KATHERINE	NY	2111
PALUSA, MAURYA	CA-N	3054	LIAO, JUSTIN	IL	2100
LI, ALEX	CA-N	3028	CHAN, ANDREW	OH	2100
VANDERWAY, GIORGI I	IL	2811	HOLJES, OLIVER	PA	2100
KOTHAPALLE, TANISH	TN	2623	MALAVALLI, PRANAV G	CA-N	2048
MITCHELL, MATTHEW	NY	2598	SRINIVASA, NANDAN	VA	2035
SODEM, VISHAL	CA-N	2534	LEVIN, CORY	NY	2010
KARTHIK, PRANAV	VA	2485	CRAIG, PETER A	NY	1992
CHANG, WILLIAM ALEXANDER	NJ	2450	MURUGAPPAN, GANESH M	CA-N	1950
CHERELIN, PAHZ CAHLIL	NY	2450	SRIVATSA, ADITH	CA-N	1936
WITTEN, ANDREW	MD	2425	FELDMAN, ZACHARY	PA	1928
CHAPIN, WILL	NY	2415	FIGORITO, NICK	NY	1926
LI, EDWARD	CA-N	2387	ATHIKAYALA, AYUSH HARI	CA-N	1916
EL-BADRY, KAREEM J	CT	2362	WANG, KINGSLEY	CA-N	1913
SUGANRAJ, BRIAN ESHWAR	IL	2336	PLOCH, MICHAEL V	NJ	1912
SALIBA, JUSTIN	OH	2268	JOHNSON, DREW M	NY	1890
BARNOY, OREN	NY	2258	INDUSEKAR, AKSHAY	IL	1888
DASIKA, ARCHIT	CA-N	2182	HEMMAT, ALEXANDER	CO	1869

ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by March 6, 2013 are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete. 2013 JGP prizes were not available as of press time and will be announced at a later date. The method for calculating points has been modified; see uschess.org for the most up-to-date information.

Chess Magnet School provides computer-based online chess training for both adults and children, including those who study independently and those who study under the guidance of a coach or teacher, as well as support for chess coaches and others who teach chess. Chess Magnet School has been a partner with USCF on a number of projects and activities since 2006, and has provided the free program that teaches the rules of chess to newcomers in the "New to Chess" section of USCF's website. USCF members are invited to learn more about Chess Magnet School at www.ChessMagnetSchool.com.

CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

USCF's
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These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those USCF members with an APO or FPO address. USCF members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCF Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: **Class A:** 1800-1999 (very strong); **Class B:** 1600-1799 (strong); **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). **Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)

TWO OR SIX-GAME OPTIONS. ENTRY FEE: \$5.

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Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy.

ENTRY FEE: \$10.

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas.

ENTRY FEE: \$25.

JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate.

ENTRY FEE: \$7.

Email Rated Events (need email access)

LIGHTNING MATCH

Two players with two or six-game option.

ENTRY FEE: \$5.

SWIFT QUADS

Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize merchandise credit of \$30.

ENTRY FEE: \$10.

WALTER MUIR E-QUADS (WEBSERVER CHESS)

Four-player, double round-robin webserver format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate.

ENTRY FEE: \$7.

Please check event(s) selected.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads & Electronic Knights, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

2013 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship

(SEVEN-PLAYER SECTIONS, ONE GAME WITH EACH OF SIX OPPONENTS.)

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These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members with e-mail access. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten. **Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

TO ENTER: 800-903-USCF(8723) OR FAX 931-787-1200 OR ONLINE AT WWW.USCHESS.ORG

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Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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V-code _____ Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.
*Note: This may slow down your assignment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO U.S. CHESS AND MAIL TO: JOAN DUBOIS, USCF, PO BOX 3967, CROSSVILLE, TN 38557

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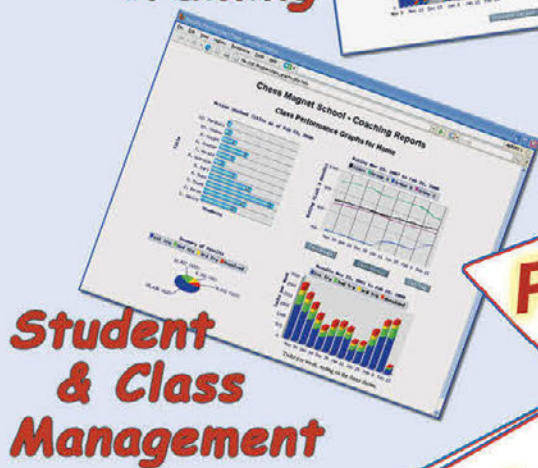
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USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

- 2013 SuperNationals V April 5-7 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 2013 All-Girls National Championships April 26-28 • Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship East May 25-27 or 26-27 • Somerset, New Jersey
- 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship West May 25-27 • Tucson, Arizona
- 2013 U.S. Senior Open May 28-June 2 • Tarrytown, New York
- 2013 U.S. Junior Open May 31-June 2 • Tarrytown, New York
- 2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship June 6 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2013 National Open June 7-9 or 8-9 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship South June 8-9 • Memphis, Tennessee

FUTURE EVENTS *(Watch for details)*

- 2013 U.S. Championship May 2-13 • St. Louis, Missouri
- 2013 U.S. Women's Championship May 2-13 • St. Louis, Missouri
- 2013 U.S. Cadet July 20-23 • Rockville, Maryland
- 114th annual (2013) U.S. Open July 27-August 4 • Madison, Wisconsin
- 2013 U.S. Blind Chess Championship August 9-10 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2013 U.S. Class Championship September 27-29 • Houston, Texas
- 2013 K-12 Grade Championship December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- 2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship December 27-29 • Lubbock, Texas
- 2013 U.S. Game/60 Championship—TBA
- 2013 U.S. Action G/30 Championship—TBA
- 2014 National High School (K-12) Championship April 4-6 • San Diego, California
- 2014 National Junior High (K-9) Championship April 25-27 • Atlanta, Georgia
- 2014 National Elementary (K-6) Championship May 9-11 • Dallas, Texas
- 115th annual (2014) U.S. Open July 26-August 3 • St. Louis, Missouri
- 2014 K-12 Grade Championship December 12-14 • Orlando, Florida
- 2015 National High School (K-12) Championship April 10-12 • Columbus, Ohio
- 2015 National Junior High (K-9) Championship April 24-26 • Louisville, Kentucky
- 2015 National Elementary (K-6) Championship May 8-10 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 116th annual (2015) U.S. Open August 1-9 • Phoenix, Arizona
- 2015 K-12 Grade Championship December 4-6 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- 2016 National High School (K-12) Championship April 1-3 • Atlanta, Georgia
- 2016 National Junior High (K-9) Championship April 15-17 • Indianapolis, Indiana
- 2016 National Elementary (K-6) Championship May 6-8 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 117th annual (2016) U.S. Open July 30-August 7 • Indianapolis, Indiana
- 2016 K-12 Grade Championship December 16-18 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 2017 SuperNationals VI May 12-14 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 2021 SuperNationals VII May 7-9 • Nashville, Tennessee

Bids

Note: Organizers previously awarded options for USCF National Events must still submit proposals (including sample budgets) for their events.

OVERDUE BIDS

Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. The USCF recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates. USCF reserves the right to decline all bids and organize the event itself.

PAST DEADLINE JULY 1, 2012:

- 2013 U.S. Amateur (North)
- 2013 U.S. Game/15 Championship
- 2013 U.S. Masters Championship
- 2013 U.S. Junior Closed

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:

- 2014 National Open
- 2014 U.S. Amateur Teams (North, South, West)
- 2014 U.S. Amateur (East, North, South, West)
- 2014 U.S. Cadet
- 2014 U.S. Class Championship
- 2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship
- 2014 U.S. Game/30 Championship
- 2014 U.S. Game 60 Championship
- 2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
- 2014 U.S. Junior Closed
- 2014 U.S. Senior Open

Coming Soon!

