Magnus Carlsen wins his second Grand Slam Final then later breaks Kasparov’s record for highest rating.
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Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information and email Barbara DeMaro at bdsucf@aol.com (845-527-1167)

U.S. Chess Trust

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor. Write or send an email to Barbara DeMaro, bdsucf@aol.com for this amount. Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax-deductible. A 501(c)(3) organization. BD 08/03
Editor’s Letter

No, Jeff Foxworthy did not write our cover story this month, “Are you smarter than a SUPER GM?” Our roving international reporter GM Ian Rogers stands in as host as he presents some of the key moments in games from the Bilbao Grand Slam Final (see page 20) and asks you to see if you can come up with a better plan than did the world’s best. This includes world-number-one and our cover boy, GM Magnus Carlsen. Of course, you get to make your decision in the comfort of your own home, without the clock ticking and without the whole chess world watching your decision in real time over the Internet. Carlsen seems immune to these distractions though, for as we were finalizing this issue, we learned that he had reached an unofficial rating of 2864, breaking Kasparov’s record by 13 points. Suddenly Kasparov’s earlier prediction that Carlsen could reach 2900 doesn’t look as unlikely as when he first made this (outlandish?) prediction. With storylines such as these, this should be an exciting year in the chess world, so here’s to your chess life, and happy new year!  
- Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: JANUARY

Americans Abroad

In January, many of our top players go abroad, occasionally to escape frigid weather but more often to participate in elite chess competitions. Reigning U.S. Chess Champion Hikaru Nakamura will be playing in Tata Steel in Wijk aan Zee (January 11-27, 2013), along with World #1 Magnus Carlsen and Italian-American GM Fabiano Caruana. GM Gata Kamsky and our top two female players, Anna Zatonskii and Irina Krush, will be at the 2013 Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival (January 22-31). Reigning U.S. Women’s Champion Krush will be taking on a new role as commentator in Gibraltar along with GM Simon Williams. Look for coverage of both events on CLO.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Chess: Look for U.S. Chess Scoop coverage of the Liberty Bell Open over the long January 18-21 weekend and subscribe to USChessFederation at YouTube to be the first to catch all the new videos. Also find coverage of the Golden State Open, held the same weekend in northern California.

Greg on Chess: Find new exclusive editorials by U.S. Chess League founder IM Greg Shahade, including a piece on the improvement of our latest generation of young rising chess masters, such as World Youth Champions Sam Sevian and Kayden Troff. Both gold medalists are part of the Young Stars program in partnership with Kasparov Chess Foundation and the Saint Louis Chess Club.

CLO Countdown: Because of the hurried pace of the chess news cycle, it’s easy to miss some of the most interesting articles on Chess Life Online—last year’s Best of CLO winner was “Choosing to Break 2200” by Matan Prilleltensky. Count down the top ten articles from 2012 and let us know if you agree.

Howard Goldowsky Our interviewer of IM Jonathan Hawkins is the author of Engaging Pieces: Interviews and Prose for the Chess Fan and the editor of Masters of Technique: The Mongoose Anthology of Chess Fiction. His next book, part memoir, will be about the challenges of improving at chess as an adult, as well as the relationship chess has with, among other things, science, psychology, Zen, and sport.

GM Ian Rogers Our Bilbao reporter is our regular contributor to both Chess Life and Chess Life Online of international events.

Betsy Carina Dynako GM Alejandro Ramirez is profiled by Dynako, a Chicago based event and portrait photographer with credits in chess publications world wide as well as the Wall Street Journal and Sports Illustrated.

Al Lawrence “Faces Across the Board” is compiled monthly by Lawrence, 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: Sao Paulo, Brazil, hosted the first leg of the 2012 Grand Slam Final.
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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

Interviewed by Macauley Peterson in the November 2012 Chess Life, GM Maurice Ashley calls for experimentation at the organizational level of major chess events. The aim would be to attract more sponsorship and generate favorable publicity. Tournaments do this better than matches, the GM aver, as do I. The prestigious match tournament events of St. Petersburg 1896 and World Championship 1948 did exactly that.

So, in this inventive spirit, what can, what should, be done about future world championships?

The advantages of a world championship final of three players instead of two are worth enumerating. A single game played each day of a six-day week. A week comprising a full round with each player playing each opponent twice, once with white and once with black. Each player has two free days. The venue has activity every day—with an option of Sunday for adjourned games—and the arbiter will be fully employed, so sponsors get guaranteed value.

Journalists and commentators have a field day for gossip and variety of technical content. With a final of three players instead of two the elimination preliminaries will be less protracted.

Drawbacks? If players object to the preparation load, this will be the same for each and should encourage emphasis on live over-the-board skill at the expense of labor-intensive searching for theoretical novelties and over-reliance on memory: energies must be conserved. The players will soon come around when they see publicity and sponsorship soar.

Chess Life’s New Look

Praise! Kudos! WOW!

As a reader of Chess Life for about 50 years, I love your stellar improvements! “The Sicilian Defense” fiction piece by Darin Kennedy was outstanding (October, 2012). The Chess Journalists of America should have this on their radar for an award already.

It is this fiction addition that forced me to write this letter. I am thrilled that Chess Life took the leap to chess-related fiction!

Fiction is art and the chess covered in Chess Life magazine sometimes reaches further than logic and is also art. The games shown are so often martial arts of the mind or mathematics in motion, but then there are the games that are inspired, somehow moved by some deeper aspect of the human character that touches our sense of wonder—and they are art!

For the last several months, I have been looking forward to each new issue as never before. Full color makes your copy the equal of every other magazine being printed today. The technical and technique of magazine publishing now matches anything else out there in monthly printed journalism.

The content changes have been spectacular. The “Faces Across the Board” is brilliant and helps bind the entire U.S. Chess community together. The “My Best Move” column comes across as a “last word” or a “Now for the Rest of the Story” at the end of the magazine and is fresh, personal, fun, funny and revealing.

Revitalized—absolutely. Fresh, clear and bold—I’ve never been happier to be a life member! Please keep it up and a sincere, “Thank You!” to the dedicated USCF Publications Department.

CORRECTIONS

In the November issue, we listed GM Maurice Ashley as becoming the first black master in 1993. Unfortunately, we left out the word “International.” As Daaim Shabazz, webmaster of thechessdrum.net wrote us:

“Maurice was preceded by many players as national master, but he was the first black international master (1993) in the U.S. Walter Harris was the first [black master] and he got the title sometime in 1963. He was in the 1959 U.S. Junior Open and 1959 U.S. Open and was a Fischer contemporary.”

We had some missing photo credits in the November issue: The photo of Bill Hall and Chouchanik Airapetian on page 4 was taken by Al Lawrence. The photo of GM Viswanathan Anand on page 9 was taken by Chris Roberts.

Chess Life regrets the errors.
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(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) $5 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).
Reaching Fighting Capacity
From anti-apartheid activist to chess organizer

By DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM

Participants in the Louisville Metro Police Department Chess Classic, held on July 7, 2012 at the downtown Louisville police gym. This match was between the LMPD and the Chess Ambassadors; other teams also competed. This tournament was sponsored by L&N Federal Credit Union, the LMPD Credit Union, The Fraternal Order of Police, and The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club.

In June of 2012, Corbin Seavers of The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club contacted me regarding the club’s upcoming benefit dinner (which was held on November 9, 2012) and its website, www.pottershousechess.com. From web surfing, I learned that Corbin was active in the anti-apartheid solidarity movement. Now he is the co-founder and director of The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club. I interviewed Corbin via e-mail to find out how his past influenced his decision to become involved in chess organizing.

What inspired you to start The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club?

During the summer of 2010, I taught 13 young people chess at The Potter’s House summer camp. The summer camp is sponsored by Cable Missionary Baptist Church and has been running for over seven years.

The response to my chess classes was such that Dr. Anthony Middleton, senior pastor at Cable Missionary Baptist Church, strongly urged me to turn The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club into a full-time scholastic chess program. That is exactly what I did in September 2010 (our official founding month and year).

The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club was a dream come true. Before that time, I taught chess in other places around Louisville, Kentucky. I often hoped for the resources necessary to build a full-time scholastic chess program. My role model was Chess-in-the-Schools, located in Manhattan, New York.

All I needed to get started was a base of operations and that is exactly what Dr. Middleton offered me. It easily can be said Dr. Middleton inspired and motivated me to start The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club.

My other inspiration was my daughter, Sarah, my first and only child. At 7-years-old, Sarah started competing in rated tournaments, including weekly open (cash prize) tournaments organized by local chess icon, Steve Dillard.

At local scholastic chess tournaments I noticed far too few black students, particularly too few black females, competing. Out of 150 players, you could count on one hand with two broken fingers the number of black students participating and more often than not there would be no
black females other than Sarah.

**What is your chess background?**

My chess background is rather modest. My late father taught me chess when I was 12 years old. I played on the high school chess team for a year. My record was one win, one draw and one loss. During college I stopped playing. I was more interested in pursuing other interests, namely girls and campus politics.

I never even thought about chess much until my daughter, Sarah, came into my life. I taught Sarah chess when she was 6-years-old. She participated in her first rated tournament at the age of 7. She continues playing to this day.

My father really got caught up in the whole Bobby Fischer era. He bought a fancy set with Roman figures and several chess books. At the time Fischer meant nothing to me. My sports heroes were Muhammad Ali, Pete Rose, and Joe Morgan.

I only cared about chess because my father cared about chess. I only learned the game because my father taught it to me. That is why today I tell fathers chess is one way you can build a common interest and hobby with your child. It brought my father and me closer together, and I can say that it has definitely helped me in building a closer relationship with my daughter.

I saw how chess helped Sarah. It made her more confident and, according to Sarah, helped with her math too. This past year Sarah got straight A’s in math! The year before Sarah scored above the state average on a math competency test.

Just as chess helped my daughter, I believe that chess can help other low income and minority youth. The mission of The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club is to reach those youth.

**How many children has the program reached?**

Since September 2010 we have easily reached over 150 youth (during the school year). We have taught 20 youth in our chess camps. My goal is to reach over 180 youth during the 2012-2013 school year and 75-100 youth during the 2013 summer months. One particular youth, “Mike,” stands out in my memory.

At an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. tournament, a group of my students said, “Coach, Mike needs you.” When I found Mike he was crying. He was upset over having lost his first three games. Mike insisted on my taking him home! He had no interest whatsoever in playing the last two rounds of the tournament.

I spoke with Mike, encouraged him, coached him, and said, I simply could not leave the tournament at this time. He would either have to sit out the last two games or play the last two games. Mike decided to play the last two games. I was very proud of him! Here are some excerpts from a letter Mike recently sent me: “I’ve won so many trophies. Listening to your advice in chess. I know what I’m capable of when playing chess. You have contributed to me a lot.”

Success is not always about winning or losing. It often is just hanging in there and never giving up. That day Mike was a champion in my eyes because he decided not to give up. Today Mike has several trophies in his bedroom because of that decision he made that fateful day not to quit.

**What is your background in the anti-apartheid solidarity movement?**

I am one of six founding members of the Berea College Students United Against Apartheid. As I remember it, we started that solidarity campus organization in September 1979 in commemoration of the assassination of Steven Bantu Biko’s assassination while in South African police custody.

I later was a co-founder of The Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund based in Hartford, Connecticut in June 1985. The other co-founder was Nontombi Tutu, a stalwart Pan Africanist who amongst other anti-apartheid heroes personally introduced me to Winnie Mandela, Johnson Mlambo, and Zwelethu Sisulu.

I also self-published a small book, *Apartheid: The untold story*, back in 1992. Sometimes you can find copies of it at www.albbris.com. My long-time, deep, and intimate involvement in the anti-apartheid solidarity movement taught me several things. One was the importance of offering struggling peoples the skills and the education they require to increase their fighting capacity to change their lives, and the lives of their loved ones, for the better.

What I am doing through The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club is very similar in that objective. It is more than about the sport of chess, it is about offering young people the skills and the tools they will need to successfully compete in a globalized 21st century economy. At The Potter’s House Scholastic Chess Club we also use the sport of chess as a conduit to teach character development and the value of higher education.

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**Faces Across the Board**

Bill Chen
Pennsylvania
$1,000,000 in poker winnings
Chen, an analyst for trading firm SIG, is also a world-famous poker player and co-author of *The Mathematics of Poker*. But when I phoned him, he was competing in the North American Bridge Championship. “It’s one of my things,” he said. Chess is now another. Studying with poker star and former U.S. Women’s Chess Champ Jen Shahade, he’s taking our game seriously for the first time. “It’s much like poker. You can be dynamic and creative for a long period. Then, one mistake, and you lose all your chips.”

Steve Dillard
Kentucky
Directed 3,000 tournaments
NTD Dillard teaches six chess-for-credit classes a day, involving more than 100 Kammerer MS students. He directs weekly local tournaments and is in demand at national events. At the National High School Championship in Lexington, he was Kasparov’s designated greeter. Running late, the two of them rushed into a standing ovation from the crowd of more than 1,000. “Garry turned to me and said, ‘Mr. Dillard, I didn’t realize you were so famous!’”

Ed Scimia
Connecticut
Curler and Freelance Author

Intrigued by its strategies after watching curling in the Winter Olympics, Ed is a regular on the ice. “I know of no doping scandals in the sport,” he laughed. Professionally, he provides all the chess content for About.com, writing 10 articles a month. A graduate of Syracuse University journalism school, he fills up his work schedule writing about a wide range of topics. Another of his interests, laughably bad movies, inspired Scimia’s new book, *So Bad, It’s Good*, now available at Amazon.
BRITISH IM JONATHAN HAWKINS HAS lived the chess player’s dream. Ten years ago, as an 18-year-old 1700-player, he decided to get good—and then he did. He got very good. He recently broke the 2500-rating barrier required to earn the grandmaster (GM) title, and now, with two recent GM norms under his belt, this self-taught once fledgling player is one norm, one nice performance, away from a miraculous achievement.

“I am often asked by people to give advice ...” wrote Hawkins in his query letter to Mongoose Press, “... so I began to reconstruct the path I took [to international master].” This path was laid out in instructive detail for his new book, Amateur to IM: Proven Ideas and Training Methods (Mongoose Press, $29.95).

Amateur to IM: Proven Ideas and Training Methods

Jam-packed with discussion about the endgame, one could argue that its subtitle misleads. Yet Hawkins writes ostensibly about the final phase of the game. The endgame positions merely serve as a means for a more general discussion about thought process and systematic training methods. The strength of Hawkins’ writing lies in how he systematically builds up the reader’s understanding of chess from simple ideas to complex ones. Through this approach he draws important connections between the endgame, middlegame, and opening. Hawkins leads the reader along the same path he himself took. Hours of deliberate practice along this path produced for Hawkins a unified perspective of chess not often seen in players who train isolated skills independently. Isolated work on openings and tactics were necessary for his growth, he says, but certainly not sufficient. He firmly believes that his unified approach to chess training, with the endgame at its core, places every aspect of his chess ability on a rock-solid foundation.

Amateur to IM includes three main parts. Part 1, “Thinking Techniques,” includes a sample of “basic” positions that Hawkins breaks down using fundamental thinking techniques (“calculating with a goal in mind,” “planning,” “building-block positions,” and more). Part 2, “Principles and Essential Theory,” builds upon Part 1, using a slightly more technical approach. (For example, Hawkins explains how subtle variations in the Lucena and Philidor positions relate to building blocks and focused calculation.) Part 3, “Endgame Explorations,” covers advanced topics that became interesting to Hawkins as he got stronger. One such topic is how the Carlsbad pawn structure can evolve into an endgame, and for Queen’s Gambit Declined players this chapter alone is worth the price of the book.

In October, I took the opportunity to interview Hawkins by e-mail. I wanted to learn more about his ideas, especially those regarding the interdependence between the three phases of a chess game. To my delight, Hawkins agreed to supplement his answers with a lengthy and illustrative excerpt from his new book. The interview and excerpt follow, below.

Howard Goldowsky: Why do you feel that the endgame is important for an aspiring player’s development?

Jonathan Hawkins: In general, players are well prepared in the openings, tactically quite proficient, know the standard middlegame themes, but have a gap in their endgame knowledge. Those first things I listed aren’t so difficult to study, but the endgame is. If your endgame is below the standard of the other facets of your game, you will be turning wins into draws and draws into losses. (The endgame) also improves your understanding as a whole. For instance, [by studying the endgame] you will start to see the long-term consequences of your decisions in the opening and in the middlegame.

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Howard Goldowsky: How should a class-player divide his training time between work on the opening, middlegame, endgame, tactics, and other areas? Obviously it’s different for everyone. Just because two players have the same...
rating doesn’t mean their ability is composed the same way. It’s a cliché, but a true one, that in general players spend way too much time on openings. Don’t fall into the trap of convincing yourself that once you organize your openings completely, then you will move onto other areas of study. That day will never come. At least it still hasn’t for me. In terms of memorizing variations, especially for players rated below about 2000, I would tone [opening study] way down, maybe 10% of your study time or less.

Tactical puzzles/analytical training is quite important. I would give 20% of time to this. The remaining 70% is the part players find difficult. You need to study a combination of master games, your own games, and be a student of the endgame.

How is the endgame linked to the opening and middlegame? Can you give an example from Amateur to IM where you explain how endgame knowledge helps evaluate an opening or middlegame position? Decisions taken in the opening (for instance, creating a certain structure, creating a certain material imbalance) create consequences often not felt until the endgame.

I will show you a nice example from my book, which comes to mind. It’s actually quite a positional lesson too.

We start with a challenge for the reader.

The rules of the challenge are the following:
Place a black bishop on any (unoccupied) square on the board. Once the bishop is placed it will be White to play. You can put the bishop on any square, d4, f4, c6, h1, wherever you like. The challenge is to find a square for the bishop which creates a drawn position.

The obvious answer is Bd4:

The point is that after 10. … Ke8 11. Rc7! wins the bishop, so Black’s king is forced into a fatal cut.

10. … Kc8 11. Rd5

Followed by 12. Rxe5 and the white king will reach the key square on f6. White wins.

What about placing the bishop on a light square such as d7?

(see diagram top of next column)

This time the bishop can attack the e4-pawn and cover light squares when the white king attempts to approach. This is much more important than the apparent weakness of the e5-pawn. Of course, if White can attack e5 with both king and rook the pawn will fall, but as we will see this cannot be favorably achieved.

The unit of e5+Bd4 looks very solid, but there is a problem. The bishop is condemned to a purely defensive role. Moreover, Black has no counterplay and no hope of fighting for the light squares. He must sit and wait. Black’s defensive plan will be simple (keep the bishop and pawn connected and move the king) but not necessarily successful.

In fact, the position is a relatively easy win for White. For example, with White to move the game may proceed:


The light squares are extremely weak, and White has no problem advancing into the Black position.

4. … Bc3 5. Rh5

Threatening Rxe5(+), after which the result of the exchanges would be a lost king and pawn endgame.

5. … Kf8 6. Kd6 Ke8

The most stubborn, after 6. … Bd4 7. Kd7 Bc3 8. Rf5+ Kg7 9. Ke6 White will capture the e-pawn next move, and reach the key square on d6.


White waits until the bishop moves to an unprotected square. The reason for this is given in the next note.

9. … Bc3 10. Rd7!

This is a game Krishnan Sasikiran-Magnus Carlsen, Bosna Sarajevo, 2006 after White’s 36th move. Black is down a clean Exchange (in material), but clearly has some compensation. The black pieces are actively placed, apart from the bishop on f7. The bishop on f7 does not combine well with the black kingside pawns. White is tied to the defense of the d4-pawn and his bishop does not have an effective post. Both kings are exposed, but White’s more so. If the black bishop could effectively route to c6 then White could have some problems. Weighing all of this up, it seems Black has reasonable play; however, I still think Black is happy to draw this position. White’s material could easily tell once the black pieces are evicted from their posts.

The logical attempt to improve the bishop with 36. … Be8 shows how quickly the

1. Rb6+ Ke7 2. Kc4 Be6+ 3. Kc5 Bf7

Already it is apparent White is experiencing much greater difficulties this time. The bishop, pawn, and king work together to cover both light and dark squares.

4. Rb7+ Kf6 5. Kd6

Initially it seems White is doing very well, but the weakness of his e4-pawn prevents him from any further progress.

5. … Bg6 6. Rd4 Bh7 7. Kd5 Bg8+ 8. Kc5 Bf7

In fact, the position is a draw. By combining counterattack against the e4-pawn with restricting the white king, Black is able to hold the position. Note how the active bishop combines with the pawn to work as a unit, controlling squares of both colors.

Keeping all of that in mind, let’s jump into this position:

This cannot be favorably achieved.
Encouraging White to exchange queens.  

44. Qxh5+ Qxe5 45. dxe5 Kf6 46. Rd8

Attempting to hold the e5-pawn will lead to a position such as 46. Ra1 Kf5 47. Ra5 Bd7 48. Kg2 Bc6 where White will be tied forever to the weak pawns on f3 and e5.

46. ... Kf5 47. Rh6 Kxe5 48. Rxh6 Bf5 49. Kg2 Be6 50. Kf2 Bf5 51. h4

Attempting to improve the king with 51. Ke2 Be6 52. Kd2 Bf5 53. Kc3 Be6 54. Kb4 is also fruitless. After 54. ... Bd5 White cannot hold the f3-pawn.

51. ... gxh4 52. Rxd4 Be6 53. Rh5+ Kf6 54. Rc5 Bd3 55. Ke2 Ke6 56. Kd3 Bd5

The bishop finds a strong diagonal. With f3 under attack White cannot make any further progress. Although some accuracy is still required, the position is drawn.

How do you pick specific training positions like these? How do you incorporate and work with an engine? What are the engine's strengths and weaknesses? Well, you don't need to memorize that many specific theoretical positions. Some are important. I detail what I consider to be vital in the book. Mainly it's about amassing knowledge of patterns and principles.

But let us say I have a specific position (or class of position, such as a specific material balance) that I want to master. My usual method is to play the position several times against a playing partner or an engine, without studying the position at all. In this way you see the problems in the position really clearly. Afterwards I would study the analysis of the position and then play it several more times.

It's tempting to say engines are weak in the endgame, but in reality the best engines are just very strong at chess, period. They will evaluate the vast majority of positions very well. Of course they have a weakness in positions where the static evaluation is less important than whether or not one side can make progress. For instance, in an opposite-colored bishop endgame the computer may tell you the side with an extra pawn is +1.50, which means very little. Similarly it may struggle with a very technical position when it cannot calculate to the end.

What kinds of metrics do you use to evaluate your training progress? Certainly there are no endgame-specific ratings. True, but you can see fairly easily whether or not you are misplaying endgames and whether or not you are converting winning positions and saving drawing positions. Also you will know yourself if you understood what you were doing or not during the game.

The goal is to become a better player in general, anyway, so we want our overall rating to improve, thanks to our increased chess knowledge and confidence.

Besides your book, what training tools or reference works would you recommend to a class-player interested in endgame training? Endgame theory is fairly static, and there are plenty of good reference books out there which will give you the theoretical positions. Personally I enjoy the old works like Averbakh's Comprehensive Chess Endings, and Rook Endings by Sмыслов and Левенfish, but there are modern books which will give the same information. I wouldn't recommend using these to try to memorize a lot of theoretical positions all at once, though. One position at a time and in sufficient depth to be able to use it in a practical game. Otherwise it's just very useful.

Most of your time should be spent increasing your feel for positions. I found Shereshevsky and Slutsky's Mastering the Endgame series very useful. For those stronger players who are willing to work hard, Lutz's Endgame Secrets is a wonderful book.

Where do you see your future as a chess player? I'm pretty close to the GM title, so that's my goal for the moment. Beyond that, I don't really think too much about it. I would certainly like to write again. I have a lot more to say on all kinds of chess topics.

What motivated you to write Amateur to IM? A lot of the book is based on positions and ideas that I've studied myself over the years, so in a way the project has been in production for a long time. Compiling the book itself was a natural progression. I thought I had interesting things to say. I thought I was filling something of a void in chess literature, and I thought I could help guide players to improvement.

What were your most and least favorite parts of the writing process? Sometimes what you want to write is crystal clear in your mind and you can't type it fast enough. Those are the enjoyable parts.

Several times I got really bogged down in analysis because you have to get the assessment correct, and the computer is no help. You can spend two days analyzing a position, then on the third day you find a refutation which ruins everything. It's tough because all this time you have something completely different in your mind that you really want to write about, bursting to get out.
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BECOME A BENEFACTOR
SPECIAL REFEREES: THE FORGOTTEN RULE

By Tim Just

A quick and easy way for tournament directors to deal with a player appeal, while still at the tournament site, is to use a Special Referee. Special Referees are one phone call away and can be used in place of an on-site Appeals Committee. A contact list of those experienced national tournament directors, volunteering their time and expertise, is a buried treasure hiding in plain sight on the USCF web page.

Phil Smith, USCF IT Director and Webmaster, suggests two really good ways to access that list: www.uschess.org/content/view/11939/668/ or alternatively, click on Clubs & Tournaments > Tournament Directors > Special Referees.

I suggest downloading and printing this list to keep with your other tournament supplies, like in your rulebook. If you have computer-adverse tournament director friends, do them a favor and print them a copy for their records. By the way, Special Referees on that list also make pretty good consultants even when a player appeal is not on deck.

Special Referees—rule 21J—were invented in the latter half of the last century as an alternative to the cumbersome on-site Appeals Committee process. In the pre-digital age that list of volunteers appeared in the printed Ratings Supplement. When the supplements ceased publication, and morphed into the downloadable monthly files we have today, we displaced a lot of extras including that list of Special Referee volunteers.

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It’s Coming.

SuperNationals V

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See TLA on page 53
EONS AGO, WHEN GIANT NEWSPAPER editors trod the earth, they would send reporters to train stations, steamship docks and airports when word leaked out that a celebrity, even a minor “celeb,” was due to arrive. That’s how I ended up at Kennedy Airport one afternoon waiting to interview a passenger named Thomas Austin Preston Jr.

Preston was a folk hero, at least among poker folk, who knew him by his handle, Amarillo Slim. He was renowned for, among other things, this advice to amateurs who choose to risk their own cash money: “Look around the table,” Slim said. “If you don’t see a sucker, get up—because you’re the sucker.”

Slim was happy when my photographer offered him a ride with us into Manhattan. But as we cruised along the Van Wyck Expressway and I peppered him with questions, he refused to give me anything newsworthy. “I’m here to see Santy Claus,” he said.

So, I decided to use this unique opportunity to seek professional advice. I explained that I was always getting bluffed when there was a big pot. Slim narrowed his eyes as he looked at me and said, “Well, then your heart isn’t as big as a pea.”

That’s how I confirmed my official status in the world of games: I’m a wimp. In poker, I get bluffed. In chess, I offer draws.

A draw?
GM Andy Soltis
GM Roman Dzindzichashvili
Boston 1988

(see diagram top of next column)

But I didn’t dare offer a draw in this position. I was dead lost: Two pawns down and with three minutes (compared with Black’s half hour) to reach move 50. The game headed to its natural result with 35 ... Qc6 36. Qd4+ Kf7 37. Qh4+ Ke7 38. Qd4 Qe5+ 39. Kh2 Qxe2+ 40. Kxe2 Nxe4 41. Qf2

Black threatens to mate (38. ... Qc3+ and ... Qb2 mate) or win the bishop (38. ... Qxe6) or a rook (38. ... Qe4+). White might be able to fight on after something like 38. Rf1+ and 39. Rg7 but Black has all the winning chances. But I offered a draw.

Wimpiness reveals itself at much stronger levels than I played in. Supergrandmasters are so afraid of the Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez these days that they avoid it with scaredy-cat moves like h3, a3 and d3. Some do the same in the Sicilian Defense.

After Peter Leko played passively as White in a 2000 game, Garry Kasparov sneered, “As long as Leko plays a3, h3 in the Sicilian Defense I cannot leave big-time chess!”

Boris Spassky said to excel in chess you needed a quality he called “spine.” In a July 20, 2001 interview with Izvestia he named Alexei Shirov as the most creative and talented young player of the day. “But Shirov has insufficient spine,” he added.

Some would argue that wimp-out draw offers are the result of psychological inflexibility. It’s the inability to reset yourself emotionally when a lost or bad position changes dramatically.

World Champion Vishy Anand told Chess magazine in 2010 that there are players like Anatoly Karpov who have plenty of resetting ability: “He could have a really bad position for the first 30 moves and then his opponent would make one mistake and Karpov will start playing for a win immediately.”
Draw?
Now it’s your turn to win drawn positions. In each of these six positions the player whose turn it was to move accepted a draw—or offered one that was immediately accepted. Your task is to find what they missed. In each case there is a move that leads to a forced win of a decisive amount of material—or, in one case, a mate. For solutions see page 71.

On the other hand, Anand added, “There are other people that are so relieved at having escaped that they cannot play for a win anymore.”

This is probably a form of the phenomenon called Loss Aversion that I wrote about some time ago. When you survive a near-death experience you can become so elated by the prospect of a draw that it never occurs to you that you can play for more. For example:

King’s Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E95)
GM Helgi Gretarsson
GM Andy Soltis
Bermuda International 1999

Amarillo Slim used to say he didn’t play cards, he played people. At this point we were both in time pressure and we weren’t playing chess, we were playing clock.
30. Nc4 h5 31. g3? b5 32. Ne5 Nxe5+ 33. Nc6! Qc7 34. Bxe5+ Rxe5 35. Nxb8 Qxb8+ 36. Kh1 Rf6 37. Rg1 Qh4


The strange thing is I knew I had reached 40 moves, the time control. I could have taken 40 or 50 minutes to look for more than the perpetual check staring me in the face. So, instead of 41. ... Rf3!, winning, I played 41. ... Qe1+? 42. Qg1 Qe4+ ...

... and offered a draw.

But there was one example that was worse. It was played back in the days of adjournments, so I could have sealed my move and ...

U.S. versus USSR
Vitaly Tseshkovsky
Andy Soltis
World Student Team Championship, Dresden 1969

It was in a U.S.-USSR match, always a big deal during the Cold War. I had been daring my opponent to find a mate in our mutual time pressure. He could have drawn by perpetual checks at various points. But he never lacked spine and played 34. Qe3+ g5 35. Qf2 Qe4 36. Rf6+ Rg6 37. Rf8.

His attack was over and I was three pawns up. I could have given a few checks and sealed my 40th move. I’d have at least 24 hours to find the win.

But by now you know what happened. I made the checks, 37. ... Qh4+ 38. Kh1 Qh5+ 39. Ke1 Qh1+ 40. Kd2 and offered a draw.

Why? The only explanation I can think of is ... Well, I already had one, from Amarillo Slim.
ONE ADVANTAGE OF CASTLING ON opposite sides of the board is that the players are freer to move the pawns on the side lodging the enemy king, since that doesn’t necessarily expose the player’s own king to attack. In such cases, winning is often a matter of beating the other player to the punch. That is, by getting there first, one stops the defender in his or her tracks, and the counterattack never gets going. An example of that kind of one-sided battering is the game George Alan Thomas versus Mario Monticelli (Black) from the encounter between England and Italy in the 1933 Folkestone Olympiad. Once Thomas began his assault, it was as if Black’s play stopped completely. The game began:

Ruy Lopez, Deferred Steinitz (C73)
George Alan Thomas (ENG)
Mario Monticelli (ITA)
Folkestone Olympiad 1933


8. Qd2 Par Score 5

- White could also play 8. Nc3. Either way, White is getting ready to castle queenside.
- The move, 8. ... Ng6

8. ... Ng6

9. Nc3 Par Score 5

- White develops, still with the possibility of queenside castling.

9. ... Be7

10. h4 Par Score 5

- In anticipation of Black castling kingside, White commences kingside operations. Of course he could have castled himself, on the queenside, which gets full credit.

10. ... 0-0

- Monticelli castles kingside, allowing his knight to be driven to the corner, inasmuch as he sees how he can bring it back into play. All the same, he might have tried to hold his ground with 10. ... h5.

11. h5 Par Score 5

- White wastes no time. He repositions his queen-rook to support a g-file advance, figuring to follow with a subsequent g2-g4 and then perhaps to g4-g5.

12. 0-0-0 Par Score 5

- There we have it. Both sides have castled on opposite wings of the chessboard. Let’s see who musters a stronger attack first.

12. ... Nh7

13. Rfd1 Par Score 5

- White threatens a big knight fork on e7.

17. ... Re8

- Black avoids 17. ... Bxf5 18. gxf5, handing White the open g-file.

18. f4 Par Score 5

- This drives back the enemy knight while opening the second rank for the queen to reach h2.

19. ... Nf7

- One way or another, this last move brings about a breach in Black’s castled position. Notice that Black hasn’t exactly mustered an attack of his own on the queenside.
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.

**January Exercise:** Set up whatever pawn configuration you’re interested in. Placing the kings in neutral posts, analyze or play out against a partner or software the position until you get a sense for it. Then begin adding pieces, minor pieces first, making sure to try out all possibilities (knight versus knight or knight versus bishop, and varying with light or dark square bishops). After working minor pieces, move to situations of rook versus rook and queen versus queen. Try to avoid initial setups where immediate tactics decide. Study enough of these arrangements and you should begin to grasp some of the positional essentials of particular pawn structures.

### Problem I
**Double Attack**

19. ... **Nxe7**

On 19 ... Bxf5, there could follow 20. gxf5 Nxh6 21. Rxh6 (1 bonus point). On 19 ... g6, White has 20. Nxe7+ Rxe7 21. Bd4, winning the f-pawn (1 bonus point). The same goes for 19 ... gxf5, when White follows with 20. Nxe7+ Rxe7 21. Bd4 Kg7 22. g5hxg5 23. fxg5 (1 bonus point).**

20. **Nxg7**! **Par Score 6**

Accept only 5 points part credit for 20. Nxe6+ gdx6 21. Rxe6. Black’s position is pretty shaky, but he can still offer a defense by ... Be7-f8 and ... Bb8-g7. After the knight sacrifice, Black is hard pressed to ward off mate.

21. ... **Nf7**

If 20 ... Bgx4, then 21. Nf5 and White is winning. For example, if 21 ... Nxf5, then 22. Qxg4+ Kh8 23. exf5 Rg8 24. Rhx7+ Khx7 25. Qh5 mate (1 bonus point). Or if 21 ... Kh8, then White has such delightful possibilities as 22. Nhx6 Bxe2 23. Nf7 mate (1 bonus point); or 22. Rgx4 Nhx6 23. Qxg4 Rg8 24. Rhx7+ Khx7 25. Qh5 mate (1 bonus point). But White shouldn’t continue 22. Rhx6 because of 22 ... Bxe2 23. Rq7 Qxfl. Incidentally, 21 ... Kh8 could be met by 22. Nhx6 Bxe2 23. Rg8 mate (1 bonus point).**

22. **Qxh7**+ **Par Score 5**

22. ... **Kf8**

23. **f5**! **Par Score 5**

White threatens 24. Bh6+ Nhx6 25. Qxh6+ Kf7 26. Qg6+ and mate next move (1 bonus point).**

23. ... **Bd8**

Black vacates e7 for the king.**

24. **Qg6** **Par Score 5**

This is a good practical choice, threatening 25. Rh7 and, if 25 ... Re7, then 26. Qg7+ Ke8 27. Qg8 mate (1 bonus point). You may take full credit for 24. g5, with lots of good contingencies available. You may also take full credit for 24. Bh6+. But accept no credit for 24. Qxf7+ Kxf7 25. Rh7+ Kg8 26. Rgh1 Rf8 27. Rh8+ Kf7 28. R1h7+ Ke8, and the black king escapes.

24. ... **Ke7**

25. **Rh7** **Par Score 5**

The noose is tightening.

25. ... **Rf8**

26. **Bh6** **Par Score 5**

White threatens to take first the rook and then the knight.

26. ... **Be8**

27. **Qg7** **Par Score 5**

The rook is indefensible at f8. If it goes to g8 or h8, White just removes it. And on 27 ... Kd7, there follows 28. Qxf8 Be7 29. Rxh7 Bxh7 30. Qxh7, leaving White a piece ahead. So ...

27. ... **Black resigned. 😅**
Norway’s Brilliant 21-Year-Old Magnus Carlsen continued his stunning run of tournament success, defeating U.S.-born Italian Fabiano Caruana, 20, in a blitz playoff match in Bilbao, Spain, to take his second Grand Slam Final title.

The 2012 Grand Slam Final featured the winners of the most elite tournaments of 2012: Carlsen (Tal Memorial winner), Levon Aronian (winner of Wijk aan Zee), plus Caruana and Sergei Karjakin, joint winners of Dortmund 2012. Add the winner of the 2012 World Championship match, Viswanathan Anand, and the Grand Slam Final became a serious end-of-season event.

The only big name missing was Vladimir Kramnik (winner of the London Classic in December 2011), because the former world champion refuses to play in tournaments split between continents. (In 2012 the organizers gave a 10-day break between the first half in São Paulo and the
second half in Bilbao to overcome any jet-lag, but still this was not enough to overcome Kramnik’s objections.)

Despite the rarefied field, Carlsen and Caruana dominated the 2012 Grand Slam Final with no other player finishing above a 50% score—Aronian and Anand won only one game between them!

Carlsen’s title was a new jewel in an already glittering crown. Since 2009 Carlsen has won 10 super-tournaments, winning every tiebreaker in which he has been involved during that period.

Carlsen also moved his rating to within four points of Kasparov’s long-standing 2851 record—though rating inflation makes rating comparisons over time misleading, with even Kasparov admitting that his 2851 may not have been superior to Bobby Fischer’s 1972 figure of 2785.

In Bilbao, Carlsen managed to overhaul the big lead Caruana had established during the first half of the tournament in São Paulo, avenging his first round loss to
Caruana and also beating World Champion Anand in a key penultimate round game. “I felt I played really well,” was Carlsen’s summary—rare self-praise from the Norwegian who is always one of the biggest critics of his own play. Despite eventually losing the Grand Slam title to Carlsen, Caruana also walked away from the tournament with great honor.

Over the 10 rounds Caruana scored victories over the top two players in the world, Carlsen and Aronian; the latter victory in round nine enabling Caruana to keep pace with Carlsen.

Going into the last round Caruana and Carlsen were level on points but Carlsen faced the formidable Aronian while Caruana was paired against tailender Paco Vallejo.

Yet, to the astonishment of the spectators, after 25 minutes of play in the final round Caruana had allowed Vallejo, 30, to win the world elite; now ranked as number five in the world yet almost two years might be his final game and, at the possible cost of the Grand Slam title, gave Vallejo a chance to end the tournament with an honorable draw.

Some criticized Caruana’s lack of killer instinct, but many more offered praise, for the Italian’s performance off and on the board.

Canadian GM Kevin Spraggett even dared to suggest that 20-year-old Caruana might be the man to take Viswanathan Anand’s world title—though Caruana will have to wait at least three years since he is not placed in the 2013 Candidates tournament. Certainly after a great result in the Tal Memorial, a win in Dortmund and now success in the Grand Slam Final, Caruana has established his place among the world elite; now ranked as number five in the world yet almost two years younger than Carlsen.

Are You Smarter than a Super-Grandmaster?

From the very first round, the armchair critics, with computer programs such as Houdini running by their side, were scathing about the number of errors made by the competitors in the Grand Slam Final.

Certainly the world’s best players make mistakes—they have blood, not silicon, in their veins—but many of the so-called blunders were far from obvious to non-computers.

Test yourself on the following positions—can you find the correct move and do better than the world’s best?

**São Paulo Grand Slam Final Round 1**

GM Fabiano Caruana (FIDE 2773, ITA)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2843, NOR)

SOLUTION:

81. ... Rb2?
Carlsen misses one last chance to hold the game, with the unlikely 81. ... Rb3+!! 82. Kxe4 (82. cxb3? cxb3 actually wins for Black) 82. ... Rb3! when Black can take the c-pawn and survive.

82. d5! Rxc2 83. d6!
Now Black’s rook cannot get behind the passed d-pawn quickly enough.

83. ... c3 84. d7 Rd2 85. d8=Q Rxd8 86. Bxd8 h4!
“The only chance,” said Caruana, who used most of his remaining time to make sure of a clear path to victory.

87. g6h4!

87. ... g3 88. f6 c2 89. Kd2 e3+ 90. Kxc2 e2 91. Ba5!, Black resigned.

After 91. ... Kh3—the king cannot step on the f-file without allowing White to queen with check—92. Kd2! g2 93. Bb6—White has succeeded in covering all the black pawns and his f-pawn will be the winner.

That was tricky, I agree. How about something easier?

(see diagram top of next column)
AS THE WORLD CHAMPION DREW game after game at the Grand Slam Final in Sao Paulo and Bilbao, chess fans started wondering whether they were watching a form slump by GM Viswanathan Anand or something worse.

The bare statistics of Anand’s recent results are worrying enough. The Indian has not won a classical tournament for four and a half years and had only won two classical games since the 2011 Grand Slam Final twelve months ago—a period which included his successful world title defense against GM Boris Gelfand.

Statistics can be misleading—Anand, 42, also only lost three games in the period—but his percentage of draws has reached worrying proportions, especially in an era with anti-draw regulations.

Last November Anand completed the Tal Memorial tournament in Moscow with nine consecutive draws and his run of draws from the end of the world title match through to Sao Paulo and Bilbao has been even longer, capped off in round nine by a loss to GM Magnus Carlsen.

The chess world has not seen such poor tournament results from a world champion since GM Tigran Petrosian in the 1960s.

Anand dismisses some of the routine explanations for his mediocre results, such as being distracted by having a young child.

Yet Anand does admit, reluctantly, that age may be becoming a factor, though not in the sense that he can no longer calculate with clarity and depth.

Rather, Anand has struggled to find a way to use the initiative which is supposed to come with the white pieces and the first move in an era of computer enhanced preparation.

When asked at a Sao Paulo press conference immediately after a lackluster draw against GM Levon Aronian when was the last time he had broken down Aronian’s opening choice, the Berlin Wall, Anand was forced to admit, sheepishly, “2003.” (“The Berlin Wall is really killing me,” Anand said later. “Can you believe that ... Be6-c8 is the latest fashion and White can’t seem to do anything?”)

Indeed Anand has expressed his admiration for the way Aronian, alone of the top players when playing White, continually comes up with new ideas to create problems for his opponents. (Certainly Anand’s remarkable statement that he felt he would learn a lot from a world title match against Aronian or Carlsen shows just how far ahead he feels his two most likely challengers are in playing 21st century chess.)

The following game extract, from the first leg of the Grand Slam Final in Sao Paulo, shows one of Anand’s current problems—an uncharacteristic impetuosity when passively placed.

Sao Paulo Grand Slam Final Round 3
GM Fabiano Caruana (FIDE 2773, ITA)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2780, IND)

Caruana, with White, has just played 17. Rc1, with the obvious threat of 18. Nd5.

After long thought, Anand decided to call Caruana’s bluff:

17. ... Re8?! 18. Nd5! exd5

18. ... Qd8 was safer.


Anand had calculated this far and wanted to play 22. ... Re1, with the obvious threat of 18. Nd5.

After long thought, Anand decided to call Caruana’s bluff:

22. ... Re1 18. Nd5! exd5

18. ... Qd8 was safer.


Anand had calculated this far and wanted to play 22. ... d5 23. Bd4 Qb7 but upon reaching the position noticed 24. Qc2 when I have to resign” said Anand. (An exaggeration, but 24. ... Nh5 25. Rb1 Qa8 26. e5! is indeed ugly.)

Instead Anand was forced to try the humble ...

22. ... Rd8

... but after ...

23. Rx6

... found himself a pawn down for nothing, after which the World Champion needed all his defensive skills to hang onto a draw, and ultimately finish in fifth place of the six players.
Prior to this game, the first to be played in Bilbao after the Sao Paulo leg of the Grand Slam Final, Carlsen was trailing Caruana by a point and a half, and only a win would do for the Norwegian.

1. e4 e6 2. d3

“I was a bit surprised by his choice of the French and so avoided main lines,” said Carlsen. “Sometimes in order to create a fight you need to choose lines that aren’t necessarily the most thoroughly analyzed.”

2. ... d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. Ngf3 Nc6 5. c3

5. g3 would allow Black to equalize immediately with 5. ... dxe4 6. dxe4 Bc5 7. Bg2 0-0 8. 0-0 e5.


Criticized by Carlsen, who was more worried about 15. ... a4, though Caruana wondered how he was supposed to follow up after 16. a3.

16. a4! b4?!

Now Caruana drifts into a difficult position. Black should have tried 16. ... bxa4 17. Qxa4 Bc5, or perhaps better 15. ... Bc5 a move earlier, since then Be3 would enable Black to exchange a piece which causes him trouble later in the game.

17. Be3 Bc7 18. Qb3 h6 19. Qc4 bxc3 20. bxc3 e4

Carlsen thought that this mini-combination was almost forced, but felt that the resulting endgame would be tricky for Black.


“I thought I should be able to hold the endgame,” said Caruana. “It doesn’t seem like a losing position.”

34. f4! Qd5 35. Bd3 Qf7 36. Bc4 Qd7 37. Bb5 Qf7 38. Rc1 Rfe8 39. f5! Rfe6 40. Bb4 e5 41. Kg3 Qf7 42. Bxe5 Qxe5 43. f6 gxf6 44. Bb4 Qh5 45. Kg4 f5 46. Kg5 Qf7

Now Carlsen finishes the game with a forcing sequence but after 47. f6! the white king will walk to b7 and end any resistance.
Bc7 63. Kd5 Bd8 64. Ke6 Bc7 65. Kd7 Ba5 66. Be7!, Black resigned.

(see final diagram top of next column)

**Caruana**

Ruy Lopez, Archangelsk Defenses
GM Sergey Karjakin (FIDE 2778, RUS)
GM Fabiano Caruana (FIDE 2773, ITA)
Sao Paulo Grand Slam Final (2), 09.25.2012


“I had not played this line for a while, and I predicted that he would play the 9. Be3 system, since it is quite fashionable,” said Caruana, who had come well prepared.

9. ... 0-0 10. Nbd2 Bb7 11. Re1 exd4!? 12. cxd4 Nb4

13. Qe2

“The critical move,” said Caruana. “After 13. Qb1 (the main line) 13. ... c5 14. a3 Nc6 15. d5 Ne7, the queen is not so well placed on b1 because I have the plan ... h7-h6, ... Nh7 and ... f7-f5.”

13. ... c5 14. a3 Nc6 15. d5 Ne7 16. h3 Re8 17. Bc2 Ng6 18. b3?!?

“White should play on the queenside with 18. a4,” explained Caruana, “when I was going to play 18. ... e4, threatening to take on c3 and d5. Then White should play 19. Qd1, intending Nf1-g3 and later making use of the d4-square.

18. ... Ba5 19. Rab1

Karjakin later regretted allowing the bishop to come to c3, saying “I should have played something like 19. Qd3.”

19. ... Bc3 20. Rec1 b4

Caruana’s first serious think of the game—until this move he had used only 11 minutes to 45 for Karjakin. “I will have to play ... b5-b4 sooner or later after 21. Bd3,” explained Caruana.

21. a4

Both players agreed that White should have tried 21. axb4 after which Caruana was intending 21. ... Bxb4 22. Bd3 a5 “and if 23. Qd1 I again have 23. ... Ba6,” explained Caruana.

21. ... a5 22. Bd3 h6 23. Qd1?

“A horrible move,” said Karjakin. “I completely forget about 23. ... Ba6, when my position is terrible. “Caruana was surprisingly optimistic for White, saying “After 23. Qf1 I thought that it should be objectively equal, although I like my position—it is very comfortable. However I didn’t see any clear plan for Black—maybe ... Ra7 followed by ... Bc8 and ... Rae7. Basically White can’t move; the only question is if Black has an active plan.”

23. ... Ba6! 24. Bc2

“A humble retreat, after which Black’s a6-bishop dominates the board and to add to his woes Karjakin had only 18 minutes remaining. However 24. Bxa6 Rxa6 25. Qc2 Ra7 followed by 26. ... Rae7, leaves the e4-pawn doomed.

24. ... Ra7 25. Kh2 Rae7

(see diagram top of next column)

26. g4

“A mistake,” said Caruana, “though his suggestion 26. Kg1 was hardly inspiring.”

26. ... Nxe4!

26. ... Qd7 was also strong but “I wanted something more forking,” said Caruana, who used only seven of his 48 remaining minutes deciding on this Exchange sacrifice.


29. Rxc3?! bxc3 30. Qc2 was kind of interesting,” said Caruana, but I think then 30. ... Ne5! is winning, e.g. 31. Qxe4 Bd3 32. Qf4 Ng6 33. Qg3 Bxb1 while if 31. Nxe5 I just play 31. ... Rxe5 32. Qxc3 Rxd5 and his king is very weak.”

29. ... Qe7 30. Rg1

In growing time trouble, Karjakin
Bilbao Masters Final 2012: Sao Paulo, Brazil—September 24-29, October 8-13

Players | Rating | Country | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Points
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
GM Fabiano Caruana | 2773 | ITA | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 17
GM Magnus Carlsen | 2843 | NOR | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 17
GM Levon Aronian | 2816 | ARM | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11
GM Sergey Karjakin | 2778 | RUS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 10
GM Viswanathan Anand | 2780 | IND | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9
GM Francisco Vallejo-Pons | 2697 | ESP | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6

Bilbao Rule: Win 3 points, Draw 1 point, Loss 0 points.

Carlsen has just played the very effective positional move 24. g4!, cutting the black knight out of the game. However, 24. g4 also created a threat—if you work out what it is and stop it, you will be doing better than the World Champion.

**SOLUTION:**
24. ... Rc6? 25. Nh3!!

A remarkable position where Black’s bishops dominate White’s rooks.

32. Rfb1 Be2! 33. Qf5

33. Qc1 Qxc1 34. Rxc1 Bxf3 is hopeless for White.

33. ... Bd3

35. ... Be4! 36. Qe8+ Nf8, White resigned.

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33. ... Bd3

35. ... Be4! 36. Qe8+ Nf8, White resigned.

25. ... Ng5 Black can avoid mate with 27. ... Qa6 28. Re5 Qc8 but after 29. Rf1 Qf8 30. Qxf8+ Kxf8 31. Nxe6+ White wins two pawns and the game.

28. Re5! Kh8

Otherwise 29. Nxe7! would win.

29. Rd1 Qa6 30. a4, Black resigned.
was his shame at missing such an obvious
evening on Facebook.

Admittedly Vallejo was already despondent
with 30. ... Qxh2!?

30. ... Ra2+
31. Kg2 Ra1+ 32. Kf1 Ra2+ 33. Kg2

GM Francisco Vallejo Pons (FIDE 2697, ESP)
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2816, ARM)

38. Qc8+, Black resigned.

37. ... Qb2??

Vallejo admitted that he had also been
... and the game was drawn.

28. Qxf3 but, as the world number one
realized as soon as he had made his move,
something was terribly wrong.

Aronian briefly looked at 27. ... R8xf4!?
28. gx4 Nxf4 and saw that it was refuted
by 29. Rg7+ Kh7 30. Ng5+. So, somewhat
short of time, Aronian quickly replied ...

27. ... Bc3!? 
... with the aim of making the previous
variation playable by decoying the knight
away from control of g5.

The scorn on chess comment boards
was palpable—“Blunder of the month,”
“Shocking,” “Embarrassing,” etc., etc.,
though one or two people defended the
elite grandmasters on the grounds that
their flaws at post-game press conferences
win or lose, while also posing for multiple
photos with fans—no doubt soon to be
displayed as a modern form of autograph
photos with fans—no doubt soon to be
displayed as a modern form of autograph

The question is simple: Should Vallejo
(Black) take a draw by checking with his
rook on a1 and a2 or can he try for more
with 30. ... Qxh2?!

Vallejo played ...

37. ... Qb2??
... and was mated after ...

38. Qc8+, Black resigned.

No doubt you were able to do better, but such
was his shame at missing such an obvious
mate that he announced his retirement that

São Paulo Grand Slam Final Round

GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2843, NOR)
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2816, ARM)

São Paulo Grand Slam Final Round 3

GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2816, ARM)
GM Francisco Vallejo Pons (FIDE 2697, ESP)

The armchair critics may not have been
impressed, but you can see from these
six examples that, without computer help,
it is not so easy to prove yourself smarter
than a super-grandmaster?

Read more about the final at: www.bilbaomasters
final.com/en/home/ and more from GM Ian Rogers
on Chess Life Online, uschess.org. September and
October archives.
When Ramirez was asked what he was wearing, he gave his suit lapel a proud tug and announced it was his “pimp suit.”
Stoked!

Alejandro Ramirez, the first grandmaster from Central America, is adding color to the U.S. chess scene.

Text and Photos By BETSY CARINA DYNAKO

The purple-apparelled grandmaster knows how to make an entrance. Alejandro Tadeo Ramirez Alvarez, known in short as Alejandro Ramirez, entered dinner fashionably late with fellow player Elliott Liu. While Liu had suited up and donned sunglasses, GM Ramirez took things to a whole other level. He dressed in a purple hat and purple snakeskin-style shoes, tipped in gold, which sandwiched a matching purple suit, shiny pale silk tie and dress shirt. Punctuated by his confident peacock-like walk, there was no missing his arrival.

The dinner was hosted by Ankit Gupta at one of the top three restaurants in Los Angeles, Providence Los Angeles, as a welcome for the VIPs to the First Metropolitan Chess International. When Ramirez was asked what he was wearing, he gave his suit lapel a proud tug and announced it was his “pimp suit.”

Los Angeles is a long way from Ramirez’s Costa Rican roots, but he has no trouble adapting to life in America. He is a fun loving, outgoing young man enjoying his twenties. As GM Robert Hess describes Ramirez, “He is a pretty cool guy and fits in with many different crowds.” Ramirez is enjoying the scene while taking a year off post-college for chess. He is currently calling Dallas home.

So far, he is succeeding in the chess goals he has set for himself for the year, but he is most interested in “just [being] a happy person.” And so he often is seen smiling and taking time for friends. Even during tournament play, it is hard to tell from looking at him whether his game is still in progress, unless he is actually sitting at the board. His easy-going, relaxed style comes not only from his upbringing but also from the confidence he has in his game.

Ramirez learned the game as a child from his father on an old wooden set when he was four years old. He recalled with a smile the first lessons he had with his father, “He taught me the en passant rule wrong.” Ramirez’s father may not have had all of the rules of chess down, but without him Ramirez would not be the player or person he is today.

Ramirez said, “My dad was instrumental in my development as a person and as a chess player. Despite the fact that he can’t really see tactics or see more than a few moves ahead, he has a deep understanding of psychology and can sense positions quite well. If I explain a game to him, he can infer things I can’t see, such as the mood of the player, the causes for blunders and many others. We worked together close to two hours a day every day for two years.”

After working so closely together, Ramirez has many memories of his training sessions with his father. One lesson comes to mind from when he was 14 years old. “I remember showing [my father] a game from a long time ago between Naiditsch and Nakamura. I didn’t think too much about the game, but when I analyzed it with him, he was able to see many things I couldn’t. It’s probably a session I won’t forget, as it opened up my mind to new ideas beyond the board. We came up with so many systems of play and psychological processes that I’ve lost track. It’s honestly hard to explain to an outsider.” Ramirez and his father no longer work together but, “Of course, our sessions that we had so many years ago still have their stamp on me today.”

Ramirez reflected, “I’ve loved chess since I started playing in tournaments, more or less when I was around seven years old. I didn’t take it seriously until I was at
least 13 though, as before that I had other distractions, such as school and video games and who knows what else. I didn’t really learn to love the game until after I became an IM, when I dedicated much more time to it. What I love about the game can’t really be summarized easily, but I suppose that some of the things that attract me are its simultaneous complexity and simplicity, the ability to create, and how it requires so much of the players that you can see their personal faults and traits by looking at the games closely.”

Ramirez’s father noted how his son had developed a love of the game and they decided that a sponsor would be needed in order to allow Ramirez to make a career or any lasting success of it. Ramirez recalled, “It is very difficult to convince people to sponsor anything that isn’t soccer in my country. I lucked out, and a chess playing fan talked to one of his clients who happened to be the CEO of GBM, an IBM Alliance Company. It struck his interest and an interview was scheduled. I dazzled and got money.” Ramirez continued, “The GBM Sponsorship was key to my career. Without it I don’t think I would be where I am now, neither academically nor chess-wise.”

In the U.S., funding like Ramirez received would likely have been used in part to hire a host of coaches to work with the young up-and-coming player, but that was not the road that Ramirez took. “I guess that’s one of the unique things about me. I’ve never worked with anyone. I never had a coach—besides my dad. I’ve always worked alone. It’s been quite detrimental to my career but I didn’t have that many choices in Costa Rica.”

It is hard to believe that Ramirez’s training choices caused much detriment to his game when you look at what he has achieved. After reaching the title of FIDE master at age nine and being awarded the title of international master at age 13, he went on to grandmaster at age 15. Ramirez is the first grandmaster from Central America, and not only was he 15 when he was awarded the grandmaster title, he was one month younger than Bobby Fischer was when he became a grandmaster. For Costa Rica, Ramirez—like Fischer for the U.S.—became an important national chess figure in his country.

As chess in the 1970s enjoyed increased popularity in the U.S., following Fischer’s historic Cold War win, the success of Ramirez inspired the same in Costa Rica. “I was immensely popular in Costa Rica. Because we are so small and we rarely have a success story, the fact that I became a GM so early and was winning tournaments made me kind of a celebrity. I used to be a motivational speaker to low income schools in Costa Rica. Basically I went around telling kids what to do if they wanted to be successful, on how I did it and how they could do it, too . . . The national U-14 championship went from 30 kids to over 100 when I got my GM. No serious chess players came out of this, but hopefully I inspired someone to become good at something. I gave many speeches, I think I even have a hall named after me in one school in my home country.”

Ramirez feels any other comparisons between him and Fischer should end there. “I never met the dude, so it’s hard to answer [how we are alike]. I’m not that similar to him, from what I’ve heard. I’m very social, I’m not world champion, I have many inter-

“My dad was instrumental in my development as a person and as a chess player.”

ests, I think I’m not crazy. Actually besides playing chess and achieving the GM title at a young age, we don’t have much in common. Maybe that we both did it without GM help and relatively alone?”

As a young teen, Ramirez believed he would make chess his career but eventually he changed his mind. “I wanted a bigger perspective in life, I also wanted to experience new fields.” This desire for more led Ramirez to the U.S. in pursuit of higher education, “I wanted to go to [a university], but I couldn’t in Costa Rica, because I never graduated high school. With my resume and my high SAT scores, UT Dallas either didn’t care or looked the other way and offered me a lot of money. It was a match made in heaven.”

For a young man as intelligent as Ramirez to elect not to finish high school but then pursue a college education may not make sense to a lot of people, but Ramirez has an explanation. “It [high school] was a waste of time. I dedicated it to chess. When I went back to school it took me weeks to catch up. I don’t think I missed very much in those years when I did not attend the traditional education system.”

His education choices may leave a bad taste in the mouths of adults who held the young Ramirez up as an example of achievement to their own children. However, Ramirez doesn’t feel he owes it to anyone to set an example by graduating high school; he actually feels the opposite. “I hope more kids stop going to high school. Don’t take this in the wrong way—I don’t want them to quit and get a minimum wage job, or to quit and do nothing. I want them to quit and pursue a dream, a goal. Go and take college classes, learn about robotics, start programming, start a business, pursue a sport. The school system is too slow, you could be using those years to really bolster something useful. I feel people that come out of high school don’t know how to do anything, and that’s scary. When I was 17, I had a skill. I played chess. Maybe I wasn’t top in the world, but I already knew that the worst case scenario was I could teach chess to make a living. Not too many people at 17 have that—a useful skill. So to answer your question, I hope I set an example by not going.”

Leaving high school was right for Ramirez, but so was his desire to attend college. “I’m very happy that I decided to go to college. I started college as a physics major and hated it. I even interned in the nanotech lab at my university, which is awesome if you are into it, but I wasn’t. Then I read that there was this class where you had to play a game as your first assignment. Being a long time video game addict, I jumped on the opportunity, got to know the program and fell in love with it. I now have a masters degree and got to work on an extremely important video game project. I’m stoked for May 15th, when Diablo III comes out, as that is the biggest game I’ve worked on. I think a person can reinvent themselves many times during their lives. Now maybe I will be a chess player, maybe I will use my degree, maybe I will do something else. I’m not focused on chess just because it’s the only thing I know how to do.”

Video gaming playing and programming has not detracted from chess at all for Ramirez, and it seems chess has only enhanced his gaming career. “With many of the games that I work with and play there are many parallels. It would be the subject of an interesting but lengthy article on how Starcraft specifically relates to chess. Starcraft is a real-time strategy game—as opposed to chess, which is a turn based strategy game/sport/science, whatever—and it borrows so many different concepts from chess that it is uncanny. Actually, I believe that my competitive experience and my understanding of overall strategy was what allowed me to get my internship at Blizzard [Entertainment].”

Despite being a permanent resident living in America for over six years now, Ramirez is seen by many as new to American chess. “I play in the U.S. almost exclusively and I’m involved with U.S.
Chess politics to a minor degree. Costa Rica’s chess federation has never supported me in one way or another, so I felt I didn’t owe them anything. The only thing I’m missing out is playing the Olympiad every year, but honestly I’m hoping to qualify for the U.S. eventually.” To this end, Ramirez changed his federation in 2011 from Costa Rica to the USA.

Since he is now officially an American player, Ramirez was able to qualify for the 2012 U.S. Championship, about which he couldn’t be more excited. “I’m stoked. This is the strongest tournament I have ever played, and I’m excited to win some games.” On the flip side, Ramirez was careful about making a prediction about his performance, “I don’t know. I’ll just quote Yury [Shulman] and say that I’ll play chess and see.”

As the Championship approached, many of the players were working on their games and Ramirez was among them. “I’ve always been self-dependent in chess, but I’m currently looking for someone that would be a good fit as a coach/second. It seems I’m getting to that point where doing all the work myself is not worth it. I have Chess Base and magazines and infinite resources. I just study. I don’t understand people that say they don’t know what to study in chess. There’s so much out there it’s just about sitting down and doing it. I used to study with some of the

UTD team members, and I’ve had training sessions with other GMs for brief times, but nothing solid right now.”

GM Ben Finegold provided live commentary for the Championship in 2012. When asked to describe Ramirez’s game he said, “I have never played Alejandro. He plays pretty boring. I like that.” One person who played Ramirez during the tournament was GM Robert Hess. When it comes to Ramirez, Hess offered this opinion, “Clearly he is a very strong player, as his FIDE is now about 2600 plus. I have known him for a number of years, and he never fails to impress me. I see him being a force to be reckoned with in the U.S. championships to come. He will compete for a spot on the Olympiad team in the near future.”

After hearing what other grandmasters think of Ramirez’s play, it is interesting to learn what he feels are his strengths and weaknesses. “I don’t know what they are. I should pay some GM to tell me. I just kind of play. My openings suck though. I’m an awesome endgame player, but it seems like less and less games go into the endgame.”

While being able to detail his talents and shortcomings on the board might not be his strongest suit, Ramirez does know what he most likes and dislikes about being a player. “The schedule! I love the freedom I have of not having a 9-to-5. Also, the travels are amazing. You get to experience so many cool cultures and meet so many interesting people with such different viewpoints. I really love that. The worst parts are probably the
Ramirez at a Glance

Awarded the title of FIDE master at age nine.

Awarded the title of international master at age thirteen.

Awarded the title of grandmaster at age fifteen.

October 25-November 11, 2002: Alejandro becomes known to the world at large during the 2002 Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, when, at the age of thirteen, he drew the Russian super-Grandmaster Alexander Morozevich.

His grandmaster title was ratified by FIDE at the January 2004 Assembly, becoming the first and only grandmaster from Central America.


February 2012: Scored 6-0 at the 2012 World Amateur Team in New Jersey.


October 2012: Finished third-fifth in the 2012 Spice Cup Open.

November 2012: Coach of the U.S. World Youth team.

Ramirez specifically relates to chess. Starcraft is a real-time strategy game [that] borrows so many different concepts from chess that it is uncanny.

I am no great opening expert, so once in a while I like throwing in a variation that is in ‘vogue’ and try to figure out what the current players are thinking. By no means do I claim that I have any idea why 6... h3 was played, I simply knew it had been tried a few times before that year. The rest I would figure out over the board!

I am actually upset, since it comes out during the U.S. Championship. [Blizzard Game Director] Jay Wilson will be the death of my tournament.” Hopefully for himself and his fans, he will be able to find some balance between the two games. Regardless of his final outcome at the tournament, Ramirez is ready to be a part of U.S. chess for the longterm. He is looking forward to a long life in the States, playing in more championships and one day earning a spot on the U.S. Olympiad team.

Ramirez annotates his favorite game for Chess Life’s readers:

King’s Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E90)
GM Alejandro Ramirez Alvarez (FIDE 2594, USA)
GM Alexander Shabalov (FIDE 2590, USA)
UT Dallas GM Invitational, Richardson, USA (6), 03.15.2011

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 e5 6. h3

I love my friends, my activities, where I live, just so ridiculous. I love my life so much. I don’t want the free five-minute answer. Usually I just tell them to study tactics and read some Kotov. Those things are quite basic. Sometimes I think people want me to tell them to study tactics and read some Kotov. Those things are quite basic.

It would be more useful if they said something like, ‘Hey, can I hire you for a few hours so you can go over my games and you can tell me what I need to work on the next few months?’ But, of course, people want the free five-minute answer. Usually I just tell them to study tactics and read some Kotov. Those things are quite basic. Sometimes I think people want me to tell them to study 50 Karpov games and they will gain 200 points.”

As his post-college year off continues, Ramirez wants to enjoy himself, but he also has goals beyond chess. “I’m a pretty social guy. I go out, visit friends, explore new places. If not, you’ll find me in my room trying to perfect some skill. I was trying to become the only Grandmaster Starcraft and chess player in the world (yes, there is a Grandmaster Starcraft rank!) but I’m still quite far from that one. I’m only a Master, which is the rank below. I’d like to learn a new language soon, too, so I might start that in the next few weeks.”

Should Ramirez not “wow” during his future tournaments as he hopes, he is pretty sure it will not be from lack of preparation. “Diablo III comes out in May and that will be consuming. My life is overall very happy. People keep asking me if I’m miserable or if I don’t like my life because I’m not 2800. It’s just so ridiculous. I love my life so much. I love my friends, my activities, where I live, my family, chess, video games, random activities. It’s like I have something to look forward to every day.” When it comes to what makes him the most happy, “I get my greatest peaks from victory—in chess or any other competition and in girls. I guess both are pretty standard. Solving things also makes me incredibly happy.”

If you run into Ramirez at a tournament, just try not to kill his joy, as he has some opinions about being asked by strangers how to improve their own games. “That must be the single most annoying question I get at tournaments. What somebody needs to improve their game is so individual that when I give an answer, it may or may not be what that person needs. It would be more useful if they said something like, ‘Hey, can I hire you for a few hours so you can go over my games and you can tell me what I need to work on the next few months?’ But, of course, people want the free five-minute answer. Usually I just tell them to study tactics and read some Kotov. Those things are quite basic. Sometimes I think people want me to tell them to study 50 Karpov games and they will gain 200 points.”

As his post-college year off continues, Ramirez wants to enjoy himself, but he also has goals beyond chess. “I’m a pretty social guy. I go out, visit friends, explore new places. If not, you’ll find me in my room trying to perfect some skill. I was trying to become the only Grandmaster Starcraft and chess player in the world (yes, there is a Grandmaster Starcraft rank!) but I’m still quite far from that one. I’m only a Master, which is the rank below. I’d like to learn a new language soon, too, so I might start that in the next few weeks.”

Should Ramirez not “wow” during his future tournaments as he hopes, he is pretty sure it will not be from lack of preparation. “Diablo III comes out in May and that will be consuming. I’m actually upset, since it comes out during the U.S. Championship. [Blizzard Game Director] Jay Wilson will be the death of my tournament.” Hopefully for himself and his fans, he will be able to find some balance between the two games. Regardless of his final outcome at the tournament, Ramirez is ready to be a part of U.S. chess for the longterm. He is looking forward to a long life in the States, playing in more championships and one day earning a spot on the U.S. Olympiad team.

Ramirez annotates his favorite game for Chess Life’s readers:

King’s Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E90)
GM Alejandro Ramirez Alvarez (FIDE 2594, USA)
GM Alexander Shabalov (FIDE 2590, USA)
UT Dallas GM Invitational, Richardson, USA (6), 03.15.2011

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 e5 6. h3

I am no great opening expert, so once in a while I like throwing in a variation that is in ‘vogue’ and try to figure out what the current players are thinking. By no means do I claim that I have any idea why 6... h3 was played, I simply knew it had been tried a few times before that year. The rest I would figure out over the board!

6... Qe8

A rather rare move, but I wasn’t aware of this fact at the time. Of course I knew some of the typical plans for Black, and I figured the point of 6... Qe8 was to avoid potential trades after ... e7-e5 and pins on...
the h4–d8 diagonal.

7. Be3 Na6

White has many options as to how to continue. Of course, I was aware that my opponent was planning to play... e7–e5 on the next move, so I had a few choices on how to proceed. First, I noticed that after... e7–e5 I would have three key ideas: keep the tension, push d4–d5 or trade on e5. Since the first was less appealing, it boield down to preparing the d5 push or setting myself up for some kind of edge after trading on e5. I chose the latter, but GM Anatoly Karpov in one blitz game against GM Judit Polgar chose the former.

8. Rc1?

I love my thinking with this move. As weird as it sounds, I feel I'm rather strong when I'm forced to develop my pieces without mechanically shuffling wood according to how some book told me to do it. Maybe I should switch to Chess960!

8. a3?! e5 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. c5! Dn2 and we see the point of a3—now... a7–a5 does not prevent b2–b4. Very clever by the ex-world champion! However my idea is not bad at all either.

8. ... e5 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. c5?

This was, if you will, the point of Rc1. White is planning to trade off on a6, which means that Black is forced to play b6. The bishop will go directly from f1 to c4 and be on its most useful square after that, instead of hanging around miserably on e2.

10. ... b6 11. Bc4

Pretty standard. White doesn't care about being down a pawn because his structure is much superior.

11. ... Nxc5

Black had no better move.

12. Bxc5 bxc5 13. 0-0 Rb8 14. Qd2 Kh8 15. b3

With the better structure, I only have to do two things. The first is restrict Black's activity—specifically I can't let the game open up too much because of Black's pair of bishops. The second is gobble up the black pawns and queen one of my own.

15. ... Nh5!?

In typical Shabalov fashion, he tries to strike as soon as possible. I don't need to react to this just yet. 15. ... Bb7 16. Qe3 Qe7 17. Rfd1 h6 was more stable and steady, but White's initiative is building while Black is playing random moves. It seems that Shabalov's play is looser but at least poses troubles. More than one of my opponents has suffocated to death by being Zugzwanged in the middle game.

16. Qe3 f5 17. Qxc5 Nf4

Black gave back the c5–pawn with little fight, but his pieces look to be quite threatening.

18. Rc1

I played this rook to avoid the following variation 18. R fd1 fxe 4 19. Ng5 Nd3 20. Bxd3 exd3 21. Bxd3 Bf5 and I thought Black had more activity than he deserved, even if White is still better.

18. ... Bb7

White is also much better after 18. ... fxe4 19. Ng5 or 18. ... Ne6 19. Qa7.

19. Qxc7

White is not only doing quite well in his "step 2" (gobble and queen) but the activity of Black's pieces has been kept to a minimum. At no point is taking on e4 beneficial to Black.

19. ... Ne6 20. Bxe6 Qxe6 21. Rfd1 Qc8 22. Qxc8

White is also winning after 18. ... Bb7 19. Ng5 or 18. ... Ne6 19. Qa7.

20. Qxc7

White is not only doing quite well in his "step 2" (gobble and queen) but the activity of Black's pieces has been kept to a minimum. At no point is taking on e4 beneficial to Black.

21. ... h6

White is also much better after 18. ... fxe4 19. Ng5 or 18. ... Ne6 19. Qa7.

21. ... Qc8

22. Qxe4 23. Qd5 Rfd8

22. Qc8 is a terrifyingly "computer" move. I didn't half consider this during the game, to be honest.

22. ... Rfxe8 23. Nd5 Rd8!

Protecting the pawn, but now the knights swarm. 25. ... fxe 4 26. Ng5 Rd7 27. Rc1 White's knights dominate the bishops and the majority on the queenside will eventually win easily; 25. ... f4 26. Nd5! Bxd5 (No better is 26. ... h6 27. Rc1 Kg8 28. Rc5) 27. Rdl! and White emerges up a pawn in a winning endgame; 25. ... Kg8 26. exd5 Bf3 27. gxf3 gxf5 28. Nd5 gives Black plenty of hope, but White is still up a pawn. Also he isn't forced to immediately take on f5; 25. ... Bxe4 26. Ng5 Bd5 27. Rd1 Bf6 28. Rxd5 Rxd5 (28. ... Bxf5 29. Rxe5 was probably the best line for Black.) 29. Nxd5 Bxf5 30. Nf4 e4 31. Nc6 a6 seems like a near hopeless endgame as White can simply roll his queenside forward. Maybe it isn't so clear, but would a human really go into this?

26. Ng5 Bc8 27. Rc1 Kg8

White is also winning after 27. ... h6 28. Nh7+!

28. Nd5 Bb7 29. Ne7+ Kh8 30. Rc7 Bxe4 31. Rc8

I had already calculated the end, so I played this pretty move. More normal moves like Rx a7 also win without complications.

31. ... Bb6

The only move that doesn't get mated instantly. 31. ... Rxc8 32. Nf7 mate would've been fun to play.

32. Nxe4 fxe4 33. Rfxe8+ Bfx8 34. Nc6 Bc5 35. b4!

It takes the computers a while to realize that White doesn't have to take on e5 by any means and can simply advance the pawns. Once they are sufficiently far advanced, the sacrifice on a7 decides the game.

35. ... Bb6 36. a4 e3 37. fxe3 Bxe3+ 38. Kf1 Kg7 39. Ke2 Kg6 40. b5 Kf6 41. a5 Ke6 42. Nxa7, Black resigned.

42. ... Bxa7 43. b6 Bxb6 44. axb6 Kd7 45. Ke3 Kc6 46. Ke4 is a very obviously won king and pawn endgame. I chose this game because this is the kind of game I like to win. Some precise moves here and there, no hard calculations, lots of restricting of your opponent's counterplay, a winning endgame and finally: collecting the point.
Correspondence Chess / 2008 Electronic Knights Championship

The Staff of Life
The 2008 Electronic Knights Championship

By FM ALEX DUNNE

The Staff of Life

AT THE TOP LEVEL correspondence chess can be hard work. This is a position from the semifinal round. White is Wilbur Tseng, the champion-to-be in the 2008 Electronic Knights finals. Black is Tim Corkum who needs to hold this game to qualify for the finals. Tseng, who is a researcher in molecular biology at Northwestern University has meticulously worked out a win against the expected 48. ... Ke5. The win at this point in the Electronic Knights was especially important as he had already given up two draws, one in the preliminary round to Robert Fass and one in the semifinal also to Robert. The Electronic Knights is a very unforgiving tournament. Too many draws and first place may just slip from your grasp.

Wilbur Tseng is not the kind of chess player to let things easily slip from his grasp. Previously in USCF play he has won master-level Walter Muir, John Collins, Express and Trophy tournaments. Internationally he has finished first (5½-½) in the Russian Preliminary to the 2010 Alpert Cup. This time he has set his sights on the 2008 Electronic Knights. But he has some tough competition.

First, though he has to wait for Tim Corkum to make his move in the above diagram. Let the reader decide what is Black’s best chance. Here is the game up to this point.

BLACK TO PLAY

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 0-0 6. Be3 e5 7. d5

White establishes the Sämisch pawn wall, a white barrier that sets Black the problem of where to find space for his pieces.

7. ... Nh5

The alternative (and slightly more popular) line is 7. ... c6.

8. Qd2 Qh4+

(see diagram top of next column)

9. Bf2

It is noteworthy that Tseng rejects 9. g3 Nxc3 10. Qf2 Nxf1 11. Qxb4 Nxc3. Statistically White scores 60% in recent games (2010-2012) against this line. But Tseng plays a game of control and chooses to reject this line in favor of the more solid 9. Bf2 as after 9. g3, Black can play 9. ... Qe7 anyway. But Tseng is known to be an excellent researcher. He has done his homework and has prepared a line to give him strong chances against Corkum’s KID.

9. ... Qe7 10. Nge2 f5 11. exf5

The first indication that something is up. White willingly breaks up the Sämisch wall.

11. ... gxf5 12. 0-0-0 Na6

All this had been seen in Leonid Shamkovich-Dragoljub Janosevic, Lone Pine 1979 which continued 13. Re1 with a slight edge to White.

13. h3

With the obvious attacking idea of 14. g4.

13. ... f4

Black swaps the hole on e4 for the one on g3 and safety for his king, but it is an illusion—the kingside will be opened up anyway.

14. Rg1 Kh8 15. g4 fxg3 e.p.

Black is forced into this capture as 15. ... Nf6 16. Kb1 to be followed by Nc1 and Bd3 when White dominates e4 and the hole on g3 is only a memory.

16. Nxg3 Nf4

Black chooses activity over the more
Black has an extra pawn, but his king is not safe and his knight is in exile. Until these problems are solved, the button on h7 is not a factor.


No more does 31. ... Nb4 help much—32. fxe5 dxe5 33. Bxe5 Rxe6 34. f5! Rxe5 35. Be4 Rf6 36. Bxf6 gxf6 37. f6 e4 38. Be5 Kf8 39. Kg1 Bxe5 40. f7 e3 41. Kxe3 Rf5 42. f8=Q Rf8 43. Qxf8+ Kxf8 44. Kg4 e2 45. Kxf4 e1=Q 46. Kxe1

As we approach the diagram at the top of the article, you need to consider your winning chances.

46. ... Kf6 47. Kc3 Bg4 48. b4

And here we are. This game, which started on September 2011 has now reached August 2012. After nearly a year of digging and scratching for an edge, Tseng has analyzed a win after 48. ... Ke5 49. Bg3+ Kf5 50. Bxe5 Nxe5 51. axb5 Nxb5 and Black is in Zugzwang as he cannot stop d5-d6 and the white king going to b4 when White will have two passed pawns running toward the end zone. For example, 51. ... Bd7 52. d6 h5 53. Kb4 Bg4 54. Kc5 Kd3 55. Kd5 Bd7 56. Be5 Kc2 57. c5 Bxb5 58. Kc6 Kb3 59. d7 Bxd7+ 60. Kxd7 when the Nalimov endgame tablebase gives a forced mate for White in 28 moves.

48. ... b5, Draw agreed.

Corkum's final active thrust reduces the game to a draw—49. exb5 axb5 50. a5 Ke5 51. a6 Bc8 52. a7 Bb7 is a draw.
Correspondence Chess / 2008 Electronic Knights Championship

No Electronic Knights Championship has ever produced a perfect score for the winner. Every draw is nearly as fatal to the winner’s chances as a loss. Going into the final round, Gary Walters had the lead with 11-1 (6-0 in the preliminary round). Tied at 10½-1½ were Tseng, Fass and Corkum. Still in contention at 10-2 were Michael Buss, Barry Endsley, Michael Hensley, and William Morris. Gary Walters was in top form in his final section. The following game shows some brilliant flashes.

French Defense, Classical System (C11)
Gary Walters (2338)
Leo Malagar (2108)
2008 Electronic Knights Final

Oddly enough this game so far has followed Thordarson-Tseng, 2007 Swift Quad which ended abruptly after 17. Bxh7+ Kxh7 18. Qh5+ Kg8 19. Nf3 g6 20. Qh6 and White withdrew.

17. ... bxc4 18. Bxh7+ Kxh7 19. Qh5+ Kg8 20. Nf3 g6 21. Qh6 Qc7

If Black only looked at the statistics in choosing this line, he would find a dismal record for Black. In seven master games from 2010–2012 Black scored only three draws. But things are not quite so bad.

22. f5! f6! 23. fxg6 Qg7

This is the position Malagar has played for. In the two games it has appeared in, Dmitry Frolyanov-Alexandre Danin, Russia Cup 2010 and Merijn Van Delft-Thibault Louis, Vins du Medoc 2012, Black has scored only three draws. But things are not quite so bad.

24. Qh4!

But this is an improvement over those two games where 24. Qh5 was played. The g6-pawn is bait. White has three pieces overwhelming the black king after 24. ... Qxg6 25. exf6 Qxf6 26. Ng5 Qg6 27. Rfx8+ Kd8 28. Rf1+ Kg8 29. Nf3 Bb7 30. Ng4.

24. ... Qh8 25. Qxd4 Ba6 26. Nh4

The e-pawn is immune—26. fxe5 27. Qg4 Rf6 28. Rf7 puts too much pressure on Black.

26. ... f5 27. Nxf5 Rxf5 28. Rxf5 exf5 29. Qxd5+ Kg7 30. Qd7+ Kh6 31. Rd1

White mops up after 31. ... Qxe5 32. Qh7+ Kg6 33. Qg7+ Qh6 34. Qxh6+ Kg7 35. Qxg7+ Kh6 36. Qg6+ Qh7 37. Qxh7+ Kg6 38. Qg6+ Qh7 39. Qxh7.

32. Qe7 Re8 33. Qh4+ Kg6 34. Rd6+ Kf7 35. Rf6 Qg8 36. Qg6+ Qg7 37. Rf6 Qg6 38. Qxg6+ Khb 39. Qxf5

White has established an easily won endgame which Walters went on to win easily. Black undoubtedly has his reasons for continuing to play on, and it is his right, but there is no reason to comment further on a wonderfully played game by Walters.

39. ... Rg8 40. e6 Bb6 41. a7 Kg7 42. Qa4+ Kf8 43. Qg4 Kxg4 44. Qf4+ Ke7 45. Qe3+ Kd8 46. Qf4+ Kc7 47. Qg5+ b6 48. Qf5+ Qxf5 49. Kg7 50. Qd5+ Kg8 51. Qg5+ Kh8 52. Qf5 53. Qxh7+ Kh8 54. Qh7+ Kf8 55. Qe8 56. Qxe6 57. Qd6+ Qxf1 58. Kg7 59. Kh6 60. Kb4, Black resigned.

Walters appeared to have excellent chances for a first-place finish. But correspondence chess is different from over-the-board chess. In over-the-board chess the game is over in a few hours. Sometimes in correspondence chess the cares and problems of the world can interfere. That interference occurred in Walter’s final game against Michael Hensley. It went unreported despite numerous inquiries to both players. A call for adjudication was sent out in February 2012, but no answer was forthcoming. Finally the game was declared a draw by Rule 16d: If neither player submits the adjudication material within one week after the tournament’s end date, the game is scored as a ratable draw.

Arguably the player with the toughest schedule was Robert Fass. Fass entered two sections, qualifying for the semifinals in both, and making it to the finals in one semifinal section and barely missing (4-2) qualification in the other. During his run he had to face Tseng three times (!) and Corkum twice. A draw with William Young III in the final cemented his claim on third place. Robert was kind enough to submit this game with his notes noting that he used books, databases, computer analysis and his own opinions.

Sicilian Defense, Classical Variation (B64)
Robert Fass (2342)
Gerald Weiner (2231)
2008 Electronic Knights Final
Notes by Fass

The Classical Sicilian rears its head.

6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd7 Be7

More popular is 7. ... a6.

8. 0-0-0 0-0 9. f4 h6 10. Bh4

White emerges with a pleasant, long-term advantage."

11. Nf5 Bxf5 12. exf5 Qa5 13. Bc4 Nd4

An uncommon move.