Watch the
 2013 U.S. Championship
 &
 2013 U.S. Women's Championship
 at USChessChamps.com
 May 2-13, 2013

Rating supplements will be updated EACH MONTH on the USCF website, and each monthly rating supplement will be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless otherwise announced in Chess Life. The USCF website at www.uschess.org also frequently lists unofficial ratings. The purpose of unofficial ratings is to inform you of your progress; however, most tournaments do not use them for pairing or prize purposes. If you would otherwise be unrated, organizers may use your unofficial rating at their discretion, even without advance publicity of such a policy.

22nd annual CHICAGO OPEN

May 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 or 26-27, 2013

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U2300 Section: 7 rounds, 5/24-27, 40/115, SD/1, d5.

U1300 to U2100: 7 rounds, choice of 5/24-27, 5/25-27 or 5/26-27. 40/115, SD/1, d5 except rounds 1-2 of 3 day are G/75, d5, rounds 1-4 of 2 day are G/40, d5. 4-day, 3-day & 2-day schedules merge and compete for same prizes.

U1100 Sections: 7 rounds, choice of 5/25-27 or 26-27. G/90, d5 except rounds 1-4 of 2 day are G/40, d5. 3-day & 2-day schedules merge and compete for same prizes.

Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 N Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling IL 60090. Free parking. In 9 sections:

Open Section: \$10000-5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-300, clear/tiebreak bonus \$200, top FIDE U2500/Unr \$2000-1000. FIDE, GM/IM norms possible, 200 GPP. EF \$100 more for US players not FIDE rated 2200 or over.

Under 2300 Section: \$5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300. FIDE rated.

Under 2100 Section: \$5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300. No unrated may win over \$2500.

Under 1900 Section: \$5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300. No unrated may win over \$2000.

Under 1700 Section: \$5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300. No unrated may win over \$1600.

Under 1500 Section: \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-400-300-300-300. No unrated may win over \$1200.

Under 1300 Section: \$3000-1500-1000-700-500-400-400-300-300-300. No unrated may win over \$800. Players with under 10 lifetime games may not win over \$1000.

Adult Under 1100 Section (born 1994/before): \$1000-700-500-300-200-200, trophies to first 3, top U900, U700, Unrated. No unrated may win over \$400.

Junior Under 1100 Section (born 1995/after): \$1000-700-500-300-200-200, trophies to first 3, top U900, Under 700, U500, Unrated. No unrated may win over \$400.

Ratings: May official USCF ratings used for U2300 & below, FIDE for Open. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. For foreign ratings see chesstour.com.

Prize limits: If any post-event rating posted 5/20/12 to 5/20/13 was more than 30 pts over section max, limit \$1500.

Top 7 sections entry fee: \$227 online at chessaction.com by 5/21, \$230 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/23 (entry only, no questions), 5-day \$235, 4-day \$234, 3-day \$233, 2-day \$232 mailed by 5/14, all \$250 online until 2 hrs before rd 1 or at site. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

Special entry fee: GMs \$200 from prize. IMs/WGMs in Open: \$30 online by 5/21, \$50 after 5/21 or at site; \$200 from prize. Seniors 65/over in U1300/above (except GM/IM/WGM), \$100 less. Online/mailed EF \$5 less to ICA mems; join at il-chess.org. Re-entry (no Open to Open) \$100.

Under 1100 entry fees: \$77 online at chessaction.com by 5/21, \$80 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/23 (entry only, no questions), Adult 3-day \$83.50, 2-day \$82.50 mailed by 5/14, Junior 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 mailed by 5/14, all \$100 online until 2 hours before game or at site until 1 hour before game.

USCF membership required. Special dues, see Chess Life TLA, chesstour.com or chessaction.com.

5-day schedule (Open): Late entry to Thu 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

4-day schedule (U1300-U2300): Late entry to Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

3-day schedule (U1300-U2100): Late entry to Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

2-day schedule (U1300-U2100): Late entry to Sun 9 am; rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

3-day U1100 schedules: Late entry to Sat 1 pm, rds. Sat 2 pm & 6 pm, Sun 10, 2 & 6, Mon 10 & 2.

2-day U1100 schedules: Late entry to Sun 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 2.

Half point byes OK all rounds, limit 4 (2 in last 4 rds). Open must commit before round 2, others before rd 4.

Hotel rates: \$105 for 1-4/room, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500. Reserve by 5/10; rate may increase or hotel sell out.

All: Bring sets, boards, clocks- none supplied. \$15 charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com. Questions: chesstour.com, Director@Chess.US, 845-496-9658. JGP.

Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577.

PAST WINNERS

1992 Gregory Kaidanov, **1993** Alex Ivanov, **1994** Dmitry Gurevich, **1995** Alex Shabalov, **1996** Gregory Kaidanov, **1997** Gregory Kaidanov, **1998** Dmitry Gurevich, **1999** Dmitry Gurevich, **2000** Artashes Minasian, **2001** Alex Goldin, **2002** Jaan Ehlevest, **2003** Alex Shabalov, **2004** Jaan Ehlevest, **2005** Igor Novikov, **2006** Vadim Milov, **2007** Vadim Milov, **2008** Varuzhan Akobian, **2009** Jaan Ehlevest, **2010** Loek Van Wely, **2011** Timur Gareyev, **2012** Gabriel Sargissian.

NOTE NEW OPEN TIME CONTROL AND TWO WEEKEND SCHEDULE. 9SS. Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202 (a few miles from Washington, DC). Free shuttle from Reagan National Airport, special chess rate for hotel valet parking \$6/day, parking about \$7-10/day nearby if hotel garage is full. In 9 sections. \$250,000 projected prizes based on 1180 paid entries, \$175,000 (70% of each prize) minimum guaranteed. GMs, re-entries count as 50% entries, IMs, WGMs, Under 1200, Seniors in U1400/over as 60% entries, U900 as 15% entries. Free analysis of your games by GM Sam Palatnik 7/3-7; free GM lectures 9 am 7/5 & 7/6. **Open Section, July 3-7, 1-7 or June 29-July 7:** 40/90, SD/30, inc. 30. **Under 2400 & Under 2200 Sections, July 3-7, 4-7, 5-7 or June 29-July 7:** 40/115, SD/1, d5 (4-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d5; 3-day option, rds 1-5 G/45, d5). **Under 2000 to Under 1200 Sections, July 3-7, 4-7 or 5-7:** 40/115, SD/1, d5 (4-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d5, 3-day option, rds 1-5 G/45, d5). **Under 900 Section, July 5-7:** G/65, d5. **Open:** \$2000-10000-5000-2500-1200-1000-800-700-600-500, clear winner bonus \$300, top FIDE U2500 \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$1000. Tie tie for first, top 2 on tiebreak play speed game 11:30 pm 7/7 for title & bonus prize. GM & IM norms possible. FIDE rated. **Under 2400/Unr:** \$13000-7000-3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top 22300/Unr \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$800. FIDE rated. **Under 2200/Unr:** \$13000-7000-3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top U2100 (no unr) \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$800. FIDE rated. **Under 2000/Unr:** \$13000-7000-3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top U1900 (no unr) \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$800. **Under 1800/Unr:** \$13000-7000-3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top U1700 (no unr) \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$800. **Under 1600/Unr:** \$11000-6000-3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top 1500 (no unr) \$2000-1000, top senior 65/over \$800. **Under 1400/Unr:** \$8000-4000-2000-1200-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top U1300 (no unr) \$1600-800, top senior 65/over \$800. **Under 1200/Unr:** \$5000-2500-1200-1000-900-800-700-600-500-400, top U1000 (no unr) \$1200-600, top senior 65/over \$600. **Under 900/Unr:** \$1000-700-500-400-300-300-300, trophies to first 10, top U700, U500, U300, Unrated. **Prize limits:** 1) Players with under 10 lifetime games played as of 7/13 official list may not win over \$500 in U900, \$1500 in U1200, \$2500 in U1400 or U1600. Games rated too late for 7/13 list not counted. 2) If any post-event rating posted 6/30/12-6/30/13 was more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$2000. 3) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over \$300 in U900, \$800 U1200, \$1200 U1400, \$1600 U1600, \$2000 U1800, or \$2500 U2000. 4) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Entry fee** for Open through Under 1400: **Online at chessaction.com:** \$318 by 4/15, \$328