14. Kb1 Rfc8

Black threatens to win material: ... Rxc4.

15. Bd3 Rc7 16. Rhe1 Rac8 17. Bxf6 Bxf6

Now there are opposite colored bishops —aargh!

18. Ne4 Qxd2

19. Nfx6+


Not 22. Rxd6? Re7 23. b4 Nxb4 and
Black is better.

22. ... Rc7 23. Bc4 Rce7 24. Bxe4 b5 25. b3

White threatens to win material with ... Rxb5.

27. Rg4+ Kh7 28. Kc1 Rf2 29. h3 Rf1 30. Rd2

b5 31. a4

31. ... Ne5 32. axb5 Nxb5 33. hxg4

(see diagram top of next column)

White now has a passed pawn on c2.
White’s passed pawn will eventually prove decisive.

33. ... Kg7 34. b3 h5 35. g5 Rxf5 36. h6+

Kc3 f5 41. Kb4 Rh4 42. Ka5 Re3

Black threatens to win material: ... Rxb3.

43. Kg5?

Gerry’s first slip. Until this point White had only a small advantage and should be able to hold. Better is 43. ... Re7.

44. Rd7 Rh2 45. Rxd8 Rg2 46. Rd7 Ra2+

No better is 46. ... Rxe7 47. Kb4 Kf6 48. b6.

47. Kb4 f4

The position was bad and this mistake only shortens the game. Better is 47. ... Rc7 48. Bf3 f4 49. Rxd7 Rd6.

48. b6 Ra8 49. b7, Black resigned.

White’s pawns are unstoppable, so after a valiant fight, Gerry resigns.

The final round saw Tseng pull away from his rivals. A 5½-½ push put him ahead of Gary Walters (4½-1½) and Robert Fass (4½-1½) with Tseng’s only draw coming at the hands of Robert Fass.

Here is a game from the final, lightly annotated by Tseng, showing Tseng’s Petrosian-like style as he demonstrates it is sometimes mobility, not material, that wins endgames.

At A Glance: Standings

The final standings of the 2008 Electronic Knights are based on a weighted point scale. A win in the first round is scored as 1.00 and a draw as 0.50. In the second round the win is worth 2.20 points and the draw 1.10. In the last round a win is recorded as 4.50 and the draw 2.25.

Saluting Benko

Problemists offer a tribute to Pal Benko and 45 Years of Bafflers

By STEVEN B. DOWD

On the occasion of Pal Benko’s column reaching its 45th anniversary (see the April 2012 issue), problemists from around the world have sent dedication problems for him. Here are 11 of them (The first two are symbol problems to honor the anniversary with a “4” and a “5”):

1. Mirko Degenkolbe (Meerane, Germany)

   WHITE TO PLAY AND MATE IN TWO

2. Mirko Degenkolbe (Meerane, Germany)

   WHITE TO PLAY AND MATE IN THREE

3. Robert Lincoln (Egg Harbor, NJ)

   WHITE TO PLAY AND MATE IN TWO
As a reminder, the goal of a proof game is to achieve the above position, which should be reached by a unique sequence of moves.

In addition to the above composition from Donati, we have the following from him, introduced by Benko:

In my 45 years as a columnist I have received many good wishes. The best of them was in problem form, which I still cherish and on this occasion I would like to share it with my readers. For my 67th birthday and the “Benko Bafflers” Anniversary (It started in 1967), I got my initials “P” and “B” as well as the number 67 in excellent retro problems from our best retro specialist, Gianni Donati.

You just have to find White’s last move and justify it. I wish you good detective work and enjoy its logic, as I have. Some hints: For “P”, the question is, “Is Bb1+ or Bxb1+ correct?” For “B”: Here are more choices: Rxb2+, or e4+, Ke1+, or Kxe1+? For “67”: Now Qb3-a4+, or Qc4-a4+ is the last move?

Generally, you must consider the number of men on the board and how many pieces are taken. The pawns and their captures are most important.
It’s no secret that Pal Benko is the best composer of “symbol” problems (those that show shapes such as letters or numbers) in the world, and Mirko is a long-time admirer of Benko’s symbol problems and miniatures, especially twinned miniatures (for which Pal holds the world record), another favorite of his.

This asymmetric problem (a problem starting with a symmetrical position but with asymmetric play) has the thematic try 1. Ng6? (knight to the other side), which is only refuted by 1. ... fxg6!

He met Benko when he was a junior player, and learned so much from his meetings with Benko that he is sure he will also remember theirs in Paraná State and also in Joinville, Santa Catarina, in 1977.

The end also resembles a theme often used in helpmates, the Zilahi, where a piece sacrificed in one phase mates in another, this dependent on whether Black captures with rook or bishop. Every white piece, with the exception of the Rc3, is sacrificed in the course of the solution.

**Solution:**

1. Bb3! Ng6 (a) 2. Bd1 mate. (F)

This problem shows the Bartolovic theme (One try changes set mate [B] but not [A] and the key changes set mate [A] but not [B]), and a 3x2 Zagoruyko (In the course of the solution, there are three changes to two black defenses). Amazing what our world champion can do with only seven pieces!

4. (KORNIN)

1. Na6 bxa6 2. Rc6+ Kd7 3. Nh5 f6 4. Nxf6+ Kd8 5. Re8 mate is the main variation, and if other moves, White plays 2. Rc7! mating with the rook on e6. There are some small duals in that line (such as playing either Kd4 or Kc4), but Zalmen considers them minor—and he is a Loyd disciple regarding such duals.

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8. (DONATI)


Gianni was a key feature of my article on Benko’s “students,” and he primarily composes proof games these days. This one is pretty tough, so if you couldn’t find the answer, don’t feel bad. We all hope you have enjoyed these problems and their solutions!

9: (Gianni Donati NYC Retros)

White has two promoted bishops. They promoted at g8, since they could not exit from a8 or c8. To achieve these promotions White captured three Black pieces (h7xg8; gxh->h7xg8). Note that Black's pawn at g6 came from g7, since h7xg6 would prevent the bishops from exiting. Thus White's g-file pawn could not play down the g-file to promote without capturing. Black has 11 units on the board, the Bc8 was captured at home, and the promoting pawns made three more captures, account for 15 Black units. The white king could not reach c7 except by passing through h6, and if Black had already played g7-g6 before the white king approached, it could not enter the opposite side at all. Thus, the white king stood at h5 when the black g-file pawn was at home on g7, and when Black played g7-g6, the white king played Kh5-h6. This would not be possible with the original black-square bishop standing at home on h8. Therefore that unit was captured at home (the bishop on d4 is a promote) and White did not capture when he played Ba2-b1+.

10: (Gianni Donati Last move?)

The bishop at b5 promoted at f1. To exit, the white e2-pawn had to move, so White's last move was not e2-e4+. Black's pawns made six captures (axb, cxb, fxexd, hxg, and gxf-f1=B), and White has 10 units remaining, so White's last move was not Ke2-e1, Ra2xb2. Therefore, retract Ke2xNe1+, Nc2-e1+.

11: (Gianni Donati Last move?)

White's pawns have made eight captures. Since Black has eight units remaining, the extra white knight promoted at a8 without capturing. To allow the a-file pawn to pass, Black's pawns at a6 and b5 cross-captured. Black's last move cannot have been b6-b5, because with a pawn at b6 the promoted knight could not leave a8. Therefore, retract Qa4-c4, Ka5-a4, b4xc5+. 🍒
The Pin Is The Answer

The pin is the most common chess tactic; the double-attack is close behind.

By GM Lev Alburt

So far it’s been standard Ruy Lopez fare. My dusty old edition of Modern Chess Openings only gives lines with 10. ... Na5 or 10. ... exd4.

In Encyclopedia of Chess Openings, 10. ... Re8 (without “?!”) is one of the main lines—used, for instance, in several Karpov-Kasparov World Championship matches.

11. Bc2

More common here are 11. Nbd2 or 11. a4.

11. ... Bf8 12. Nbd2 h6

I didn’t like ... h7-h6 for Black. With no plans on my part to post anything on g5, I’m not certain ... h7-h6 had much value. A better alternative is 12. ... exd4.

I agree with everything except 12. ... exd4, which gives White a strong center for nothing in return—de facto exchanging the central e5-pawn for White’s c3-pawn. Better was 12. ... g6.

13. Nf1

13. ... Nb8

The capture 13. ... exd4 now would be much stronger than on the previous move, as after 14. exd4 Nb4 White can’t “save” his bishop.

14. Ng3

White can’t win a pawn with 14. dxe5 dxe5 15. Qxd8 Rxd8 16. Nxe5 Re8 17. Nf3 Nxe4 (or 17. ... Bxe4), but after the next move a pawn is winnable, since e4 will have one more defender.

14. ... g6?

This careless move loses a pawn.

15. dxe5 dxe5 16. Qxd8 Rxd8 17. Nxe5 Re8 18. Nf3 Nb7

With all of the minor pieces and rooks on the board, the pawn advantage isn’t enough to plan a victory party. Not just yet! Besides, three of my pieces are tied up defending the e-pawn, while two others remain undeveloped. Changing the priority from preserving the extra pawn to creating some active play seemed a better choice, so I let Black have his way with the e-pawn.

19. a4!

I like William’s way of thinking even as I disagree (in this concrete case) with his conclusion. I think that “the central strategy” (preserving the pawn) 19. Bf4, then 20. Rad1, promised White better winning chances than 19. a4.
19. ... Nc5
To keep the a-file closed by 19. ... b4 deserves attention.

20. axb5 axb5 21. Bf4
Now my rooks are connected, the queenside bishop developed and the black c-pawn under attack. At this point it could get more interesting.

21. ... Rxa1 22. Rxa1 Ncxe4 23. Nxe4 Nxe4 24. Bxc7 Bc5?! While 24. ... Bc5 looks menacing, it soon gets Black in trouble. Instead 24. ...Bg7 puts the bishop in a safe place, where it exerts pressure on White’s b2- and c3-pawns, making it difficult for either to advance.

25. Bxe4 Rxe4 26. b4
Black’s last move wasn’t played with double question marks or advertised as a game losing blunder, so I had to figure it out. A superior opponent wouldn’t offer to exchange bishops this way, unless to his advantage. Right?? (Call it the intimidation factor.) After 27. bxc5 Rxc7, White can’t defend the hanging c5-pawn, and ... Bxf3 threatens to ruin my kingside structure. So I dismissed 27. bxc5 as too ugly to consider.

[After considering, correctly, the most promising, most forced line, 27. bxc5 Rxc7, William should have gone one step beyond semi-generalities i.e. the hanging c5-pawn and looming ... Bxf3. He had to visualize the position very clearly and look for White’s options. In that case, he’d have discovered the winning pin much earlier (but it’s good he returned to this line later and found the win.)

A rule of thumb: After a forced variation involving captures and checks is over, think ahead for at least a half move!—L.A.]

Then I noticed Black’s bishop on c5 had no safe squares, but trying to trap the bishop by moving my bishop fails (27. Ba5 Bd6 or 27. Bg3 Bb6). That left retreating the white bishop and relying on the extra queenside pawn to win, which would be no easy task and probably a draw.

As a last resort, I hoped my rook on a1 could help. That thought changed everything! Now the “ugly” move didn’t look so ugly.

27. bxc5 Rxc7 28. Ra7!
Not only is the c5-pawn safe from capture now, it’s ready to advance, winning a piece.

28. ... Rd7
Best. Black’s bishop and rook have a way to get unpinned, and the c-pawn advance is stopped.

29. Nd4
The threat of c5-c6 is renewed! Nor can Black blockade the c-pawn with 29. ... Bc6, since 30. Nxc6 guards the white rook. Very convenient.

29. ... Bc8 30. Ra8 Rd8 31. Nxb5, Black resigned (in view of 32. N6d6 to follow).

(see diagram at top of next column)

Black’s fatal mistake on move 26 was by no means obvious to me. Keeping an open mind and taking enough time to understand the tactics made a world of difference.
Basic Blunders

Play out endgames to the bitter end; even the world’s best make errors.

By GM PAL BENKO

IN THE INTEREST OF LEARNING FROM others’ mistakes, here are some games from the past year that feature basic blunders. Some of these occur even in the simplest of positions, and even by grandmasters. So it is often worth playing out endgames to the very end even if your opponent has a slight advantage.

Shelter

Takuma Sato-Duncan (1654)
Murlin E. Varner, Jr. (1662)
2012 U.S. Open - Weekend Swiss (5), 08.05.2012

This game should be drawn.
38. ... f6+
38. ... Ke7 39. g4 Kd7 40. g5 Ke7 41. f5 f6+ 42. gxf6+ gxf6+ 43. Ke4 Kd6. At this point Internet commentators gave a mistaken analysis with 44. Kf4? (44. Kd4 is even) 44. ... h5? (44. ... Kd5! 45. h3 Ke4 and Black wins easily keeping his pawn at h7.)
39. Kd5 g6?
Unnecessary. In pawn endings, always think twice before making any pawn moves. The bomb-proof draw was 39. ... h6, when the king may retreat to h8 and continue on to g8 and h7. The only breakthrough would be via g5, but after the trades White cannot achieve more than a stalemate.
40. g4 h6?
A losing move; 40. ... Ke7 draws.
41. f5! g5 42. h3 Ke7 43. Kc6 Ke8 44. Kd6 Kf7 45. Kd7, Black resigned.

Opposition

Jeffrey T. Roland (1700)
Jon Douglas Strohbehn (1539)
2012 U.S. Open - Monday Quad (3), 08.06.2012

Both the position and material are equal.
50. ... Kc6 51. Kc4 Kd6 52. Kd4 Ke6
Yielding space; simpler is to keep the opposition with 52. ... h6 53. h4 h5.
53. Kc5 h6?
But at this stage this is a serious mistake. Black could have held on with any king move, keeping the option of ... h7-h6 or ... h7-h5 at a later moment.
54. h4! h5
55. Kc6 Ke7 56. Kd5?
Still keeping the opposition, but 56. Ke7! Ke6 57. Kd8! Kd5 58. Ke7 Ke4 59. Kf6 Kf3 60. Kxg6 Kxg6 61. Kg5! was the winning path.
56. ... Ke7 57. Ke5 Kf7 58. Kd5 Kd7, Draw agreed.

Connected Passed Pawns

GM Liren Ding (FIDE 2695, CHN)
GM Alexander Onischuk (FIDE 2666, USA)
40th World Chess Olympiad - Open

Mate!

GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2738, ISR)
GM Hao Wang (FIDE 2742, CHN)
FIDE Grand Prix London 2012

Theoretically, the extra pawn should not be winning with the rooks in play but:
54. g4 Ra1 (?)
Why not 54. ... hxg4? The less pawns, the easier it is to hold on.
55. g5!
A skillful move! White attempts to create connected passed pawns.
55. ... Rh1?
Black falls into a trap. Much better was 55. ... fxg5 56. Rd6+ Kf6 57. Rd5+ Kg6 (57. ... Ke6 58. Rg5 also leads to a book draw but it is difficult to hold.) 58. hxg5 58. Rgx5+ Kh6= 58. ... h4 59. f4 h3 could have been the right course of play. The h-pawn in this variation gives Black enough counterplay to draw not like in the game where it fell.

Mate!

GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2738, ISR)
GM Hao Wang (FIDE 2742, CHN)
FIDE Grand Prix London 2012

(see diagram top of next column)

The white center pawns are worth more here and the black king is in a worse position. Even so, the position objectively is drawn.
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

Who still says that helpmates can only be found in composed problems? 56. Kf7!, Black resigned since he gets mated.

Misstep

GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2783, USA)
GM Peter Leko (FIDE 2737, HUN)
FIDE Grand Prix London 2012

A big mistake that makes the white king a “super piece.” Either 49. ... Rh5 or the patient 49. ... Ke8 could have held on since White had no real threat.

50. Ke5! Rxe3+ 51. Kf6 Kg8 52. Rg7+

A superfluous move. After 52. Rc8+ Kh7 53. Kf7 White can take both the black pawns because of the mate threat (either 53. ... Kh6 54. Rh8 mate or 54. Rc1 threatening 55. Rh1 mate).

52. ... Kf8 53. Rh7 Kg8 54. Rh1?

White could have reestablished the mate threat with 54. Rg7+.

54. ... Re4 55. Rg1

Either 55. ... Rxf4, 55. ... Re3 or even 55. ... Kf8 are all satisfactory for a draw. But this way there is no longer an escape.

55. ... Kh7??

The position is winning for White but it is easy to misplay.

61. Rb7?

Either 61. Rc7, 61. a6 or even any forward king move could have been winning.

61. ... Ke6! 62. Rg7

Here, 62. a6 is not any better since 62. ... Rc1+ 63. Kb6 Kd6! is drawish. We can notice the difference at this point. If 61. Rc7, the black king would not have had time to get closer.

62. ... Rc1+! 63. Kb6 Kd6! 64. Kb7 Rb1+! 65. Kc8 Rh1

Black has made the best defensive moves possible. Here 65. ... Ra1 would have been losing because of 66. a6!, but now after 65. ... Rh1 66. a6 Kc6 is a draw.


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Knight’s Tour / Tournament Travel

The Liberty Bell Open

January 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21

A Unique Event

By BILL GOICHBERG

THE LIBERTY BELL OPEN, WHICH MOVES TO A NEW LOCATION IN ITS 45TH year (Sonesta Hotel in downtown Philadelphia, formerly Crowne Plaza), is an unusual event in a number of ways. It is the fastest growing major open tournament in the United States. It is the oldest annual open tournament in the Philadelphia area, and one of the oldest in the country, a long standing January tradition. It offers a good opportunity to visit historic sites and other attractions, including the real Liberty Bell. And perhaps most unusual of all, it advertises “$20,000 projected prizes based on 320 paid entries” each year, but for the past seven years has drawn more than 320 each year, causing the prizes to be raised in proportion!

This event was originated in 1968 by the Philadelphia Chess Association and held that year January 20-21 at the Warwick Hotel, drawing 82 players. Advance entry fee was $8 and prizes were $100 1st, others per entries. It was a five-round Swiss, played at a time control of 48 moves in 2 hours.

From 1969 to 1978, the event rotated among several downtown hotels—the Warwick, Benjamin Franklin, Adelphia, and Sheraton. The organizer and tournament director was usually Jim Politowski. I believe the tournament often had over 100 players, but rarely if ever reached 200.

In 1979 the event was not held, and it was restarted in January 1980 by Continental Chess Association at the old Sheraton Hotel at 17th & Kennedy Boulevard. After a few years there, Philadelphia hotel space became too expensive, and the event was moved to suburban Valley Forge in 1985. Turnouts were modest, and CCA turned over the event to Steve Immitt’s Chess Center of New York, which held the event at suburban Willow Grove and Trevose in 1986-88.

Continental Chess once again began to hold the tournament in 1989, at a great site (the Adams Mark Hotel), and Steve Immitt continued to do a fine job as chief tournament director, as he does to this day. However, from 1990 to 1996, despite an excellent location, it failed to draw 200 players. This was partly due to bad luck, as in 1993 and 1994 the second weekend in January was used, and both years it proved to be the worst weekend of the winter, as huge blizzards caused the loss of many entries. In 1995 the event was moved to February 3-5, and believe it or not, it encountered the worst weather of that winter as another blizzard harmed entries. After this, a player told me, “Why are you so stubborn, why do you keep holding this tournament, can’t you see that the same thing will keep happening and you will keep losing money?” (There have been 17 Liberty Bells since, and no further bad weather).

The 1996 five-round Liberty Bell had $15,000 projected prizes based on 250 entries and drew 190. Then in 1997, the event was played on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend with seven rounds and $20,000 based on 290—and astonishingly, there were 356 entries and the projected prizes were raised! It has been a seven round Martin Luther King Jr. event ever since, drawing over 300 most years 1998-2008, over 400 in 2009-2011, and an incredible 503 players in 2012, a number exceeded by only five other open tournaments in the U.S.! Each year 2006-2012, the projected prizes, based on 320, have been raised. However, the minimum guarantee remains only $14,000—just in case of another blizzard.
2012 Trophies Plus Grand Prix Summary
Trophies Plus awards $12,500 in cash prizes in the 2012 Grand Prix!

2012 TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of December 3 for the 2012 Grand Prix. All Grand Prix updates are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete.

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With a win at the 2012 Canadian Open Championship and with 6-1/2 out of 7 points at the 2012 U.S. Masters, GM EUGÈNE PERELSHTŒYN has moved into the top 15 in the Trophies Plus Grand Prix race. Above, he holds the trophy for his 2009 SPICE Cup victory.

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877-378-4319 (US toll-free)
email info@ChessMagnetSchool.com
To speed up the processing of rating reports, USCF ORGANIZERS, TDS AND AFFILIATES now asks that wherever possible these reports be submitted electronically. This will help to reduce errors. If at all possible, please e-mail your TLAs. This will also make a profit! Either a based-on Swiss tournament held in a small area to check for member IDs. The search capabilities of MSA have been enhanced to assist organizers/TDs in finding existing member IDs. The affiliation fee is just $40 a year. You will have access to the TD/Affiliate area of our website. Remember, you can both run and play in a small tournament. It’s not much work to hold a small tournament, and it may be changed without notice. If you have questions about the Grand Prix, please contact Walter Brown at wbrown@uschess.org or 931-787-1234 ext. 142.

To speed up the processing of rating reports, USCF now asks that wherever possible these reports have IDs for every player. If you collect a new membership, do not submit your rating report until your disk and paper reports include that player’s ID number. To assist tournament directors (TDs) in doing this, we have made several enhancements to our web server which will speed up online membership processing and give TDs a quick way to obtain USCF IDs for new memberships. We also recommend that TDs use the Member Services Area to check for member IDs. The search capabilities of MSA have been enhanced to assist tournament directors (TDs) in finding existing member IDs.

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USCF MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS.

If not a member, add dues to advance entry fee or pay them with entry fee at site.

U.S. Championship Qualifier: Tournament in which qualification spots for the U.S. Championship are awarded.

American Classic: Generally, an event that has been held by one organizer for the last three years and has attracted more than 400 players each year.

Heritage Chess: Tournament held for at least 25 years.

Quick Chess: Tournaments with time controls of G/5 to G/29. There is a separate “quick” or “overall” rating system that includes these events, and games played in these tournaments will not affect a player’s regular rating. Games played with a time control of G/30 through G/60 will be rated in both the quick/overall system and the regular system.

RATING CLASSES

In most events, you don’t have to win the tournament to win a prize—you can win a class prize as a top scorer of your rating group, or a section prize in a section restricted to your rating group. These rating groups are:

- Senior Master: 2400 & up
- Master: 2200-2399
- Expert: 2000-2199
- Class A: 1800-1999
- Class B: 1600-1799
- Class C: 1400-1599
- Class D: 1300-1399
- Class E: 1000-1199
- Class F: 800-999
- Class G: 600-799
- Class H: 400-599
- Class I: 200-399
- Class J: 199/below

Some tournaments use different groups such as 1900-2099, and some have “under” prizes or sections including all below a specified level.

RATINGS INFORMATION

You never lose your rating, no matter how long it has been since you last played. If you return after a long absence, please tell the director and USCF your approximate rating and last year of play. If you have a FIDE rating, or a rating or category from another country, no matter how many years ago, you are not unrated. FIDE or foreign ratings may be rejected or have adjustment points added. If details are not announced, players wishing to use such ratings should contact the organizer in advance.

For foreign players with multiple ratings (USCF, FIDE, CFC, FQE, other foreign), the highest rating is used, with possible adjustment points added, unless otherwise announced.

Ratings based on 4-25 games are called “provisional ratings” to indicate they are less reliable than established ratings. However, such ratings are valid for pairing and prize purposes at all USCF-rated events, unless otherwise stated.

A tournament director (TD) may assign an estimated rating to any player, and may expel an improperly rated player from an event.

HOW TO ENTER IN ADVANCE

Entering by mail or online (if available) is easier for both you and the tournament organizer and often costs less. Check the TLA ads for entering options. Along with entry fee, send full name, address, USCF ID number, expiration date, and section desired (if any). Also, give your last official USCF rating from your magazine label (first 4 numbers on top row). If you are unrated, or have a rating from many years ago, be sure to indicate this.

Your official USCF rating is on the top line of your mailing label: Regular, Quick, and Correspondence. Mailed entries are usually not acknowledged unless you enclose a self-addressed postcard.

For entering online, print confirmation of entry. If entering online, phone the tournament site as the TD might not have access to his (her) e-mail account. If you forfeit without notice, you may be fined up to the amount of the entry fee.

IF YOU MUST WITHDRAW

If you enter by mail and cannot attend, or must drop out of a tournament in progress, it is important you give notice before pairings are started, so no one is deprived of a game. Mail entrants should send withdrawal notices at least a week beforehand—phone any later than this. To withdraw by phone on tournament day, call the site and ask specifically for “the chess tournament.” E-mail withdrawals several days in advance are acceptable if the TD’s e-mail address is listed. Any later than this, both e-mail your withdrawal and call the tournament site as the TD might not have access to his (her) e-mail account. If you forfeit without notice, you could be penalized, or even forfeit.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Tourism director certification is an endorsement of professional competence only. Such certification does not in itself render any tournament director an agent of the USCF, nor is any affiliate an agent of the USCF.
**USCF National Events**

**Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events**

**SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS**

**2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship South**  February 15-17 or 16-17 • Sunrise, Florida

**2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North**  February 15-17 or 16-17 • Schaumburg, Illinois

**2013 30th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West**  February 16-18 or 17-18 • Pleasanton, California

**2013 World Amateur Team & U.S. Amateur Team Championship East**  February 16-18 • Parsippany, New Jersey

**2013 SuperNationals V**  April 5-7 • Nashville, Tennessee

**2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship**  June 6 • Las Vegas, Nevada

**2013 National Open**  June 7-9 or 8-9 • Las Vegas, Nevada

**FUTURE EVENTS** *(Watch for details)*

- **2013 All-Girls National Championships**  April 26-28 • Chicago, Illinois
- **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. Cadet**  July 20-23 • Rockville, Maryland
- **114th annual (2013) U.S. Open**  July 27-August 4 • Madison, Wisconsin
- **2013 K-12 Grade Championship**  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- **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 • Orlando, Florida
- **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**  TBA • Nashville, Tennessee
- **2021 SuperNationals VII**  TBA • Nashville, Tennessee

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**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.**

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**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 (East, North, South, West)
- 2013 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
- 2013 U.S. Class Championship
- 2013 National Youth Action (NYA)
- 2013 U.S. Game/15 Championship
- 2013 U.S. Game 60 Championship
- 2013 U.S. Senior Open
- 2013 U.S. Junior Closed

**DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:**

- 2014 U.S. Amateur Teams (North, South, West)
- 2014 U.S. Cadet
- 2014 National Open
- 2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship
- 2014 U.S. Game/30 Championship
- 2014 U.S. Game 60 Championship
- 2014 U.S. Junior Closed
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. These interests in additional information about or having questions concerning Chess Life itself are directed to contact the listed officers. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TUs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1. The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2. No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3. Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total.

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**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**JAN. 12-13, 2013, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (UNOFFICIAL)**

5SS, 4-SS, G/65, d5, Jan 12-13 only. Online at chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at chesstour.com.

**JAN. 18-20, 2013, FLORIDA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)**

SSS, 5/12. (1) Daily prize pool: $3500. (2) Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com. Adult, $30; Young Adult, $20; Scholastic, $10.

- **Top prizes:**
  - Open Section: 1st: $1500-1000-500-300.
  - U2000 $1000-750-400-300.
  - U1300 $500-300-200.
  - Under 900 $200-100.
  - Under 600 $100.

- **Deposits:**
  - All late entries accepted until 2 hours before your first game; same fee as at site. Phone entry (5) $5: One entry only per person, maximum 3 entries (except U900). (special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com.)

**Jan. 19-20, 2013, MICHIGAN**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6 (UNOFFICIAL)**

3-day schedule:
- Rds. 1, 2 & 3: 9:30 am, 12 pm, 2:30 pm.
- **Top prizes:**
  - U2200 $1500-1000-500-300.
  - U1900 $1000-750-400-300.
  - U1600 $600.

- **Deposits:**
  - All late entries accepted until 2 hours before your first game; same fee as at site. Phone entry (5) $5: One entry only per person, maximum 3 entries (except U900). (special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com.)

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**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**JAN. 19-20, 2013, PENNSYLVANIA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 8 (ENHANCED)**

45th annual Liberty Bell Open

- **Top prizes:**
  - Open Section: 1st: $1500-1000-500-300.
  - U2000 $1000-750-400-300.
  - U1300 $500-300.
  - Under 900 $200.

- **Deposits:**
  - All late entries accepted until 2 hours before your first game; same fee as at site. Phone entry (5) $5: One entry only per person, maximum 3 entries (except U900). (special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com.)

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**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**JAN. 26-27, 2013, TENNESSEE**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)**

- **Top prizes:**
  - Open Section: 1st: $1200-750-300.
  - U2000 $600-300.
  - U1300 $200.

- **Deposits:**
  - All late entries accepted until 2 hours before your first game; same fee as at site. Phone entry (5) $5: One entry only per person, maximum 3 entries (except U900). (special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com.)

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**Trophies Plus Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 26-27, 2013, NORTH CAROLINA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)**

- **Top prizes:**
  - Open Section: 1st: $3500-2000-1000.
  - U2200 $1500-1000-500.
  - U1900 $1000-500.

- **Deposits:**
  - All late entries accepted until 2 hours before your first game; same fee as at site. Phone entry (5) $5: One entry only per person, maximum 3 entries (except U900). (special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com.)

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**Trophies Plus Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 3-4, 2013, COLORADO**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (OFFICIAL)**

- **Top prizes:**
  - Open Section: 1st: $1500-1000-500.
  - U2000 $1000-500.
  - U1300 $600.

- **Deposits:**
  - All late entries accepted until 2 hours before your first game; same fee as at site. Phone entry (5) $5: One entry only per person, maximum 3 entries (except U900). (special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com.)
Come Join Us
As we Celebrate the Grandmasters!

FEBRUARY 16—18, 2013
(President’s Weekend)

World Amateur Team &
43rd U.S. Amateur Team Championship East

Reserve your room early!

SEE TOURNAMENT LIFE
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

We thank you for your continued support!

USCF
Found chess events including tournaments and chess magnet school junior grand prix.
FEB. 2, NEW JERSEY
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10
Dr. Louisiana Machan XVI Open
4-5-6, EF: $5, members $3 and USCF $5. G/20, GMs free ($25 deducted from entry fee). Prizes to U2000, U1800, U1500, U1200, U900. RDS.: Saturday 10:00-1:00, 3:00, 5:00. $35 entry fee by 2/6. www.marshallchessclub.org for special additional weekly prizes.

FEB. 5, OHIO
CHESS MANAGET JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!
11th Annual Blackthorn
2pm, Fri.; 8pm, Sat.; 9am, Sun. 1-day or 2-day options. $150-100, $50. Prizes to U1900, U1700 and U1500. RDS.: Fri. 8pm, Sat. 9am, Sun. 1-day or 2-day options. $25 entry fee by 2/6. www.mcc-gr.org for details or call 732-499-0118.

FEB. 6, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10
31st Annual Ballantine Memorial
WILLIAM L. BALLANTINE MEMORIAL: 11-15, Rendezvous, 157 Battery Pl., New York 10288. Advance Entry by Mail: Check should be payable to "Rochester Chess Club" or "RCC". (RCC) and mailed with registration form to: Stacia Amarasingham, 619 Crane Creek Lane, Eagan, MN 55121, sisters@amarasingham.com; (RCC) (614) 747-7471. Prerequisite and Attendance section for details.

FEB. 8, NEW JERSEY
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10
The 2013 Masters
2pm, Fri.; 8pm, Sat.; 9am, Sun. 1-day or 2-day options. $150-100, $50. Prizes to U1900, U1700 and U1500. RDS.: Fri. 8pm, Sat. 9am, Sun. 1-day or 2-day options. $25 entry fee by 2/6. www.mcc-gr.org for details or call 732-499-0118.

FEB. 9, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10
The 17th annual MID-AMERICA OPEN
March 15-17 or 16-17, Clayton, MO (Saint Louis)
$16,000 projected prizes, $12,000 minimum guaranteed

FEB. 9-10, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
Marshall February GP
4-5-6, EF: $20 if received by 2/14, $25 at site. 5SS,不低于50. GMs Free Entry. INFO 201 287 0250 or diana@icanj.net.

FEB. 10, NEW JERSEY
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15
Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Winter 2013 Open Championship
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Open to currently or formerly over 2199 USCF or FIDE, or any player scoring 2 1/2 or more points in any "4 Rated Games Tonight!" since last 1/1. $250-200-150, $100. RDS.: 9:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Fri. thru 2/6. GMs Free Entry. INFO 201 536 2690. Email: diana@icanj.net. See "Grand Prix" in this issue or chesstour.com.

FEB. 11, NEW JERSEY
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15
OPEN & U1600.
Dr. Luvizminda Machan XVII Open
11-15, Rendezvous, 157 Battery Pl., New York 10288. Advance Entry by Mail: Check should be payable to "Rochester Chess Club" or "RCC". (RCC) and mailed with registration form to: Stacia Amarasingham, 619 Crane Creek Lane, Eagan, MN 55121, sisters@amarasingham.com; (RCC) (614) 747-7471. Prerequisite and Attendance section for details.

FEB. 15-17, VIRGINIA
4th Annual Hampton Chess & Sports Festival
555/6, Hampton Convention Center, 1610 Collington Dr., Hampton.

FEB. 16, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
Marshall Thursday G/30 Grand Prix
9-10:45, Marshall CC, 515 3rd Ave., NYC: 212-777-3716. EF: $40; members $25, GMs and GMs free (no deduction from prize). $605/32, top 2 sections, balancing 1-2 G/45+30" incr) U1500 & U1200 G/120 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60; U1200 4-SS, G/45.

FEB. 16-17, WISCONSIN
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10
Dr. Luvizminda Machan XVI Open
4-5-6, EF: $5, members $3 and USCF $5. G/20, GMs free ($25 deducted from entry fee). Prizes to U2000, U1800, U1500, U1200, U900. RDS.: Saturday 10:00-1:00, 3:00, 5:00. $35 entry fee by 2/6. www.marshallchessclub.org for special additional weekly prizes.

A & B Events:


Chess Life

Chess Life January 2013

22nd annual EASTERN CLASS

March 15-17 or 16-17, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, Sturbridge MA

$16,000 projected prizes. $12,000 minimum guaranteed

5 rounds, 7 sections. Choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule, both merge after rd 2. Participation based on paid entries (re-entry & Class D Limited), half 2/5 each prize minimum. Rated players may play up one section. Enter at chessaction.com.

Master (Section 2200): Prizes $2000-1000-600-400, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus, top Under 2300 $600-300. FIDE rated, 80(GP). Rated prizes.


Class A Section (1800-1999): $1200-600-400-200.

Class B Section (1600-1999): $1200-600-400-200.

Class C Section (1400-1599): $1000-500-300-200.

Class D Section (1200-1399): $500-250-150-100. trophies to first 3, firstUnder 1000, Under 800, Under 600, top Unrated

Unrated limited $150 in E, $250 D, $400 C, $600 B, $800 A.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chesscour.ist.
A Heritage Event!

MAR. 7, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS - 10 (ENHANCED)
March New Yorkers Special Edition of USCF’s Longest-Running Action Tournament!

See previous issue for TLAs appearing January 1-14

A State Championship Event!

MAR. 9, CONNECTICUT
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS - 20

Hotel!, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, NYC (212-971-0101). Lodging recommendations: (1) Crowne Plaza, 255 Seventh Ave, midtown west of Eighth Ave, 4 blocks west of Penn Station, 212-477-3716; (2) The New Yorker, 11th Ave at 48th St., 2 blocks west of Eighth Ave, 212-941-6600; (3) Times Square Hotel, Times Sq., 2 blocks west of Eighth Ave, 212-765-1500.


A Heritage Event!

MAR. 7, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS - 10 (ENHANCED)
Thursday: 7:30 PM - 10 PM. The Marshall Thursday Game 30 Grand Prix!

New Orleans, LA 70126. 504-488-7785.

A State Championship Event!

MAR. 7-9, PENNSYLVANIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

Chicago Chess Festival:

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

Contingent Chess Association
PO Box 249
Salisbury Mills, NY 12577
888-265-3013
chessclub@aol.com
www.contingentchess.org

San Diego Chess Club
2225 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101, 619-239-7166
campuschess@gmail.com
www.chessaction.com, 845-496-9658, DirectorAtChess.US.

Silver Knights Chess
3655 Maryland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109.
314-646-9658, chessstl@aol.com
www.silverknightschess.com

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$40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.

[72x558]FIDE.

[72x318]Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15.

2-day schedule:

[72x637]$300-150-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated.

[72x715]TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

24th annual Vermont Resort

[72x506]Before rd 3.

[72x443]Rated players may up stage section.

[72x148]www.vachess.org. NS.

[72x155]Burke, VA 22015. Email andrea2@yahoo.com, info only, no email entries. WEB/

60

[72x229]5SS. A VCF Cup Event! $3500 Guaranteed!

[72x719]Battle Creek, MI 48017.

[72x725], at the McCamly Plaza Hotel, 50 Capital Avenue, SW,

[72x738]TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

228-9200 chess rate.

[72x282]Byes:

[72x356]Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

[72x300]G/100, d5. FIDE rated.

[72x320]7SS, 40/115, SD/1, d5. FIDE rated.

[72x415]Free to GMs, IMs, WGMs; $150 deducted from prize. (2) If post-event rating posted 3/26/12-

[72x494]1) If post-event rating posted 3/26/12-3/26/13 is more than 30

[72x376]to seniors 65/over in Open through U1600.

[72x213]Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if

[72x99]under 1100 Sections EF:

[727x99]u2000:

[727x246]Under 2300:

[727x193]Under 1600:

[727x190]Under 1500:

[727x181]Under 1400:

[727x188]Under 1300:

[727x178]Under 1200:

[727x175]Under 1100:

[727x172]Under 1000:

[727x169]Under 900:

[727x166]Under 800:

[727x163]Under 700:

[727x160]Under 600:

[727x157]Under 500:

[727x154]Under 400:

[727x151]Under 300:

[727x148]Children:

[727x145]Under 200:

[727x142]Under 100:

[727x139]Under 50:

[727x136]Under 25:

[727x133]Under 12:

[727x130]Under 10:

[727x127]Under 8:

[727x124]Under 6:

[727x121]Under 4:

[727x118]Under 2:

[727x115]Under 1:

[727x112]Open:

[727x109]EF:

[727x106]Rated prizes:

[727x103]TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

17th annual Missouri School Chess Congress

[72x105]adults, only. Castles: Ok. Tournaments not available in Open Section.

[72x102]A VCF Cup Event! $3500 Guaranteed!

[72x100]with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com, Adult $30,

[72x101]Rated prizes:

[72x100]by 3/13, $250 at site.

[72x104]Rated players:

[72x104]may play up one section.

[72x103]Byes:


[72x100]Rated prizes:

[72x104]Byes:

[72x104]Rated prizes:

[72x103]Rated prizes:

[72x103]Rated prizes:

[72x102]Rated prizes:

[72x102]Rated prizes:

[72x100]Rated prizes:

[72x103]Rated prizes:

[72x103]Rated prizes:

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[72x102]Rated prizes:

[72x102]Rated prizes:

[72x102]Rated prizes:

[72x102]Rated prizes:

[72x102]Rated prizes:
until 1 hour before game. Online or mailed entry fee if mailed by JAN 19th; at site. Checks payable to uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special rules: Players must submit to a search for electronic devices, earphones, cellphones or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission.

JUNE 6, NEVADA

2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC)
See National

JUNE 7-9 OR 8-9, NEVADA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)
CARSON, NV

7 D-SS (14 games), 6/5. Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South. NV. $1000-500-400-300. 4/1-3. 9-11:30-2:30-5. Eff: $795. Open to all USCF members. 3) Unrated (0-400) $750-500-300-200. 4) Balance of any limited prize money over $2000 to U1300 schedule: $900-800-700-600-500, top 1500 (no unr) $2000-1000, top senior 65/over $800. Minimum entry fee $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.

JUNE 7-20, VIRGINIA

TRAVELERS CHEQUE PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)
DC International

International: 95, 400/350, 150, 30 seconds increment, 1/1 draw in all sections. For all Scholastic players 13 and under who are USCF members. Fifteen places at ages 8-11, 12, 13. Place for 15th. Three extra prizes in each section for unrated players. Special 49-year age group for players over an 800 U.S.C.F. rating. Except for the open 99 group you must play in your own age group for plus score & rating eligibility. See www.chesstour.com/foreratings.htm. USCF membership required. All prizes sent by check to player or club. Exception to U1300 schedule: Chess medals to all participants. Chess medals to all participants.

JUNE 8-9, ARIZONA

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JUNE 8-9, California, Northern

See National

JUNE 16, NEVADA

2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC)
See National

JUNE 17-21 OR 24-27, Winter Championship
See National

JUNE 26-28 OR 27-28, NEVADA

CARSON, NV

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)
CARSON, NV

7 D-SS (14 games), 6/5. Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South. NV. $1000-500-400-300. 4/1-3. 9-11:30-2:30-5. Eff: $795. Open to all USCF members. 3) Unrated (0-400) $750-500-300-200. 4) Balance of any limited prize money over $2000 to U1300 schedule: $900-800-700-600-500, top 1500 (no unr) $2000-1000, top senior 65/over $800. Minimum entry fee $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.
Tournament Life / January

California, Southern

The Los Angeles Chess Club 
(The premier chess club in Southern California) (310) 795-5710 * 
www.LACChessClub.com 
Beginner/Novice Class: Sunday 1-2 pm 
Intensive Chess School: Monday 3-6 pm, 6-9 pm 
Advanced/Expert Class: Tuesday 6-9 pm 
Studious Chess: Wednesday 7-9 pm 
Advanced Chess: Thursday 7-9 pm 
School Chess: Friday 3-5 pm 
Saturday 9-12 pm 
Weekend Chess: Saturday 8-10 am 
Check-in by 3p. 
Sched: Check-in by 3p.
Prizes: 1/2 collections. 
Parking: Free at BoA, basement ($5).
Info: www.LACChessClub.com/chessLessCNS.