by 6/28, \$350 until 2 hours before first game. **Phoned to 406-896-2038:** \$325 by 4/15, \$335 by 6/28. **Mailed by 4/15:** 5-day \$325, 4-day \$324, 3-day \$323, 7-day \$327, 2-weekend \$322. **Mailed by 6/18:** 5-day \$335, 4-day \$334, 3-day \$333, 7-day \$337, 2-weekend \$332. Do not mail entry after 6/18. **At site until 1 hour before first game:** all \$350; no checks, credit cards OK. **GMs free;** \$200 deducted from prize. **IMs, WGMs:** EF \$100 less, \$100 deducted from prize. All Open Section EF \$100 more for US players not FIDE rated 2200 or over. **Under 1200 Section EF:** all \$100 less than above. **Under 900 Section EF:** \$48 online at chessaction.com by 6/28, \$52 mailed by 6/18, \$60 online until 9 am 7/5, \$60 at site until 10 am 7/5. **Seniors 65+up:** all EF \$100 less in U1400 or above sections, \$20 less in U1200 Section. **No checks** at site; credit cards OK. **Re-entry:** \$160, no re-entry from Open to Open. **\$20 fee for switching section** after 7/2. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. **Open to U1200 5-day schedule:** Wed 7 pm, Thu 11 am & 6 pm, Fri 11 am & 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 5 pm. **U2400 to U1200 4-day schedule:** Thu 11, 2:30 & 6, Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 5. **U2400 to U1200 3-day schedule:** Fri 11, 1:30, 3:30, 6 & 8:30, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 5. **Open 7-day schedule:** Mon-Wed 7 pm, Thu-Fri 6 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 5. **Open to U200 2-weekend schedule:** 6/29 11 & 6, 6/30 10 & 4:30, 7/5 6 pm, 7/6 11 & 6, 7/7 10 & 5. **All above schedules** merge & compete for same prizes. **Under 900 schedule:** Fri & Sat each 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm, Sun 10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm. **Half point bytes** OK all, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds), Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 5. **Entries, re-entries** close 1 hour before your first game. **HR:** 995-95-105-115, 703-418-1234, ask for chess rate, may sell out about May 31, two night minimum July 5-6. **Special car rental rates:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **US player ratings:** Official July ratings used, except Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. **Foreign player ratings** (except Open Section): see www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm. **Open Section:** June FIDE ratings used for all players. **Special rules:** Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. In round 3 or after, players with scores of 80% or over and their opponents may not use headphones, earphones, cellphones or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. **Questions:** www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 845-496-9658. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at chessaction.com. **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JULY 5-7 OR 6-7, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60
SCCF Pacific Southwest Open
6SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/75, d/5). **Radisson LAX,** 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Prizes: **\$\$\$10,000** b/165, 80% of each prize guaranteed! 5 sections. **Open:** \$51700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier** (under 2000): \$5750-300-200-100. **Amateur** (Under 1800): \$5750-300-200-100. **Reserve** (Under 1600): \$5750-300-200-100. **Booster** (Under 1400/unrated): \$5400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only) EF: \$99 by 05/20, \$105 by 06/20 \$109 at door. GM/IM free, \$99 from prize. **Booster** (U1400) section EF: \$80 by 05/20, \$87 by 06/20, \$95 door. Re-entry \$60 in all sections. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 10 am, rds. Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6:30, Sun 10 & 4:15. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 8:30 am, rds. Sat 9, 12, 3 & 6:30, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point bytes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 4. SCCF membership (\$18, \$13 jrs [or \$3 no magazine jr version] required for rated Southern Californians.) HR: \$99-99, 1-(800) 333-3333, code Metropolitan, reserve by May 10th. Parking \$11/day. Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle. **Info:** info@metrochessla.com. **Web site, Online entry:** www.metrochessla.com Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. \$15 service charge for refunds.

JULY 6, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ)
5SS, G/10, d2. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (see World Open). Prizes \$2000 based on 65 entries, else in proportion except half each prize guaranteed. In 2 sections. **Open Section:** \$400-200-100, top U2300/Unr \$220, U2100/Unr \$200. **Under 1900 Section:** \$280-140-70, top U1700/Unr \$160, U1500 \$130, U1300 \$100, no unrated may win over \$150. EF: \$40, at site only, no checks. Reg: 7-10:15 pm, rounds 10:30, 11:10, 11:50, 12:30, 1:10. 1 half point bye available, must commit before rd 2. Quick-rated (will not affect regular ratings), but higher of regular or quick used for pairings & prizes.

JULY 7, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
World Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)
5SS, G/5, d0 (double round, 10 games). Hyatt Regency Crystal City (see World Open). \$2500 guaranteed prizes. In 2 sections: **Open Section:** \$500-300-200, top U2400 \$220, U2200/Unr \$200. **Under 2000 Section:** \$300-150-80, top U1800/Unr \$180, U1600 \$160, U1400 \$130, U1200

GOLD AFFILIATES

Cajun Chess
7230 Chadbourne Drive
New Orleans, LA 70126
504-208-9596
cajunchess@yahoo.com
www.cajunchess.com

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis
4657 Maryland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108.
314-361-CHESSE
info@stlouischessclub.org
www.stlouischessclub.org

Continental Chess Association
PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills,
NY 12577.
845-496-9658
chesstour@aol.com
www.chesstour.com

Dallas Chess Club
200 S. Cottonwood Dr. Suite C
Richardson, TX 75080
972-231-2065
info@dallaschess.com
www.dallaschess.com

Marshall Chess Club
23 W. 10th St.
New York, NY 10011
212-477-3716
admin@marshallchessclub.org
www.marshallchessclub.org

New Jersey State Chess Federation
c/o Roger Inglis, 49 A Mara Rd.
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034
973-263-8696, rwij@njyccchess.com
www.njscf.org

New York City Chess Inc
c/o Russell Makofsky & Michael Propper
PO Box 189, 1710 First Ave
New York, NY 10012, 212-475-8130
info@chessnyc.com
www.chessnyc.com

North American Chess Association
4957 Oakton Street, Suite 113
Skokie, IL 60077, 888.80.Chess
sevan@nachess.org
www.nachess.org

PaperClip Pairings
c/o J. Houghtaling Jr & Remy Ferrari
6005 Forest Blvd
Brownsville, TX 78526, 956-459-2421
jejr@houghtaling@bisd.us

San Diego Chess Club
2225 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101, 619-239-7166
chucnglo@aol.com
http://sdchessclub.multiply.com

Shore HS Chess League
PO Box 773
Lincroft, NJ 07738
shorehschessleague@yahoo.com

Silver Knights Chess
3929 Old Lee Hwy Ste 92D
Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-574-2070
www.silverknightschess.com
chess@silverknightschess.com

Tri-State Chess The Chess Exchange
325 East 88th Street
New York, NY 10128, 212-289-5997
info@TriStateChess.com
www.TriStateChess.com

Village Chess @ Zinc
c/o Michael Propper & Russ Makofsky
PO Box 189, 82 West 3rd Street
New York, NY 10012
212-475-8130
info@chess-shop.com
www.chess-shop.com

GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

GOLD

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Gold Affiliate. Gold Affiliates are honored in a special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Gold Affiliation costs \$350 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation, or \$20 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliation. **As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of \$500 (instead of \$350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.**

SILVER

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. These affiliates will be recognized in a special list in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, state, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliation costs \$150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. **As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of \$250.00 (instead of \$150), Silver Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.**

SILVER AFFILIATES

Bay Area Chess (CA)
www.BayAreaChess.com

Beverly Hills Chess Club (CA)
www.bhchessclub.com

Michigan Chess Association
www.michess.org

Monmouth Chess School & Club (NJ)
www.monmouthchess.com

Oklahoma Chess Foundation
www.OKchess.org

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)
www.spartachessclub.org

Success Chess School (CA)
www.successchess.com

Western PA Youth Chess Club (PA)
www.youthchess.net

MAY 12, 89th Knights Quest

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2875 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL. USCF Rated Sections: Open (K-12 & Adults), U1400 (K-12 & Adults), U1000 (K-8) & U600 (K-8). Awards: Top 6 U600 & U1000 Sections, Top 5 U1400 & Open Sections. Players in U600 receive participation award. Time Control: Time Control: Game 30 (G/25, d5) 4 Rounds U600 & U1000 Sections Game 45 (G/40, d5) 4 Rounds U1400 & Open Sections. Reg.: 11:00-11:30 am. Rds.: 1 at 12:00 pm, rest ASAP. EF: \$30 early, \$35 after Monday before, \$40 after Friday before. \$5 discount to siblings and team members when registering together. Online Registration: www.knights.org. Mail-in Reg: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065. Info: www.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 22nd annual Chicago Open
See Grand Prix.