January

JAN. 5, 12, 19, 26, LACC - SAT Night Blitz (G/6) 
30SS, (10 Games). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blks 405 West. 

JAN. 11-13 OR 12-13, LACC - January Open

FEB. 16-18, 2nd Annual Recession Buster Open

FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 20th annual Western Championships (CA-S)

FEB. 2, DC Girls Open

FEB. 3, Metro First Sunday Quads

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open (VT)

JULY 3-7, 4-7, 5-7 OR 7-1, 41st annual World Open (VA)

JULY 6-10, 41st Annual World Open (VA)

MAY 27-31, 28-31, 29-31 OR 30-31, 7th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

JANUARY

January 2013 | Chess Life
Illinois

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Midwest-Americon (MO)

See Grand Prix.
Tourney Life / January

**Minnesota**

FEB. 1-2, 2013 Rochester Grand Winter Open
See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

**Mississippi**

FEB. 9, 2013 Game 45 Championship
550, 440/5. Country Inn & Suites, 301 White Pearl, Pearl, MS 36092.
HR: $75. High school: $45. Jr. Open: $90. 3 sections: High School, 8th Grade, and 7th Grade. Early registration fee: $40. 35% off by 1/12.
Pre-entry fee: $35. 2 sections: High School (grades 9-12, all players rated under 1400), G/60, trophies to top 10. Primary School (grades 7-8, all players rated under 1400), G/60, trophies to top 5. 3rd grade: $15, 1st prize in each section. Trophies to top 5. Rds: 1st-10, Thursday and Friday. 7:30 AM start time, 7:30 AM finish time. 7:30 PM start time, 11:00 PM finish time. Totals for each school: 1st place $150, 2nd place $75, 3rd place $30.

**New Hampshire**

JAN. 19-20, Portsmouth Sea
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 26-27, 17th Queen City Open
See Grand Prix.

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open (VT)
See Grand Prix.

**New Jersey**

NJCCS Quads - First Friday Every Month

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, Chess Magnet Wednesdays G/60 (455, Monthly)
Monthly 455, 8th, start times at 7:30 PM. JSF: $35. $25. 1st and 2nd for each grade. tournaments. 2 sections: K-12 and U1200. USCF membership fee: $10.00 for each player.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JAN. 18-21, 25 Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 20-21, 27-30, 31 Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30
JAN. 20-21, 27-30, 31 Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 18-21, 25 Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 20-21, 27-30, 31 Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

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See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 20-21, 27-30, 31 Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 18-21, 25 Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 20-21, 27-30, 31 Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Sunday Grand Prix
JAN. 18-21, 25 Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.
JAN. 20. Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30
Quad: 30; Starts at 10:30am, 11:45, and 1pm. EF: $20/$15. Prizes: $55 to first in each section.1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: 201-257-5257. Please visit www.chessmatesnj.com for details or call 1-877-499-0118.

JAN. 20. Westfield Winter Scholastic

JAN. 20. Chess Mates Blitz G/5 RR (IC)

JAN. 21. 2013 Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Team Championships (MD)
See Maryland.

JAN. 26. Dr. Luvizminda Machan XV Open
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 26. Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 1-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

JAN. 26. Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30
Quad: 30; Starts at 10:30am, 11:45, and 1pm. EF: $20/$15. Prizes: $55 to first in each section.1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: 201-257-5257. Please visit www.chessmatesnj.com for details or call 1-877-499-0118.

JAN. 27. Westfield Quads
3 RR, G/40. Westfield Y Club, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prizes: $50 to first in each section. TX, $20, $15. Members, RR: 1:30-2:00 p.m. Rds: 2:15-3:45 p.m. Prizes: Top 3 in each section. Info: westfieldchessclub@gmail.com. Please visit www.westfieldchessclub.com.

JAN. 27. Dr. Luvizminda Machan XVI Open
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 27. Chess Mates Sunday Mail G/5 RR (IC)

JAN. 28. Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 1-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

JAN. 28. Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30
Quad: 30; Starts at 10:30am, 11:45, and 1pm. EF: $20/$15. Prizes: $55 to first in each section.1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: 201-257-5257. Please visit www.chessmatesnj.com for details or call 1-877-499-0118.

FEB. 2. Fair Lawn Summer Quads
3 RR, G/60 t/d. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

FEB. 2. Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30
Quad: 30; Starts at 10:30am, 11:45, and 1pm. EF: $20/$15. Prizes: $55 to first in each section.1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: 201-257-5257. Please visit www.chessmatesnj.com for details or call 1-877-499-0118.

Chess Mates Summer School Junior Grand Prize
FEB. 8 & 9, 20 & 21, 25, Chess Mates Wednesdays $40 (18 Week), Weekly 4SS. Open to unr players K thru 4th grade. All registration must be made by Feb 5th. Dv: $18.50. Please present identification on entering the building. John Moldovan: westfieldchessclub@gmail.com. Please visit www.westfieldchessclub.com.

FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2009 Baltimore Open (MD)
See Grand Prix.

FEB. 9. Dr. Luvizminda Machan XVII Open
See Grand Prix.

FEB. 9. Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 1-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

FEB. 9. Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30
Quad: 30; Starts at 10:30am, 11:45, and 1pm. EF: $20/$15. Prizes: $55 to first in each section.1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: 201-257-5257. Please visit www.chessmatesnj.com for details or call 1-877-499-0118.

FEB. 10. Barcelona Chess Club Open

FEB. 10. Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Winter 2013 Open
See Grand Prix.

FEB. 10. Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Winter 2013 Scholastic Championship in 5 Sections
SITE: BERGEN ACADEMY, 30 HACKENSACK AVE., Hackensack, NJ 07601. 4SS, EVERYONE PLAYS 4 GAMES, ALL PLAYERS WITH 2.5 PTS OR MORE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY USCF Memb Required. See Grand Prix.

 estados de la Unión, A.C. 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

 estados de la Unión, A.C. 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

 estados de la Unión, A.C. 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

 estados de la Unión, A.C. 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.

 estados de la Unión, A.C. 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 t/d5. 1st round 1pm. All The King’s Men Chess & Games Centre, ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60.
66 rounds, G/61, d5 (except K-1), open to grades K-12 in any state (top NY player & team entry fees section are NY champs). Team prizes based on top 4 scores from same school. 203 trophies to be awarded, plus free entries for NY players! Reserve hotel room by Feb 2.

In 8 sections: High School (K-12), High School Reserve (K-12 under 1200/ unranked), Junior High (K-9), Middle School Reserve (K-8 under 1000), Elementary (K-6), Elementary Reserve (K-5 under 800 or unrated), Primary (K-3). G/25, d5, plays Sunday, Feb 24 only, 5 games.

See TLA under "New York" for full details.
7th annual PHILADELPHIA OPEN
March 27-31 (Open), 28-31, 30-31 or 30-31 (other sections) - Easter weekend at Loews

Prizes $75,000 based on 480 paid entries, $50,000 minimum. IM and GM norms possible!

Open: 9SS, 40,RD, SD/30, inc/30. U2200 to U1300: 7SS, 40, SD/1, d5 (3-day option), rnds 1-2 G/35, d5; 2-day, rnds 1-4 G/40, d4). U1600: 7SS, 40, d4, March 30-31 only.


Parking: Loews valet $30. Gateway Garage, 1540 Spring St (3/5 mile walk) is about $5/day Sat & Sun, $18 other days.

7 sections. Prizes based on 480 paid entries. see proportional (seniors, re-entries, GMs, IMs, WGMs, U1300 Section count half, U1000 15%), with 2/3 min. guaranteed.


Prize limits: 1) If post-event rating posted 3/26/12-3/26/13 is more than 30 pts above section max, limit $1,500. 2) U to limit $200 U1000, $500 U1300, $1000 U1600, $1500 U1800, $2000 U2000. 3) Under 26 games limit $1,000 U1300, $2,000 U1600.


U2200 to U1600 Section: $225 online by 3/25, 4/22, $229, 3-day $228, 2-day $227 mailed by 3/18, $250 at site.

U1100 Section: All $100 less than U2200 to U1600.

U1300 Section: online at chessaction.com by 3/18, $50 at site. Phoned entry: $5 more than online entry; 466-896-2038, ends 3/25.

Online late entry: available until 2 hours before first game; same fee as at site.

Seniors 65/over in U1600/100, less $100. Re-entry (no Open to Open) $100.

5-day open schedule: Reg. ends Wed 6 pm, rds. Wed 7 pm, Thu 12 noon & 7 pm, Fri 11 am & 6 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.

4-day: Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.

3-day: Reg. ends Fri 10 am, rds. Fri 11, 2:30 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.

2-day: U2200-U1300: Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12 & 3:45, Sun 10, 12 & 2.

Half pt bye OK all, limit 3 (2 last 4 rds).

Open must commit before rd 2, others rd 4.

All: FIDE ratings used for Open, USCF March for others, unofficial usually if otherwise unr. Bring set, board, clock if possible; not supplied. USCF mem. required; see Chess Life or chessaction.com for information. Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!

FEB. 20, 27, MAR. 6, 13, 20, Marshall Wednesday U2000
5-6, 30/905, D5/145. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716. EF:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!

FEB. 20, 27, MAR. 6, 13, 20, Marshall Wednesday U2000
5-6, 30/905, D5/145. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716. EF:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!

4-SS, G/45d5.注册于5/6, 30/905, D5/145. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716. EF:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!

FEB. 24, 4th Thursday U2000
4-SS, G/45d5. Trustees: $30/50. Open $30/50-$60; $50-$100; $100-$150. Trophies: $3. Reserve section. Advance Entry: Evil's Reduced! Open entry $25 Reserve $15. Registration on site 8-8:15 PM AT. Round: 9:30-12:00-2:15-4:30 PM. Free USCF 940 (#204676) member cards for all participating players under 18 years of age. Mail Entry: please check payable to “Cardinal's Cor

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!

FEB. 25-APR. 1, Marshall FIDE Mondays
6-55/1205. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716. Open to all play-

FEB. 23, Marshall Thursday Game 30 Grand Prize!

See Grand Prize.

FEB. 23, NEW! Marshall FIDE $50 BCF! (E)!

See Grand Prize.

FEB. 23, Grand Marshall Valentine U1600!


A Heritage Event!


Marshall Scholastic U1400!

FEB. 23-24, 46th annual New York State Scholastic Cham-
ionship! Open to grades K-12 in any state (top NYS player & team in each section are invited to compete). Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 23-24, 46th annual New York State Scholastic Cham-
ionship! Open to grades K-12 in any state (top NYS player & team in each section are invited to compete). Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 23-24, 46th annual New York State Scholastic Cham-
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FEB. 23-24, 46th annual New York State Scholastic Cham-
ionship! Open to grades K-12 in any state (top NYS player & team in each section are invited to compete). Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
March 23-27, 2013. NO ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS.

EF: $50 after March 1st. EF includes lunch, t-shirt, program/score book, as well as top three team trophies in each section. EF: $35 January 2-February 19.

Maryland Chess Association (MD)
See Maryland.

FEB. 2, 2013 PA State Game/75 Championship
See Grand Prix.

FEB. 10, 2013 PA Quick Chess Champ. (OP)
See Grand Prix.

FEB. 9-10, 2013 Carlisle Open & PA Collegiate Championship
A State Championship Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

January 9-10, 2013 PA State Scholastic Championship

SSS. 192 Trophies (96th Individual & 56 teams). Hotel Carlota, 1700 Harrardville Pike, Charleston, SC 29407. Hotel Carlota, 1700 Harrardville Pike, Charleston, SC 29407. Info: 843-552-8300, hotel.carlota@harrahshresorts.com, 843-552-3223, jean.hubbard@harrahshresorts.com.

See Maryland.

FEB. 10-11, 2013 1st Annual Bedford County Quick Championship

The Grand Prix is an annual chess tournament held in the United States. It is considered one of the most prestigious and competitive chess events in the country, attracting top chess players from across the nation. The tournament features a variety of formats, including individual and team competitions, and offers a range of prizes and awards for participants. The event is held in various locations, including cities and towns throughout the United States. The Grand Prix is open to players of all skill levels, and provides a unique opportunity for chess enthusiasts to test their skills and compete against some of the best players in the country.
Tennessee

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JAN. 12-13, Memphis Candidates 2013

Site: BWM, 1800 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103. 5SS, G/120, DS/8. Top 6

finishers meet David Schell and Graham Hornbostel in 2013 City Championship. Entry Fee: $26 and check. Optional $5 for 1st round. 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM. Registration: Jan 11th. TD: Gary Yablon, gtyablon@gmail.com, memchess.com.

MAR. 16-17, 17th annual Mid-America Open (MD)

APR. 5-7, SuperNationals V

See Nationals.

Texas

JAN. 12, Winter Wonderland Scholastic Chess Tourney

Lovely High School, 2590 Estates Dr., Lucas, TX 75006. 5SS, G/80, No delay. $10 entry fee for all sections except HS. 8:30 AM. Open registration: 7:45 AM. Special Team and Individual registration: 8 AM. Top 4: Free registration for all Rated sections. 1/2 pt. bye for R1. No HS. HSs division limited to 20 players. 1st-4th section limited to 40 players. HSs section to HSs only. $20 close registration. Total 62 teams. 1st-4th sections: Closing date 1/21/13. HSs section: 1/17/13. Free HS registration for changes made after 1/17/13. No credit cards accepted onsite. Special TCA entry application is received by 1/9 for all HSs divisions. Entry fee: $26.00. CheckmateThis@gmail.com or 972-658-8537.

Jan 21-27, 1st annual Winter Wonderland Scholastic Chess Tourney

Kingston/Westlake HS, 2708 Holbrook Rd., Westlake, TX 78749. 5SS, G/120, D5. Top 6. Top 4: Free registration for all Rated sections. Not Rated sections do not require US Chess Federation membership. Entry Fee: $25.00. CheckmateThis@gmail.com or 972-658-8537.

Jan 26, 13th annual SuperNationals V

See Nationals.

JANUARY 2013 | Chess Life

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and White is in Zugzwang (4. Kg4 Ba8 5. Kh4 Bf3!).

**Problem VI.** Skellettia 1989: 1. Rxb5 forces 1. ... Bxe3 but then 2. Rxb8 wins (2. ... Rxd3 3. Rdx3! Qx6 4. Rxd8+ or 2. ... Qxb5 3. Qd6 Re8 4. Qe7?).

**PAGE 19 / ABCS OF CHESS**

**Problem I.** Double attack: Black trades queens and castles, 2. ... 0-0-0+, winning a rook. **Problem II.** Fork: Black gains at least a pawn with 1. ... Qxd4. **Problem III.** Pin: After 1. ... fxe4, Black wins up a rook ahead (2. Bxe4 Bxh3). **Problem IV.** Mating net: It is over after 1. ... Nf3 (or 1. ... Nc4) 2. Rxc1 Bxc3+ 3. Kb1 Nd2 mate. **Problem V.** Mating net: Black wins with 1. ... Nh3+. If 2. Kf1, then 2. ... Rg1 mate. If 2. Kh1, then 2. ... Nxf2 mate. **Problem VI.** Mating net: Black scores by 1. ... Rxh2+ 2. Kxh2 Qh4 mate.

**PAGE 45 / BENKO’S BAFFLERS**

**Problem I.** 1. Kd7? 1. Kf5! Kc4 2. Kg4 Kb3 3. g4 Kxb2 4. g5 a3 5. g6 a2 6. g7 a1=Q 9. g8=Q Qh1+ 10. Kg5 Qg1+ wins the new queen. 1. ... Kc4 2. Kg7 Kb3 3. Kx8 Kxb2 4. c4 Draws. The white king only on b8 can secure his queen promotion. **Problem II.** 1. Re1 Rb3+ 2. Kg2 Rb2+ 3. Kh1 Kd8 4. e7+ Ke8 5. a4 Rb4 6. a5 Rb5 7. a6 Rb8 8. a7 Ra6 9. Rg1! Kxe7 10. Rg8! Rx a7 11. Rg+7 wins. The white king can find shelter in the corner from the checks.

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- **SPECIAL RATES FOR CLUB ADS**, Up to 5 lines $180 per year, $100 for 6 months for unchanged club ads in the TLA section. Announce meeting dates & times, activities, contact info, etc.


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I never imagined I would ever play a move sacrificing my queen for purely positional reasons, without any material compensation whatsoever, but it happened in the game Wesley Brandhorst-Lawrence Coplin played in the USCF Absolute correspondence chess (CC) tournament for 2006. After somewhat carelessly permitting my formidable and ingenious opponent to set up a seemingly impregnable "fortress" position late in the endgame, I was on the verge of reluctantly conceding a draw after an intense and exhausting game, when the sudden inspiration for this unusual sacrifice came to me. My "best move" turned out to be an outright gift; none of the available captures worked as well, as proved later after the game was over by the Nalimov tablebases. It has remained an object lesson ever since: "Absolutely" exhaust the hidden, even unlikely, resources of every troublesome position before conceding a draw or a loss. Of course, this is much more possible to do in CC play (where one usually has up to three days average per move) than in the hurly-burly time scrambles of over-the-board, which I suppose is one reason why I have restricted my chess adventures to CC play since 1975.

Formidable Frustrating Fortress Foiled
SIM Wesley T. Brandhorst (2444)
SIM Lawrence Coplin (2414)
USCF Absolute CC Tournament 2007

98. Qe4+

This queen sacrifice is required in order to free the white king and results in an unusual endgame of queen versus bishop and knight. If instead the queen tries capturing the bishop, this permits the bishop to capture the last white pawn; if instead the queen tries capturing the bishop, this permits the knight to reach c7 (via a6) to capture the pawn queening on a8. Ask 100 chess players to tell you what White's best 98th move is and 99% of them will not find the truth in this position.

98. ... Nxe4

Forced. If 98. ... Kb5, then 99. Qb7+ Kc4 100. Qe6 Be5 101. Qxc5+ and the pawn queens, or 100. ... Be7/Bf8 and the white king escapes to b8 and the pawn queens.

99. Kb7 Kb5 100. a8=Q Nc5+

At this point, Black invokes the 50-move rule: White must either mate or capture a piece in 50 moves or less or the game is a draw.


The winning strategy (not found in any book in my library) ensures that White will win a black piece in the ensuing few moves.

113. ... Bf2

113. ... Bf4 is not the saving move because of 114. Qe8.

114. Qe8!, Black resigned.

Black now foresees that White will win a piece (and the game) in the next few moves and decides graciously to resign.
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6-SS, G/90

Sections (age as of 1/1/13)
- Under 8
- Under 10
- Under 12
- Under 14
- Under 16
- Under 18
- Under 20

Friday April 26
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

Entry Fee
$50 postmarked by 3/25, $70 by 4/15, $90 after/on-site.
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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
Entry fee: $30 per team

Blitz Tournament (G/5)
Fri. April 26 3:00 PM
Entry fee: $20 by 4/15, $25 after/on-site.

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Chess Rate
single $169, Double $169, Triple $189, Quad $209
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Online Registration
www.renaissanceknights.org/allgirls
www.kasparovchessfoundation.org
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In future support of the work of the U.S. Chess Trust, you are an important part of the Promise for Tomorrow.

bduscf@aol.com

Write or send an email to Barbara DeMaro, bduscf@aol.com (845-527-1167) to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax-deductible. A 501(c)(3) organization. BD:08/03

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October 18, 2012 – April 21, 2013

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Therefore,

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I will make provision

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directing the trustees or directors of my foundation to continue beyond my lifetime making an annual gift to the U.S. Chess Trust.

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Editor’s Letter

As I worked on this issue, I felt at times that I was at a production of The Lion King. In Disney’s story, the show-stopping number is “Circle of Life,” which could be applied to this month’s Chess Life. We start with yet more world championships for USCF players at the beginning of their careers: Kayden Troff and Samuel Sevian brought home gold medals from Slovenia, which follow recent championships by Awonder Liang, Steven Zierk, Daniel Naroditsky, and Aleksandr Lenderman. The always entertaining GM John Fedorowicz gives us the story. The circle includes the end of life, and sadly we must report on the death of Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya. Frank Niro and Al Lawrence report the fascinating story of a woman who made world headlines outside of the world of chess because of her defection and who won national championships in both the U.S. and USSR. In between these two stories we have a story about college chess players at the UT Dallas Invitational producing those little nuggets that make chess so exciting, given to us by Dr. Alexey Root, WIM. Finally, Jamaal Abdul-Alim brings us top players at the height of their powers telling us how they go about the nuts and bolts of chess planning and when they just rely on their gut. Here’s to your chess circle of life. -Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: FEBRUARY

A Chess Party to Brighten Up Winter

Look for coverage of one of America’s most popular series, the U.S. Amateur Team Championships, held over President’s Day weekend from February 16-18. The nationwide festival is held in four locations, the East in Parsippany, New Jersey; the West in Pleasanton, northern California; the South in Sunrise, Florida and the North in Schaumburg, Illinois. Our coverage will include games and updates from all four and U.S. Chess Scoop video coverage from the largest, the U.S. Amateur Team East, also known as the World Amateur Team. Share your own Amateur Team stories or memories by e-mailing jshahade@uschess.org or on facebook.com/uschess & twitter.com/uschess.

Bug Chat: With SuperNationals V coming to Nashville April 5-7, CLO is taking another look at one of a chess variant adored by many—from kids starting out to World #3 GM Levon Aronian. Bughouse author and coach Nephtali Diaz of Bughousemaster.com talks to CLO about strategy, openings and how to get better.

World Chess Hall of Fame: CLO editor Jennifer Shahade, also a board member at the WCHOF in St. Louis talks about what’s new at the St. Louis institution, which has installed exhibitions on everything from chess in pop culture to Bobby Fischer since its move from Miami in September 2012. To the right is GM Hikaru Nakamura at the museum.

Trophies Plus Grand Prix: Look for coverage of the largest Grand Prix of the month, the 2nd Annual Recession Buster Open, held in San Diego, California from February 16-18.

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.

Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

The UTD Dallas Invitational reporter is the author of six books, including her latest Thinking with Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14 (Mongoose Press, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts; 2012). She also teaches college credit courses, available worldwide via UT Dallas eLearning, about chess in education.

Frank Niro

Our obituary of Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya co-author is a former president of the U.S. Chess Trust and has been a chess journalist for four decades. He has served as editor of Chess Horizons and Northwest Chess. Presently he splits his time between Boise, Idaho, and Ithaca, New York, where he teaches strategic planning to health administration students at Cornell University.

Al Lawrence

“Faces Across the Board” is compiled monthly by Lawrence, 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. He is co-author this month of the Elena Donaldson obituary.
Below: Former world champion and Russian presidential candidate Garry Kasparov conducting a master class for the Kasparov Chess Foundation in Manhattan. The class included World Youth champions Kayden Troff and Samuel Sevian.

The stellar results by U.S. scholastic players at World Youth Championships continued at the most recent one as both Kayden Troff and Samuel Sevian won gold medals. Here they are pictured in New York City with Garry Kasparov, where they were participating in a master class through the Kasparov Chess Foundation. Photo by Adriana Lopez-Sanfelio
It’s Coming.

SuperNationalsV

April 5-7 2013
Nashville TN

See TLA on page 53
BEATING THE SOVIETS

I just got the December issue of Chess Life and as is often the case, Andy Soltis’ column was quite enjoyable. However, there was a minor omission as far as the true-false question regarding whether the U.S. Olympiad team had ever beaten the ever-formidable Soviet team. Yes, they certainly beat the Soviets in 1986 as was stated, but the U.S. team had also won in the previous Olympiad, in 1984. Just thought I’d point that out.

Howard S. Sample
Toledo, Ohio

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A $3 affiliate commission will apply to all memberships submitted by affiliates.
EVERYBODY’S GAME

BART SIMPSON IS PLANNING AN ATTACK against Mr. Spock. Miss Piggy has Aragorn from Lord of the Rings in checkmate. Even Anheuser Busch wants in on the game. Look out stuffy chess sets, because pop culture has taken over at the World Chess Hall of Fame!

“We like to add a bit of fun to our exhibitions, and Everybody’s Game is one of the most playful shows we’ve organized. Parents, children, those who play chess and those who don’t—they’ll all find something to make them smile while also learning about pop culture,” said Susan Barrett, executive director of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Everybody’s Game: Chess in Popular Culture will look at how the game has been featured in contemporary media such as advertisements, rock music, movie posters, and merchandise. “Visitors will be fascinated to see how everyone from the Dave Matthews Band to Neiman Marcus has used the symbolism of chess to add an intellectual edge to their entertainment and marketing campaigns,” said Barrett.

Everybody’s Game will run through April 21, 2013.
POWER IN CHECK: CHESS AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

The American presidency is power defined. Questions of war, peace, attack, retreat, sacrifice and strategy are answered daily in a continuous struggle to dominate opponents both foreign and domestic.

No wonder so many U.S. leaders have been avid chess players.

Power in Check: Chess and the American Presidency is the latest exhibition to open at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) and will run through April 21, 2013. Visitors get a fascinating glimpse at the relationship that U.S. leaders have had with the game for over 200 years.

On display are correspondence, memorabilia, and personal possessions—including George Washington’s set (above). Items demonstrate how these leaders used the game to escape the pressures of a stressful job, how it has provided a metaphor for many of their political challenges, or perhaps how it helped them gain new perspective on the issues of the day.

“The struggles Presidents have faced take on interesting new facets when cast in the light of a game of chess. It is intriguing to wonder how Kennedy—who was a player—might have been influenced by the game as he dealt with the Cuban missile crisis or the Civil Rights movement. Or how Washington might have played out his military strategies on his set,” said Susan Barrett, executive director of the WCHOF.

Points of Interest:

George Washington’s ivory chess set is the only one he owned, dating to the 1770s. It has remained in the family and is on loan from a direct descendant of Martha Washington.

An 1824 copy of Benjamin Franklin’s essay “Morals of Chess” is the second known writing on the game in the U.S. Franklin is a member of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame and frequently challenged Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Madison to games.

One of the newest pieces in the exhibition, the Staunton Chess Set was carved in 2011 from a tulip poplar tree grown at Monticello and believed to have been planted by Thomas Jefferson.

Politically-themed chess sets have been popular subjects during many modern elections. The exhibition includes a set from 1952 pitting Eisenhower against Stevenson, a 1972 set with McGovern facing off against Nixon, and a recently-produced set casting popular party leaders through the decades in the roles of kings and queens (Kennedy versus Reagans), bishops (Clinton/Roosevelt versus G.H.W. Bush/Nixon), knights (Truman/Johnson versus Eisenhower/G.W. Bush), rooks (R.F. Kennedy/Carter versus Ford/Lincoln), and pawns (donkeys versus elephants).

Visiting the WCHOF

4652 Maryland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 367-WCHF (9243)
info@worldchesshof.org

Admission: Admission to the World Chess Hall of Fame is free. A suggested donation of $3 per person or $5 for family will support our exhibitions and education programs.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME
A Necessary Tool
Chess Informants 113 and 114

By FM TODD ANDREWS

It started as a games collection in 1966 and now it is a rite of passage for any advancing chess player. I recall as a child when I first started to “get chess” and I picked up one of my first copies of the Chess Informant, a volume in the mid-50’s. I was rated somewhere around 1200, underrated in a time when it took six months before rating an event finally caught up with you. During those days I opened my eyes to a selection of educational manuals that were laid out in a format where anyone on this great planet could understand what the annotator of the game was trying to say.

20 years later not only can you find the same old format you were used to in Chess Informant, but the content has definitely increased and improved. These latest volumes contain actual articles with worded explanations of moves, not just the old ECO (Encyclopedia of Chess Openings) symbols you found before. My favorite being the new “Garry’s Choice” articles where former World Champion Garry Kasparov chooses the games he believes to be the most relevant and fascinating in the modern chess world, such as the following example:

Kasparov then goes on to show other examples of magnificent queen sacrifices with the intention of simply clearing a square in exchange for the queen. I remember as a kid hearing stories about how rare the sacrifice of a queen was for a pawn, but a sacrifice of the queen to open a square?

In the latest volumes you will also find opening articles by grandmasters such as Ivan Cheparinov covering the English Opening, Egyptian GM Bassem Amin covering the King’s Indian Attack, Rafael Leitao covering the Catalan and GM Milos Perunicov covering the Sicilian Defense. These opening articles have a short excerpt from the author about their discoveries and a few practical examples from recent play. There is also a new section, “Rising Stars,” which highlights up-and-coming players such as Antonios Pavlidis who won the 2011 Greece Championship. Once you get through all of the new articles, there is still a collection of what seems like hundreds of games analyzed in the typical Informant style. Here are just a few of the players you find annotations from: American GM Sam Shankland, GM Bogdan Lalic, GM Sergei Tiviakov, American IM Bryan Smith, GM Alexander Morozevich, GM Viktor Bologan and a slew of other top notch world players.

The manuals have always concluded with crosstables and the results of events covered in each volume. I used these books as a kid to learn the names of the top world players and my friends and I would pretend we were those grandmasters fighting it out in fictional world championship matches. The Chess Informant really opened my eyes to a selection of educational materials that just were not available anywhere else. It does take a certain patience to get through these large manuals. These days I imagine they may sell more digital copies where players can sort through them quickly in their databases. I still enjoy having the hard copy myself and I stress to anyone who hopes to be a chess master.

Chess Informants 113 and 114
113 (March 2012): 344 pages (catalog number B0113NF from USCF Sales), $35.95; 114 (June 2012): 340 pages (catalog number B0114NF from USCF Sales), $35.95.

Kasparov annotates
Mark Paragua (FIDE 2522, PHI)
Das Debashis (FIDE 2389, IND)
New Dehli, 2012

23. Bxf7+?!

23. ... Kg7 24. Rg1+ Kf8??
USCF Sales announces

Free Ground Shipping on all orders over $99!

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Free Ground Shipping applies only in contiguous 48 states. Hawaii, AK and US territories not eligible. Total excludes shipping charge, sales tax and coupon discounts.
ONCE AGAIN THE SCHEIN–FRIEDMAN SCHOLASTIC RECOGNITION Project (with the help of the American Chess Academy) is happy to announce its annual scholarship recipients.

First, words of thanks to all the very worthy young players who have applied—once again the choices were not easy ones.

The winner of our first place, and a $4,000 scholarship is Sam Sevian (above, left), from California. 12-year-old Sam’s meteoric rise breezed by records such as the youngest American expert, and later youngest national master, to a current IM-elect status. His long list of successes has culminated with a gold medal, and a title of a world champion in the Under 12-Open category, in the last World Youth Championship in Slovenia.

Texan Jeffery Xiong (above, middle) and Californian Cameron Wheeler (above, right) tied for second-third and will each receive a scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

Age 12, Jeffery is the leading player from the Dallas Chess Club ‘greenhouse’ of young talents. A senior master at age 12, among his achievements Jeffery is a former national scholastics champion, and a former silver medallist and world vice champion (tie for first) in the Under 12-Open section of the World Youth (Greece, 2010).

Cameron, who is a national master at age 12, holds multi-state and national scholastics championship titles. He is twice a top 10 finisher in the World Youth—fifth in Greece, 2010 and a tie for first, with second place and a silver medal in Slovenia, in 2012. The Schein-Friedman project is designed to help some of our younger champions improve and dedicate themselves more to chess, while offsetting the financial expenses that usually come with those. Hopefully the project will reward excelling youngsters, and help them become tomorrow’s best players and grandmasters. At the same time they would be serving as role models and an inspiration to the entire scholastic community.

The American Chess Academy is a non-profit organization, dedicated to “developing strong U.S. chess talent, and exposing the game of chess to as many neighborhood children as possible.”

Read more about Sevian, Xiong, and Wheeler in our World Youth report on page 18.

5th Annual Schein-Friedman Awards Announced

By MARK SCHEIN & AVIV FRIEDMAN

THE USCF MISSION

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.
MY FINAL GAME WITH LARRY EVANS began like a typical King’s Indian Defense. We reached a position where a familiar pawn sacrifice was possible.

Shocking Evans
GM Larry Evans (2525)
SM Andy Soltis (2435)
U.S. Championship, Chicago 1974


"How can you give up a pawn like that—for nothing?" Evans asked in the post-mortem. I didn’t have a good answer, except to say that it looked just like the ... b5 sacrifice that Black makes in a Benko Gambit.

After we were done and Evans had left the analysis room, I was sitting at the board when Pal Benko came by. "How come you didn’t get great play?" he asked. “The sacrifice must be sound.”

That’s when I realized how different the evaluations of two strong grandmasters could be. Evans, the materialist, felt that without specific threats, Black had no compensation. Benko, the artist, saw plenty of “comp.”

Of course, in most positions there is little disagreement. It’s easy to see that a position favors White or Black is roughly even.

But evaluation standards change over time. Benko Gambit-like positions were considered just bad for Black before about 1950. Hedgehog pawn formations were rated dubious before about 1975. And consider this, one of the few positions to be given a diagram back in Chess Informant 7.

Shocking fianchetto surrender
Vladimir Liberzon
Leonid Stein
Tallin 1969

Then came 14. Qd2 Bxc3 15. bxc3 Nxa2. The only punctuation was an exclamation point for Black’s 14th. Why there? Because in 1969 it was considered shocking to trade off a powerful fianchettoed bishop—and leave Black vulnerable on the kingside—for a mere pawn.

Today the only punctuation for this sequence would be “14. Qd2?”—because we know now that Black is much better after 15. ... Nxa2.

Today we rely on computers to tell us the truth about positions. They love to trade fianchettoed bishops just to double enemy pawns. They correct us when we get carried away with our idea of “comp.”


So far this is the infamous Argentine Variation, so named because it was sprung by three Argentine grandmasters against three Soviet grandmasters in the same round of an Interzonal tournament. Black played 10. ... Nf7 in each game and was beaten by 11. Nxe6! fxe6 12. Qh5+.

Although a better defense was later found, Evans recommended 10. ... hgx5 11. Bxg5 Nbd7.

He concluded Black had “considerable compensation for a pawn” in light of his pawn center, control of e5 and kingside lines and the “many weak squares” in White’s camp.

But a computer looks at this position and concludes White is simply much better after, say, 12. 0-0-0.


White is better to the tune of 0.6, Eduard Gufeld wrote in Chess Strategy (2003). That is, by the equivalent of more than half a pawn.

The doubled pawns give him support for knight outposts at d5 and f5, he said. He also controls the open half of the d-file and Black has to watch out for c4-c5, Gufeld added. Would any computer agree that White is much better?

But there are some areas where we evaluate better than machines. They don’t seem to get how drawish bishops of opposite endgames are. They also tend to underestimate how winnable bishops of opposite middlegames are, because of the increased attacking chances.
And even though computers may be able to calculate 20 moves ahead, they don’t visualize what humans can see, like an endgame fortress.

When critics complained about premature draws in the recent world championship match, challenger Boris Gelfand said it was pointless to continue playing in three of the games because the position on the board was a fortress.

Shocking the computer

GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2727, ISR)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2791, IND)
World Championship, 10th game, Moscow 2012

The game was agreed drawn here. Why, many fans wondered. They followed the game online and were able to see that Houdini evaluated the position as being 0.42 in favor of White.

That makes sense but the moves the program offered to back that up were mysterious: 50. Kh5 Kf8 51. Qc2 Kg7 52. Qg2+ Kf8 53. Qe4 Kf7 54. Qg6+ Kf8 55. Kh4 Rd7 56. Qe4 Re7 57. Qd4 Kf7 58. Kh5 Kf8 59. Qd6 Kf7 60. Qd3 f5 61. Kg5 Rc7 62. Qd6 and here the analysis ends.

A human can see the fortress back at the diagram. Once Black plays ... f5, there is no way for White’s queen and king to penetrate.

This is where experience counts. Boris Spassky was legendary for his ability to evaluate a position without moving pieces. Spassky was the leader of the Russian Federation team in a 1975 Soviet team championship, the Spartakiad. One of the team trainers, Orest Averkin, recalled:

“After each round he quickly examined all the games, looked at the adjourned positions, gave his verdict and assigned work to the trainers. The evaluation went very unusually. Spassky doesn’t move the pieces. He silently looks at the position for about 10-15 minutes and gives his conclusion.” After the analysts did their work they found he was right.

Shocking Spassky conclusion

Yevgeny Sveshnikov
Mikhail Podgaets
Soviet Spartakiad 1975

White was future GM Yevgeny Sveshnikov and he analyzed this position for three days with Averkin and Igor Zaitsev, two strong analysts. They also showed their analysis to Yefim Geller and Lev Polugayevsky, two world-class players. Everyone agreed White had reasonable chances to draw. But the outcome was far from certain.

“And then I showed the position to Boris Spassky. He studied it silently for a minute, standing over the board, and then said, “Knight below, rook above—draw!”

Sveshnikov figured out what he meant. After 47. f3! Ke6 48. h5! the fortress was sealed. Black agreed to a draw after 48 ... Qh3 49. Ke3.

Today nobody would believe this—until they saw analysis 15 moves deep from their computer.
WHETHER OR NOT EDWARD LASKER (1885-1981) was truly related to the immortal Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) is a moot point. But what isn’t open to debate is the measure of the “lesser” Lasker’s accomplishments. By inventing the mechanical breast pump he saved many, many lives. By his writings and promotion of the game of go, that ancient pastime became significantly more popular in the West. And by virtue of being a strong chess player he was able to play against some of the game’s top competitors and thereby produce a number of memorable games, such as the following encounter between Lasker and Fritz Englund (Black) at Scheveningen in 1913. A Four Knights Game, it began:

Four Knights Game (C48)
Edward Lasker
Fritz Englund
Scheveningen 1913

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bb5 Nd4

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.**

5. \[ \text{Nxe5} \] **Par Score 6**

The choice lies between three bishop retreats: a4, c4, e2; two knight captures: d4, e5; and castles. Lasker chooses this one.

5. \[ \text{... Qe7} \]

Black skewers knight and e4-pawn. This is more accurate than 5. ... Nxb5 6. Nxb5 Nxe4 7. Qe2, which can prove awkward after say 7. ... Nf6? 8. Nc6+ (1 bonus point)**.

6. \[ \text{Nf3} \] **Par Score 6**

Better than 6. Nd3, which blocks the d-pawn, and not as tricky as 6. f4, which garners full credit.

6. \[ \text{... Nxe4} \]

This loses time. He should arrange to make the e4-capture with the queen: 6. ... Nxb5 7. Nxb5 Qxe4+ 8. Qe2 Qxe2+ 9. Kxe2; and now 9. ... Nd5, since he can then answer 10. c4 with 10. ... a6.**

7. \[ \text{0-0} \] **Par Score 6**

Deduct 3 points for 7. Nxd4? Nxc3+, dropping the queen. Conversely, add 1 bonus point if you realized that you would be threatening to win the queen by 8. Nxe4 Qxe4 9. Re1.

7. \[ \text{... Nxc3} \]

Award yourself 1 bonus point if you saw that 7. ... Nxb5 8. Nxb5 d5 9. Re1 leaves Black problems on the e-file, especially the threat to play 10. d3.**

8. \[ \text{dxc3} \] **Par Score 5**

White opens lines for development.

8. \[ \text{... Nfx3}+ \]

On 8. ... Nxb5? there follows 9. Re1 (1 bonus point)**.

9. \[ \text{Qxf3} \] **Par Score 5**

9. \[ \text{... Qc5} \]

Black looks to clear the e-file with gain of time on the bishop.**

10. \[ \text{Re1+} \] **Par Score 6**

White plays a useful Zwischenschach (in between check) before moving the bishop.

10. \[ \text{... Be7} \]

11. \[ \text{Bd3} \] **Par Score 6**

On 11. Qe2 (accept only 4 points part credit), Black can afford to castle, inasmuch as 12. Qxe7 Qxb5 results in approximate equality, since 12. Bxd7? loses to 12. ... Bxd7 13. Qxe7 Rfe8.

11. \[ \text{... d5} \]

Add 1 bonus point if you saw that you could answer 11. ... 0-0 by 12. Qe4, with dual threats against e7 and h7. With the text, Black intends ... Bc8-e6, blocking the e-file.**

12. \[ \text{Be3} \] **Par Score 6**

Lasker develops with gain of time on the black queen. Accept only 4 points part credit for 12. Bg5 Be6 13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. c4, with some initiative. If instead 12. ... f6, then 13. Qh5+. Black then can’t afford 13. ... g6, because of 14. Bxg6+, so he has to move his king, losing his castling rights.

12. \[ \text{... Qd6} \]

Black plays to keep his bishop protected.**
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.

February Exercise: Much of chess consists in eliciting information from a given position and then deciding on a course of action based on the data derived. The guiding mechanism driving this process is fueled by asking germane questions. As you analyze positions in practice, try to write down, as they occur to you, all those questions you think might be pertinent to the situation at hand. Then proceed to answer them. Do this often enough and you should naturally sharpen a sense for the logical and the relevant. Don’t be surprised if your overall play also begins to reflect that honing.

13. Bf4 Par Score 6
This development skewers the queen and the c7-pawn.

13. ... Qf6
After 13. ... Qd8, there follows 14. Qg3 (1 bonus point). Black has to lose a pawn. The same is true of the text.

14. Qxd5 Par Score 7
It was likely that Englund was hoping for 14. Bxc7 (only 3 points part credit) 14. ... Qxf3 15. gxf3, messing up White’s kingside pawns. Accept full credit for 14. Qg3 0-0 15. Bxc7 (or 14. ... c6 15. Be5 and Be5xg7).

14. ... c6

15. Qe4 Par Score 5
White stops 15. ... 0-0??, thanks to 16. Qxh7 mate (1 bonus point).

15. ... Be6
At last, Black blocks the e-file. Maybe now he can get his king castled on the queenside.