MAY 25, Chicago Open G/10 Championship (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26, Chicago Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 22, Warriors Open & Reserve

G/60 + 5 (sec. delay), 3R-SS. Lincoln-Way West HS, 21701 S. Gougar Rd., New Lenox, IL 60451. Reg.: 8:15-8:45 am. Rds.: 9, 11:30, 2. Sections: Open & Reserve. EF: \$5. No concessions on site (bring sack lunch). Contact: Coach Miller at 815-463-0104 or stevenraigmiller@comcast.net with questions.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 5-7, The Greater Midwest Classic and The Billy Colias Memorial Invitational
\$21,000 Unconditionally Guaranteed! Prizes: Billy Colias Memorial Invitational Sections A, B, C (FIDE rated): \$500-300-200 per section. Classic Sections: U2200 (FIDE rated): Overall - \$1500-1200-1000-700; 1951-2100 - \$400-200-100; 1800-1950 - \$400-200-100; Biggest Upset - \$200; U1800: Overall - \$1500-1200-1000-700; Top 1551-1700 - \$400-200-100; Top 1400-1550 - \$400-200-100; Biggest Upset - \$200; U1400: Overall - \$1500-1200-1000-700; 1151-1300 - \$400-200-100; 1150 and below - \$400-200-100; Biggest Upset - \$200; Billy Colias Memorial Invitational Sections: 5R-RR Game-90 + 30/sec: Fri 5:30pm, Sat-Sun 10am and 3:30pm. Classic Sections: 6R-SS Game-90 + 30/sec: Fri: 12pm and 5:30pm, Sat-Sun 10am & 3:30pm each day. On-site reg: 9:30-11:30am Fri or 8:30-9:30am Sat. Limit 2 byes. Last rd. bye must commit prior to start of Rd 3. Side Events: Grandmaster Simul (9am Fri), Blitz (8:30pm Sat). FREE raffle prizes before round 6 with free entry, free room and free airfare to 2014 tournament. Site: Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, IL 60018. HR: \$99/night - call 847-696-1234 and ask for CHESS rate. Reserve by June 1. Discounted parking - only \$5. 10 minute walk from CTA Blue Line. FREE hotel shuttle from/to O'Hare airport. Rivers Casino in Des Plaines, less than one mile away.

Entries: If postmarked or online by 06/01 \$89; \$109 online or postmarked by 06/15; \$129 thereafter. Re-entry \$50. \$25 to play up 1 section only; Credit Cards onsite OK. No checks onsite. Mail entries to: North American Chess Association (payable to), 4957 Oakton St., Suite 113, Skokie, IL 60077. Register online at www.nachess.org/classic. Other info: Boards, sets, and clocks provided. None for skillies. Must use organizer provided equipment. Chess store onsite. July rating supplement used. Questions: sevan@nachess.org or 847-423-8626. Organizers: Sevan A. Muradian, Glenn Panner and Fred Gruenberg.

JULY 13, Warriors Open & Reserve
G/60 + 5 (sec. delay), 3R-SS. Lincoln-Way West HS, 21701 S. Gougar Rd., New Lenox, IL 60451. Reg.: 8:15-8:45 am. Rds.: 9, 11:30, 2. Sections: Open & Reserve. EF: \$5. No concessions on site (bring sack lunch). Contact: Coach Miller at 815-463-0104 or stevenraigmiller@comcast.net with questions.

JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 6th annual Chicago Class
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 3, Warriors Open & Reserve
G/60 + 5 (sec. delay), 3R-SS. Lincoln-Way West HS, 21701 S. Gougar Rd., New Lenox, IL 60451. Reg.: 8:15-8:45 am. Rds.: 9, 11:30, 2. Sections: Open & Reserve. EF: \$5. No concessions on site (bring sack lunch). Contact: Coach Miller at 815-463-0104 or stevenraigmiller@comcast.net with questions.

AUG. 6-11, 2nd Annual Washington International (MD)
See Grand Prix.

NOV. 2-3, The Susan Polgar World Open for Boys and Girls
Over \$100,000 in prizes with scholarships to Webster University! Sections (Boys and Girls each): K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12. Prizes (Boys and Girls each): Grades 9-12: 1st-Webster University Scholarship-2nd thru 4th-\$150-100-75 value in chess prizes; Grades 4-5 & 6-8: 1st-1st Pad Mini-2nd thru 4th-\$150-100-75 value in chess prizes; Grades K-3: 1st thru 4th-\$250-150-100-75 value in chess prizes. Rounds and Time Control: 6R-SS Game-45 + 5/sec delay: Sat-Sun 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm each day. On-site reg: 9:30-10:30am Sat. Limit 2 byes. Last rd. bye must commit prior to start of Rd 3. Side Events: 3-hour camp with GM Polgar (Fri 5:30pm), Puzzle Solving (Sat 6pm), Simul (Sat 7pm), Blitz (Sun 9am). Unrated 1-day (G-45, 4R-SS, Sat 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm, 6:30pm) - 4 sections (boys and girls together): K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12; Prizes (per section) - 1st thru 5th trophy, top 2 teams trophy) **Must be unrated to play in unrated section**. Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago-Northbrook Hotel, 2875 N. Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062. HR: \$99/night - call 847-298-2525 and ask for CHESS rate. Reserve by Oct 11. Free parking. Entries: If postmarked or online by 10/12 \$40; \$50 online or postmarked by 10/26; \$60 thereafter. Puzzle Solving, Blitz, Simul Side Events EF - \$15 each or \$40 all three by 10/26; \$20 each thereafter and onsite. Camp EF - \$40 by 10/26, \$60 thereafter and onsite. Unrated Section EF - \$10 by 10/12, \$15 by 10/26, \$20

thereafter and onsite. Credit Cards onsite OK. No checks onsite. Mail entries to: North American Chess Association (payable to) 4957 Oakton St., Suite 113, Skokie, IL 60077. Register online at www.nachess.org/polgar2013. Other info: Boards, sets, and clocks provided. None for skillies. Must use organizer provided equipment. Chess store onsite. October rating supplement used. Questions: sevan@nachess.org or leave message 847-423-8626.

Indiana

Orange Crush Chess Club Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)
Donatos Pizza, 825 W. 10th St. USCF rated. Reg.: 6-6:25 pm, starts at 6:30pm. Type: 3 RR Quad, G/5d2, BLZ. EF: \$10.00, \$5 b/4-Quad 1st \$25.00, \$30 for club members. Ent: Donald Urquhart, 1020 Central Ave., #304, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Info: Don at 317-679-2813 or e-mail akakarпов@att.net.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! The Second Saturday of the Month
4SS, G/61d5. Donatos Pizza, 825 W. 10th St., Indianapolis. Reg.: 11-11:30AM, Rd 1, 11:40AM. \$\$:b/20 1st \$200; 2nd \$100; Class (A, B), (C, D, E, Unr) \$70 each. Prizes increased if + 20. EF: \$25 - \$5.00 BD month, - \$5.00 for any state association (except ISCA), OCCCC Memb.req'd. Memb. includes magazine+. FIDE Titled Players Free. Ent: Donald Urquhart, 1020 Central Ave., #304, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Info: at 317-679-2813 or e-mail akakarпов@att.net. 3 entries in a class req'd for that class prize to be awarded.