16. Re3 Par Score 6
White makes his rook active along the third rank. Afterwards, Lasker suggested 16. Rad1, preventing castling and preparing to answer 16. ... Bd5 with 17. Qb4. So we’ll award both 16. Rad1 and 16. Be5 full credit.

16. ... Bc5
Black avoided 16. ... 0-0-0, possibly because of 17. Ba6, threatening 18. Qxc6 mate; and if 17. ... Bd5, then 18. Qxe7.**

17. Be5 Par Score 6
White plays a Zwischenzug (an in-between move) to see where the queen goes.

17. ... Qh6
Black doesn’t play 17. ... Qg5 because of 18. Rg3, which plays into White’s hands.**

18. Rg3 Par Score 5
18. ... Bf8
Receive 1 bonus point if you saw that 18. ... Qd2 is met by 19. Rf1 threatening 20. Bf4.**

19. Rd1 Par Score 6
This works out nicely, thanks to Black’s reply. Accept full credit for 19. Ba6. If, for example, 19. ... Bd5, then 20. Qe1, threatening “bishop takes knight pawn” (either one). While if 19. ... f5, then 20. Qa4 b5 21. Qa5, infiltrating.

19. ... Qxc6+ Par Score 7
Black may have figured that the pin on the d-file precluded 20. Ba6. But what if it’s played with check? He should have settled for 19. ... Rd8.**

20. Qxc6+ Par Score 7
20. ... bxc6

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

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Two Gold Medals for Team USA!

Kayden Troff and Samuel Sevian win world championships in Slovenia, leading Team USA’s delegation of 89 players and 13 coaches.

By GM JOHN FEDOROWICZ
The 2012 World Youth in Maribor, Slovenia, held November 7-19, 2012, starts on a serious down note. As I boarded Lufthansa flight 441 for Munich, Germany, there is a feeling of sadness. I am leaving behind friends battered and in bad shape from Hurricane Sandy and a New York and New Jersey that are facing a long road back to normalcy.

I arrived a few days early on November 4th in order to get “un-jetlagged.” From Munich, I flew to Graz, Austria then took a train to the Austrian-Slovenian border (which is a town in the middle of nowhere—Spielfeld). Here I got lucky as the Slovenia rail train was waiting to take me directly to Maribor. It was a short, 30-minute scenic ride followed by the number six local bus to Hotel Habakuk. I was finally there. The hotel is advertised as the best in Maribor and lived up to its billing. The food was good and plentiful with many vegetarian options. The staff was friendly and helpful at all times. When chess wasn’t happening the kids could take advantage of the huge spas.

Located at the foot of the Pohorje mountains, the playing hall was within walking distance (about four city blocks) which made things easy for most of our players. The lower-age sections played in the hotel. I visited the playing hall before the tournament and it looked good. Spacious, with good lighting, even GM Walter Browne would’ve been happy! The commuting can be very tiresome. Many delegations were further away from the hall, including part of our contingent. These players stayed at the Hotel Bellevue on top of the mountain and commuted via cable car for their preparation and games.

Every year the number of players from the U.S. grows. This time we had 89 players, with 13 coaches and parents, our largest Team USA ever. Each coach had seven students which meant (at 30 minutes per player) about three and a half hours of preparation time in total. Of course more time would be better, but not possible. The rounds started at 3 p.m. with one double-header of round times at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The players should come to the tournament having their openings already prepped, unfortunately this isn’t always the case and playing catch-up can be difficult. For the players in age groups 14 and over, the opponents usually have games that allows our experienced coaches to matchup and predict what type of game it will be. For the lower age groups the parents can be a huge help, finding opponents’ games in all kinds of strange places.

On the day of the first round we had a special visitor: the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, Joseph A. Musomeli, gave a talk to our large group. He discussed working in Slovenia, praised the country, its culture, wine, people and prisons (!). He answered questions, was very amusing, and seemed like a genuinely nice guy. Everyone posed with him for pictures and a good time was had by all. He told us if we got into trouble to give him a call!

This was the USA’s best performance with four medals. Three were earned by our world youth “veterans”: two golds from Kayden Troff and Samuel Sevian and a silver from Cameron Wheeler. These three players have played in many of these tournaments. For such young players they are not only experienced but tough. Our fourth medal, a bronze, was won by a rookie in the Under 08-Open: Christopher Chen. Congratulations to Kayden and Samuel on being world champions! Cameron just fell short, but he can of course be very proud of his result. Christopher should emerge with a very good FIDE rating.

Let’s start off with Under 14-Open World Champion Kayden Troff.

---

**Defensive artistry**

Pavlo Vorontsov (FIDE 2220, UKR)

FM Kayden W. Troff (FIDE 2350, USA)

World Youth Championships 2012, U14-Open (11), 11.16.2012

28. Rxe2

28. Rd1 Now the pin of the e-file is removed and the ... gx6 capture wins since White’s attack has been broken.

28. ... Qc7!

The mate threat on c1 gets White’s attention.


Black ends it with another back rank trick. This round nine win was the first of Kayden’s three game tournament ending winning streak.

After a round 10 win over Slovakian master Christopher Repka it then set up this final round showdown.

---

**Queen’s Indian Defense, Old Main Line (E18)**

FM Kayden W. Troff (FIDE 2350, USA)

FM Chithambaram VR Aravindh (FIDE 2311, IND)

World Youth Championships 2012, U14 Open (11), 11.18.2012


28. Rxe2

28. Rd1 Now the pin of the e-file is removed and the ... gx6 capture wins since White’s attack has been broken.

28. ... Qc7!

The mate threat on c1 gets White’s attention.


Black ends it with another back rank trick. This round nine win was the first of Kayden’s three game tournament ending winning streak.

After a round 10 win over Slovakian master Christopher Repka it then set up this final round showdown.

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This round nine piece of defensive artistry versus his Ukraine opponent kept Kayden in contention.

27. ... Re2!!

Black sacrifices a rook temporarily to threaten mate and the Rf4. The other tries
6. ... b6


7. cxd5 exd5 8. Nc3 Bb7

White is up a tempo over the Petrovian Queens Indian. (1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. a3) The move a3 has been omitted. When Black gets into trouble it’s usually on the h1–a8 diagonal.

9. Ne5 c6?! 9. ... Na6 10. Bf4 c5 11. Rc1 Ne7 12. dxc5 bxc5 13. Qa4 Ne6 White has an edge, but for Black it’s the lesser of the evils.

10. e4? A very aggressive plan, White immediately works on the diagonal. 10. Qa4 is a slower, but equally strong alternative.


15. Qg4 Bxf4 16. Qxf4 Nb4 17. a3 Nc6 18. Ng4

18. ... Na5??

18. ... Ne7 Hanging around near the kingside keeps Black’s disadvantage manageable.

19. Ne3 Nc3? For what possible reason?


With two threats too many from Black’s point of view (both 27. Ne7+ and 27. Qxg7 mate are threatened). A good game by Kayden, but horrible play by his opponent.

Our second world champion winning the gold in the Under 12-Open was Samuel Sevian. The pre-tournament rankings saw Samuel ranked first followed by fellow teammate Jeffery Xiong. This seventh round battle would put the winner in the driver’s seat.

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B87)
Samuel Sevian (FIDE 2347, USA)
FM Jeffery Xiong (FIDE 2252, USA)

1. e4

Opening preparation has become very important in chess. Even the super 2700 grandmasters have trouble getting out of the opening. In this game Samuel’s knowledge got him an easy all book win.


6. ... e6 7. 0-0
It’s possible that Black expected the 7. Bb3 Nbd7 variation. 7. 0-0 might’ve put Jeffrey in unfamiliar territory.

7. ... b5 8. Bb3 Be7 9. Qf3

9. ... Qb7

Here Black’s preparation falters a bit. This was popular years ago, but Black has improved on piece placement. 9. ... Qc7?! This move gives Black better piece coordination. (The upcoming ... Qb7 gets in the way of the harmonious development of Black’s pieces.) 10. Qg3 Nc6 11. Nxc6 Qxc6 12. Re1 Bb7 13. a3 Rd8 is one good line for Black favored by Kasparov (13. ... 0-0 14. Bh6 Ne8 15. Rad1 Kh8 is also solid) 14. Qxg7 Rg8 15. Qh6 d5 16. exd5 Nxd5 17. Nxd5 Rxd5 White’s g2-square has problems.

10. Be3 Qb7

The queen is a little misplaced here.

11. Qg3 0-0 12. Bh6 Ne8 13. Rf1 Nc6

The game transposes into the next note 13. ... Bd7 14. Rad1 Nc6 15. Nd5 Bd8 16. Nf5 exf5 17. exf5 Ne5 18. Rxe5 dxe5 19. f6 g6 20. Ne7+ 1-0 Sergey Kudrin-Pierre Moulin, New York Open 1992 I’m sure Samuel was very happy to follow this game; 13. ... Kh8!? 14. Bg5 Nf6 15. Rad1 Nbd7 isn’t too bad for Black.

14. Rad1 Bd7??

Now White threatens Rxe8 followed with Qg7 mate.

15. Nd5!! Bd8

15. ... Kh8 The only move to survive, but very unpleasant. Black is tied down to d6 for the duration. 16. Nxe7 Nxe7 17. Bc1; Completely awful is 15. ... exd5 16. Nxc6 Bxc6 17. exd5 when White recovers one of the bishops.

16. Nf5!

17. ... Ne5 18. Rxe5 dxe5 19. f6 is the Kudrin game above.

18. Rxe8 Bg6 19. Rf6+ Kg8 20. Qxd6+ Kg7 21. Re1!
The back rank mate threat forces the loss of material. Black's ... Bd8 doesn't have a good square.

21. ... Bh4

21. ... Ba5 22. Nf6+ Kh8 23. Ne8 is pretty convincing.

22. Bf4 Rf8 23. Nc7!

Threatening 24. Qxf8+ and 25. Re8 mate among others.

22. Bf4 Rf8 23. Nc7!

Threatening 24. Qxf8+ and 25. Re8 mate among others.

23. ... Be7 24. Rxe7 Nxe7 25. Qxe7

With White having two pieces and a pawn for a rook, Black can resign here. 25. ... Qc6 26. c3 Rc8 27. h3 a5 28. Bd5 Qb6 29. Qd7 Rb8 30. Ne6 fxe6 31. Bxe6+ Kh8 32. Be5, Black resigned.

At the highest levels of chess it pays to know your book.

Things got confusing in round eight after Sevian lost to Indian candidate master Abhimanyu Puranik and both Xiong and Wheeler won. The stage was set for a round 10 faceoff between Wheeler and Sevian.

Queen's pawn opening, Chigorin Variation (D02)
Cameron Wheeler (FIDE 2149, USA)
Samuel Sevian (FIDE 2347, USA)
World Youth Championships 2012, U12-Open (10), 11.17.2012

There was some confusion prior to this game. GM Nick de Firmian was Cameron Wheeler's assigned coach. USA coaching policy is, that when two Americans play each other we don't prepare either player.

The snag ... Samuel wasn't working with an assigned coach. He had his own coach, therefore Nick should've prepared him. Instead the Wheeler's called top Dutch GM Loek van Wely to help with opening preparation.

1. Nf3 Nc6 2. d4 d5

The Chigorin variation is a tricky variation unless it's expected.

3. Bf4

Years ago GM Joel Benjamin told me this is the best versus the Chigorin. van Wely's preparation was very good.

3. ... Nf6 4. e3 a6 5. c4 e6 6. Nc3 Be7 7. Bd3?! (see diagram top of next page)

This allows Black's misplaced ... Nc6 an important tempo for redeployment (7. a3 If White strands the ... Nc6 then he'll get some kind of advantage. Black has huge problems freeing his position.)

11. Nxd5!? Nxd5 (11. ... exd5?! 12. 0-0 0-0 13. Rc1 White gets a nice edge here.) 12. Bg3 c5 13. dxc5 Bxc5 14. 0-0 Bb7 looks about equal.

11. ... 0-0 12. 0-0

12. Rc1!?.

12. ... Bb7 13. Rc1 Rc8 14. a4 b4 15. Nxd5 Nxd5 16. Bd3 c5!

This typical freeing move equalizes the position.

17. dxc5 Bxc5 18. Qe2 a5 19. Rfd1 Qe7 20. Bh4?

This didn’t turn out very well. The Bg3 is out of play and can’t get back to the queenside. A bit more effective is 20. Be5 f6 21. Bd4 Bb6 22. h3 Nc3 23. Bxc3 bxc3 24. Be4 when the position is around equal.


When calculating this move White must’ve missed 26. ... Nxb2 with a winning passed pawn. 23. Bb5!? Bd5 24. Nd2 Black is a bit better, but White stays solid.


26. ... Nxb2!

All of a sudden Black has a very tough b4-pawn.

27. h3 Nd3 28. Rb5 Bc6 29. Nd4

Not 29. Rb6??, when 29. ... Bxf3 wins material.

29. ... Rxd4 30. Rb8+ Be8 31. Rxe8+ Qxe8 32. Qa2+ Kh8 33. exd4 h5!

Air for the king along with ... h4 ideas as well.

34. Qc4 Qe4! 35. Qb5 h4 36. Bb6 Ne1 37. f3 Nxf3+! 38. gxf3 Qxd4+ 39. Kg2 Qxd6 40. Qe8+ Kh7

The best way to win a queen ending is for the pawn up king to start running around.

41. Qe4+

41. Qh5+ Kg8 42. Qe8+ Qf8 43. Qb5!? looks like a better chance. Black must beware of perpetuals and the queen keeps an eye on the pawn.

41. ... g6 42. Qxh4+ Kg7 43. Qc4 Qb6 44. Qe4 Qc5 45. h4 f5 46. Qb7+ Kf6 47. Qa6+ Kf7 48. Qb7+ Ke6 49. Qa6+ Qd6!

Black’s queen protects g6 and b4 allowing his king to support his passed pawn.

50. Qc6+ Kd6

Now it becomes easy.

51. Qg8+ Qe6 52. Qd8+ Kc5 53. Qc7+ Kd6 54. Qd8+ Kc2 55. Qc7+ Kb1 56. Kf2 b3 57. Qd8 Qc6 58. Qd1+ Ka2 59. Kg3 b2 60. Qd2 Qc7+ 61. Kh3 Qe5 62. Qc2 Qd4 63. Qe4 Kb3 64. Qe6+ Kc3 65. Qc6+ Qc6 66. Qb6 Qf1+ 67. Kg3 b1=Q, White resigned.

The pairings for the final round were Saveliy Golubov (RUS)-Sevian (USA) on board one, Parham Maghsoodloo (IRI)-Wheeler (USA) on board two and Sergei Lobanov (RUS)-Yi Zhu (CHN) on board three. The Chinese player performed well above his 1963 FIDE rating. Sevian drew on board one, Zhu defeated his much higher-rated opponent and that left only Wheeler to decide the medals.

(see next game next column)

Going for the medal

Parham Maghsoodloo (FIDE 1990, IRI)
Cameron Wheeler (FIDE 2149, USA)
World Youth Championships 2012, U12-Open (11), 11.18.2012

Cameron Wheeler won the silver medal by winning this messy ending.

51. Kf2

51. ... Re8 52. g4 Rf8?!

52. ... Kb3! Passed pawns must be pushed somebody said. This direct plan is winning with no sweat as the following continuation shows 53. Be2 c3 54. f5 gx5 55. gx5 c2 56. Bd1 cxd1=Q 57. Rxd1 Rf8.

53. Kg3 Nc2 54. f5 gxf5 55. g5 b4 56. g6 f4+ 57. Kf2 Ne3

Better is 57. ... b3! 58. h5 b2 59. Rd1 Ne3 60. Rb1 Rg8! followed by ... Ke2 winning the rook and keeping the c-pawn as well.

58. Bh3 b3

58. ... Rb8! Preventing White’s Rb7 ideas was best.

59. Rb7 b2 60. h5 Rg8 61. Kf3 Rg7 62. Rb8 Rg8 63. Rb7 Nc2 64. Kf4 Nb4 65. Bf5 Rf8! 66. Rf7 Nd3+

Even stronger was 66. ... Rd8! 67. g7 Nd3+ 68. Bxd3 cxd3 69. Rf8 Rd4+ 70. Ke5 (70. Kg5 b1=Q 71. g8=Q Qg1+ 72. Kf6 Qxg8 73. Rgx8 d2 74. Kg1 d1=Q 75. Rxd1 Rxh1 76. b5 Kb4 77. b6 Kb3 78. Kg7 Kxa5 79. h8=Q Rbh8 80. Kxb8 Kb4) 70. ... Rg4 71. Rc8+ Ke2 72. Rb8 Ke1 73. Rc8+ Kb1 74. Rd8 Rgx7 75. Rxd3 Ke2

(see diagram top of next page)
Winning! Now back to the game which was not quite as easy.

67. Bxd3 cxd3 68. Rxf8 b1=Q

Most of the coaches were gathered in the lobby working on this position. The general feeling was that Cameron was finally winning.

69. g7 Qf1+ 70. Ke5 Qe2+ 71. Kf6 Qf3+ 72. Kg6 Qg3+ 73. Kh6 d2 74. g8=Q Qxg8 75. Rxg8 d1=Q 76. Rg5 Qe8 77. Kg6 Qf8

After Black’s fine queen maneuvers, White runs out of ideas.

85. h6 Qg8+ 86. Kh5 Qf7+

Black keeps an eye on the h-pawn while creeping his king closer.


What a relief! Well played under unbelievable pressure. This type of game will help Cameron a lot in his chess career.

After Cameron’s grinding win the only thing left was tiebreaks. When things settled it was Sevian, Wheeler, and Zhu taking the medals. The Under 12-Open was an exciting section to watch and another future contender is Craig Hilby. With a FIDE rating of 1955 he showed he was very underrated. Here he shows good opening knowledge and a good tactical sense.

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B90)

Craig Hilby (FIDE 1955, USA)
Shaked Tifferet (FIDE 1791, ISR)

Yet another strong American player in the Under 12-Open, Craig Hilby flashes the tactics.


The English Attack is a very popular choice versus the Najdorf variation.

6. ... Ng4

In my opinion the weakest of Black’s three replies. 6. ... e5 and 6. ... e6 are the other tries.

7. Bg5 h6 8. Bh4 g5

This is what I don’t like in this variation. Black’s king is always a concern.


15. ... Na5?!

This is the move that gets Black into trouble. Black forgot his silly chess expressions. “Knight on the rim is grim” is the one that applies here: Better is 15. ... Nxd4!? 16. Bxd4 Qc7 17. c5 a8 18. Nc2 f6 19. h4 when White is a tad better.

16. 0-0-0 Bb7 17. b3?!

Keeping Black’s knights off the face.

17. ... Qf6 18. Nxa6!

(see diagram top of next column)

White is winning already.

Rook endings are the toughest endings in chess.

33. ... gxf5


45. d5 Rd1 46. Kf4!

The d-pawn is the future queen while the h-pawn is a decoy.


A veteran grandmaster couldn’t have done it better.

Finally, three examples of the high level of chess from the U10-Girls and U-8 Open sections. Carissa Yip shows a natural feel in this King’s Indian Defense.

King’s Indian Defense, Fianchetto Variation (E67)
WCM Anastacia Antonia Lopez Sanchez (FIDE 1391, MEX)
Carissa Yip (FIDE Unrated, USA)

1. Nf3

This game was submitted to me by Carissa’s coach at the event, IM Jan Van De Mortel. He was very impressed by her play in her King’s Indian debut!

1. ... Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2Bg7 4. 0-0! 0-0! 5. d4 d6 6. c4 Nb7 7. Nc3 e5 8. dxe5?

This allows Black to equalize immediately. Much stronger is 8. e4 c6 9. h3 exd4 10. Nxd4 Re8 11. Re1 Nc5 12. Bf4 Nh5 13. Be3 when with proper play White will keep an annoying space advantage.

8. ... dxe5 9. Bg5?! h6 10. Bxf6

Giving up the bishop pair for no good reason. Black’s bishop pair gives her good long-term chances.


After this move Black’s bishops rule the board.

24. gxf4 Bxf4 25. Ne4 Rxd8 26. Kh1 g5!

A good way to evaluate a position is to look at the minor pieces.

25. h3 Rd8 28. Nd4 Bc8

29. Ne2?!

Offering a pawn for some chances in the bishops of opposite color position with 29. Nf5 was the only try when 29. ... Bxf5 30. exf5 Rxh5 31. Rd7 Rf7 32. Rxh5 Kxh5 33. Bf3 Re3 Black has good winning chances, but must not trade the last pair of rooks.

29. ... Be5 30. Nd4!? Rxf1+! 31. Bxf1 Rd8! (see diagram top of next column)

Winning the pinned knight and the game.


Next, have a look at how another of our U10-Girls representatives WCM Alara Balasaygun played this ending.

Girls just wanna play endings
WCM Alara Balasaygun (FIDE Unrated, USA)
Sharanya Iyengar (FIDE Unrated, KEN)

It is good to see the young ones flashing endgame technique. Here WCM Alara takes care of her Kenyan opponent in fine style.

27. c4

29. Ne2?!

Offering a pawn for some chances in the bishops of opposite color position with 29. Nf5 was the only try when 29. ... Bxf5 30. exf5 Rxh5 31. Rd7 Rf7 32. Rxh5 Kxh5 33. Bf3 Re3 Black has good winning chances, but must not trade the last pair of rooks.

29. ... Be5 30. Nd4?? Rxf1+! 31. Bxf1 Rd8!

(see diagram top of next column)
With a three to two majority White has a slight edge.

28. ... g6 29. b4 Ne8 30. a4 f6 31.Bg3 e5?! 32. Nb3 Be7 33. b5 Nc7 34. f3 Ne6 35. Ke4

35. ... Nc5+?

The losing move, allowing White’s decisive king to d5. 35. ... f5+! Black misses a resource, forcing White’s king back is most likely drawn (since 36. Kxe5?? Bd6+ 37. Kf6 Bxg3 loses for White).

36. Nxc5+ Bxc5 37. Kd5! Be7 38. Bf2 h5

White makes a passed pawn with ease and Black can’t.

39. g4 hxg4 40. hxg4 Bf8 41. c5 axb5 42. axb5 Be7 43. c6+ bxc6+ 44. bxc6+ Kc7 45. Be1!

Next step is to drive Black’s king away from the pawn.

45. ... f5

Black panics, but it’s lost anyway.

46. Ba5+ Kc8

Now Black’s king becomes a spectator.

47. Kxe5 fxg4 48. fxg4 Bh4 49. Ke6 g5 50. Kf5

White Zugzwangs Black out of her last pawn.

50. ... Kb8 51. Bd8!

51. ... Kc8 52. Bxg5

After this it’s routine.

52. ... Be1 53. Bf4! Bc3 54. g5 Bg7 55. g6 Kb8 56. Ke6 Bh8 57. Kf7 Bb2 58. g7 Bxg7 59. Kxg7 Kc8 60. Kf7 Kb8 61. c7+ Kd7 62. Kf8 Kc8 63. Ke8 Kb7 64. Kd8 Kb6 65. c8=Q Kd5 66. Qc7

Kb4 67. Qc6 Kb3 68. Qc5 Kb2 69. Qc4 Kb1 70. Qb3+ Ka1 71. Be5 mate.

Great ending play from Alara in the U10-Girls!

Our final example comes from the U8-Open. Aydin’s Polish opponent neglected his development. See how our guy takes advantage.

Develop!

Jakub Suder (FIDE Unrated, POL)
Aydin Turgut (FIDE 1494, USA)
2012 World Youth Championships, Under 8 Open (10), 11.17.2012

Some nice play from one of our U8-Open players. Aydin Turgut showed off a good positional sense, reaching a position with White’s pieces all bottled up. Then finished it off with a series of nice shots.

20. Re1

White’s Bc1 can’t move so this is forced.


21. ... Qa5!

With the winning idea ... Re1.

22. h3

The only move to keep playing. Other moves get back-ranked mated.

22. ... Re2! 21. Rf1

White’s Bc1 can’t move so this is forced.


21. ... Qa5!

With the winning idea ... Re1.

22. h3

The only move to keep playing. Other moves get back-ranked mated.

22. ... Re2 23. Rxe1 Qxe1+ 24. Kh2 Qxf2

Black is up a good pawn and White still can’t move.

25. Rb1 Qc2 26. Ra1 Qc3 27. Rb1 Bd3!

28. d5?

Losing, but White was out of tricks anyway. (28. Bb2 White’s best try fails to accurate play. 28. ... Qc2! 29. d5 Bg6 30. Qd4 c5! 31. Qxe5 f6 32. Qe6+ Bf7 wins.

28. ... Bxb1 29. dxe6 Qc7+!

The most accurate way to end it.

30. g3 Qc2+ 31. Kg1 Qxc1+ 32. Kh2 Qd2+ 33. Kg1 Qe1+ 34. Kf2 fxe6 35. Qxe6+ Kh8 36. h4 Qf1+, White resigned.

This World Youth was one of the better organized of the bunch I’ve coached. It was the first cold-weather tournament in the series. For such a large event I have some people I must thank. Without them Team USA wouldn’t have run so smoothly. Thanks to the U.S. Chess Trust for their support. Sending so many kids and coaches costs a lot of money without them this trip wouldn’t be possible. Thank you to Jerry Nash for answering the millions of questions on anything from travel to finances. Special thanks as always to Michael Khodarkovsky, our head of delegation (HOD), and Aviv Friedman, his second in command. Not only are they great coaches and friends, but they do a lot of behind the scenes dirty work. From arranging vegetarian meals, team meetings, taking care of any disputes our players might have—they do it all. Thanks to a tremendous group of coaches for their great work and I’d like to thank my kids and their parents. They all battled hard, gained good experience and will do even better next year. The United Arab Emirates is scheduled to host the 2013 event. I hope to see another strong group there. Study hard, play well and good luck! 🌟

See full results from the World Youth Championship at the official website: www.wycc2012.com

See more reporting on uschess.org, Chess Life Online, 2012, November, including a report by GM Alejandro Ramirez about his coaching experience in Maribor.
The top three finishers in each group (The first three names in each group won the gold, silver, bronze, respectively). The rest of the listings are the U.S. player results only.

### U18-OPEN
- GM Dariusz Swiercz (POL) 9
- GM Hovhannes Gabuzyan (ARM) 8½
- GM Jorge Cori (PER) 8
- William Fisher (USA) 7
- Robert M. Perez 7

### U16-OPEN
- IM Urii Eliseev (RUS) 9
- FM A. Koushik Girish (IND) 8½
- IM Maksim Chigaev (RUS) 8
- Sean Vibbert (USA) 6
- Michael William Brown (USA) 6

### U14-OPEN
- FM Kayden W. Troff (USA) 9
- FM Chithambaram VR Aravindh (IND) 9
- IM Richard Wang (CAN) 8½
- Christopher Gu (USA) 7½
- Christopher Wu (USA) 7
- Justus D. Williams (USA) 6½
- Safal Bora (USA) 6½
- Kapil Chandran (USA) 5½

### U12-OPEN
- Samuel Sevian (USA) 9
- Cameron Wheeler (USA) 9
- FM Yi Zhu (CHN) 9
- John G. Ludwig (USA) 8
- Vignesh Panchanatham (USA) 8
- FM Jeffery Xiong (USA) 7½
- Bryce Tiglon (USA) 7
- Nicolas D. Checa (USA) 7
- Roland Feng (USA) 7
- Craig Hilby (USA) 7
- Ethan Li (USA) 7
- FM Tommy O. He (USA) 7
- Siddharth G. Banik (USA) 7
- Kadhir A. Pillai (USA) 6½
- Jonathan Chiang (USA) 6
- Joshua Sheng (USA) 6
- Alexander J. Crump (USA) 6
- Amir Moazami (USA) 5½
- Kevin Moy (USA) 4½

### U10-OPEN
- FM Anh Khoi Nguyen ( Vie ) 11½
- CM Shant Sarkisyan ( ARM ) 9
- FM L N Ram Aravind ( IND ) 8½
- CM Aravind Kumar ( USA ) 7½
- Praveen Balakrishnan ( USA ) 7
- Rayan Taghizadeh ( USA ) 7
- Trung Nguyen ( USA ) 7
- FM Awonder Liang ( USA ) 6½
- Marcus M. Miyasaka ( USA ) 6½
- Andrew L. Titus ( USA ) 5½

### U14-GIRLS
- WGM Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS) 9½
- WIM Lisa Schut (NED) 8½
- Maria Severina (RUS) 8
- WCM Anna Matlin (USA) 5½

### U16-GIRLS
- WFM Anna Styazhkina (RUS) 9
- Polina Rodionova (RUS) 9
- WFM Yiyi Xiao (CHN) 8½
- Jessica Regan (USA) 6½
- WCM Sarah Chiang (USA) 5½
- Lilia M. Potteat (USA) 5½
- Becca Lampman (USA) 5½

### U18-GIRLS
- WFM M. Mahalakshmi (IND) 9
- Nino Khoumeri (GEQ) 9
- WFM GK Monnisha (IND) 8
- Agata Bykovtsev (USA) 7
- Apurva Virkud (USA) 7
- WFM Kimberly Ding (USA) 6½
- Annie Zhao (USA) 6
- WCM Rachel Gologorsky (USA) 5½
- Kristen S. Sarna (USA) 5
- Stephanie Shao (USA) 5

### U10-GIRLS
- N. Priyanka (IND) 9½
- Olga Badelka (BLR) 9
- Aleksandra Maltsevkaya (RUS) 8½
- WFM Annie Wang (USA) 7½
- Jennifer R. Yu (USA) 7½
- Joanna Liu (USA) 7
- WCM Emily Nguyen (USA) 7
- Ramitha S. Ravishankar (USA) 6½
- Meghana Bhanuprasad (USA) 6½
- WCM Akshita Gorti (USA) 6
- Naomi Bashkansky (USA) 5½
- Carissa Yip (USA) 5½
- WCM Alara Balasaygun (USA) 5
- Camille Y. Kao (USA) 5

### U08-GIRLS
- Motahare Asadi (IRI) 10½
- Taisiya Tereshechkina (RUS) 9
- Judit Juhasz (HUN) 8½
- Aasa Dommalapati (USA) 7
- Jessica A. Rattray (USA) 6½
- Sadie Edelman (USA) 6½
- Zhiyi A. Wang (USA) 5½
- Iris Zhou (USA) 5
- Carol Chen (USA) 5
- Sara Lin (USA) 5
Whenever GM Alex Lenderman reaches a complex middlegame, for practical reasons, he says he is usually more apt than otherwise to make intuitive moves as opposed to moves based strictly upon calculation.

“Sometimes, you might not make the mathematically best move, but practically it might even be better since you use less time for it,” Lenderman explained to Chess Life. “And it can create more practical problems for your opponent than for yourself by forcing you to keep track of all possible lines and risk miscalculating a detail and blowing everything.”

Time also comes into play.

“In complicated, tough middlegames where you cannot keep track of all the lines, you want to trust your intuition more, or else you will get into time pressure and you will need that time probably later,” Lenderman said.

However, whenever Lenderman transitions into an endgame, he said his mode of play shifts away from reliance upon intuition and toward more solid calculations.

“In the endgame, general rules, while they still exist, they are really worth nothing compared to concrete variations,” Lenderman said. “In endgames, concrete variations are much easier to calculate and it’s expected of us to try to do so.

“A difference of one move is often a win and a draw and a loss.”

And so it was for Lenderman during the endgame of his final round at the 43rd Annual National Chess Congress, which took place from November 23-25 at the Sheraton Hotel Philadelphia City Center in downtown Philadelphia.

In the game, both Lenderman and GM Tamaz Gelashvili found themselves vying against each other for first place as two of four grandmasters that entered the final round of the six-round Swiss-style tournament with four points.

By move 42 of the game, which is annotated by Lenderman later in this article, Lenderman said he felt compelled to go for a win since he had plenty of time to calculate all the variations and make sure he would prevail in every line.

“In such endgames it has to be all exact, and ‘seems winning’ isn’t a good enough argument anymore,” Lenderman writes.

The endgame calculations paid off. Lenderman went on to defeat Gelashvili and clinch first place after tiebreaks in the tournament. He pocketed $2,350 as a result.

Tied for first with Lenderman was GM Sergey Erenburg, the only player to beat Lenderman in the tournament and who won $2,250.

Tied for second with GM Zviad Izoria—who entered the tournament after a brief hiatus from tournament chess—was IM Bryan Smith, a chess.com columnist who drew against three grandmasters and defeated one fellow IM to collect $550. IM Smith bested GM Izoria on tiebreaks.

Upon request from Chess Life, the top three finishers in the National Chess Congress all agreed to annotate games that they felt were demonstrative of how players must use intuition versus calculation.

“In such endgames it has to be all exact, and ‘seems winning’ isn’t a good enough argument anymore,” Lenderman writes.

The endgame calculations paid off. Lenderman went on to defeat Gelashvili and clinch first place after tiebreaks in the tournament. He pocketed $2,350 as a result.

Tied for first with Lenderman was GM Sergey Erenburg, the only player to beat Lenderman in the tournament and who won $2,250.

Tied for second with GM Zviad Izoria—who entered the tournament after a brief hiatus from tournament chess—was IM Bryan Smith, a chess.com columnist who drew against three grandmasters and defeated one fellow IM to collect $550. IM Smith bested GM Izoria on tiebreaks.

Upon request from Chess Life, the top three finishers in the National Chess Congress all agreed to annotate games that they felt were demonstrative of how players must use intuition versus calculation.

In some instances, they indicated that intuition and calculation are not necessarily mutually exclusive ideas but can actually function as symbiotic principles.

“Chess thought consists of both calculation and intuition, but they aren’t completely separate and they play off one another,” IM Bryan Smith said.

“Calculation helps to back up your intuitive feelings, and intuition also guides
GM Sergey Erenburg (left) tied for first with GM Alex Lenderman (below right) for first place, with Lenderman taking the title on tiebreaks. IM Bryan Smith (below left) finished third (all photos are archival).
the direction in which your calculations go,” Smith continued. “Chess is actually an emotional game and even the best players are not calculating machines.”

GM Erenburg said: “I think that what separates a good player from an even better player is the feeling or intuition for the critical positions.”

“By the nature of the game, we have limited time to think and it is very important to spend the time wisely,” Erenburg said. “By identifying correctly the critical positions, one can spend more time and come up with a better decision than otherwise.”

For what it’s worth, the impetus for asking the top three finishers in the National Chess Congress to expound upon intuition versus calculation came largely from this writer’s bookshelf.

One of the more notable examples would be Secrets of Chess Intuition: How to stimulate your chess subconscious, by Alexander Beliavsky and Adrian Mikhalchishin. The introduction of the book shows how intuitive chess genius lies behind some of the greatest names in the game.

“In the history of chess there have been several players who often took decisions simply through intuition, or who used their intuition very extensively in their decision-making process,” the book states. “Such players include Capablanca, Tal, Smyslov, Petrov, Spassky, Stein, Kramnik and Anand.”

“Those who could support their intuitive choices with precise calculation were simply the greatest.” Italics added for emphasis.

And then there’s Chapter 16, titled “Calculation versus Intuition.” From the book “The Tao of Chess: 200 Principles to Transform Your Game and Your Life.” Principle 79 advises: Never miss a chance to attempt to solve any position you come across.

“The reason for this principle is simply that it is the best way to build up good habits,” the book states. “If you want your thinking to be disciplined when you are playing a game, then you must discipline your thinking even when you are not playing a game. That’s how discipline works. It is not a sometime thing. It is ongoing.”

And so, in an effort to build upon the discussion about the merits of intuition versus calculation or—as IM Smith stated, how the two things “play off one another”—here are some illustrative games from the top three finishers at the National Chess Congress.

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Modern Defense (A41)
GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2700)
GM Tamaz Gelashvili (2684)
National Chess Congress (6), 11.25.2012
Notes by Lenderman

1. d4 d6!? 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 e5!? 5. dxe5!? dxe5 6. Qxd8+ Kxd8 7. Bg5+

An interesting line brought into fashion by Zurab Azmaiparashvili and now a kind of “Georgian” variation. At first the computer doesn’t like it, but it is not easy at all for White to prove an advantage. It is an interesting weapon to use to play for a win and reach an unbalanced position. Of course Tamaz also needed to win for first place, so...

5. dxe5? dxe5 6. Qxd8+ Kxd8 7. Bg5+

This was the first critical position for me since I did not know this line very well. This position is very rich and has a lot of possible plans. It seems like I chose the most direct, but not the best, way. It is very important for White to get some quick play here because Black might be able to consolidate and get his king safe. Structurally Black is sound. White having moved the pawn to c4 is a weakness, while Black has no real weaknesses. As you’ll see in the game, Black had no problems, and in fact I thought it was even easier for Black to play. So the key here is initiative versus consolidation.

7. ... f6 8. 0-0-0+ Nd7 9. Bd2 Nh6 10. h3 Nf7 11. g4

I didn’t know that this idea was used by Garry Kasparov before—I happened to find that out after the game. The idea is to try to undermine Black and get some space on the kingside.

11. ... c6 12. Bg2 Kc7 13. Ne4

Here I really was struggling to find a good move. I simply couldn’t find a good plan and spent a long time here. I honestly thought I was already slightly worse, but it turned out I’m still doing OK.

13. ... a5!

I like this move. It stops Bb4 and Ba5(+ ideas, puts a pawn on a good square, and waits me out, seeing what I will do. It turns out it’s not so easy for me to find a great move. He’s playing well so far, initiating a cat and mouse game with me, waiting to see where I commit. Tamaz on the other hand is not rushing and playing logical moves.

14. Bc3 Re8 15. e3 Nf8 16. b3 f5 17. gxf5 gxf5 18. Neg5 Nbd8?

Of course a blunder, which is a first indication that my opponent is probably tired after his long fifth-round game against Erenburg and in general coming off of a tough two-day schedule.


Played on general principles to not allow the passed pawn. However, playing 32. ... a4!! first was a better try before allowing the white bishop in the game.

33. Bxe4 a4?!

Another move played on general principles but that looks to be the final inaccuracy. It was clear that Tamaz was getting tired here; he played this and the previous moves in the endgame rather quickly, and in the endgame it’s important to always look for hidden resources. The move open the board is, the more resources that sometimes materialize out of nowhere and that’s why it’s important to be disciplined and take every move like it’s a very important move.

I’ve made this mistake myself many times before in endgames by playing too automatically. In endgames you rarely want to play just on general principles. It’s not like the middlegame where you can’t expect to calculate everything and you would just go based on intuition. In endgames I think if you want to, you can force yourself to calculate all the lines to almost perfection.

34. f5

It was important to challenge the bishop and get him off his best square. Also, it protects the h3-pawn in some lines, which allows me to take with the bishop on b3 and not allow ... b5-b4, fixing the pawns.
34. ... Bf7 35. Rc2!

To play this move it’s important to calculate the consequences of all the different bishop endgames to the best of your ability. I was pretty sure I was winning here. The good thing here is that it is an easy decision since nothing else looks very attractive anyway.

35. ... Rxc2 36. Bxc2 h6 37. bxa4 bxa4 38. a3 Be8

39. h4

This is an important move for several reasons. While this might not be the only move that wins, in my experience it’s very important to have chess “culture.” In an earlier game against Erenburg (see next annotated game) I lacked it and that’s why I walked into a freaky tactic to lose the point. One thing this move does is it puts the pawn on the opposite color of the opposing bishop. Also, in all pawn endgame races now, the pawn is one step closer to queening. Black absolutely can’t do anything so the best thing to do is maximize your position and don’t hurry! Tamaz, coincidently, was the one who taught me that rule!

39. ... Bd7 40. Bd3 Bc8 41. f6

The best way to make progress.

41. ... Bg4 42. Bc4 Bf5 43. Kc3Bg4 44. Kb4 Bd1

Here I had to go for a win since I had loads of time and I had to make sure I calculated all the variations and made sure I’m winning in all lines. In such endgames it has to be all exact, and ‘seems winning’ isn’t a good enough argument anymore. It’s either a win or a draw now.

45. Bb5

The winning move, but I had to make sure, because I am only winning by only one tempo to spare.

45. ... Ke6 46. Bxa4 Bf3 47. Bb3+ Kxf6 48. Kc5 Ke7 49. a4 Kd7 50. a5 Kc7 51. a6 Kb8 52. Kb6 Ka8 53. Ba4 h5!? 54. Be8 Kb8 55. a7+ Ka8 56. Bf7, Black resigned.

And on this positive note my tournament ended. Admittedly I got somewhat lucky because my opponent was kind of tired for this game and didn’t seem fresh. He played well positionally, but tactically he didn’t seem as sharp as he normally is. Tamaz blundered a pawn and then followed by not defending the endgame in the best manner.

So the conclusion I came up with is: In complicated tough middlegames where you cannot keep track of all the lines, you want to trust your intuition more, or else you will get into time pressure—time you likely will need later. Also, usually the most natural moves in such cases turn out to be the best moves anyway.

However, in the endgame, general rules, while they still exist, are really worth nothing compared to concrete variations. In endgames concrete variations are much easier to calculate and it’s expected of us to try to do so. In endgames a difference of one move is often the difference between a win, a draw, and a loss. However, in complicated middlegames, sometimes you might not make the mathematically best move, but practically it might even be better since you use less time for it, and it can create more practical problems for your opponent rather than for yourself (by forcing you to keep track of all possible lines and risk miscalculating a detail and blowing everything).

Also the key is to fight hard even after you have a heartbreaker. The tournament is not over until it’s over and you want to always make the maximum of your opportunities. It turned out maybe the Erenburg game that I lost was good for me. Not only did it teach me good lessons about chess culture at the board among other good lessons, but it opened the door for me to have two whites in the remaining two games when if I’d drawn that game maybe I would play black and lose.

So take nothing for granted and be thankful no matter what happens; win, loss, draw. Whether you make a mistake or make a good move, you’ll be able to always think positively, and without thinking positively it’s very hard to be happy.