APR. 20, Fort Wayne CC Spring Open
4SS, G/55. Allen Main Public Library, Meeting Room C, 900 Library Plaza. Free parking on street. Reg.: 9-9:40am. Rds.: 9:40am, 12noon, 2pm, 4pm. EF: \$30 pre-reg. check to D.S. or cash only at site. Prizes: b/20, 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, B \$50, C \$50, D \$50, E/Unr. \$50, must have 3 per class. Ent: Dan Steininger, 6025 S. Hanna St., Apt 207, Ft. Wayne, IN 46816. Info: (260) 755-3765.

MAY 11, 4th Annual Indiana Memorial Open
See Grand Prix.

MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 22nd annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 24-26 OR 25-26, 55th Gem City Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 25, Chicago Open G/10 Championship (BLZ) (IL)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26, Chicago Open Blitz Championship (BLZ) (IL)
See Grand Prix.

ACTIVITY MEANS MEMBERS

Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

Adult Dues Options! >>

NEW FREE TLA CATEGORIES ADDED!

RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SUMMER! Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines and up to 2 issues of *Chess Life*, for any tournament between July and September 2013, if no TLA for such an event appeared in 2012, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. The 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES QUALIFY FOR FREE TLAs! Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines for events in the following categories, if submitted by e-mail. The free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs:

SENIOR. For age 50 or above, or a higher minimum age.

UNRATEDS FREE. Any tournament that offers free entry to unrated players. If your prizes are based on entries, say "paid entries."

USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT. A tournament that offers at least two USCF membership renewal prizes, or a quad that offers at least one per section.

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL. A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

RBO. Open to Under 1200/Unr or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include "Rated Beginners Open" or "RBO."

BLITZ. Time control of Game/5. TLAs such as "USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm" are accepted.

COLLEGIATE. A tournament limited to college students.

JUNIOR. For age 20/below (age 20 must be eligible).

NON-SCHOLASTIC WITH SCHOLASTIC. A tournament for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a scholastic tournament that in its previous year drew at least 50 players. We encourage organizers of scholastics to hold open or collegiate events on the side.

SPECIAL RATES FOR CLUB ADS. Up to 5 lines \$180 per year, \$100 for 6 months for unchanged club ads in the TLA section. Announcement meeting dates & times, activities, contact info, etc.

USCF DISCUSSION GROUPS. See www.uschess.org/forums for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

Ages 21-24 dues lower than Adult dues!

The membership category once called "Youth" has been renamed "Young Adult," and eligibility has changed from under 21 to under 25. Annual dues for this category are only \$33 with paper *Chess Life* or \$26 with the online version!

One-year membership with *Chess Life*:

Only \$46 for Premium Membership, which includes a copy of *Chess Life* every month. Regular Memberships are available for \$40 and give online-only access to *Chess Life* and a mailed *Tournament Life Newsletter* (bi-monthly). (Note to affiliates: If you collect a \$46 membership, you may submit it online to USCF for \$43.)



JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 6th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix.

Iowa**APR. 19-21 OR 20-21, 7th Annual Okoboji Open and Reserve (U1600)**

See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!**APR. 27, 2013 Iowa Class Championship**

4-SS, Divided into Classes: M-X-A, B, C, D, & E/under. Players may play up one class. Some sections may be combined. All but E/under and Closed, G/75, d/5. E/under, G/30, d/5. See details for Closed Championship below. **Where:** Kirkwood Hotel at the corner of Kirkwood Blvd. SW and 76th Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Phone 319-848-8700. **Reg.:** 8:15 to 9:00 am. **USCF membership required.** On-site available. **IASCA membership required, \$15.00, \$10.00 Jr. or Sr. Rds.:** M-X-A, B, C, & D, 9:30-2:30-5:00-7:30. E/under, 9:30 am-10:45-Lunch-1:00 pm-2:15 pm. More rounds will be added if needed. **Entry Fee:** \$25 if postmarked by April 24, \$30 on site. **Prize Info:** Class prizes, 1st place \$45 + trophy, 2nd place \$30. **Send Entry Fee to:** Checks payable to Bill Broich, 7149 Wilshire Blvd., Windsor Heights, IA 50324. Include name, USCF ID, Section, phone #, e-mail address. Clocks, boards & sets will be provided for E/under section. **Additional Info:** Chess Magnet School JGP for sections M-X-A, B, C, D. Annual meeting at 1 pm. **Apr 27-28, 2013. Iowa Closed Championship.** FIDE rated. Invitation only. This event will be held in conjunction with this tournament. Time: G/90, i30. Rds: 9:30-2:30-7:30, 9:30-2:30. Spectators welcome.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 11-12, Ice Harbor Scholastic Open

A weekend Scholastic Open Tournament with four sections, Friday night blitz, and Saturday night bughouse. Individual and Team Awards. Sections: K-3, K-6, 7 Round Swiss, G/45;d/5; K-8, K-12: 5 Round Swiss, G/75;d/5. **Where:** The Grand River Center, 500 Bell St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Hotel: Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark, 350 Bell St., Dubuque, IA 52001. **Reg.:** On-Site Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Rds.:** K-3 & K-6: Rd 1:10:00 am, Lunch: Rd 2:12:30 pm, Rd 3: 2:30 pm, Rd 4: 4:30 pm Rd 5: 9:00 am, Rd 6:11:00 am, Lunch: Rd 7: 1:30 pm; K-8, K12: Rd 1: 10:00 am, Lunch: Rd 2: 1:30 pm, Rd 3: 4:30 pm, Rd 4:9:00 am, Lunch: Rd 5:12:30 pm **Entry Fee:** \$40 if postmarked by April 11, \$45 if postmarked by May 1st, \$50 postmarked after 5/1 or on site. **Prize Info:** Trophies for Top 10 Individuals K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12. Trophies for Top 3 Individuals K-3 U600, K-3 U400, K-3 Unrated. Trophies for Top 3 Individuals K-6 U800, K-6 U600, K-6 Unrated. Trophies for Top 3 Individuals K-9 U1000, K-9 U800, K-9 Unrated. Trophies for Top 3 Individuals K-12 U1200, K-12 U800, K-12 Unrated. Team Awards (top 4 individual scores): Plaques for Top 3 Teams K-3, K-6, K-8, K12. Teams may be of common school or chess club per USCF current regulations. **Send Entry Fee to:** Checks payable to James Hod-

ina, 3411 Blue Pt. Ct. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Include name, USCF ID, Section, Team, phone #, e-mail address. You may register in advance for main event, speed chess, and bughouse. **Additional Info:** Visit www.iceharborchess.com for details on tournament, playing site, hotel, and area attraction or e-mail: james.hodina@chessiowa.org. **Hotel:** Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark, \$99 chess rate includes passes to waterpark. Rate guaranteed through April 11. Reservations: Phone (866) 690-4006 and ask for the Ice Harbor Chess Group rate. **Blitz Tournament, Friday night May 10th.** On-Site Registration: 5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Entry Fee: \$5.00, Sections: K-3, K-5, K-8, K-12, Seven Round Swiss, Rounds start at 7 p.m. and each following round will start ASAP Blitz Prize Info: Trophies for Top 6 Individuals K-6 Open, One trophy to the top individual K-6 U800, K-6 U600, K-6 Unrated. Trophies for Top 6 Individuals K-12 Open, One trophy to the top individual K-12 U1200, K-12 U800, K-12 Unrated. **Bughouse Tournament Saturday night.** Entry Fee: \$5.00 per player. On-Site Registration, Rounds start at 7:30 p.m. and each following round will start ASAP. Bughouse Prize Info: Trophies for Top 10 two-player Teams. On-site registration for concurrent parent/coaches tournament.

MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 22nd annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

Kentucky**MAY 4, Lexington Monthly (1st Saturday G/60)**

3SS, G/60;d5. Expansive Art, 125 E. Reynolds Rd., Lexington, KY. **Directions:** Take New Circle Rd. to Nicholasville Rd. Head towards the Mall/Best Buy, turn left at E. Reynolds Rd. Shop is in the Crossroads shopping center. **Prizes:** Class Prizes with 90% of entries returned. **Reg.:** 11:45-noon. **Rds. 1st Rd. at noon, subsequent rounds ASAP (you will have some to get something to eat).** **EF:** \$1 per 100 rating points (e.g. a player rated 1483 would pay \$14 EF) **Contact: Matthew Gurley (859)-537-1060; mgurley@gmail.com.**

MAY 4-5, Western Kentucky University MasterMind Open

See Grand Prix.

MAY 24-26 OR 25-26, 55th Gem City Open (OH)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2013 Kentucky Open

See Grand Prix.

Louisiana**APR. 13-14, 2012 Louisiana Pro-Am**

See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**MAY 25-26, Louisiana Open 2013**

SSS, G/150, except for RD 1, which is G/75. Web: Complete details at

www.lafayettechess.org. **Site:** America's Best Suites, 125 E. Kaliste Saloom Rd., Lafayette, LA 70508. **Reg.:** Sat. 8:30-9:45am. Rounds: Sat. 10am, 1:30pm & 6pm. Sun 9am, 1pm. **Byes:** One 1/2 pt bye available if requested before rd 2, except for last round. **Prizes:** 70% returned; 1st 200, 2nd 150, MXA 1st 200, 2d 150, B 1st 200, 2d 150, C 1st 200, 2d 150 D 1st 200, 2d 150 E below and UNR: 1st 200, 2d 150. 3 persons in each class or combined. **EF:** \$70. Free parking. Room Rate: \$69. To reserve by phone, call 337-235-1367, and reference Lafayette Chess Club. **Entry/Info:** www.lafayettechess.org. Checks payable to: James MacManus, 225 W. Main St., Lafayette, LA 70501. (337)234-1720. No electronic devices of any kind in Tournament Hall; no cell phones, no mon rois, no Ipad/Ipod Touch, no hearing aids, etc. NS, NC.

Maine**AUG. 8-11, 9-11 OR 10-11, 43rd annual Continental Open (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

Maryland**Maryland Chess Association**Open & scholastic tournaments in Maryland listed at www.mdchess.com.**MAY 10-12 OR 11-12, 59th Annual Maryland Open NOTE DATE CHANGES**

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 28-30, 5th annual World Open Senior Amateur (VA)

See Virginia.

JUNE 29-30, World Open Under 13 Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

JUNE 29-30, World Open Warmup (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 1-2, World Open Under 2300 (VA)

See Virginia.

JULY 1-3 OR 2-3, 2nd annual World Open Women's Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

See Virginia.

JULY 3, World Open 7-Minute Championship (BLZ) (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 1-7 OR JUNE 29-JULY 7, 41st Annual World Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 4, 5, 6, 7, World Open Daily 2 pm Blitz (BLZ) (VA)

See Virginia.

NO TOURNAMENTS IN YOUR AREA?

WHY NOT ORGANIZE ONE?

Do you need to go out of town for tournament play? Would you and others in your area like the convenience of an occasional event closer to home? Organize one!

It's not much work to hold a small tournament, and there is little risk if you use a low-cost site and avoid guaranteed prizes. You might even make a profit! Either a based-on Swiss with projected prizes up to \$500, a Quad format, or a trophy tournament will virtually guarantee taking in more in fees than you pay out in prizes.

The affiliation fee is just \$40 a year. You will receive the annual rating supplement and have access to the TD/Affiliate area of our website.

Remember, you can both run and play in a small event. Many of them wouldn't be held if the organizer/TD couldn't play.

Want to know more? Contact Joan DuBois at joan-dubois@uschess.org. **We'll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess!**

WKU MASTERMIND OPEN

May 4-5th at Western Kentucky University
\$23,500 in WKU Scholarships. \$5,000 Open
For more information see Grand Prix ad
or visit www.hilltopperchess.net

WKU MASTERMIND™ CHESS CAMP
June 18-22

Instruction provided by all masters. 5 groups, 5 masters!
4 days/nights on WKU Campus all food and lodging included.
Unleash your inner jedi chess mastermind!
Appropriate for all levels of play from ages 6 & up

WKU MASTERMIND™ CHESS CLUB

ing. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$30, members \$20, \$50 for each winner. **Reg.:** 5:15-5:45. **Rds.:** 6-7:30-9. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 20, 2014 Watertown Open Chess Tournament
4-SS, G/75+d/5, H pt Bye 1-3. American Red Cross, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown, NY, 2nd Flr. Conference Rm. **\$100 Prize fund** b/8 total paid entries. \$60, first, \$25, 2nd & \$15, class. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:20 AM. **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 12:15, 3 and 5:30 PM. **EF:** \$23, \$25 at door (\$20 for WCC members). **Ent:** send to Don Klug, 518 Sherman St., Watertown, NY 13601. D. Klug 315-785-8800 or donklug@twcny.rr.com.

APR. 20, Marshall Saturday U1500
4-SS, G/40d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **(\$300/20):** \$160-80, U1200 60. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **Reg.:** 12:15-12:45. **Rds.:** 1-2:45-4:30-6:15. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 20, Syracuse University April Open
4SS. **Rds.:** 1&2 G/60. **Rds.:** 3&4 G/90. (Syracuse University, Hall of Languages, Room 101). **EF:** \$30. **Prizes:** (b/20) \$200, 125, Class 100. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:15. **Rds.:** 9:30, 12:00, 2:15, 5:30. **Contact:** Joe Ball 315-436-9008.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 20-21 OR 21, Marshall April Open
4-SS, 30/85d5, SD/1d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$45/members \$25. **(\$400/24):** \$150-100, U2000 \$80, U1700 \$70. **Reg** ends 12:15. **2 schedules: 2 day** 12:30-5:30 each day, 1 day (Rds 1-2 G/25d5) 10-11:15-12:30-5:30. Limit two byes, request at entry. NO REENTRY. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13, 20, Marshall Monday U1600
5-SS, G/85d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. **(\$450/20):** \$240-120, U1300 \$90. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:4. **Rds.:** 7 pm each Mon. Two byes available, request by Round 3. www.marshallchessclub.org.

APR. 25, Marshall Thursday Game 30!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$25, GMs free. **Prizes:** (\$530 based on 32 paid entries: \$200-100-50, U2100 \$95, U1900 \$85. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45 pm. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 3rd Long Island CC Early Spring Open
5SS, G/90 (d/5). United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. S(b/22):** \$170-120. Top U-1900, U-1500/unr. \$100 ea. Best upset \$10. **EF:** \$35. Non-LICC members +\$10. **Reg.:** 6:40-7:10 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:15 PM SHARP ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. **Info:** www.licchessclub.com. NS.

APR. 26, Marshall \$500 FIDE Blitz! (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

APR. 27, Marshall Saturday G/60!
4-SS, G/55d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **(\$540/40):** \$240-120, U2000 95, U1700 85. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **Reg.:** 11:15-11:45. **Rds.:** 12-2:30-4:45-7. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

APR. 28, Marshall Sunday G/45!
4-SS, G/40d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **Two sections: A. Open (\$360/26):** \$160-80, U2100 65, U1800 55. **B. U1500 (\$240/18):** \$120-65, U1200 55. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **Reg.:** 11:15-11:45. **Rds.:** 12-1:45-4:00-5:45. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 29, MAY 6, 13, 20, 27th Nassau Amateur Team
4-SS, 40/80. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st & Main Sts., Mineola. Open to teams of 3 (+ optional alternate). Ave rating must be U1800. May ratings used. Teams play in rating order. **EF:** \$54/team by 4/27, \$75 at site, \$10 more per non-memb. **\$S** (504 b/12 teams) 252, U1600, 1400/UR each 126. Team byes 1-4 (Last rd bye must be req before rd 3 and is irrevocable). Teams seeking players call 631 218-4440 or captihal@optonline.net. Players looking for teams \$18 by 4/27, \$25 at site, \$10 more for non-memb. **Reg** ends 7:15 PM. **Rds.:** 7:15 each Mon. **Ent:** Harold Stenzel, 80 Amy Dr., Sayville, NY 11782.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Community Chess Club of Rochester Wed Night chess!
1 game, G/80d5. Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. **EF:** \$5, CCCR members \$3. **Reg.:** 7-7:25 pm. **Rd.:** 7:30pm. www.rochesterchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Marshall Wednesday U1400!
5-SS, G/85d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$50, members \$30. **(\$450/24):** \$240-120, U1100 \$90. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7 pm each Wed. Limit two byes, request by Rd 3. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Marshall Wednesday U2000!
5-SS, 30/85d5, SD/1d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$50, members \$30. **(\$450/24):** \$240-120, U1700 \$90. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7 pm each Wed. Limit two byes, request by Rd 3. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 2, Marshall Thursday Game 30 Grand Prix!
See Grand Prix.