Before this game, Aleksandr was the sole leader of the tournament, while I was a half point behind. It was my third encounter with Aleksandr, one of which took place in the U.S. Chess League. Every game against him was fascinating, and it is nice to play against someone who tries to win no matter what the tournament situation is. The following position was reached at the 40th move. Objectively speaking, it is equal. The vulnerability of Black’s king is compensated by the activity of his heavy pieces and the control over the open d-file.

40. Rg1 Qf5?

Here Aleksandr offered a draw. Unfortunately for him, his last move allows White to carry out an elegant breakthrough. Better was 40. ... Qh4 41. Qf3 Rf5 42. Qa8+ Ke7 43. Rf1 Rxd5 with an equal position (Too greedy is 43. ... Rxf4? 44. Rd1).

41. g6!

Using the awkward positioning of the black pieces.

41. ... Kf8

Even worse are 41. ... hxg6 42. Rg5 Qf6 43. Rxd5+; 41. ... Rc5 42. Qd2.

42. Rg5 Qf6 43. Rxd5

The move 43. gxh7 gives nothing to White, since after 43. ... Rxf5 44. fxg5 Qf1+ 45. Kd2 Kg7 Black seems to solve all his problems.

43. ... exd5 44. gxh7

As a result of Black’s inaccuracy on the 40th move, an extremely interesting queen endgame has arisen. Black can easily capture White’s passed pawn, but it takes time, which White can use to activate his pieces.

44. ... Qh6

Black cannot go to the king and pawn endgame: 44. ... Kg7? 45. Qe5 Qxe5 46. fxe5 Kxh7 47. Kd2 Kg6 48. Ke3 f5 49. exf6 e.p. Kxf6 50. Kd4 Ke6 51. Kc5 and White wins.

45. Qe5!

Of course, it was impossible to calculate
every single possibility that could arise, but I did see the idea of pushing the f-pawn and creating the mating threats against the black monarch. My intuition said that in this endgame the material advantage is not as important as the activity of my pieces. By centralizing my queen, I enabled my king to march to the center. Black should be able to hold after 45. h8=Q+ Qxh8 46. Qc5+ Kg7 47. Qd4+ Kg8 48. Qxh8+ Kxh8 49. Kd2 Kg7 50. Ke3 Kf6 51. Kd4 Ke5 52. Kxd5 Kxd5 53. c4 bxc3 e.p. 54. bxc3 f5 55. c4 Kg3 56. c5 f4 57. c6 f3 58. c7 f2 59. c8=Q f1=Q; 45. Kb1 is met by 45. ... Qh1+! 46. f6 f5 47. f7 f4 48. f8=Q f1=Q; 49. Ke3 Qxh7 48. f5 Qh6+! 49. Kd4 Qh5!—see Diagram 37—49. ... Qh5 line.

45. ... Qh1+

After 45. ... Qh7 46. Qxd5 White has an obvious advantage, due to the extra candidate passed pawn (after c4 bxc3 e.p. and bxc3).

46. Kd2 Qh7

47. Kd2 Qh7+ does not change much: 47. Ke3 Qh7 48. f5 Qh6+! 49. Kd3 Qh5!—see the 48. ... Qh5 line.

47. f5

During the game, I was sure that Black was in trouble. His king is extremely passive and subject to mating threats that arise after f5-f6. However, Houdini finds the way to keep fighting.

47. ... Qh6+ 48. Kd3

48. ... Qc1?

I did not dare to put a question mark to Aleksandr’s move because both of us did not see the unbelievable 48. ... Qh5 even in the post game analysis. Here is the line 48. ... Qh5!! 49. Kd4 (49. Qxd5 Qd1+ 50. Ke4 Qxc2+ 51. Kb5 Qxb2 52. Kxa5 Qa1+) 49. ... Qh6+! 50. Kd3 Qc1+

49. f6

Now even Houdini is powerless to prevent Black’s loss. Black’s king is too passive and too vulnerable.

49. ... Qd1+ 50. Kc3 Qc1+

No better is 50. ... Qg1+ 51. Kd2 Qf2+ 52. Kd3 Qf1+ 53. Kd4 nor 50. ... d4+ 51. Ke4 Qxc2+ 52. Kd5.

50. Kd4 Qxb2+

Black is out of checks after 51. ... Qd2+ 52. Kc5 Qxc2+ 53. Kd6 Qc1+ 54. Ke7 Qe3 55. Kf8 Qd2+ 56. Kg7 Qe3+ 57. Kh8 Qd2+ 58. Kg7 Qe3+ 59. Kh8 Qf2+ 60. Kg7 Qg3+ 61. Kf8 Qh3+ 62. Kg7 Qg3+ 63. Kf8 Qh3+ 64. Kg7 Qg3+ 65. Kf8 Qh3+ 66. Kg7 Qg3+ 67. Kf8 Qh3+ 68. Kg7 Qg3+ 69. Kf8 Qh3+ 70. Kg7 Qg3+ 71. Kf8 Qh3+ 72. Kg7 Qg3+ 73. Kf8 Qh3+ 74. Kg7 Qg3+

52. Kxd5

Now Black is forced to trade the queens, which leads to a lost endgame for him.

52. ... Qxe5+ 53. Kxe5 Kg8


Final round

GM Sergey Erenburg (2709)
GM Mikheil Kekelidze (2565)
National Chess Congress (6), 11.25.2012
Notes by Erenburg

This game against GM Mikheil Kekelidze was played in the last round. Both of us had very long games in the penultimate round, where Mikheil was able to outplay GM Alexander Shabalov and I drew GM Tamaz Gelashvili. We finished the games at around 4:30-4:40 pm, when the last game was supposed to start—at 4:30pm!

20. ... f5

After the opening the above position arose. Black has a pair of bishops, but he has a number of weaknesses as well. With the last move, Black tries to open up the long diagonal for his powerful light-squared bishop. I had to make some important decisions: do I go for the position with material advantage, but let Black’s bishop dominate the long diagonal or should I find out some other creative solution?

21. Bd4
Perfect Scores

While Delonta Richardson was well-prepared for whatever he encountered over the board at the 43rd National Chess Congress in Philadelphia from November 23-25, it was something that took place off the board that he didn’t expect.

The drama unfolded as Richardson, 23, faced off against Jowel Ammons, 19, of Philadelphia, as both players went undefeated into round 5 in the Under 1600 Section.

“It was a pivotal game for me because it was ‘gonna’ tell me am I ready to strongly evolve as a player,” Richardson recalled for Chess Life. “I played as Black and the opening I tried was the Owen’s (Defense).”

“It was my first time ever playing the opening but thanks to my chess coach and mentor (Samuel Perez) I was prepared,” Richardson said. “It’s really the ‘kinda’ opening that after the first six to eight moves, you’ll find yourself ‘outta’ opening theory and just playing on the principles of chess, which I like.”

Richardson said his opponent played his last half dozen or so moves in a blatant attempt to checkmate him.

“I managed to fight and pull off the win with good defense and a fearless move order,” Richardson said.

Here is how the game played out:

Queen’s Fianchetto Defense, Nimzowitsch Defense (B00)

Delonta Richardson (1544)


Richardson had an unpleasant encounter with his opponent after the game, but walking away from the situation before it escalated ended up paying off in a major way. He not only went on to finish undefeated but achieved a perfect score and won clear first place, which enabled him to pocket $2,000.

“I’m glad I kept my composure and finished my goal with a hard-fought last round victory, going 6-0 in a big time tournament like the National Congress,” Richardson said. “(It was) my first ever, undefeated tourney.”

Richardson credits Perez and Vaughn Bennett, president of the National Chess Academy in Washington, D.C., with his success.

“Without those guys, chess would not be in my life at this present moment,” Richardson said. “More than likely, I would’ve been lost in the streets or not doing anything with my life at this point.

“I can’t thank those guys enough for this beautiful game.”

Richardson was just one of several players who achieved perfect scores and collected $2,000 at the National Chess Congress.

Other players who achieved perfect scores and won $2,000 were:

Jessica Regam, 16, of suburban Philadelphia, who took first place in the Under 2200 section. Regam, who has been playing since age 6, is a protégé of Master Roland Yakobashvili. She says she likes to solve tactics and analyze grandmaster games.

Here is her round four game:

Caro-Kann Defense, Advance Variation (B12)

Jessica Regam (2113)


2012 National Chess Congress / Calculation versus Intuition

Notes by Smith

I had never played the basic form of the Accelerated Dragon before. Irina Krush isn’t a 1.e4 player, so I suppose it was a good choice for this game at least.


This is the main line where Black sets up an outpost on e5 for the knight. Although I never played this before, I did have a general idea how to play it.

13. b3 Nd7 14. Be3

White avoids the exchange of bishops, even though the ... Bg7 is potentially very strong. This is standard here—while it would be nice to get rid of the ... Bg7, White would miss her own dark-squared bishop more.

14. ... Nc5 15. Rac1

15. ... e6!? 

The more common plan in these positions is to play 15. ... Qb6 followed by ... Rfc8, ... Qd8, ... h5, ... Kh7, and ... Qh8. A fantastic maneuver which is possible because neither side has many ways to make progress. But here I decided to use a completely different and aggressive plan, playing ... e6 to cover d5 and putting the bishop into e5. Then Black prepares ... f5 and some threats on the kingside. The d-pawn seems very weak, but it will be guarded by the bishop on e5, which will be hard to dislodge since f3-f4 will usually leave the e4-pawn hanging.

16. Rfd1 Be5 17. Bg5

Krush tries to cut off the queen from such squares as h4, which could induce a weakness in the kingside. Not 17. f4 because of 17. ... Bxc3 followed by 18. ... Nxe4.

17. ... f6

It was also possible to play like in the game with 17. ... Qb6 followed by ... Qb4.

18. Bh4

(see diagram top of next column)

I was surprised by this move, which creates some tactical problems on the c1–h6 diagonal. 18. Be3 goes back where the
22. Be3?
21. ... Na6!
21. Nxd2
20. Nb1 Qxd2
18. ... Qb6 19. Bf2

I thought after this White was in some trouble. 23. f4 is met by 23. ... Bb2 24. Rb1 a3, followed by ... Nb4 when a2 will fall. In most cases allowing the pawn to a3 is not an option. So I'm not sure what White should play now. During the game her next move seemed like the only chance.

23. c5

Now my thinking was fairly streamlined at this point. 23. ... Nxc5 is not possible because of 24. b4 followed by 25. b5; taking on b3 first was also not so convincing; 23. ... dxc5 didn't lead to anything after 24. Bxa6 followed by 25. Bxc5 and 26. Nc4, when White's active pieces will compensate for the bishop pair. So I thought about 23. ... d5 for a bit, which seemed to give Black a small advantage, before I went back to the original idea of ... Nb4 and just ignoring the d6-pawn. I calculated a number of variations after 23. ... Nb4 which showed that Black had at least a big advantage; but intuition played a factor—going forward had to be best here, and I trusted that White's unwieldy pieces (especially the potential fork on c3) should justify it.

23. ... Nb4!, White resigned.

Some of the variations I calculated are:

A) 24. a3 Na2 25. Rxa3 axb6 26. Nxb3 Rxa3 when White is losing material;
D) 24. f4 Bb2 25. Rb1 a3 planning ... Nxa2 and ... Nc3, and if 26. Nc4 Bxe4 27. Nxb2 Bxb1;
E) 24. bxa4 I didn't really calculate this because it was obviously bad for White, but it would not have been difficult to find 24. ... Nxa2 25. Rc4 d5 26. exd5 exf5 27. Rc2 Bxa4 28. Rxa2 Bxd1 29. Rxa8 Rxa 20. Bxd1 Ra1.

So I didn't know what move Irina could play. I assumed there should be some way to play on, probably by sacrificing the Exchange. However, I could not possibly expect the move that she did play! After thinking for about 40 minutes, she suddenly said, "Okay, I'm tired of this game," and resigned. (IM Krush acknowledged that she "didn't see anything that led to a viable position." “Everywhere I was going to be losing material with no compensation, and basically having no position left," Krush said. “Obviously it’s a little unusual to resign with all the pieces on the board—I think that’s a first for me—but I didn’t see the point in choosing among the losing options in front of me.”)

This was very surprising to me, since I know Irina is a fighting player. Even if her position is technically lost (which I'm not 100% sure) there is still always the chance that—especially in the last round—one can blunder.

There are some possibilities for White that would require me at least to calculate some and show some technique. For example, she could play 24. f4 Bb2 25. Rb1 a3 26. cxd6 Nxa2 27. Rxb2 when after 27. ... axb2 28. Bd4 White captures the b2-pawn and has a reasonable position. Instead I would need to find 27. ... Nc3! 28. Rxc6 Nxa2 29. Bd4! (Not 29. Bxd1 a2.) 29. ... Nb2 30. Bxb2 axb2 31. Rxb2 Black should probably win, but still White has hopes.
GM GEMS
At the 2012 UT Dallas GM Invitational, Sadorra Sinks Norm Chances and Tactics Sparkle

By DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM

In the last round of the 2012 University of Texas at Dallas Grandmaster (GM) Invitational, GM Julio Sadorra sank the only remaining norm possibility by defeating FIDE Master (FM) Alec Getz. Had Getz defeated Sadorra, Getz would have earned an international master (IM) norm. At the closing dinner, UT Dallas Chess Program Director Jim Stallings asked Sadorra if he felt badly about winning against Getz. Sadorra replied, “No, he has to earn it.”

Sadorra’s reply reminded me of the 2010 GM Invitational. At the end of 2010’s round five, IM Salvijus Bercys was one point closer to a GM norm than then-IM Sadorra. In round six, Sadorra defeated Bercys. During their round six post mortem, Bercys said, “Way to bring me down to your sinking ship.” Because of their round six result, both players needed wins in rounds seven, eight, and nine for their GM norms. Their norm ship sank when they lost their round eight games.

At the 2012 Invitational, Bercys told me and FM Tyler Hughes that he would not give journalists any more quotes. Hughes asked why. In response, I recited the “sinking ship” story and one more of my favorite quotes. At the 2009 Invitational, GM Giorgi Kachishvili won against Bercys in a Lucena-themed endgame. Bercys said, “I resigned because he’s a GM. He knows how to build a bridge.” After my quote recap, Bercys commented, “I’m full of sparkly, sparkly gems.” Then he
turned to Hughes, “I just did that on purpose to see if she’d write it down.”

Participants in the 2012 Invitational, held November 16-20, created chess gems. Diagrams are in the body of this article. An answer key organized by round is at the article’s end. For most of the diagrams, several moves are playable. The players’ chosen tactics, however, sparkle. Look for “sparkly, sparkly gems” when solving the positions.

2012 Invitational winner GM Cristian Chirila scored five wins and four draws. He is a junior at UT Dallas. His major is international political economy.

The champ
IM Arthur Calugar (2452)
GM Cristian Chirila (2579)
UT Dallas GM Invitational (8)

UT Dallas graduate student IM Milos Pavlovic, with two previous GM norms and a 2478 FIDE rating, was trying for his third GM norm at the 2012 Invitational. The average rating of his nine opponents was 2459.56 FIDE. Pavlovic needed 6½ points for his GM norm. Pavlovic began with 4 points out of 6 rounds. Therefore, Pavlovic needed 2½ out of his last three rounds. In round seven he had white against Sadorra. Sadorra won, sinking Pavlovic’s norm chances.

Here are two of Pavlovic’s gems from earlier, happier rounds.

Pavlovic Gem I
IM Milos Pavlovic (2537)
FM Tyler Hughes (2384)
UT Dallas GM Invitational (1)

Pavlovic Gem II
IM Arthur Calugar (2452)
IM Milos Pavlovic (2537)
UT Dallas GM Invitational (4)

Each fall, the GM Invitational prepares UT Dallas students for the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship (“Pan Am”). In December 2012, UT Dallas won its third straight Pan Am title, having won the Pan Am 6-0 in both 2010 and 2011. They finished first on tiebreaks with four other teams.

The Invitational also allows UT Dallas students norm opportunities. At the December 15-20, 2011 Invitational, then-IM Conrad Holt made his second GM norm. Key to achieving his 2011 norm was defeating Sadorra; in 2012, however, Sadorra defeated Holt.

(see next game, next page)
Sadorra’s 18 points. Under conventional Chirila scored 19 points ahead of GM Julio Sadorra, who was also having a great tournament. I was expecting Sadorra to win the last round, since he was playing a weaker opponent. Therefore I had to win my game as well, in order to clinch the first spot. My last-round opponent, GM Conrad Holt, is a very strong player known for his great theoretical preparation. So I decided to go for a line in which he does not have a lot of experience.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6

The Slav Defense, Conrad’s main weapon against 1. d4.

3. cxd5 cxd5

The Exchange Slav has always been considered as a less ambitious try to obtain an advantage for White. Recently there have been some decisive games between very strong players, with White usually being on the top.

4. Bf4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Qb6!

An ambitious move for Black. I consider 5. ... Nc6 6. e3 a6 7. Bd3 to be the main line, with White keeping a slight advantage.

5. e4 Nbd7 Black cannot enjoy an extra pawn.


White has sacrificed a pawn in order to obtain a substantial development advantage. White’s threat is Rb1 and capturing the pawn on b7.

9. ... Bc6?

An inaccuracy, better was 9. ... Qa3 10. 0-0 e6 11. e4 with a very complicated game ahead. White intends to open up Black’s position and take advantage of his lack of development. Black still has a solid position. If he manages to finish his development and castle, then he will be enjoying an extra pawn.

10. Rb1 Qa3 11. Rb3 Qa5 12. Qb1!

12. ... Nbd7

Black already has a difficult position, but other options would have been worse.

12. ... e6 13. Bxb7 Nbd7 Black cannot capture the rook on b7 (13. ... Bxb7 14. Qxb7 and the rook will be lost) 14. Bc7 Qa3 15. Rb3 Qe7 16. 0-0 and White is clearly better; 12. ... b5 13. a4! Nh5 14. axb5

Notes by Chirila

I began the last round on the top spot of the crosstable, one point ahead (under the 3-0-1 scoring system) of my main rival and teammate, GM Julio Sadorra, who was also having a great tournament. I was expecting Sadorra to win the last round, since he was playing a weaker opponent. Therefore I had to win my game as well, in order to clinch the first spot. My last-round opponent, GM Conrad Holt, is a very strong player known for his great theoretical preparation. So I decided to go for a line in which he does not have a lot of experience.
Nxf4 15. Nxf4 axb5 16. 0-0 e6 17. Nxb5 Be7 18. e4 when White is almost winning, the black king is still trapped in the center and opening the position will be decisive.

13. Rxb7

The point of White’s last moves, Black can’t recapture the rook because White would have more than enough compensation for the Exchange.

13. ... e5

13. ... Rc8 14. Ra7 and White is better; 13. ... e6 14. Bc7 Qa3 15. 0-0 Rc8 16. Ra7 White’s position looks crushing, the pawn on a6 is extremely vulnerable and Black is still struggling to find squares for his pieces.

14. Bxe5

14. dxe5 Bxb7 15. Qxb7 Rb8 16. Qc6 Qc5 17. Qxa6 would have been a viable option for me, but I tried to keep it simple and not give Black any counterplay.

14. ... Nxe5 15. Rb8+ Ke7 16. dxe5 Nd7 17. Rxa8 Bxa8 18. 0-0 g6

19. f4 Bg7 20. Bc2?!

This move may be a little sloppy. My idea was to redirect my bishop to b3 from where it will constantly put pressure on the d5-pawn. The position is still better for White but I think that more accurate would have been 20. Qe1 Rc8.

21. Bb5!! The move that I missed during the game. Black can’t capture the bishop without his position becoming hopeless. 21. ... axb5 22. Nxb5+ Bxd5 23. Qxa5 with decisive advantage.

20. ... Rc8 21. Qe1 Kf8

The king finds time to hide against annoying Qh4 checks.


Even though my computer suggests that this is not the best move, I think that practically it was the right decision. By exchanging the queens, White will assure himself a riskless endgame. Black will have to suffer and play perfectly in order to keep from losing. With time trouble approaching, I think this was the right decision. The other option was 27. Qd2 Kg8 28. Rd1 Qa3 29. Ne4 and White maintains with accurate play White will be able to convert his advantage.

27. ... Qxa4 28. Nxa4

28. ... Rc2?!

In my opinion this was the final inaccuracy. After this move the game is quite simple for White. More stubborn would have been 28. ... Rc4! 29. Nac3 f6 30. exf6 Bxf6 31. Rf1 f5 32. Nc2 White is two pawns up but the pair of bishops in the open position offers Black some counterplay and drawing chances. I still think that with accurate play White will be able to convert his advantage.

29. Nd4 Rxa2 30. Nc5 Bc8

After 30. ... Bd5 31. e4 Bc4 32. Rc1 Bb5 33. Nxb5 axb5 34. Nd7+ Ke7 35. Nb6 leads to decisive advantage for White.

31. Rb1 Ke8 32. Rb8 Kd8 33. Ra8 Bf8 34. Nce6+ (see diagram top of next column)

The final blow. I think my opponent underestimated this move. The rest is just a matter of technique.

34. ... fxe6 35. Nxe6+ Kd7 36. Nxf8+ Kc7 37. Ra7+ Kb6

37. ... Bb7 38. e6! White’s pawn proves to be decisive 38. ... Re2 39. Nd7 Rxe2 40. Kf1 Re2 41. Nf6 Kd6 42. e7 Rc8 43. Rxb7+

Kxd7 44. e8=Q Rxe8 45. Nxe8 White’s king has enough time to catch the a-pawn, while on the other flank the knight will start collecting Black’s pawns. The position is hopeless.

38. Rxe7 Re1+ 40. Kh2 Qxe2 41. g4 Bxg4 42. Nxe6 Bxe6 43. Ne5, Black lost on time.

In this position my opponent flagged and lost the game, but there are not too many reasons to continue the fight anyway. The e-pawn will promote and soon the game would be over.

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Answers

(organized by round number)

ROUND 1, PAVLOVIC-HUGHES:
31. Nxf6+ Bxf6 32. Rxe6 Kg7 (if 32. ... fxe6 33. Bxe6+) 33. d7, Black resigned.

ROUND 3, HOLT-SADORRA:
43. ... Nf3+, White resigned because 44. Qxf3 Re1+ is decisive. (Of course, Black rejected 43. ... Rxe2 44. Rb8+ Kh7 45. Rh3+ Rf6 46. Rh6+ Kh6 47. Rh8 mate (or 46. ... gxh6 47. Rh8 mate).

ROUND 4, CALUGAR-PAVLOVIC:
34. ... Rxf4 35. h3 (if 35. cxd4 Rg4+ leads to checkmate) 35. ... Rd4+, White resigned.

ROUND 8, CALUGAR-CHIRILA:
28. ... Rf6, White resigned. The threat is 29. ... Rh6 mate. (28. ... Qxe2 29. Rxe2 Rf3+ also wins, but is not as sparkly.)

ROUND 9, GETZ-SADORRA:
49. ... a3 50. Rxa3 If 50. Bxa3 Rxd3+ 51. Nxd3 Nxa3 is winning for Black. 50. ... a2, White resigned.
In Memoriam:
Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya (1957-2012)

The world lost part of the living fabric of chess history with the passing of Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya on November 18, 2012. But her achievements remain indelibly woven into the tapestry of our game. She was one of only three women to win both the Soviet and U.S. women’s chess championship. She played in eight chess Olympiads between 1978 and 2002, winning an individual gold and helping to win two team golds. She battled head-to-head as the finalist for the world championship title, stopped only by the most dominant woman player of the day.

Elena lost her final battle, with cancer, nine months after a brain seizure led to the awful discovery of a malignant tumor. For the previous 24 years, her home was suburban Seattle, where she shared the secrets of chess to hundreds of young students through a chess academy she ran with her husband and early trainer, International Master Georgi Orlov.

Elena was born Yelena Bronislavovna Akhmilovskaya on March 11, 1957 in Leningrad, USSR, which is once again St. Petersburg, Russia. Her father was an engineer, and the family moved often. Young Elena spent much of her childhood in Krasnoyarsk, a river city in western Siberia, where she learned chess from her mother who was a regional chess champion. Sadly, her mom died when Elena was a teenager. After that, she studied law and physics but left school before graduation to pursue her promising chess career. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union was known for its chess dominance, Elena and her contemporary, Lev Psakhis, were the first grandmasters from Siberia and, remarkably, there have been none since.

REMEMBERING A FORMER U.S. AND USSR WOMEN’S CHAMPION
By FRANK NIRO AND AL LAWRENCE

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEORGI ORLOV
FIRST PERFECT OLYMPIAD SCORE

In 1976, she tied for first in the Women's Interzonal in Roosendaal, Netherlands. She was awarded the WGM title at the age of 20 and quickly became the darling of the Soviet chess world. In 1978, she won the gold medal for best individual performance at the 23rd Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires. Playing reserve, Elena won all ten of her games, the first perfect score in Olympiad history.

Because she showed so much promise, Elena was invited to attend the famous Botvinnik School. She trained directly with the former world champion, together with future champion Garry Kasparov and dozens of other players who were destined to be among the world's top grandmasters.

Elena's first husband, Vladimir Petukhov, was a premier league rugby player in the Georgian capital city of Tbilisi. They married in 1980 and the next year they moved to Sochi, where Elena gave birth to a daughter, Donna. The young mother attained the second-highest rating among female players in the world. She became a challenger for the women's world championship by finishing second in the 1985 Interzonal in Havana and then winning the candidates' tournament in 1986. Then she faced reigning champion Maia Chiburdanidze in a match split between Sofia, Bulgaria, and Borzhami, now part of the Republic of Georgia. Elena lost a hard-fought contest 8½–5½ (one win, four losses and nine draws).

The game below is one contested by the same friendly adversaries from an earlier time, in their 1977 Women's Candidates semi-finals match, lost narrowly by Elena (three wins, four losses and five draws).

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Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B90)

Maia Chiburdanidze
Candidates semi-final (Women) Tallinn (1), 1977
Notes by IM Georgi Orbol


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CONDOS, FURS, AND FAMOUS BABYSITTERS

Elena played her second Olympiad for the gold-medal-winning Soviet team at Dubai in 1986, on second board behind Chiburdanize. The next year, Elena and her husband divorced. Occasionally Elena traveled from tournament to tournament as a single mom, with daughter Donna usually waiting in the wings. Donna remembers attending some of her mother's tournaments where other chess stars took care of her while her mother played. Once her caregiver was none other than world champ Garry Kasparov. In a recent interview with The Seattle Times, Donna recalled that her mother lived a glamorous life as a Soviet star, owning a condo and wearing fur coats.

All that changed in November 1988. In her last Olympiad playing for the Soviet Union, held in Greece, Elena scored 8½/9 and won the silver medal on board two. However, the headline story of the event was Akhmilovskaya's sudden and unexpected marriage to American team captain John Donaldson and subsequent departure before the tournament ended. By then defections from the old USSR were becoming commonplace, so political ramifications were minimal. “It's a real love match. A marriage, not a defection,” said Inna Izrailov [Koren], a Soviet-born player who grew up in the
United States and played for the American women’s team in 1988. Additionally, Elena wanted to find a better life outside of the Soviet Union for her daughter.

Former Chess Life editor Larry Parr, reported in the January 1989 issue of *Northwest Chess* that the marriage between Elena and the U.S. Olympiad team captain John took place on the afternoon of November 25, 1988, in the Thessaloniki City Hall, not in a secret ceremony earlier or elsewhere as rumored by others. Elena and John made world headlines when they flew to West Germany on the eve of the 12th round of the 14-round tournament. Possibly as a consequence, Hungary’s teenage stars—the Polgar sisters (Judit, Zsuzsa, and Sofia)—led their national team past the Soviet women’s squad, who now lacked their second-board player. With both teams tied at 31 points, Hungary went on to defeat Sweden 2-1, while the Soviet women split with a surprisingly tough Dutch team. A rising women’s star, 12-year-old Judit Polgar scored a remarkable 12½/13 to anchor the gold medal winning effort.

Elena and John spent a sleepless Friday night with the American players, who escorted the couple to the airport early Saturday. Later in the morning, after the plane took off, Inna Izrailov informed the Soviet team that Akhmilovskaya would not be playing in the 12th round on Saturday. “We really do mind losing our team captain, but we couldn’t think of a finer reason why we should,” said GM Yasser Seirawan, America’s top player and Donaldson’s closest friend.

Elena moved to Seattle, where John was a member of the editorial team of Seirawan’s *Inside Chess* magazine. Donna stayed with her grandmother in the Soviet Union until a year later, when Elena returned in a scene straight out of a spy movie to fetch her daughter in the middle of the night.

Top-rated U.S. Couples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest rated U.S. married couples, based on peak USCF ratings during their marriage to each other.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Daniel Fridman (2676)—Anna Zatonskih (2616)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Alex Yermolinsky (2740)—Camilla Baginskaite (2485)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Boris (2716) and Anna (2472) Gulko</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. John (2601) and Elena (2556) Donaldson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Georgi Orlov (2615)—Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya (2516)</td>
</tr>
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**Modern Benoni Defense, Classical Variation (A73)**

**Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya (2430)**

**Mihai Suba (2515)**

**New York Open (4), 1989**

**Notes by Georgi Orlov**


This move was trendy at some point, with White playing an early Nc4 and Bf4, attacking d6. Also, in some lines Black would play ...Bg4, so White avoids that by playing Nd2 early.

7. ...Bg7 8. e4 0-0 9. Be2 Na6! 10. 0-0 Nc7

The idea behind this move is not so much to make a pin, but eventually take on c4 and play ...a7—a6 and ...b6—b5.

13. f3!

Suba played this line rather regularly.


White must stop ...b6—b5, else Black has a great game.

16. ...Rb8 17. Rb1

White fights fire with fire, planning b2—b4.

17. ...Qe7 18. b4 Nh5 19. g3 f5 20. bxc5 Bd4+ 21. Kg2 bxc5 22. exf5 Qg7


23. Qd3 gxf5 24. Rxb8+ Rxb8 25. Rb1 Rxb1 +

White now controls an important file and has easy access to Black’s queenside pawns.

26. ...Qd7

26. ...Bxc3 27. Qb8+ Qf8 28. Qxf8+ Kxf8 29. Bxc3 Ke7 30. Ba5 Kd7 31. Bd3 leads to an unpleasant ending, in which the bishops should dominate the knights.

27. Bd3 Ng7 28. Qb3 Ne8 29. Ne2 Be5 30. Nf4

Here White’s knight is much more powerful and Ne6 is in the air.

30. ...Nf6 31. Ne6! Nxd5 32. Bxf5 Qc8

33. Qc4

This simple queen transfer decides the game. Elena was very good in positions like this.

33. ...Kb8 34. Qh4

Here threats like Qh6 and Bg5, Bh6 and Bg7+, with Qg5, decide the game.

34. ...Ne7

Or 34. ...Qd7 35. Bb6 Qf7 36. Bg7+ Kg8 37. Qg5+

35. Bg5 Nxf5

Or 35. ...Ng8 36. Bxf6+ Nxf6 37. Qh6 Qg8 38. Nf8! Qg7 39. Ng6+ Kg8 40. Be6+

36. Bxf6+ Kg8 37. Qg5+ Kf7 38. Nd8+ Ke8 39. Bxe5 dxe5 40. Qf6+ Ke8 41. Nf7! Qd7 42. Qxf5 Qxf7 43. Qc8+ Ke7 44. Qxc5+ Kf6 45. Qd6+, Black resigned.

ALWAYS A STRONG WILL TO WIN!

When she first arrived in Seattle, Elena taught herself English and worked as a bank teller as she continued to play chess. Additionally, she wrote a popular chess column for *The Seattle Times* for many years. Elena quickly made her presence felt winning both the Washington and Oregon Open Championships. She prepared for all of her opponents, regardless of rating, and was often willing to jettison a pawn in order to create imbalances. And she wasn’t just about tactics, solid strategy, and endgame technique, although it is clear that she was strong in all these areas. She remained up-to-date with the theoretical nuances of her favorite openings, even saving some new tricks for unsuspecting opponents. She paid close attention to the games and styles of the opponents she would likely face. Elena became a feared opponent everywhere she competed.

Elena met and defeated numerous titled players. Her favorite game among these was her 1989 win over GM Mihai Suba.
REUNITED WITH AN OLD FRIEND AND TRAINER

Orlov, Elena’s former second in her Soviet Championship and World Championship Candidates’ matches, visited Seattle in May 1990 after playing in the New York Open. Georgi assisted Elena as she trained for the upcoming U.S. Championship and the 1990 Olympiad at Novi Sad, Elena’s first of five Olympiads on the American team. Elena won the 1990 U.S. Women’s Championship, taking the title from another Seattle area native, Alexey (Rudolph) Root.

In the 1990 Olympiad, Elena defeated another world champion, Jun Xie.

King’s Indian Defense,
Classical Main Line (E97)
Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya
Xie, Jun
Novi Sad Olympiad, 1990
Notes by Georgi Orlov

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 e5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Nd2 a5 10. a3 c5


The trick here is to stop ... Nd7-f6, winning a tempo.

17. ... Bg7 18. Ra1 Rxa1 19. Qxa1

Now White prepares Qa5 or Qa7, while Black has yet to start anything on the kingside.

19. ... Nf6 20. f3 Nh5 21. a5 Qd7

One can understand why Black wants to keep queens on the board, but after this move she is forced into a passive defense: 21. Nf3 Nf6 22. Bd1 Bh6 23. Qxd8 Rxd8 24. g3 Nh3+ 25. Kg2 Bxd2 26. Nxd2 f4 26. ... Ng5 27. h4 Nh7 28. Ba4 Kf8 29. Rb1 27. g4 Ng5 28. Ba4 Nh7 29. Rb1. White is to be preferred here, but there’s still much work to be done.

22. Ra1 fxe4 23. Nxe4 Nf5 24. Qb6

After this move Black cannot stop the invasion of her opponent’s rook, while the kingside play never came around.

24. ... Rf7 25. Ra8 Nf6

REUNITED WITH AN OLD FRIEND AND TRAINER

Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya

REMITTED WITH AN OLD FRIEND AND TRAINER

Elena’s marriage to Donaldson dissolved around 1992. In 1993, Elena tied for first in the U.S. Championship with another Russian immigrant, Irina Levitina, whom Elena had previously played against the Soviet title. (Elena, Irina and Anna (Akhsharumova) Gulko are the only women who have won both the Soviet and U.S. women’s championship titles.) The key encounter was her last round game with Beatriz Marinello. Following are the details in Elena’s own words.

“Before the last round, three players had six points out of eight: Irina Levitina, Beatriz Marinello and myself. At that moment, I decided to play something different just to avoid long theoretical lines. Going through the choices of opening moves I stopped at 1. f4!. What happened next has little to do with chess. Irina Levitina won her game very fast and both of us, Beatriz and I, realized that a draw does not do any good for either of us. After a while, I managed to get some edge in the game, but the position was very blocked with not many real chances for a win. Finally, Beatriz helped me by opening the position and accepting a pawn sacrifice. It was far from one of my best games, but I was very satisfied to win this game as well as the title of U.S. women’s champion.”

Elena won again in 1994, to chalk up her third American championship to go with her two Soviet victories. Then, in 1995, Elena married Georgi. Their son, Nicholas Orlov, became a serious chess player as a child. In the 2005 SuperNationals in Nashville, Nicholas went into the last round of the K-3 section tied for first place with future IM Daniel Naroditsky of California. Both had perfect 6-0 scores and faced off on board one. Nicholas grabbed a pawn advantage early but overlooked a winning line to finish second. More recently, Nicholas has become passionate about the game of tennis and has played in only one chess tournament since 2006.

Elena was a participant in the 1990, 1992, 1994, 1998, and 2002 women’s chess Olympiads for the U.S. team and became a licensed FIDE Chess Instructor in 2010. Since retiring from active play in 2003, Elena had dedicated herself to teaching young players and their parents to understand and enjoy the game she knew as a lifelong companion. In addition to husband Georgi, her daughter Donna, and her son Nicholas, Elena is survived by a sister, Tatiana Resninskaya, who lives in Russia.

Elena, the loving person will live on in the hearts and memories of her family and many friends around the world. Elena, the chess grandmaster is immortalized through her fighting games and championship performances. As long as men and women play chess, Elena Akhmilovskaya will still be teaching and delighting us.

Read more about Donaldson on Chess Life Online at uschess.org, November archives, and at nytimes.com (search “Donaldson chess”).

Obituary / Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya
Masters think longer than class players, especially in the opening and early middlegame. (You may go to any open tournament and make your own observations to confirm, or to challenge, this statement). From my own teaching experience, out of ten non-masters, eight will be playing too fast, and only one may need help to learn how to avoid bad Zeitnots (time pressure situations).

The winner of this month’s award, Doug Strout, is a proud representative, nay leader, of those abovementioned eight players. In his letter (below) and in his notes, Doug raises important questions on time management, an important element of chess mastery. I’ll address his questions in the proper places—in the context of his game. (My future comments are in italics).

Writes Doug:

A fundamental question about game management: when the opponent is way down on clock time, is it better to take long think times, calculate and take advantage of the disparity? Alternatively, is it better to play fast and try to pressure the opponent’s clock? This game is played in a long time control (30/90, SD/30 d5), and a substantial clock disparity appears. I opt for the speed approach, as the clock updates in my notes will indicate.

In most cases, follow option one (see also my post-game comments). Blitzing may be a right option only under special circumstances—for example, if you’re lost anyway (and, if given the chance by opponent’s error, stop blitzing and start thinking!)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Bd6

This is my usual line now against the Evans Gambit: take the pawn and retreat to d6.

6. d4 Nf6

I give him the option with the d4-pawn. If 7. dxe5, then 7. ... Nxe5. If he pushes 7. d5, then 7. ... Na5 with tempo to be supported by ... b6.

7. 0-0 h6

Better to take away Bg5 before castling. In Drazen Sermek-Adrian Mikhalchishin, Black played 7. ... 0-0 (I guess ready to meet 8. Bg5 with 8. ... h6 9. Bh4 g5?—and, if 10. Nxe5 hgx5 11. Bxg5, then 11. ... Be7.

8. Re1 0-0 9. Na3

I think this is bait for me to play 9. ... Bxa3 Bxa3, posting his bishop well. White deviates from the grandmaster game above, where, after 7. ... 0-0 8. Re1 h6 (transposing to Doug’s game) Sermek played 9. Nbd2.

9. ... Re8

A mistake on my part. I needed to make this move, but not this soon. I should play 9. ... a6 first, taking away his Nb5.

Correct. Perhaps playing too quickly made Doug overlook White’s threat?

10. Nb5 Bf8

At least the premature rook move leaves me with two defenders of e5 after this bishop retreat. I made this move because I don’t like the position after his Nxd6.

11. Qb3 Re7

Very problematic. I made this move to protect f7 knowing that his Ba3 would be a problem. I figured I could buy some time by answering 12. Ba3 with 12. ... Na5. (12. Ba3 should be met by 12. ... d6, as after the premature 12. ... Na5 13. Bxe7 White is ahead in material—L.A.) A clock disparity has already developed: 55 minutes for McCormick to 85 for me. I think that he is playing too slowly AND I am playing too quickly.

In fact, White used his time correctly so far. 30/90 means three minutes (on average) per move, and Mr. McCormick spent 35 minutes on his first 11 moves, almost precisely three minutes per move. (If to deviate, it’s better to spend relatively more time in the early stages of the game which often determines your place in the [chess game] world.) Your clock time is an important asset. Use it!

12. Nxe5 Nxe5 13. dxe5 Rxe5

Picking up the pawn to offset the coming Bxf7+, but he is setting up further tactics.

14. Bxf7+ Kh8

(see diagram top of next column)

15. Nxc7

Did not see this coming. I thought 15. Bf4 would be first. I could play 15. ... Rb8...
here, but since I know Bf4 is coming anyway, I take the knight.

After 15. Bf4 Rc5 16. e5 White is much better. Instead, he gives away material—while helping his opponent to develop!

The rule of thumb for openings and middlegames: bishop and knight are equal, or slightly stronger, than rook and two pawns (or, in the ending, rook and one pawn).

15. ... Qxc7 16. Bf4 Qc5

Stronger is 16. ... d6, developing and occupying with the pawn the central square, e5.

17. Bxe5 Qxe5

McCormick took a nice shot, and I was rattled by it, but he took rook+pawn for bishop+knight, so I figured I was still OK.

18. Bg6 b6 19. Rad1 Bc5

The c-file will turn out to be a great place to post bishops since he has neither b-pawn nor d-pawn to harass them. Also, I am setting up ... Ng4 to invade his kingside, but he sees it.

20. h3 Bb7

Clock time: 34 minutes for McCormick, 80 minutes for me.

21. Qc2

He needs this third defender for e4, which buys me time to post the other bishop to the c-file.

21. ... Bc6

I don’t usually like it when the opponent has more rooks than I do, but the bishop pair is placed beautifully and my isolated d-pawn is well protected.

22. Kh1 Rd8 (22. ... Rf8!—L.A.) 23. Qd2 Rf8

Threatening a possible discovery attack on f2 if the position becomes right for it.

24. f4

Pawn push with tempo against my queen. He will similarly harass my knight. Clock time: 7 minutes for McCormick, 75 minutes for me.

24. ... Qe7 25. Qd3 Rd8 26. e5

26. ... Nd5

If your position is much better, don’t be concerned about opponent’s Zeitnot: play the position, not the clock! Here Doug overlooks an easy and forced win, 26. ... Ng4 if 27. hxg4, 27. ... Qh4+ 28. Qh3 Qxh3 checkmate.

27. f5

27. Qg3 was a must.

27. ... Nf4

Now I have his bishop. The ensuing swap will leave me with the bishop pair versus a rook.

28. Qg3 Nxd6

I missed 28. ... Nxd2 here because I was too focused on erasing the bishop. And played unreasonably fast.

29. Qxd6 Rf8 30. f6

His 30th move makes time control with less than one minute remaining. I have to be careful about move order here.

30. ... Qf7 31. fxg7+ Qxg7 32. Qxg7+ Kxg7 33. e6

33. ... d6

I keep this pawn on the board, believing that his e6-passer cannot be promoted.