MAY 3, NEW! Marshall Friday U2000 Action!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **(\$360/24):** \$160-80, U1800 \$65, U1600 \$55. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open (VT)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 4, Marshall Saturday U1800
4-SS, G/40d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **(\$300/24):** \$160-80, U1500 \$60. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **Reg.:** 12:15-12:45. **Rds.:** 1-2:45-4:30-6:15. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 4, TRM 73
4SS, G/30;d5. Boys & Girls Club, 544 Broadway, Rensselaer, NY. **EF:** Free. Pre-registration required www.maketheirightmove.org. Round 1 starts at 10:00 Seven Sections.

MAY 4-5 OR 5, Marshall May Open GP
See Grand Prix.

MAY 4, 11, 18, 25, Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments!
3-SS, G/60d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. Prizes based on entries. **EF:** \$15, RCC members \$13. \$2 less for HS and Pre-HS. **Reg.:** 1-1:45 pm. **Rds.:** 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry. www.nychess.org. Also, Youth tournament every Saturday morning 10am-1pm, trophies and prizes. **EF:** \$5

MAY 5, TRM 188
4SS, G/30;d5. Riverbank State Park, 145th St. & Riverside Dr., NYC. **EF:** Free. Pre-registration required www.therightmove.org by Fri, 8:00 PM with check in by 9:15 AM Sunday for round 1 at 10:00.

MAY 7, NEW! Marshall Tuesday Action!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **(\$360/24):** \$160-80, U2100 \$65, U1800 \$55. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 9, Marshall Thursday Game 30!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$25, GMs free. **Prizes:** (\$530 based on 32 paid entries: \$200-100-50, U2100 \$95, U1900 \$85. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45 pm. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry.

MAY 10, NEW! Marshall Friday U2200 Action!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **(\$360/24):** \$160-80, U2000 \$65, U1800 \$55. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 11, Marshall Saturday U1600!
4-SS, G/40d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212 477-3716. **(\$300 b/24):** \$160-80, U1300 \$60. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **Reg.:** 12:15-12:45. **Rds.:** 1-2:45-4:30-6:15PM. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 11, Syracuse-Minoa May Open
4SS. **Rds.:** 1&2 G/60. **Rds.:** 3&4 G/90. Minoa Municipal Bldg., 240 N. Main St., Minoa, NY (Exit Kirkville Rd. E. from I 481, R. at second light). **EF:** \$30. **Prizes:** (b/20) \$200, 125, Class 100. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:15. **Rds.:** 9:30, 12:00, 2:15, 5:30. **Contact:** Joe Ball 315-436-9008.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 11-12 OR 12, Marshall May U2300!
4SS, 30/85d5, SD/1d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212 477-3716. **EF:** \$45, members \$25. **(\$540 b/40):** \$240-120, U2000/unr \$95, U1700 \$85. **Reg** ends 12:15PM. **Rds.:** 2 schedules: **2 day**, Rds 12:30-5:30 PM each day, **1 day**, (Rds 1-2 G/25d5) 10-11:15AM-12:30-5:30 PM Sun; both merge rd.3. Limit 2 byes, request at entry. NO RE-ENTRY. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 16, Marshall Thursday Game 30!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$25, GMs free. **Prizes:** (\$530 based on 32 paid entries: \$200-100-50, U2100 \$95, U1900 \$85. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45 pm. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry.

MAY 17, Marshall Friday G/45 Quads
3rd Friday every month. 3-RR, G/40d5. Open to all; quads formed by rating. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$30, members \$20, \$50 for each winner. **Reg.:** 5:15-5:45. **Rds.:** 6-7:30-9. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 17-19 OR 18-19, 21st annual New York State Open
See Grand Prix.

MAY 18, Marshall Saturday U1500
4-SS, G/40d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **(\$300/20):** \$160-80, U1200 60. **EF:** \$40, members \$20. **Reg.:** 12:15-12:45. **Rds.:** 1-2:45-4:30-6:15. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 18-19 OR 19, Marshall May Open
4-SS, 30/85d5, SD/1d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$45/members \$25. **(\$400/24):** \$150-100, U2000 \$80, U1700 \$70. **Reg** ends 12:15. **2 schedules: 2 day** 12:30-5:30 each day, 1 day (Rds 1-2 G/25d5) 10-11:15-12:30-5:30. Limit two byes, request at entry. NO REENTRY. www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 19, 47th Binghamton Monthly Tournament
4SS, G/65 d/5. **Prizes:** \$300 b/26. **Open:** \$100-\$60-\$30; **Reserve:** \$50-\$40-\$20 (U1700). **Trophies:** 1-3 Reserve section. **Advance Entry: EF's Reduced!** Open-\$20 Reserve-\$15 (U1700) \$5 more on site-cash only on site. **Schedule:** Registration on site 8:45-9:15 AM. **Rounds:** 9:30-12Noon-2:30-4:45. **Free USCF 90-day membership** (call for details) **Free** chess set & board to all new players under 18 years of age. **Mail Entry:** checks payable to: "Cordisco's Corner Store", 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com.

MAY 21, Marshall Masters!
See Grand Prix.

MAY 23, Marshall Thursday Game 30!
4-SS, G/25d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. **EF:** \$40, members \$25, GMs free. **Prizes:** (\$530 based on 32 paid entries: \$200-100-50, U2100 \$95, U1900 \$85. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45 pm. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One bye available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, Marshall Thursday Members-Only Swiss!
5-SS, G/115d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212 477-3716. Open to MCC members only. **EF:** \$30. **(\$450 b/24):** \$200-100, U2100 \$90, U1800 \$60. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7PM each Thursday. Limit 2 byes, request by rd. 3. www.marshallchessclub.org.

MAY 24, Marshall \$500 FIDE Blitz! (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 24, New Yorker Rated Beginners Tournament!
4-SS, G/30. Chess Center at New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, NYC, for Under 1200 or those not rated in any country. **EF:** \$20, free to players who (re-)join USCF with magazine, free to players also playing New Yorker Open, 5/24-27, specified Greater NY prizewinners free! Trophies to top 3. Limit 2 byes, comment by 8:15. **Reg.** ends 6:30 pm. **Rds.** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 pm. No advance entries.

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Advance or online entry \$7 less to NYSCA members (NYSCA dues \$12/year, may be paid with entry fee).

FULL DETAILS: see "Grand Prix" in this issue or chesstour.com.



PAGE 10 / FIRST MOVES

Problem I. a) 1. f3! Kxf3 2. 0-0 mate. b) 1. Re5! (1. e3? Kf3 2. 0-0 mate.) 1. ... Kxg3 2. Rg5 mate. **Problem II.** 1. Kc6 Nc7 2. Kxc7 0-0 (Fischer) 3. Qxh7 mate. **Problem III.** a) 1. Qb6 0-0 2. Qg6 mate. b) 1. Qh1 0-0-0 2. Qc6 mate. c) 1. Qxa2 Rf8 2. Qe6 mate.