Even in the ending, a bishop pair is equal (statistically) to a rook and two pawns.

34. Rd3 Rf6 35. Rg3+ Rg6 36. Rf3

Clock update: Under one minute for McCormick, 101 minutes for me.

36. ... Rf6

Did I miss a shot here by not playing 36. ... Bxf3? I was completely locked in on keeping the light-square bishop in coverage of e8 at all costs. Also, I was playing quickly to pressure his clock.

Of course, 36. ... Bxf3 wins easily.

37. e7 Rxf3 38. gxf3 Kf7 39. Kg2 d5

Winning his e-pawn. He resigned a few moves later with five seconds left on the clock and an impending flag fall.

When your opponent is in Zeitnot, don’t blitz: he’s more ready for blitz than you are. Think, and try to give him choices to make, for example how to recapture (if two or three options exist). Or make in a sharp, tactical position an almost irrelevant move (he was considering direct threats). Or you can calculate a forced variation and blitz (if allowed by rules and time on your clock) this sequence; then think again. As noted above, in a much better position, especially a won position—play the board, not the clock! 🌟

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Send in your games!

If you are unrated or were rated 1799 or below on your Chess Life (CL) label, 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 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!
WE CONTINUE OUR EXAMINATION OF
the most memorable and instructive end-
games from our top players this past year.
This month the emphasis is on the role
of bishops and kings in these endgames.

Doubled pawns
GM Alexander Onischuk (FIDE 2666, USA)
FM Ahmed Samhouri (FIDE 2373, JOR)
40th Chess Olympiad Istanbul, 2012

The position is seemingly equal but the
doubled-pawns prove to be fatal.

22. h3!
Preparing both for the king to develop on
the black squares and for g2-g4.

22. ... f5 23. Kh2 Kg7 24. Kg3 Kg6 25. Kf4 h5
Prevents the g4-break after which the
e4-pawn is weakened. Thus the king intru-
sion decides the battle.

Preventing counterplay via ... f5-f4.

29. ... Kg5 30. Bc4, Black resigned.
After 30. ... Bc6 the quickest way to
win is 31. b4 a6 32. Bxa6 etc.

Book draw!?
GM Alexander Grischuk (FIDE 2763, RUS)
GM Gata Kamsky (FIDE 2746, USA)
40th Chess Olympiad Istanbul, 2012

(see diagram top of next column)

Though Black has an extra pawn, there
are limited winning chances with all pawns
being on the same side of the board.

43. ... g4
Black first fixes the h2-pawn so it becomes
a target, then activates his rook to go after it.

44. Bf4
Worse is 44. Rb6?!

44. ... Bf6 45. Rb7 Ra6
Also possible is 45. ... h4.

46. Rh7 Ra3+ 47. Ke2 Ra2+ 48. Kf1 Kd5
Why not 48. ... Rb2 49. Kf1 Rf3 50.
Kg2 Be5?! (50. ... h4 would not be enough
because of 51. Rh6 Kf7 52. Rh5 Kg6 53.
Rh6+ etc.).

49. Rxh5 Ke4 50. h3 gxh3

Instead, 50. ... Kf3 51. Ke1 Bd4 52.
hxg4 Bf2+ 53. Kd1 fxg4 would have given
better chances.

51. Rxh3 Bd4 52. Rh5 Rf2+ 53. Ke1 Rg2 54.
Kf1 Ke3 55. Be3

Nice but unnecessary. 55. Ke1 Bf2+ 56.
Kd1 Bxg3 57. Bxg3 Kf4 58. Rxf5 would
have secured an easier draw.

56. ... Bxe3 56. Rxf5+ Kxg3

A crucial mistake. Either 61. Rd8 or
61. Rh8 could have held on.

61. ... Rd2+
Chases the king back to where there is
no more escape.

62. Ke1 Rd8 63. Rf7+ Bf4 64. Rf6
After 64. Rf5 Rh8 (64. ... Rc8? 65. Rd8
is even) 65. Kd1 Rc8 wins.

64. ... Rc8, White resigned.

Passed Pawn
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2786, USA)
GM Anish Giri (FIDE 2730, NED)
40th 16th Unive Crown Hoogeween, 2012

Nakamura has reached an optimal posi-
tion after an earlier one that held little
promise. All of his pieces are well-placed
and there is a candidate passed-pawn
(which will be realized after f3-f4 gxf4).

53. Rg7 Bd8
The g5-pawn is more valuable than the one
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

on c3, so the seemingly more active 53. ... Bxc3 54. Rgx5 Rh1 would not have been better.

54. Kg2

Too cautious. By playing 54. Rg8+ Kd7 55. f4 the pawn would already be on its way.

54. ... Be7 55. Rg8+ Kd7 56. Ra8 c5 57. Rg8 cxd4 58. cxd4 Rh7

More resistance is offered via 58. ... Rh4 59. Kg3 Rh1.

59. f4!

Better late than never, though it is now a pawn sacrifice.

59. ... gx4 60. g5 Bd6 61. Bf6 Be7

Instead, 61. ... f3+ 62. Kxf3 Rh4 should have been tried.

62. g6 f3+ 63. Kxf3 Rh5 64. Be5, Black resigned.

Black resigned since after 64. ... Rf5+ 65. Ke2 Bf8 66. g7 he is losing at least a bishop.

Breakthrough!

GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2783, USA)
GM Anish Giri (FIDE 2730, NED)
1st FIDE GP London, 2012

47. Bd5 looks to be a good alternative, but White found a much stronger, unexpected, and pretty breakthrough!

47. g5!! hxg5 48. h6! gxh6 49. Rxe5!! fxe5 50. f6

Now we can see the point of the sacrifices—one that computers could hardly notice in advance.

50. ... Bd7

There was no better option against the threat of 51. Bxc5.

51. f7+ Ke7 52. Bxd7

White is doubtless better, but the position is somewhat closed. The extra piece should decide matters, but White must blockade the passed pawns.

55. h4 56. Bh6 g4 57.Bg5 h3 58. Bh4 Kf5 59. Kg3

This is the best place for the bishop since it both attacks and defends. Moreover, blocking the pawns liberates the king for mopping-up actions.


61. ... Kc5

In case of 61. ... Ke6, 62. Kc2 comes with the plan of Kb3-b4-c5. If 62. ... Kf5 is played, then 63. c5 Ke6 64. c6 etc. would win.

53. Bxc5 h5 54. f8=Q Rxf8+ 55. Bxf8

Better is 52. ... Kxf7 but even so White has good chances to win with the two bishops focused against the weak b7-, c5- and e5-pawns. The best plan is to play Bf5 followed by Be4, causing serious trouble for Black.

Problem I:

Pal Benko, First Prize, M.S.E. 1981

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

Problem II:

P. Benko, E.G. 1991

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

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:

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE WAS A TIME IN USCF’S HISTORY when 12,000 members seemed like an impossible goal. Then came Ed Edmondson and Operation 12 x 12 (12,000 members in 12 months), followed by the acquisition of Chess Review, and the Fischer boom, and the rest, as they say, is history. During those early days, an important element for success was discovered: Activity means members. And from that sprang a recycled national event: The U.S. Team Championship. Originally the brainchild of Frank Brady in the early 1960s, the event was trotted out, dusted off, and tweaked by Denis Barry into an amateur event with a team rating cap.

In a metropolitan area rich with league and team history, where strong rivalries are formed and even stronger friendships are forged, the “Teams” proved to be a popular and successful annual event for the USCF.

From East Brunswick’s VFW hall to Westfield’s YMCA, the Teams began its own little knight’s tour: the Adelphia in Philly, the Shelburne in Atlantic City, the Empress in Ashbury Park, the Hyatt House in Cherry Hill, the Somerset Marriott, the Somerset Hilton, and finally, for the past 18 years, the event has prospered under the stewardship of Steve Doyle and the New Jersey State Chess Federation, at the Parsippany Hilton, one of the few venues large enough to accommodate 1,200 plus players.

The name of the event has changed almost as often as the venue. We do hope, however, that some things never change at the World Amateur Team and U.S. Amateur Team East (USATE), as the Teams are now known.

We hope Steve Doyle never loses his voice and continues to wheel and deal at the start of each round. (“Anyone wearing red socks? First one to the podium wearing red socks wins a chess computer … first one to the podium with keys to a Jaguar wins a travel bag, courtesy of Rochester Chess …”) I can almost hear him off in the future. “Anyone have a Pennsylvania driver’s license? First one to the podium wins a copy of Chess Informant 282 …” Team Name competitions (“You Rook Mahvelous”) and team promotional gimmicks: I hope they never go away. Who can forget the team of Scotchmen who marched in wearing kilts and playing bagpipes!

And there is usually a theme for the weekend or some special event. This year there will be a display of antique chess sets, and a road show review of YOUR sets all weekend long.

This year we take time to thank the grandmasters past and present, who have supported this event. No longer just names on a crosstable, but real, live people! Lein, Shamkovich, Henley, Krush, Alburt, Dzindzi, Bisguier, Lombardy, Christiansen, Yudasin, Dlugy, Fishbein, de Firmian. We’ve watched the youngsters mature: Benjamin, Rohde, Wilder, the Fed, Nakamura, Lenderman.

And 20 years from now, when Doyle is giving away Chess Informant 283 … there will be a group of friends standing around and swapping war stories. “I played Marc Arnold BEFORE he was Marc Arnold … Justus Williams? He got tough after he started to shave … That old guy over there? Fedorowicz? Man, he can still play chess!”

Thus it is, and we hope ever will be at the USATE. The Parsippany Hilton is on Route 10 West, just a couple minutes off I-287. It’s just an hour from New York City and two hours from Philadelphia. If you need help in forming a team, contact noreen@deanofchess.com or Facebook: ATE-Team. Make time for February 16-18 on your calendar. But be forewarned: it’s addictive! 🕺
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2012 TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of January 4 for the 2012 Grand Prix. All Grand Prix updates are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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<td>2 GM Tamaz Gelashvili</td>
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<td>3 GM Alexander Ivanov</td>
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<td>4 GM Sergey Kudrin</td>
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<td>15 GM Nikola Mitkov</td>
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ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2012 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by January 9, 2013 are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete. 2012 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.

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**Notes:**
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  - 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 circle 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.

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Tournament Life  /  February

USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

USCF National Events

2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship South  February 15-17 or 16-17 • Sunrise, Florida
2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North  February 15-17 or 16-17 • Schaumburg, Illinois
2013 30th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West  February 16-18 or 17-18 • Pleasanton, California
2013 World Amateur Team & U.S. Amateur Team Championship East  February 16-18 • Parsippany, New Jersey
2013 U.S. Junior Chess Congress  March 23-24 • Burlingame, California
2013 SuperNationals V  April 5-7 • Nashville, Tennessee
2013 All-Girls National Championships  April 26-28 • Chicago, Illinois
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship  June 6 • Las Vegas, Nevada
2013 National Open  June 7-9 or 8-9 • Las Vegas, Nevada

FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)

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. Amateur Championship South  June 8-9 • Memphis, Tennessee
2013 U.S. Cadet  July 20-23 • Rockville, Maryland
114th annual (2013) U.S. Open  July 27-August 4 • Madison, Wisconsin
2013 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship  December 27-29 • Lubbock, Texas
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 • Orlando, Florida
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  TBA • Nashville, Tennessee
2021 SuperNationals VII  TBA • Nashville, Tennessee

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.

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 (East, North, West)
2013 U.S. Class Championship
2013 National Youth Action (NYA)
2013 U.S. Game/15 Championship
2013 U.S. Game/60 Championship
2013 U.S. Junior Closed

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:

2014 U.S. Amateur Teams (North, South, West)
2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
2014 U.S. Cadet
2014 National Open
2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/30 Championship
2014 U.S. Game 60 Championship
2014 U.S. Senior Open
2014 U.S. Junior Closed
See previous issue for TLAs appearing February 1-14

The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the
U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no
responsibility for errors made in such work.
Effective with TLAs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one
prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total.
SUBMISSIONS: If possible e-mail your tla to: tla@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 Chess Life pg. 50 and 51 or check
www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo. Payment can be done online through the TD/Affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

Nationals
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
FEB. 15-17 OR 16-17, FLORIDA
2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship South
5SS, G/120,d5 (2-day Option Rd. 1 G/60,d5). Holiday Inn and Suites, 3003
N. University Dr., Sunrise, FL 33322 (Sunrise is close to Ft. Lauderdale).
4-player teams (with one optional alternate). Team average (4 highest
ratings - January rating list) must be under 2200. Winning team qualifies for National playoff online. EF per player: $45 by 2/8, $54 later.
SPECIAL EF:Team (one entry must be made for all players) $170 by 2/8,
$200 later (any team changes $10). Teams from outside Florida will
receive $25 off team entry fee. Scholastic teams receive $15 off team
entry fee. PRIZES: Top 1-3rd place teams; Top class teams: U2000,
U1800, U1600, U1400, U1000, U800; Top Senior team (all 50 & above),
Top Female team, Top College team (same school), Top High School
team (same school), Top Middle School team (same school, grades 6-8),
Top Elementary School team (same school); Top Boards 1-4. Schedule:
3-day: 1st Rd. Fri. 7:30, 2-Day 1st Rd. Sat. 10; Rds. 2-5 Sat. 1:30, 6:45,
Sun. 9:30, 2:45. HR: $85 until cut-off date, 954-748-7000. Free shuttle
for Hotel guests from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. within 5 miles of Hotel. Free parking and Free Internet. Ent: Boca Raton Chess Club, 2385 Executive Ctr.
Dr., Ste. 100, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Online entry & add’l info: www.boca
chess.com, 561-479-0351. G/120 rounds are JGP.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
FEB. 15-17 OR 16-17, ILLINOIS
2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North
Open: 5SS, G/90+30/increment, 2-day: rd.1-2 G/60. Hyatt Regency
Schaumburg, 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173. 847-605-1234
$89.00 chess rate single-double-triple-quad until 2/5/13, Free WiFI included with Room! Please reserve early. Open to 4 player teams with one
optional alternate. Team average (4 highest ratings - January Rating List) must be under 2200. EF: 3-day $140, per team if received USPS
or on-line 6 PM by February 1st. $160 if received USPS or on-line 6 PM
by Feb. 13th, $180 after Feb. 13th and onsite. Individuals wishing to play,
send $40 and request to be put on a team by USPS and on-line by 2/15
6 PM, $45 thereafter. Team changes on site or after 2/16 6 PM $20. Check
out official website www.chessweekend.com for more info and
complete prize list. Prizes: Awards to top two teams, top teams with
average rating u1900, u1600, and u1300. Award for Best Team Name. Winning team qualifies for national play-offs. Prizes to best team composed
of juniors (high school and younger). Prizes to top score on each board.
Prizes are players choice of a selected clock or equivalent book store
credit. Special raffle with prizes for players staying at the Hyatt! Rounds:
3-day: on-site registration/check-in 5:30-6:30pm, rds.: 7pm, 10:00am
& 4:00pm, 10:00am & 3:30pm. 2-day: on-site registration/check-in
from 8:00-9:30am, rds. 10:00am & 1:00pm then merge with 3-day. Illinois Blitz Championship on Saturday night, $25 by 2/14 USPS or
on-line, $30 at site. First round 8 PM, 2 games with each opponent, 5
rounds, see www.chessweekend.com for details. All: Checks made
payable to and sent to: ChessWeekend, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL
60423. Please include Team’s name and roster (plus ID#), captain’s email
and phone number, and desired schedule. Info: www.chessweekend.com,
815-955-4793 before 8 PM. North American Chess Association will provide Sets-Boards-Clocks.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
FEB. 16-18 OR 17-18, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN
30th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West
Scholastic on Feb. 16 and Blitz on Feb. 18 only. Hilton at the Club, 7050
Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588. Free Parking! Hotel: $79 - call 925463-8000 or 800-774-1500 for chess rate. Reserve by Feb. 1 or rates may
increase. Teams: Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be under 2200, difference between ratings of
board 3 & 4 must be less than 1000. January 2013 Supplement, CCA min,
& TD discretion used to place players accurately. Main Event Prizes: Special commemorative clocks to each player and trophy to the team for top
3 overall teams, top team u2000, u1800, u1600, u1400, and u1200; top
“industry” team (all players from the same company), top “family” team
(siblings, cousins, parents, uncle/aunts, grandparents), top junior team,
and top academic team; top 2 scorers on each board (1-4). Gift certificates for best 3 team names. Main Event EF: $188/team or $47/player
by 2/12. 2/13-15: $10 extra per player or team. Onsite only after 2/15:
$20 extra per player ($80 extra per team). 3-day Sched: Onsite Registration at Sat 9:30-10:30a, Round Times at Sat & Sun 11:30a 5:30p | Mon
10a 3:30p. Time Control: 30/90 SD/60. 2-day Sched: Onsite Registration at Sun 8:30-9am. Round Times: Sun 10am, 12:30pm, 2:50pm, 5:30pm;
Mon 10am, 3:30pm. Time Control: G/60 in Rounds 1-3, 30/90 SD/60 in
Rounds 4-6 (merge in Round 4 with 3-day schedule). Info/flyer:
BayAreaChess.com/usatw. Scholastic Event Prizes: Trophies to each
player in Top 3 teams overall, Top team u900, u800, u700, u600, u500,

u400, u300, u200, Top scorer on each board (1-4). Scholastic Event EF:
$148/team or $37/player by 2/12. 2/13-15: $10 extra per player or team.
Onsite only after 2/15: $20 extra per player ($80 extra per team). Discount: $10/player if registering for 2-day and scholastic event. Sched:
Onsite Registration: Sat 8:30-9am. Games at Sat 10am, 11:30am, 1pm,
2:30pm, 4pm. Info/flyer: BayAreaChess.com/usatws. Blitz Event: Registration Mon 7-8pm, Rounds 8:30-10:30pm. EF: $12. 75% of entry fees
returned as prizes. Contact: Organized and directed by the KALM team
of organizers from Bay Area Chess and CalChess (Richard Koepcke,
Salman Azhar, Tom Langland, John McCumiskey). Online entry at
BayAreaChess.com/my/usatw or mail to Bay Area Chess, 1639A South
Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. For questions or help in forming teams email
ask@BayAreaChess.com. NS. NC. W.
A Heritage Event!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
FEB. 16-18, NEW JERSEY
World Amateur Team & U.S. Team East
43rd Annual - Celebrate Grandmasters! 6SS, 40/2, SD/1. Parsippany
Hilton, 1 Hilton Ct., Parsippany, NJ 07054. Chess Rate valid until 1/16.
Reserve early 973-267-7373 or 1- 800-HILTONS. Morris/Essex train to
Morris Plains 1.5 miles. Open to 4- player teams with one optional alternate. Team average (4 highest ratings—2013 January Rating list) must
be under 2200. EF: $160 postmarked by 2/5/13. ALL-$200 after or at door
—all teams, any changes at site $25 charge. Check out official website
www.njscf.org. Prizes: 1-5th Place teams, plaque and 4 digital clocks;
Top Team (Denis Barry Award) U2100, 2000, 1900, 1800, 1700, 1600,
1500, 1400, 1300, 1200, 1000 each plaque and 4 Digital Clocks; Top college team (same school) 4 Digital Clocks & plaque; Top HS team
(grades 9-12 same school), Top Middle School (grades 5-9 same school),
Top Elementary School (grades K-6 same school), Top 2 Scholastic Teams
(mixed schools okay) (Collins Award), Mixed Doubles (2 males, 2
females-no alternates), Seniors (all players over age 50), Military, each
plaque & 4 Digital Clocks to top team; Company Team (same employer)
Old Timers Trophy (all players over 65), Family (4 family members), State
teams—CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY (Benjamin Award), PA, VA, NC, RI each
plaque top team; Special Plaque to Top College (NJ, NY, Pennsylvania),
Best Player 1-4 and top alternate, All 6-0 scores each Digital clock.
Biggest Individual upset each round Engraved Cross pen; Entry fee
refunded to team with Best “Chess related” name, Sunday night—Best
“Chess Related” costumes or gimmick—gourmet dinner for four. Best
name using a GM name—Gourmet dinner for 4. Reg. 9-12 Sat 2/18: Rds.
1-7:30, 11-6, 9-3:30. Special Events!! Surprises and special giveaways each round. Sunday night—Bughouse $20 per team. Cash prizes.
HR: Parsippany Hilton, chess rates expire 1/16/2013. Rates $119 (up to
4 in room) 2nd hotel attached to Hilton also up to 4 in room $126 per nightHampton Inn—-includes breakfast for 4 each day. Back up hotel—
Sheraton Parsippany-about 2 miles. 973-515-2000. $99 per night. For help
forming teams and more information contact: noreen@deanofchess.
com or Facebook: ATE-Team. Chks payable to NJSCF, mail by 2/05 to:
E. Steven Doyle, 17 Stonehenge Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960. (Include
Team name, Captain, players full names, USCF Expiration, ID numbers
and ratings in board order). No team can include more than two GM’s.
Include SASE for confirmation if wanted, No registered or certified mail
accepted. NS, NC, W. FIDE.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAR. 23-24, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN
2013 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
5-SS, Site: San Francisco Airport Hyatt Regency, 1333 Bayshore Highway,
Burlingame, CA 94010. Experience Spring in San Francisco! Hotel rate $99
only. 8 sections based on age: 6 & under, 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 &
under, 14 & under, 16 & under, 18 & under, 20 & under. Individual Trophies: All (6 & under), top 30 (8 & under, 10 & under) top 20 (12 & under),
top 10 (14 & under, 16 & under, 18 & under, 20 & under). “Super Performance” trophies to players tied for last place with a trophy award and the
top player(s) in each rating class who did not get a place trophy. Winning
record required for all place trophies. Commemorative participation
medals to all entrants. Team Trophies: Top 10 (6 & under, 8 & under, 10
& under, 12 & under) or top 5 (14 & under, 16 & under, 18 & under, 20 &
under) based on section. Time control: G/90 except G/30 for Ages 6 &
under and Ages 8 & under) Schedule: Onsite Registration: Saturday &
Sunday 7:30-8:15am. Rounds: Saturday 9am, 12:45pm, 4:30pm, and Sun
9am, 12:45pm. Ages 6 & under: Saturday 9:00am, 10:45am, 12:15pm,
1:45pm, 3:15pm. Ages 8 & under: Sunday 9:00am, 10:45am, 12:15pm,
1:45pm, 3:15pm. Byes: Max one 1/2-point bye except last round (must
request before start of 1st round). Entry Fees by 3/9: 1-day $48, 2-day
$60, Add $10 (3/10-16), Add $20 (3/17-19), Add $30 (3/20-21), Add $40

Mason & J. McCumiskey. Sponsored by CalChess and Bay Area Chess.
More info & flyer: BayAreaChess.com/usjr13. Register online at BayArea
Chess.com/my/usjr13. Mail entries to Bay Area Chess, 1639A South Main
St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Register early to save. Questions: ask@BayArea
Chess.com. NS, NC, W.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 5-7, TENNESSEE
SuperNationals V
2013 Elementary, Junior High and High School National Championships
in one great event! 7SS, G/120 (K-1: G/90), Gaylord Opryland Hotel and
Convention Center, 2800 Opryland Dr., Nashville, TN 37214. 615.889.1000
HR: $149 single-quad. All under one roof! 20 Sections (Select only
one): High School: K-12 Championship; K-12 U1600; K-12 U1200; K-12
U800; K-12 Unrated. Junior High: K-9 Championship; K-8 Championship;
K-9 U1250; K-8 U1000; K-8 U750; K-9 Unrated. Elementary: K-6 Championship; K-5 Championship; K-6 U1000; K-5 U900; K-3 Championship; K-3
U800; K-1 Championship; K-6 Unrated; K-3 Unrated. EF: $50 postmarked,
faxed or online by 3/17/2013, $70 postmarked, faxed or online by
3/31/2013, $85 after 3/31/2013, $90 on site. DO NOT mail entries after
March 31 – they will not be received in time. $5 extra for all phoned registrations. $20 change fee for roster or section changes after March 31.
USCF membership is required (may be paid with entry). AWARDS: Trophies awarded in accordance with Scholastic Regulations and based on
number of participants. Team score = total of top four (min. two) finishers from each section. March 2013 rating supplement will be used.
BYES: One 1/2 –pt. bye available in rounds 1-6 if requested prior to 10am,
Fri (4/5). On site entries after 10 AM, Fri 4/5 will receive a 1/2-point
bye for the first round and begin play in round 2. SCHEDULE:
Rounds 1-2: Friday (4/5) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM [K1 at 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM]
Rounds 3-5: Saturday (4/6) 9:00 AM, 2:00 PM, & 7:00 PM [K1 at 9:30
AM, 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM], Sunday (4/7) Rounds 6-7 9:00 AM, & 2:00
PM [K1 at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM]. Awards Ceremonies, Sunday (4/7);
approximately 7 PM [K1 at approx. 5:30 PM]. SIDE EVENTS: Bughouse Championships:Thursday (4/4) 11:00 AM, Register ON SITE ONLY
by 10:00 AM. EF: $25 per team of 2. Blitz Championships:Thursday (4/4)
5:00 PM. EF $15 postmarked, faxed or online by 3/31, $20 after 3/31 or
on site. On site registration ends at 4 PM. [The Blitz tournament will be
playing ‘Touch-Move’ - see Blitz rules on the web page.] Please refer to
the website: www.uschess.org/tournaments/2013/snv to register
on-line, see up-to-the-minute registrations, for more information, updated
details, corrections, any added events and other activities. Advance entries must include player’s name/information and all fees to be accepted.
Roster changes are considered new entries and will be charged
according to date received. List name, address, phone, section, grade,
school (even if no team), email, birthdate, USCF ID number (enclose USCF
dues if necessary). Players must be eligible to play in accordance with
USCF Scholastic Regulations. Entries may be faxed to: 931.787.1238. Mail
Entries To: US Chess Federation ATTN: SuperNationals V, P. O. Box 3967,
Crossville, TN 38557. Please note: Rule 12.5 has been replaced with Rule
12.6: Players entering an “Under” section in a USCF National Scholastic tournament shall disclose at the time of registration whether they have
one or more ratings in another over-the-board rating system(s). The USCF
may use this rating information to determine section and prize eligibility in accordance with USCF rules 28D and 28E. This rule will be in effect
for the 2013 SuperNationals and future USCF National Scholastic Tournaments that have one or more “Under” sections.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
APR. 26-28, ILLINOIS
2013 All-Girls National Championships presented by the Kasparov
Chess Foundation in association with the Renaissance Knights
Chess Foundation & USCF
First place winners of each section will qualify to play at the 2013
World Youth Championships. 6SS, G/90. Swissotel, 323 E. Wacker Dr.,
Chicago, IL 60601, 888-737-9477, Hotel Rate breakfast included for
the number based on the room rate paid. 7 Sections: Under 8, Under
10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 18, Under 20. Age as of 1/1/
2013. USCF membership required. EF: $50 postmarked by 3/25, $70 by
4/15, $90 after/on-site. Do not mail after 4/18 as your entry may not be
received on time. Opening Ceremony: 6pm, Friday. Rounds: Rd. 1 –
6:30pm Fri; Rounds 2-4 – Sat 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm; Rounds 5-6 – Sun
9am & pm. Awards Ceremony: Sun. 5pm. Trophies top 15 individual players and top 3 teams in the Under 8, 10, 12 & 14 Sections; top 10
individual players and top 3 teams in the Under 16, 18 & 20 Sections. (top
3 players added for team scores). Bye: One 1/2-pt bye available, any
round, if requested before end of Rd. 2 and if player has not received a
full-point bye. Side Events: Bughouse Tournament – Fri. 1pm, EF
$30/team. Blitz Tournament – Fri. 3pm, EF $20 by 4/15, $25 after or
on site. HR: single $169, Double $169, Triple $189, Quad $209 breakfast
included for the number based on the room rate paid: 1-2-3 or 4
people, Reserve early rate may increase 888-737-9477. Entries:
online/info at: www.renaissanceknights.org/allgirls or mail to RKnights,
Attn: All Girls, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065, include name, section, rating, USCF ID#, date of birth, grade, school name city & state.

www.uschess.org

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JUNE 6, NEVADA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 8 (ENHANCED)

2013 National Open Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Rds.: 6-5, 40/90, Game/30 + 30 second increment (2 day round rds 1-3/4, 9-2)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

• 1st-3rd $400-200-75 U2200:
• 1st-3rd $400-200-75 U2200:

Grand Prix

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 16-17, WISCONSIN

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10

UW Winter Open

5-5, TC rds 1-12 $200 $150-100 Guaranteed Prize Fund

Prizes: Open Sec $150, $100, $75

Grandmaster Chess Camp

FEB. 16-17, ALABAMA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

3rd-5th Evening Simultaneous

Trophies: 1st $150, 2nd $100, 3rd $75

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15

Grand Prix

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 1-3, WASHINGTO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15

5SS, G/60,d/10. Davis County, Farrington

Trophies: 1st $300, 2nd $200, 3rd $125

5SS, G/60, d/10. Davis County, Farrington

Trophies: 1st $300, 2nd $200, 3rd $125

Grand Prix

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 9, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

BIRD Racing Open

Trophies: 1st $400, 2nd $250, 3rd $150

5SS, G/60, d/10. Dayton Chess Club EF: $28 until Feb 7th EF: $38

Refunded to players 2000 or higher who complete their schedule.

GTZ Prize Time: $100/$50/$25/$10/$5 (5 day round)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15

Cherry Hill February Open

455, G/60, Wyndham Hotel, 111 Route 73, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Phone: 1-856-889-9009

Entrance Fee: $25

Contact: Pat Schmiedt

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15

8-SS, G/10. Riverside Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South,

Las Vegas, NV 89109

Trophies: 1st $200, 2nd $150, 3rd $100, 4th $75

USSCF Membership Required

FEB. 7-8, G/10. Las Vegas, NV

Trophies: 1st $300, 2nd $200, 3rd $125

Grand Prix

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 5-7, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10

4th Annual Hampton Chess & Sports Festival

8-SS, 30 move + 15 second delay, 9:15-10:15

Trophies: 1st $175, 2nd $125, 3rd $85

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10

9th Annual Class of 1975 Memorial Open

Trophies: Open $50, C $25, D $15, E $10

Contact: John L. Givens, 865-237-4995

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15

Grand Prix

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 9-10, WASHINGTON

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10

6-SS, G/10. Rio Grande University

Trophies: 1st $175, 2nd $125, 3rd $85

9th Annual Class of 1975 Memorial Open

Trophies: Open $50, C $25, D $15, E $10

Contact: John L. Givens, 865-237-4995

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10

Grand Prix

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
March ratings used. Ent: Harold Stenzel, 80 Amy Dr., Sayville, NY 11782. captfish@optonline.net.

Mar 28. MARATHON TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED) Marshall Thursday Game 30 Grand Prix

Mar 2. MARATHON TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 6 (ENHANCED) Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 2-3, MICHIGAN TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED) 2013 DCC Fide Open III MAR. 1-3 OR 2-3, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED) Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 8-10 OR 9-10, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED) Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 10-15, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 6 (ENHANCED) Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 1, FLORIDA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED) Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 1-2, MARYLAND, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, AND侏儒

5 rounds, choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule. Prizes $12,000 based on 150 paid entries (re-entries & U1200 Section count half), with 2/3 of each prize minimum guaranteed. In 5 sections:


Under 2100: top U1800 $450-225-112. top U1600 $300-150. top U1400 $200-100.

Under 1900: top U1300 $300-150. top U1200 $200-100. top U1000 $150.

Under 1700: top U1100 $150-75. top U1000 $100-50. top U900 $50-25.

Under 1500: top U900 $100-50. top U800 $50-25. top U700 $25-12.5.

Under 1300: top U800 $100-50. top U700 $50-25. top U600 $25-12.5.

Under 1100: top U700 $100-50. top U600 $50-25. top U500 $25-12.5.

Under 900: top U600 $100-50. top U500 $50-25. top U400 $25-12.5.

Under 700: top U500 $100-50. top U400 $50-25. top U300 $25-12.5.

Under 500: top U400 $100-50. top U300 $50-25. top U200 $25-12.5.

Under 300: top U300 $100-50. top U200 $50-25. top U100 $25-12.5.

Under 100: top U200 $100-50. top U100 $50-25. top U50-25.

Under 50: top U100 $100-50. top U50 $50-25. top U25-12.5.

Under 25: top U50 $100-50. top U25 $50-25. top U12.5-6.25.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 1-3, MARYLAND, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, AND侏儒

14th annual SUSQUEHANOAUGUST OPEN March 1-3 or 2-3, Doubletree Green Tree $12,000 projected prizes, $8,000 minimum!

5 rounds, choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule. Prizes $12,000 based on 150 paid entries (re-entries & U1200 Section count half, with 2/3 of each prize minimum guaranteed. In 5 sections:


Under 2100: top U1800 $450-225-112. top U1600 $300-150. top U1400 $200-100.

Under 1900: top U1300 $300-150. top U1200 $200-100. top U1000 $150.

Under 1700: top U1100 $150-75. top U1000 $100-50. top U900 $50-25.

Under 1500: top U900 $100-50. top U800 $50-25. top U700 $25-12.5.

Under 1300: top U800 $100-50. top U700 $50-25. top U600 $25-12.5.

Under 1100: top U700 $100-50. top U600 $50-25. top U500 $25-12.5.

Under 900: top U600 $100-50. top U500 $50-25. top U400 $25-12.5.

Under 700: top U500 $100-50. top U400 $50-25. top U300 $25-12.5.

Under 500: top U400 $100-50. top U300 $50-25. top U200 $25-12.5.

Under 300: top U300 $100-50. top U200 $50-25. top U100 $25-12.5.

Under 100: top U200 $100-50. top U100 $50-25. top U50-25.

Under 50: top U100 $100-50. top U50 $50-25. top U25-12.5.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
MAR. 1-3, MARYLAND, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, AND侏儒

Full details: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessmagnet.com.

www.uschess.org 55
entry (except Master) $60. 3-day schedule: Reg Fri to 6 pm, rds Fri 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10:30 & 4:30. 2-day schedule: Reg Sat to 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10:30 & 4:30. Byes: On all rds, limit 2; Master must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. HR: $95-95, 817-707-1220, reserve by 2/22 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D576333. Questions: chessstout.com, 845-496-9658, Direct orChess.US. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12787. DirectorAtChess.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com.

A State Championship Event!

Cheess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!!

MAR. 9-10, PENNSYLVANIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRK POINTS: 6

2013 Carlea Open & Scholastic Championships


A State Championship Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!!

MAR. 15-17, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRK POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

22nd annual Eastern Class Championships

SSS, 40/2, 30/1, 6/2 (5-day option, rds 2 6/2, 6/3), 5-day: $1000 U1300, $2000 U1600, U1800 $300, $1000 U1000, $500 $200. 2-day schedule: timer. Top 5 Sections EF: $100 online at chessaction.com by 3/11, $110 if paid before rd 2, others before rd 3. HR: Mention “PA States” for best rate; 800-692-7074, 410-566-2038, 301-769-1040, 609-981-7713, 720-371-8828. Free parking. buffet $30 rec’ed by 2/18, $40 after, PSCF $5 mailed by 3/18, $100 on tiebreak $100 bonus, top U2300 $600-300. FIDE. Class B (1600-1999): $1300-600-300-200, Class C (1900-2199): $1100-500-250-100, Adult $90-90-45-22. Unrated may not win over $100 in C, $200 in D, $500 in E or $800 in F. Unlimited chess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult $30, Junior $20, Scholastic $15, Mail paid, phoned or paid at site, Adult $35, Junior $20, Scholastic $15, $100. Mailed, phoned or paid at site. FIDE. $50 less than U2200

Marshall Thursday Game 30 Grand Prix


Capitol City Open

Grapeland Center, 70 Constitution Ave., Concord, NH 03301. 3 sections. Open, 45:5, Game/5, $750-$350, U2000 $100, U1800 $50, $100 players’ entry fee. Open to 1299 & under. EF: $100. All $50 less than U2200. All $100 less than U2200 Section: $200-$100-$50-$25. Unrated. For more info: Alex Rylea, 497 Technology Dr #99, Bedford, NH 03110. INFO: Alex Rylea relyea@operamail.com. www.relyeachess.com. NS. W.

Mar. 14, new york

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRK POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

17th annual Mid-America Open

SSS, 40/2, 20/1, 6/2 (5-day option, move 2-6/2, 6/3), 2:30 & 6, 5/30 (Rds 1-2 G/25d5). Limit 2 byes, on site. GM free. Check www.2013chessopen.com for more info.

Mar. 15-17, missouri

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRK POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

Top 5 sections EF: $100 online at chessaction.com by 3/11, $110 if paid before rd 2, others before rd 3. HR: Mention “PA States” for best rate; 800-692-7074, 410-566-2038, 301-769-1040, 609-981-7713, 720-371-8828. Free parking. buffet $30 rec’ed by 2/18, $40 after, PSCF $5 mailed by 3/18, $100 on tiebreak $100 bonus, top U2300 $600-300. FIDE. Class B (1600-1999): $1300-600-300-200, Class C (1900-2199): $1100-500-250-100, Adult $90-90-45-22. Unrated may not win over $100 in C, $200 in D, $500 in E or $800 in F. Unlimited chess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult $30, Junior $20, Scholastic $15, Mail paid, phoned or paid at site, Adult $35, Junior $20, Scholastic $15, $100. Mailed, phoned or paid at site. FIDE. $50 less than U2200

A Heritage Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!!

MAR. 15-17, virginia

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRK POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

15th Annual Virginia Open (Note date change)
northern Scholastics (Class B, C, D, U1200) $420-210-160, top U1200 $420.

Mar. 17, 16 & 23-24, NEW JERSEY

CHESS MASTERS SCHOOL Junior Grand Prix 2013

CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL Junior Grand Prix

CHESS LIFE 57

20th annual WECOCHESS

March 8-10 or 9-10, Sheraton Hotel, Agoura Hills, CA

5 rounds, 40/10, SD/4, d5 (note change). 2-day option, rounds 1-2 G/75, d5. In 7 sections (may play up one section). Prizes based on 230 paid entries (Class E & re-entries count half); minimum 80% of each prize guaranteed.

Master Section (2200/up): Prizes $2000-1000-500-300, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus. FIDE rated, 100 GPP (enhanced).


Class A Section (1800-1999): $1300-600-300.

Class B Section (1600-1799): $1000-500-300.

Class C Section (1400-1599): $700-300-200.

Class D Section (1200-1399): $600-300-200.

Class E Section (Under 1200): $600-300-200-100, top to Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated.

Unrated limit $150 in E, $250 D, $400 C, $600 B, $800 A.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chesstour.com.
rules last on the lowest. Gateway Garage, 15/40 Vite. (1 block from Sheraton Hotel) is about $60+ per day. $12 per 24 hours older. Some deals come in per group, result in a $150 prize limit.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX POINTS: 4 (ENHANCED) Marshall April GP!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! APR. 7-8 OR 7-9, MINNESOTA, SOUTHERN CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6 (ENHANCED) Marshall April GP!

GOLD AFFILIATES

Cajun Chess
7230 Chadbourne Drive
New Orleans, LA 70126
504-529-9898
cajunChess@yahoo.com
www.cajunChess.com

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

Continental Chess Association
PO Box 269
Salisbury Mills, NY 12577
845-496-9658
cheeshtour@id hust.com
www.chessclub.com

Dallas Chess Club
200 S. Cottonwood Dr. Suite C
Richardson, TX 75080
972-231-2065
dallasChessClub@msn.com
www.dallaschessclub.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 Affiliate members are among the highest 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 Affiliate costs $50 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 Affiliate. As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of $550 (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 Silver 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 Affiliate costs $15 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.
PLAN AHEAD!

2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship South
FEBRUARY 15-17 OR 16-17 - SUNRISE, FLORIDA

2013 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North
FEBRUARY 15-17 OR 16-17, CHAUMURG, ILLINOIS

2013 30th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West
FEBRUARY 16-18 OR 17-18 - PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA

2013 World Amateur Team & U.S. Amateur Team Championship East
FEBRUARY 16-18 - PARSSIPNY, NEW JERSEY

2013 U.S. Cadet
JULY 20-23 - ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

FOR OTHER UPCOMING USCF NATIONAL EVENTS

ALSO SEE “NATIONALS” SECTION IN THE FRONT OF THE TLA SECTION, PAGE 52!
Arizona

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Tuesday Night Open
4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUNDS: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/30,5/60.

PRIZES: 1st Place and ChessPrizes based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $45. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 2, Northern Arizona Chess Center presents Winter Chess Prizes:

5/6/00: Open. 1st Ent: $45. 2nd Ent: $25. 3rd Ent: $15. 4th Ent: $10. 5th Ent: $5.

FEB. 9, Tempe Open

ENTRY FEE: $25. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 9, Tempe Open

ENTRY FEE: $25. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 6, Bay Area Chess/Less Swiss
4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUNDS: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/30,5/60.

PRIZES: 1st Place and ChessPrizes based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $45. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 2, Northern Arizona Chess Center presents Winter Chess Prizes:

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FEB. 9, Tempe Open

ENTRY FEE: $25. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 6, Bay Area Chess/Less Swiss
4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUNDS: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/30,5/60.

PRIZES: 1st Place and ChessPrizes based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $45. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 2, Northern Arizona Chess Center presents Winter Chess Prizes:

5/6/00: Open. 1st Ent: $45. 2nd Ent: $25. 3rd Ent: $15. 4th Ent: $10. 5th Ent: $5.

FEB. 9, Tempe Open

ENTRY FEE: $25. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 9, Tempe Open

ENTRY FEE: $25. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 6, Bay Area Chess/Less Swiss
4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUNDS: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/30,5/60.

PRIZES: 1st Place and ChessPrizes based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $45. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

FEB. 2, Northern Arizona Chess Center presents Winter Chess Prizes:

5/6/00: Open. 1st Ent: $45. 2nd Ent: $25. 3rd Ent: $15. 4th Ent: $10. 5th Ent: $5.