PAGE 15 / CHESS TO ENJOY

Problem I. *Buenos Aires 1955:* 22. Ne6! fxe6 23. Bxe6+ Rf7 24. Qf6 wins, e.g. 24. ... Qe8 25. Rc7. **Problem II.** *Bad Pyrmont 1951:* 28. Be2 and 29. Bh5 are good, but 28. h4! is fastest in view of 29. h5 Rxc1+ 30. Rxc1+, e.g. 28. ... Kf7 2. Qg7+! Rxc7 3. Rxc7 mate. **Problem III.** *Helsinki 1952:* 23. ... g5! 24. Qxg5+ Kh8 opens the g-file and threatens ... Rg8. For example, 25. Nc2 Bh3! 26. Nxd4 Rb1+ and mates or 25. Ng4 Rg8 26. Qh4 Bxg4 27. fxg4 Qd1+ 28. Rf1 Rxc4+. **Problem IV.** *Belgrade 1954:* Don't take credit for 33. Rxc5+ unless you also saw the answer to 33. ... Kf7! (33. ... fxg5 34. Qxf8 mate). It is 34. Rxf6+! Kxf6 35. Qxf8+ Kxc5 (35. ... Qf7 36. Rf5+) 36. h4+ Kxh4 37. Qf4+. **Problem V.** *Wijk aan Zee 1971:* 34. ... Rxb3+! 35. Bxb3 Qd3+ 36. Bc2 Qb5+ and mates. Or 36. Rac2 Qxb3+ and 36. Rcc2 Qd1+ 37. Rc1 Qxb3+. **Problem VI.** *Belgrade 1946:* 22. Nxb7! leads to pretty mates after 22. ... gxf5 23. Nxf6+ Kg7 24. Qh5!, e.g. 24. ... Kxf6 25. Qg5 mate and 24. ... Rh8 25. Qg5+ Kf8 26. Qh6+! Rxb6 27. Bxb6

mate. And if 22. ... Kxh7 23. Ne7! White clears a path for Qh5+—23. ... Bxe7 24. Qh5+ Kg8 25. Bxc6 fxg6 26. Qxg6+ Kh8 27. Rxe7 and mates

PAGE 17 / ABCS OF CHESS

Problem I. Fork: Black gains a piece for a pawn with the fork 1. ... e4. **Problem II.** Pin: Black breaks through with 1. ... Qh4+, when 2. g3 is crushed by 2. ... Nxc3. **Problem III.** Trapping: Black traps the d3-bishop by 1. ... c4. **Problem IV.** Skewer: After 1. ... Qh4+ 2. Ke2 Bg4+, White is up the creek. **Problem V.** Pin: White loses some pawns after 1. ... axb4. **Problem VI.** Driving off: Black chases away the d2-bishop by 1. ... e3.

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-94	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

PAGE 45 / BENKO'S BAFFLERS

Problem I. 1. Ke5 (1. e4? Kf2! 2. e5 h5 leads only to a book draw.) 1. ... Kf2 2. Kf4 h5 3. e4 Kg2 4. e5 (White can only draw with 4. Kg5? Kg3 5. Kxh5 Kf4) 4. ... h4 5. e6 h3 6. e7 h2 7. e8=Q h1=Q 8. Qe2+ Kg1 (No better is 8. ... Kh3 9. Qg4+ Kh2 10. Qg3 mate.) 9. Kg3 wins. This mini study has practical value. **Problem II.** 1. g7 Rg4+ 2. Kf3 (White even loses after 2. Kf2? Kf6) 2. ... Kh6 3. e7! (White falls victim

to Black's stalemate ideas with 3. Kxg4? d2 4. g8=Q d1=Q+ 5. Kh4 Qh5+ 6. Kg3 Qf3+) 3. ... d2 4. Ke2 Rxc7 5. Ng6 (It is stalemate after 5. e8=Q Re7+! 6. Qxe7 d1=Q+ 7. Kxd1) 5. ... Rg8 6. Nf8 Rg5 7. Ng6! wins (The other tries only draw: 7. e8=Q? Re5+! 8. Qxe5 d1=Q+ 9. Kxd1 stalemate; 7. e8=R Rd5 8. Kd1 Rd6 9. Re6+ Rxe6 10. Nxe6 Kg6= 11. Nd4 Kf6 12. Nb5 Ke6 13. Nxa7 Kd7 14. Nb5 Kc6 15. Kxd2 Kb6 16. a7 Kb7). During the play there are repeated knight sacrifices.



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MY BEST MOVE

MICHAEL CHIANG

2012 K-12 CHAMPION

In December 2002, with the tender rating of 1062, I travelled to Atlanta, Georgia and began my scholastic career playing in the 2002 K-12 Grade Nationals. I got five out of six and came in sixth place. Since then, I have played in every grade nationals. Throughout the years, I have had mixed results, but I always came back. This past December, in 2012, a decade since my arrival into scholastic chess, I entered my last grade nationals as the top seed. In 10 years, I had amassed rating points, eventually reaching 2278. Those 10 years can not be defined by the rating points I have gained, or the new knowledge of the game, but rather, by the experiences of celebrating valuable wins and dealing with tough losses.

“My Best Move” came in the sixth round of the 2008 K-12 Championships, where I ultimately finished in fourth place. Going into this round, I had 4½ after five rounds, tied for first with three other players. I was paired with Ryan Moon, the top seed in the 8th Grade Section.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF O PHOTOGRAPHY

“Those ten years [are defined] by the experiences of celebrating valuable wins and dealing with tough losses.”

Moon over Orlando

Ryan Joseph Moon (2113)
Michael Chiang (2013)
2008 Grade Nationals (6)



16. ... Nf3!

It takes Fritz a minute to suggest Ng4,

and even after Fritz thinks Black is winning for a while, until finally settling on a slight advantage for Black.

17. hxg4 Nxg4+ 18. Kg1 Nxf2 19. Qc1 Qe3?!

Best is 19. ... Bd4 holding a slight advantage.

20. Nf1



Best is 20. Nf3 with equality.

20. ... Nh3+

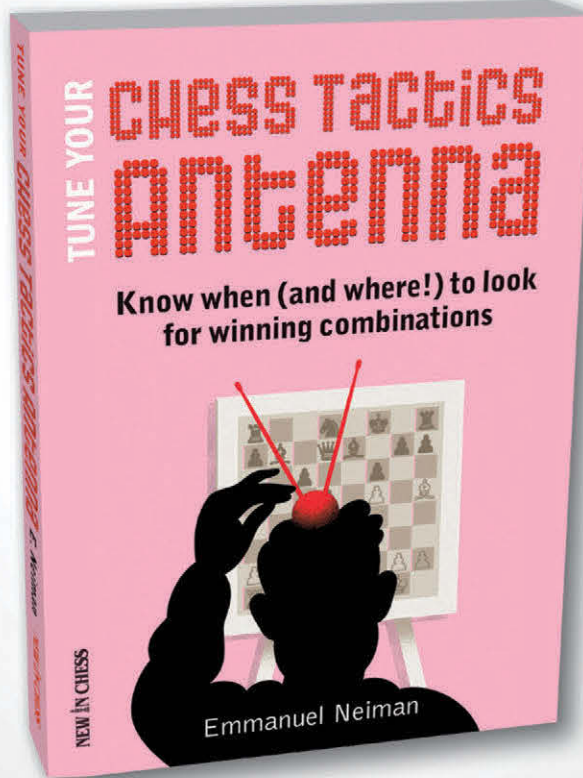
Black has a forced mate in 9.

21. Kh2 Qg1+ 22. Kxh3 Bc8+ 23. g4 Bxg4+ 24. Kxg4 Qxg2+ 25. Ng3 h5+ 26. Kh4 Bf6+ 27. Qg5 Bxg5+ 28. Kxg5 Qxg3+ 29. Kh6 Qf4 mate.

After winning this game, I played for the grade national title for the first time. Unfortunately I lost to Hengyi Wu to allow him to win the championship, but that experience set up for my first national title the following year. ♣

Read more about the National K-12 Championship at Chess Life Online, December archives.

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