FEB. 9, Tempe Open

ENTRY FEE: $25. TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 11901 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85029.
22nd annual CHICAGO OPEN
May 23-27 (norms possible), 24-27, 25-26 or 27-26, Westin North Shore Hotel

$100,000 PRIZE FUND - UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED!
Free lectures & analysis by GM John Fedorowicz, $30 entry for IMs, WGMs (fee from prize)


Online entry fee at chessaction.com by 5/21: Top 7 sections $227, seniors 65+, $127. U1100 Sections $77. Open Section $327 if not FIDE rated 22/00. Mail, phone, or late entry: see chesstour.com or ChessLife. USCF. Online entry at chessaction.com by 5/21: Top 7 sections $227, seniors 65+, $127. U1100 Sections $77. Open Section $327 if not FIDE rated 22/00. Mail, phone, or late entry: see chesstour.com or ChessLife. USCF. Online entry at chessaction.com by 5/21: Top 7 sections $227, seniors 65+, $127. U1100 Sections $77. Open Section $327 if not FIDE rated 22/00. Mail, phone, or late entry: see chesstour.com or ChessLife. USCF.

FIDE ratings used for Open, May official USCF for others. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

5-day schedule (open): Enter Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.
4-day Under 2300 to Under 1300: enter Fri to 6, rds Fri 7, Sat/Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.
3-day Under 2100 to Under 1300: enter Sat to 10 am, rds Sat 11, 23-30 & Sun 11, 12, 2, 4:35 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.
2-day Under 1100: enter Sat to 1 pm, rds Sat 2 & 6, Sun 10, 2 & 6, Mon 10 & 2.
2-day Under 2100 to Under 1300: enter Sun to 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.
2-day Under 1100: enter Sun to 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.


Full details: see Chess Life or chesstour.com. USCF mem. required, see TLA or chesstour.com for special rates.

Bring set, board, clock if possible - none supplied.
MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Mid-America Open (MO)

See Grand Prix.

Louisiana

MAR. 1-3, SPNO Boys & Girls Scholastic at Holiday Inn Downtown/Superdome, New Orleans, LA. Rd 6SS, G/45 d/5. A scholarship up to 9 sections: USCF Rated Secs. k3-5, 6-8 & 9-12, sep. for Girls & Boys; 1 Unrated K-12 Reserve. Side events: 3 hour chess camp (max. 30); GM Paligor Simul (max 25 bds.); Blitz Championship, 2 secs. - K-4 and K-7/2; Bughouse; Puzzle Solving Championship; “Breakfast with Susan” at Brennan’s Restaurant (former home of World Champ. Paul Morphy). Schedule: Rd. Sat., 3/2 - 10 am., 12., 7 pm; Sun 3/3 - 11 a.m., 1, p.m., 3 p.m.; Side events: Fri 3/1 - Camp 2-5 p.m.; Puzzles, 6 p.m.; Bughouse 7 p.m.; Sat. 3/2 - Blitz 4 p.m., Simul 7 pm.; Sun. 3/3 - Blitz 8:30 a.m.; side event awards before rds 4 & 5; main event awards 4-9 p.m; Prizes: Over $100,000 in Webster U. Scholarships, tablet computers & chess prizes; Top 5 ea. sec., (more poss. in 9 secs.); top 20 entries based on pre-reg. as of 2/10); Side event awards: Blitz - top 3 boys & top 3 girls sec. Bughouse - top 3 teams - Puzzles - top 3 Boys & Girls in rating gps. Under 800, Under 1500 & 1800. All players receive commemorative medals. Team awards: top 3 school & top club team ea. sec. of main event & blitz (Student may rep. only 1 team); commit by rd 2. Reg. Fees: All Secs. of G/45 Main Event: $45 by 1/18/13; then $55 by 2/19/13; $65 thereafter. Camp - $40 by 1/10/13; then $50. Puzzles $10 by 2/13; main 15. Bughouse - $50/two by 2/13; then $80. Blitz - $15 by 2/12; then $20. Simul - $25; “Breakfast with Susan” Sunday brunch at Brennan’s Rest. (Paul Morphy home) $55 adults; $39 children. Host hotel: Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome, King or 2 Doubles $149/nt. 2 night min. til sold out or 1/18/13. Overnight Parking $5; free wi-fi, fitness center, pool, 10% food & bev. discount if staying on site. To reserve call 1-800-335-7830 and request Poligor Chess Rate. All/Over/overflow: SpringHill Suites downtown, 301 S.Joseph St., (1 mile from Holiday Inn): King or sofa sleeper or 2 Queens + sleeper, $200/nt; til sold out or 2/24/13. To reserve call 1-888-334-1200 and request Poligor Chess Rate. Details and registration available soon at: www.poligarevents.com and www.cajunchess.com. Email questions to: ChessNOLA@poligarevents.com. See Grand Prix.

MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, Lone Star Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

APR. 13-14, 2012 Louisiana Pro-Am

See Grand Prix.

Maryland

Maryland Chess Association


MAR. 2-3, UMBC Open - Alvin S. Mintzes Chess Tournament

See Grand Prix.

MAR. 27-31, 28-31, 29-31 OR 30-31, 17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

Maryland Chess Association

See Grand Prix.

MAR. 2-3, UMBC Open - Alvin S. Mintzes Chess Tournament

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

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See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.
22nd annual EASTERN CLASS
March 15-17 or 16-17, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, Sturbridge MA
$16,000 projected prizes, $12,000 minimum guaranteed
5 rounds, 7 sections. Choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule, both merge after rd 2.
Prizes based on 200 paid entries (re-sections Class D or E entries count half), 2/3 each prize minimum. Rated players may play up one section. Enter at chesscom.com.

Master Section (2200+): Prizes $2000-1000-600-400, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus, top Under 2300 $600-300. FIDE rated, 80 GPP (enhanced).
Expert Section (2000-2199): $1200-600-200-400
Class A Section (1800-1999): $1200-600-200-400
Class B Section (1600-1799): $1200-600-200-400
Class C Section (1400-1599): $1000-500-300-200
Class D Section (1200-1399): $500-250-150-100, trophies to first 3.
Class E Section (Under 1200): $400-200-120-80, trophies to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, top Unrated

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chesscom.com.
one week in advance. Reg: 6-6:50 PM. Rds: 7-8:50 PM. Awards: Trophies to All. Chess classes meet every Friday! 6:30-7:30 PM. www.kitchentimechess.com. Info: Andy Kallieris, 973-483-7927 or chesscamp1@yahoo.com

FEB. 2, Ewing World Amateur World Qual #5
3R, G/90. 5th Annual rated tournament, Center City, 999 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing, NJ 08626. Open: EF: $14. Prizes: $35 per Quad. REG: 10:15-1:35 PM. Train/Bus Access. Contact: Mike zycozet@earthlink.net, 609-466-4793. Info: Diana ianac@icanci.net. ICA provides lunch.

FEB. 9, Hamilton Chess Saturday Quad
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 Rds. G/60; EF: $35. Prizes: $50. USCF ID #, & expiration date, mailing address, phone number & entry fee. Checks made out to NJSCF. Info: Diana 708-791-0331, diana@icanci.net; www.icanci.net. ICA provides lunch.

FEB. 16, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads

FEB. 16, World Altern Team & US Team & E Team
See National Championship Schedule.

FEB. 21, 3rd Thursday Quads

FEB. 23, Central Jersey Chess Tournament
455, G/60, all Saints Church, All Els Sts Princetown, Open, U1200, U1600, U2000, U2400. Apr 12, 09-1 PM. Prizes: $50 1st per quad. Reg.: 10-30, 11:45 AM. Info: Diana ianac@icanci.net. ICA provides lunch.

FEB. 23, Viking Happy 75th Birthday Ken (a VPLM event)
See Grand Prix.

FEB. 24, 4th Sunday 6/8 Quads
3 Rds. G/60; 1st round 1.30 pm. All The King’s Men & Games Center (Just 22 mins. from Center City Philadelphia), 62 S. Broad-way, Pitman, NJ 08071. EF: $25, members $20. Prize: $50 1st per quad. Reg.: 10-30, 11:15 am, or pre-register at www.A_FMChessSets.com/quad/schedule. Bring a clock!

FEB. 24, Chess Mates Sunday Quad Game 30/30
Quad: G/60: Starts at 10:00 AM, 11:45, and 1pm. EF: $20.50. Prizes: $55 for first in each quad. Saturday, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Info: Diana ianac@icanci.net; www.icanci.net. ICA provides lunch.

FEB. 24, 7th Annual Long Island Open (NY)

FEB. 24, New Jersey High School Chess Tournaments
555, G/60. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ 07738. 2/24, 1:30-4:00 p.m. 3/24, 1:30-4:00 p.m. 4/21, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Inquiries to Bonnie Waitzkin Chesssteach@gmail.com. All registered players will receive a site map. Prizes: $25. Check the website or call for details.

FEB. 24, New Jersey State Elementary Championships
555, G/60. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ 07738. 2/24, 1:30-4:00 p.m. 3/24, 1:30-4:00 p.m. 4/21, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Inquiries to Bonnie Waitzkin Chesssteach@gmail.com. All registered players will receive a site map. Prizes: $25. Check the website or call for details.

FEB. 24, Chess Mates Wednesday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Wednesday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 24, Chess Mates Thursday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Thursday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Friday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Friday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Saturday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Saturday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Sunday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Sunday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Monday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Monday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Tuesday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Tuesday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Wednesday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Wednesday G/90 provides lunch.

FEB. 25, Chess Mates Thursday G/90
455, G/60; 5/1 game per week. Prize fund: 70% of EF. Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Class Prizes (based on the # of participants). 2 byes are available. Late-change on site. Registration deadline: 10-8-9:20 am., 1st rd. 9:40. EF: $25. Info: chessmatesnj.com. Chess Mates Thursday G/90 provides lunch.
46th annual NEW YORK STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
Feb 23-24, 2013 - Saratoga Springs, NY

6 rounds, G/61, d5 (except K-1), open to grades K-12 in any state (top NY player & team each section are NY champs). Team prizes based on top 4 scores from same school. 203 trophies to be awarded, plus free entries for NY players! Reserve hotel room by Feb 2.

In 8 sections:

- High School (K-12), High School Reserve (K-12 under 1200,unr), Junior High (K-9), Middle School Reserve (K-8 under 1000,unr), Elementary Reserve (K-5 under 800 or unrated), Primary (K-3), K-1 (G/25, d5, plays Sunday, Feb 24 only, 5 games).

See TLA under “New York” for full details.

New York

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Lobby (K-5), Kings Chamber (K-6-K-8), Masters Reserve (K-9), Open (K-12)

Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Open (K-5), Elementary Reserve (K-6-K-8), High School Reserve (K-9), Elementary School Reserve (K-8 under 1000,unr), Middle School Reserve (K-8 under 1200, unr), Elementary Reserve (K-5 under 800 or unrated), Primary (K-3), K-1 (G/25, d5, plays Sunday, Feb 24 only, 5 games).

See TLA under “New York” for full details.


2013 CT State Open & Scholastic Championships (CT) See Grand Prix.


See Grand Prix.
JUNE 27-27 JULY 1, DC International (VA) See Grand Prix

JULY 3-4, 5, 7-7 OR 1-7, 41st Annual World Open (MD) See Grand Prix

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

North Carolina
JUNE 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA) See Grand Prix

JULY 3-4, 5, 7-7 OR 1-7, 41st Annual World Open (MD) See Grand Prix

MB. 9, BRRARRR Pawn Storm XV See Grand Prix

JULY 15-22, 49th Cincinnati Open See Grand Prix

North Carolina
JUNE 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA) See Grand Prix

JULY 3-4, 5, 7-7 OR 1-7, 41st Annual World Open (MD) See Grand Prix

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Pennsylvania
Every Friday - LVCA 9 & 9 Blitz Events/Open1200 (starting on 1/14) (US)
6th Annual State Warm-Up (PA)
26th Annual Pennsylvania Open (PA)
4th Jerry Hanken FIDE Winter Op (PA)

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THE HOUSE OF STANMANN

2001 Wills Street

MAY 27-28, 31-31-31 or 31-31, 31st Annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open See Grand Prix.

MAY 19-18 OR 19-18, 21st annual New York State Open (NY)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 29-29, 21st June or June 2, 2013 Wisconsin Interna-

tional Chess Championship

see Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN CHESS MAGAZINE

Send contributions to: Chess Life Classifieds, PO Box 2259, Crossville, TN 38555.

April 2013 | Chess Life

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see Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN CHESS MAGAZINE

Send contributions to: Chess Life Classifieds, PO Box 2259, Crossville, TN 38555.
Solutions / February

Problem I. 51. Qf7+ wins (51. ... Ke5 52. Qg7+ and 53. Qxb2 or 51. ... Qf6 52. Qxf6+ and 53. a5 queens.)


Problem IV. 139. ... Kc2! 140. Ka3 (140. Rxd4 Ra5+ or 140. Rc8+ Bc3) 140. ... Bc3 141. Ra8 Re1!.

Problem V. 1. ... Nc3+. Black wins White's queen by 1. ... Nxe4 steals a knight, since 2. Qxe4 is met by 2. ... Re8. Problem VI. 29. Bxh6+! Kxh6 30. Qe3+ and now 30. ... Kh5 31. Rh4+ Bxh4 32. g4 mate or 30. ... Kg7 31. Rf1+ 32. Rf1+ Kg7 33. Rh4+.

Problem II. 14. Bh6+!, Black resigned (14. ... Kxh6 15. Nxf7+ forks king and queen, or 14. ... Kg8 15. g5 Nh5 16. Qxh7+ Kh8 17. Be2 and 18. Bxh5).


Problem IV. 29. Na7 Rxc5 30. Rb8! was good enough to prompt resignation. Also take credit for 29. Rbd4! Bxd4 30. Rxd4, threatening 31. Rd8+ (30. ... Raa8 31. Bxa3).

Problem V. 139. ... Kc2! 140. Ka3 (140. Rxd4 Ra5+ or 140. Rc8+ Bc3) 140. ... Bc3 141. Ra8 Re1!.

Problem VI. 29. Bxh6+! Kxh6 30. Qe3+ and now 30. ... Kh5 31. Rh4+ Bxh4 32. g4 mate or 30. ... Kg7 31. Rf1+ 32. Rf1+ Kg7 33. Rh4+.

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Benefactor Membership includes Life Membership, a special membership card, and recognition on a benefactor page of our website and periodically in Chess Life. The cost is $3,000, or $1,500 to existing Life Members. Half the funds collected will go to the USCF Life Member Assets Fund and half to assist USCF operations. Become a Benefactor at uschess.org, by phone at 1-800-903-8723, or by mail to USCF, PO Box 3967, Crossville TN 38557.

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PROMOTE AMERICAN CHESS

ABCS OF CHESS

Problem I. Discovery: Black wins White’s queen by 1. ... Nc3+. Problem II. Pin: The simple capture 1. ... Nxe4 steals a knight, since 2. Qxe4 is met by 2. ... Re8. Problem III. Pin: The advance 1. ... d6 wins a knight. Problem IV. Skewer: White drops material by 1. ... Re8, skewering queen and rook. Problem V. Pin: Black wins with 1. ... Bxh5+ (White’s pawn is pinned), as long as he doesn’t overlook White’s hope to mate at a8. Problem VI. Mating net: Black wins with 1. ... Qxh5+ 2. Bxc3 Ba3 mate.

NATIONAL OPEN

June 7–9 or 8–9
$80,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND

U.S. Game / 10 Championship

June 6 – 5:00 P.M.
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June 6th – 9th, 2013
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When Chess Life asked for my best move, many candidates instantly came to me. But my most subtle, sublime “Best Move” was when I voluntarily offered my queen to Bent Larsen, an uncompromising, world-class grandmaster for many decades who, in 1970, had played on first board versus the Soviets when Fischer was board two!

The night before my “key” game with Bent at the 1972 U.S. Open in Atlantic City, New Jersey, I played cards until 6 a.m. Winning this game led to winning the Open with 10½-1½.

On March 9, 2013 I will have the rare honor and privilege of my 40th wedding anniversary with the lovely, intelligent and immensely supportive Dr. Raquel Browne—without a doubt my “Best Move” in life. She had arrived from Argentina just a few months before the Larsen game and I now have three stepsons that I’m extremely proud of.

The game below was my first victory over one of the greatest fighters of the 20th century!

A queen sac against Larsen
GM Bent Larsen (2633)
GM Walter Browne (2558)
1972 U.S. Open, Atlantic City, New Jersey

17. ... e6!!

A real shocker, as I’ve totally turned the tables by voluntarily offering my queen! This was one of those magical moments, almost surreal—both queens and four minor pieces were caught in a web of counterthreats.

18. Qxc3


18. ... Qxg5+ 19. Kh1 b6 20. Rfd1

Bent tries to mix it up since 20. Rg1 Qf4 21. Be2 Bb7 22. Rg3 Rf8 was a slow death.

20. ... Qf4 21. Rxd6 Nxf3 22. Rd8+ Kf7 23. Kg2 Qg5+!

A more complicated win is 23. ... Qg4+ 24. Kf1 Ba6! 25. Rd7+ Ke8.

24. Kh3 Qh4+ 25. Kg2 Nd4!

Forcing and very practical!

26. Rxd4 Bb7+ 27. Bd5 Bxd5+ 28. Rxd5 Qe4+ 29. f3 Qxd5

Why did Bent prolong his agony? Because two years earlier he swindled me when I was near victory!

30. a5 b5 31. Re1 Rd8 32. Re2 Qg5+ 33. Kf2 Rd1 34. Re1 Qh4+, White resigned.
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June 7-9 or 8-9, 2013
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8 Sections o Top 2 FIDE Rated
Open o Under 2200 o Under 2000 o Under 1800 o Under 1600 o Under 1400 o Under 1200 o Unrated
6-SS o 40/90, G/30, Increment 30
as used at the Olympiads o 2-day Schedule rounds 1-3 Game/45, d5

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For children and adults of all playing strengths

GRANDMASTER SIMULS
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Friday — Saturday — Sunday

SCHOLASTIC TROPHY TOURNAMENT
Friday — 10 A.M.

POKER TOURNAMENT
Monday — 10 A.M.

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Thursday, June 6th — 5 p.m.
$6,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND
8 Rounds o USCF Quick & FIDE Blitz Rated

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Slugfest in Seattle

MARCH 2013

GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN

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It’s Coming.

SuperNationals V

April 5-7 2013
Nashville TN

See TLA on page 53
KCF’s Tenth Annual All-Girls
Open National Championships
April 26-28, 2013 - Chicago, IL

First place winners of each section will qualify to play at the 2013 World Youth Championships

MAIN EVENT
6-5S, G/90

Sections (age as of 1/1/13)
• Under 8
• Under 10
• Under 12
• Under 14
• Under 16
• Under 18
• Under 20

Friday April 26
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

Entry Fee
$50 postmarked by 3/25, $70 by 4/15, $90 after/on-site.
USCF membership required

Entry & Info
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E-mail: renknights@aol.com

AWARDS
Trophies will be awarded to top 15 individual players and top three teams in the Under 8, 10, 12 & 14 Sections; top 10 individual players and top three teams in the Under 16, 18 & 20 Sections. Three or more players from the same school to make a team (team scores will be calculated based on the top 3 scores to give teams their final standings). All players will receive a souvenir to honor their participation.

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

SIDE EVENTS
Bughouse Tournament
Fri. April 26 1:00 PM
Entry fee: $30 per team

Blitz Tournament (G/5)
Fri. April 26 3:00 PM
Entry fee: $20 by 4/15, $25 after/on-site.

Swissotel Hotel
323 E. Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL, 60611
Hotel Reservations Call 888-737-9477

Chess Rate single $169, Double $169,
Triple $189, Quad $209
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breakfast included for the number based
on the room rate paid: 1-2-3 or 4 people

Online Registration www.renaissanceknights.org/allgirls
www.kasparovchessfoundation.org
Editor’s Letter

“GM Alexander Kowzwalski won the Podunk Open.” That opening sentence has never actually appeared in Chess Life (there is no grandmaster by that name nor is there a USCF-sanctioned Podunk Open) but it has in various forms over the years. Since our redesign introduced with the August 2012 issue, we have been trying very hard to provide chess writing that will be more relevant to you than a simple recitation of the five Ws (who, what, when, where, why). For straight up tournament reporting, we have Chess Life Online at uschess.org. Check there daily for tournament news as well as other various entertaining features.

I think we’ve really hit our stride with this issue, especially with our cover story by GM Varuzhan Akobian and William Faulk. The subject is the Seattle Sluggers winning the 2012 U.S. Chess League (USCL) championship, but it is presented in a way that is intended to make the average class player a better chessplayer. Akobian writes how he approaches the game when sitting on the white side of the board (see the July 2012 Chess Life for his article about playing from the black side), using choice games from the 2012 USCL season as a backdrop. But don’t forget to also check out our online reporting of the USCL championship on uschess.org, Chess Life Online’s December archives. Here’s to your chess life. -Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: MARCH

Remembering GM Evans

As flowers begin to bloom, the Philadelphia Open (March 27-31) and the Larry Evans Memorial (formerly the Far West Open) from March 29-31 in Reno open a season of huge Grand Prixs from the Chicago Open in May to the World Open in July. Look for articles on both and video reportage on the nine-round Philadelphia Open, held in the downtown Philly Loews’ hotel. Subscribe to the USCF channel at USChessFederation on www.youtube.com to be the first to catch the videos!

World Championship Cycle: The Candidates matches in London from March 14-April 1st will determine the challenger to World Champion Viswanathan Anand. Contenders include the highest rated chessplayer in history, Magnus Carlsen, World #3 Levon Aronian and former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik. GM Ian Rogers will report for CLO.


SNV: SuperNationals Preview—Look for details on events, special guests and coverage as the highly anticipated SuperNationals V (April 5-7, Nashville) approaches.

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

GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN The U.S. Chess League report co-author is a former Samford Fellow and two-time Olympiad bronze medalist. He is the top-ranked player in California, fourth in the U.S. and ranks among the top 150 in the world. He has been featured on the MTV series “True Life: I’m a Genius.”

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GM BEN FINEGOLD The World Cities report co-author has become a frequent contributor to Chess Life. He was the Samford Fellow in 1993.
Below: GM Ben Finegold and an unidentified tourist at the camel market in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates, during an off day at the World Cities Team Championship.

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ON THE COVER GM Varuzhan Akobian led the Seattle Sluggers to their first U.S. Chess League championship. Photographed at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis on January 11 by Rebecca Wilson, www.adjustablefocusphotography.com
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THE FLORIDA CONNECTION

I found your stories about GM Fabiano Caruana and GM Alejandro Ramirez very interesting, especially since they both have connections to my state, Florida.

GM Caruana was born in the United States and has a dual citizenship with Italy. He grew up in New York and started playing in tournaments there. But though he later moved to Italy and is federated with Italy, he is a life and voting member of the USCF, and also is listed as a Floridian, as well as now being the #1 rated player in the United States ... and Florida.

Your interview with GM Ramirez was great, as he told about how he learned the game of chess from his father and had a difficult time advancing as he “didn’t have that many choices in Costa Rica.” But the grandmaster left out what we in Florida consider an important part of his story. When he was about nine-years-old, he and his family were brought to Florida and “sponsored” by Don Schultz. Schultz was a well known chess enthusiast, who previously had sponsored GM Gabriel Schwartzman and his family to Florida when Schwartzman was a youngster.

Ramirez played in his first chess tournament in February 1997, and during the following 17 months played an event every month. He moved to central Florida during that period and during his last month here, July 1998, he played in three events including the World Open and Southern Open where his rating peaked at 1850. He and his family then “suddenly” returned to Costa Rica and Ramirez disappeared from the chess world ... or had he? Amongst the youngsters in Florida there was word that the kid they were playing on the Internet was Alejandro Ramirez.

All this was left out of the Ramirez’s interview in Chess Life, and I thought your readers would want to know ... “the rest of the story.”

Harvey Lerman
Maitland, Florida

CHESS FICTION

I only recently got around to reading the short story, “The Sicilian Defense” in the October 2012 issue of Chess Life. I enjoyed it; very pertinent in this age of paranormal popularity.

I wish to mention and recommend two chess novels which I enjoyed reading. The Chess Players by Frances Parkinson Keyes (1960), Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, New York, is about the life of Paul Morphy. Closely based on fact, it gives delightful insight about this genius.

The Chessmen of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs (1922), Frank A. Munsey Company (copyright renewed 1950), Nelson Doubleday, Inc., Garden City, New York, is a fanciful tale related to the recent movie John Carter, which did not receive much critical acclaim, but which I found very entertaining. Burroughs (of Tarzan authorship fame) wrote a series of Martian books; this is one of them. Martian chess rules differ from what we play, and sometimes it involved live pieces playing to the death.

Richard Spink
via e-mail
USCF life member

SURE, IF YOU’RE GOING TO USE NALIMOV

In the game Tseng/Corkum (“The Staff of Life,” January 2013, by FM Alex Dunne) the conclusion is that if Black plays 48. ... Ke5, White will get a win.

Working it out to move 60, the Nalimov endgame tablebase (and my own logic) shows a draw instead as it is Black’s turn after White plays Kxd7. If White had another turn, it would allow a mate in 28 moves, but, of course, White doesn’t get two turns.

Bruce Bell
via e-mail

FM Alex Dunne responds:

Bruce Bell’s analysis is correct; Tseng’s analysis of 48. ... Ke5 was flawed. But 48. ...Ke5 was not played, and it would not have changed the outcome of the game.
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Mike Anders, 1955-2013

Tourney held in memory of a long-time tournament director

By FRANK NIRO

THE 36TH CARDINAL OPEN HELD JANUARY 25-27 IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, was dedicated to a lost friend. Michael R. Anders, associate national tournament director, teacher, bookseller and USCF life member died in a plane crash on his 58th birthday. Mike was a private pilot who often flew between Kentucky and the Caribbean where he once lived and taught. On Friday, January 4, 2013, while flying along the coast of Florida from Fort Pierce, Florida, heading for Knoxville, Tennessee, Mike reported engine trouble and was attempting to make an emergency landing. Sadly, he didn’t make it. His plane crashed into a Palm Coast home, killing him, Duane Shaw, 59, of Albany, Kentucky, and Charisse Peoples, 42, of Indianapolis, Indiana (who was Shaw’s fiancée). Neither of them was a USCF member. Miraculously, the resident of the home escaped with only a minor bruise.

Anders was an active scholastic chess coach and tournament director (TD). Mike’s full time job at the time of the crash was Spanish teacher for Clinton County High School in Kentucky, where he lived in Albany. He remained a familiar face at tournaments in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. He was the bookseller at the 2009 U.S. Junior Chess Congress, a USCF national event held in Anderson, Indiana. His most recent TD assignment was at the 21st Kings Island Open in Cincinnati this past November. Mike was the section chief at the K-3 SuperNationals in 2009.

Whether he was directing or selling books and equipment, Mike was energetic, maintained a constant smile, and had jokes and stories to share with everyone. He was a class-“B” player, with a peak rating of 1774. But, more than playing, Mike always enjoyed conversation with other chess players.

Ohio chess organizer Grant Perks, who served as interim USCF executive director in late 2003, recalled that Mike was a teacher at Cincinnati Country Day School. “He ran concurrent scholastic and adult tournaments on a monthly basis during the school year,” Perks said. “It was an opportunity for me to bring kids to play in a scholastic event while I played in the open section. Mike organized at least one state scholastic at the school. He also directed the first two Queen City Classics.”

For a short time, Mike owned a barbecue restaurant in the Cincinnati area and then moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands before returning to Kentucky to resume teaching. Mike enjoyed flying any time he could. “When I took the position at the USCF,” Perks recalled, “Mike willingly flew me to New Windsor at a moment’s notice. I wasn’t scheduled to be there until the next week but wanted to reach out to the staff. Flying in for a quick turnaround wasn’t feasible with commercial flights.” Mike, as always, was right there to help out.

Remembering Mike to the 190 players on hand for the Cardinal Open, tournament director Grant Neilley said, “It is rumored that Mike hadn’t yet passed the national tournament director exam, because he couldn’t help answering the questions with a humor the graders apparently didn’t share.” Neilley is president of the Fellowship of the King Chess Club, the sponsoring affiliate of the Cardinal Open, a popular regional event held continuously since 1978. He concluded his customary announcements at the start of the event by asking for a few moments of silence and then declared, with a discernible combination of respect, affection and sadness in his voice, “We dedicate the 2013 Cardinal Open to the memory of our friend Mike Anders.”

The entrants to this year’s Cardinal Open included Grandmasters Alexander Shabalov, Dmitry Gurevich, Alex Yermolinsky and Andre Diamant as well as International Master Justin Sarker and FIDE Master Atulya Shetty, 2012 Denker tournament co-champion. The clear winner was Brazilian GM Diamant, a member of the Webster University college chess team, who will be competing in the Final Four of College Chess at Texas Tech University in April. Diamant defeated Shetty in the final round to finish with a score of 4½-½, his only blemish resulting from his fourth round draw with GM Dmitry Gurevich. FM Carl Boor defeated Shabalov in round five to take a share of second place with Gurevich at 4-1. Boor’s only loss was to Diamant in round three in what turned out to be the key encounter of the tournament.
French Defense (C10)
GM Andre Diamant (2535)
FM Carl Boor (2382)
36th Cardinal Open (3), Columbus, Ohio
January 26, 2013
Notes courtesy Andre Diamant (photo below)


This idea was played before by GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov against GM Judit Polgar. Mamedyarov preferred the move 7. Ne2.

My development is over and now I have to find some plan to break Black’s fortress.
15. ... Be7

White’s idea for now is just prevent all black ideas like c5 or e5 with the doubling of the rooks.
16. Rc2! Bf6 17. Rbd2 a6 18. h4 b5

Black is tired of waiting and tries to free his position.

21. Qe2!

A surprising retreat, which puts pressure on Black’s position.
21. ... Bd5 22. dxe5 Rxe5 23. Bf4 Rb8 24. Rxd8 Qxd8 25. Qxg7

Now the position is already lost for Black.
28. ... Rd8 29. c7 Rd7 30. Qe3 R4c 31. Rdc1, Black resigned.

Black can’t avoid loss of material after Na7.

MIKE ANDERS’ USCF HISTORY
November 1986 | Joined the USCF April 1987 | Organized and directed his first USCF-rated chess tournament April 1990 | Recognized as a senior tournament director December 1991 | Reached his peak rating of 1774 at the Battle of Erebor Open in St. James, Maryland | December 2005 – Won his 250th regular rated game at the Circle City Chess Club in Indianapolis, Indiana | April 2008 – Worked as a floor tournament director at the National High School Championship in Atlanta, Georgia | April 2009 – Served as section chief in the 246-player K-3 division of the scholastic SuperNationals IV in Nashville, Tennessee | July 2012 – chief tournament director at the final tournament he organized, the 3rd Bulldog Open, in Albany, Kentucky on behalf of the USCF affiliate where he worked (Clinton county school district chess club) | July 2012 – Won his final rated game against Glen O’Banion (1737) at the Bastille Day En Passant tournament in Lexington, Kentucky | November 2012 – Worked his last of nearly 200 USCF-rated tournaments when he served as assistant tournament director at the 21st Kings Island Open in Cincinnati, Ohio | December 2012 – Played his last chess tournament at the Kentucky Action Championship in Lexington, Kentucky.

FACES ACROSS THE BOARD
By AL LAWRENCE
BILL MERRELL
MISSOURI
“A chessplayer”
At 15, Bill got a chess set and a beginner’s book for Christmas. “Shortly thereafter, I was playing as often as I could.” It took him six years to join USCF, but once he did, he became a mainstay of Midwest chess, playing 600 rated games and directing and organizing 160 tournaments over 40 years. He’s a retired civil engineer, but “chess has always been a large part of my life. It’s one of those things that define a person. You can say, ‘I am a chessplayer.’ ”

BENJAMIN BANKHEAD
CALIFORNIA
Headed for the 2013 SuperNationals V
Learning chess at five, Benjamin later won a game against his mother Carol. “You’re pretty good,” she told him. “No, Mom,” he said, “you just have a bad pawn strategy.” Now eight and a third grader at Red Oak Elementary School in Oak Park, he works with the coaches at the Beverly Hills Chess Club. “He went from getting participation medals to winning his entire section at the ACA Holiday Scholastic Championship in Glendale,” his mom said.

TIM BRENNAN
COLORADO
#2 chess book on Amazon
Tim got interested in chess during the Kasparov-Deep Blue match. “I’m a software engineer and found the match fascinating. I started playing and got hooked.” Becoming editor of Colorado Chess Informant, Tim noticed that most games “were being won or lost by very primitive means,” unlike the more complicated puzzles in many books. So he started a website, tactics time.com, and last year published a successful Kindle book on Amazon entitled Tactics Timel 1001 Chess Tactics from the Games of Everyday Chess Players. “The response has been overwhelming.”
THE USCF MISSION

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.
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GM BENT LARSEN was only kidding, sort of, with the quote that titles this article. He was humorously referring to the player of the white pieces, national master Ken Smith, that had come up with what he called the Smith-Morra Gambit (1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3). His opponent had not played the Sicilian. The short annotation in the San Antonio 1972 tournament book revealed two great truths about the Sicilian Defense.

The first one was that the popularity of the gambit was due to amateur players being overwhelmed by Najdorf variations, Dragon variations, Sveshnikov variations, Scheveningen variations, Taimanov variations, and myriad others that drove White players to distraction. The Black player needed only to know his own particular line, whereas the player of the white pieces had to know them all. It was so much easier to give up a pawn, get great development by playing somewhat automatic and common sense moves. Thus, the weekend warriors went what we now call the Anti-Sicilian route, that now includes the 2. c3 Sicilian, the Grand Prix Attack, the Closed Sicilian, the Wing Gambit, Rossolimo Attack and the King’s Indian Attack, among others.

Larsen’s attitude reveals a second truth. “I win a pawn.” It’s the grandmaster way! Bring on those Anti-Sicilians, especially the gambit ones. Smith even admitted that grandmasters told him that the only reason they didn’t play his attack was that 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 (or ... e6, etc.) 3. d4 was stronger. In 2009, the British player, Jonathan Rodgers, in explaining why he played 1. ... c5 in a game, made this interesting comment in a 2009 British Chess Magazine: “For the first time in 22 years and the second time in my life, I was inspired by the assurance that these days, no one under 2500 dares to play 2. Nf3 and 3. d4.”

In the old Chess Reviews of the 1950s and 1960s the chess humorist Fred Wren used to lament his experiences with meeting the Sicilian devotees: “The ones who answer 1. e4 by ... c5 are members of a race apart. For them no waving banners ... no honorable clash and breaking of lances in the middle of the 64 squares.” In today’s terms, 1. e4 c5 is like a Rocky movie. Stand in the middle of the ring and slug it out. 1. e4 c5 is more
The Sicilian Defense is a swamp of variations. How do we navigate our way through all this? The time-honored method is to buy a chess book, a specialty book from White’s or Black’s point of view, most of them promising enlightenment for whatever you want. If you add the specialty books and other opening books covering the Sicilian in the USCF catalogue, you end up with over 100 titles! The famous Betts catalogue of English language chess books lists merely a Chessman Quarterly article on the Dragon up to 1968.

The white side books threaten to dismantle, taint, beat, attack and slay the Sicilian. The black side books seem content with win, fight and reload. So, what do you do? What do you buy? The answer is in those truths mentioned above. It depends on how strong you are as a player.

In going over the books in this review, you will find works for both levels of player, and hopefully some guidance as to which is better for you. Let’s go over some general rules before we head that way.

If you’re rated over 2000, you most likely have your opening repertoire developed. For you, it’s a bit easier. Either the book covers what you already play or it doesn’t and that will determine your decision. Having been down that road myself, I remember buying books on an opening I played because it had just one great chapter, but I needed that chapter. I bought them because I knew other people would be reading them and using them. I was especially interested in “anti-whatever my opening was” books because my opponents followed the “latest” stuff, just like I did. I needed games, analysis, some new ideas and not really much explanation. I already knew the underlying strategic concepts of the opening.

If, on the other hand, you are an 1800 or 1900 rated player, this divides into two categories: young players and established players. I’ve seen the young players. They just play through hundreds of database games and get their ideas that way. The older crowd probably has a job, maybe family, and little time for that. Your need for books like this depends on your strategic understanding of the opening. If you’re looking to learn an opening system, then you had best have a book that really explains things so you can see whether you’re comfortable playing the system. It wouldn’t hurt you younger players to read a book. You can pick up ideas there that might not occur to you while zipping through games on your laptop.

Most of you, however, are below 1800, even Chess Life readers! The median non-scholastic rating in 2004 (quick online check) was around 1200. Here’s my best book advice for you. If you are in the 1600-1700 range, and want to learn about the Sicilian, then you really need to get a copy of John Watson’s Mastering the Chess Openings. If you haven’t reached that level yet, then you’re better off starting with Fundamental Chess Openings by Paul van der Sterren. If you’re a book hound, then you will try to find the 1987 volume by David Levy and Kevin O’Connell titled How to Play the Sicilian Defence. It is the best introductory book on the Sicilian Defense ever written. The lengthy, yet crystal clear, explanations are a revelation to the player who wants to understand both sides of this opening. I use it to teach my chess students, who quickly learn to play the Sicilian after going through their explanations. Batsford should re-issue it. The ideas are still good!

For your consideration, we have five books that we will address in terms of the concerns we have mentioned above:

Our first book is D’Costa’s on the Scheveningen. Decades ago, I used to play this defense and relied totally on Andy Soltis’ Sicilian: Scheveningen Variation for Black (Limited Edition, 1983). For those days, those 40 pages were enough. He wasn’t all that impressed with the “dreaded” Keres Attack, either. However, chess has marched on, and D’Costa takes up 272 pages to arm you, except for the Anti-Sicilians. The Scheveningen comes up after:


Because it’s always the first question Scheveningen players ask, the author handles the Keres Attack this way:

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. g4 h6 7. h4 Nc6 8. Rg1 h5 9. g5 Ng4

Obviously, there are a host of other moves. That’s why you buy the book. The author cautions you that you have to memorize some key lines and you’re in for a fight, but then that’s why you play the Sicilian in the first place.

You database types will no doubt run to the stats and find that White wins over 60% of the time with the Keres Attack and shy away. That’s something you should overcome right away. Find the truth by studying games and ideas, not by reading misleading statistics.

The first thing I noticed about the author’s system in other lines (e.g., 6. Be3) was that he was following the “modern” way. Older systems would delay playing ... a6 and concentrate on development with moves like ... Nc6 against Be2 or ... Be7 against Be3. His preference for an early ... a6 has a tendency to blend in with Najdorf systems, not that this is a bad thing—you should just be aware of it. His three key areas of concentration are against 6. Be2, 6. g4 and 6. Be3 with f2-f3 to follow which is the English Attack. Less coverage is given to 6. Be4, 6. g3 and 6. f4.

To make it more of a teacher-student type of book, he has interspersed in the text of the games “exercise” diagrams that ask positional questions and separate diagrams that ask tactical questions. Both ideas are quite good. In fact, I wish he had expanded on the positional/planning questions in the supplemental diagrams in the back of the book.

My only criticism is that he gives lip service to the fundamentals of the opening at the start of the book. There are a lot of decisions to be made in this opening: when to play ... a6 or ... h6; ... g5 or ... b5, ... d5 or ... e5; being aware of Bxe6 and Nxe6 moves, additionally Nd5 or Nf5 moves by White; knowing when to castle and which side; when to exchange on d4.

This brings us back to our early points. This is a book for over 2000 players or experienced over 1800 players. If he spent a chapter at the beginning covering the items in the previous paragraph as important concepts to be aware of, then it would be a more inclusive book.

Our second book, The Sicilian Dragon by Dave Vigorito, should really be titled Defending Against the Yugoslav Attack in the Dragon because that’s all this book is about. No other line against the Dragon is in here. There are 300 pages on just this one attack, albeit just about every white and black line worthy of note. If you’re going to be a Dragonista, you’re also going to have to buy a book with the other lines, not to mention the Anti-Sicilians. There’s a good reason, though, for this specialized approach. The Yugoslav Attack is what the Sicilian Dragon stands or falls on.

Those of you who have read Bobby Fischer’s 60 Memorable Games will remember the “obituary notice” in the annotations to
his win over Larsen. Comments like “White’s attack almost plays itself” and “pray open the KR-file [h-file], sac, sac ... mate!” is very a potent attack, but Vigorito rightly contends that it can be successfully met. A very good chapter on Andy Soltis’ ... h7-h5 move which made the Dragon come to life shows how far this opening idea has come:


This ... h7-h5 move changed everything. Kasparov, in his Part One: Revolution in the 70s notes how Solits’ contributions popularized the move. He gives both 9. Bc4 and 9. 0-0-0 good up-to-date coverage. He also throws in 9. g4 for good measure. He spends 24 pages on the Chinese variation (10. ... Rb8), but does not recommend it.

On the whole it’s a workman-like book for the frequent tournament player. Again, it’s one of those over-2000/experienced “A”-player books. He tries to put in tips, key notes, etc., in each game, but the space would have been better spent, again, with an introductory chapter that gives an overview of the key concepts: the timing of ... d6-d5, how to plan the queenside rightly contends that it can be successfully mate!” It’s a very potent attack, but Vigorito says does not solve Black’s opening problems. The line continues:

13. ... Nd7

Emms’ approach leading up to this position is far more thorough and his explanation of what ensues is superb. All things being equal the Emms purchaser will have the Taylor purchaser for lunch.

Lest you think I don’t care for Tim Taylor’s book, I do think he is one of the most entertaining writers, even apart from the personal escapades he puts into print, you can read. He picks great games. He gives you an aggressive mentality toward the Sicilian. He has almost twice as many games as the other books reviewed here, and his annotations are often exceptionally instructive.

He picks lines he plays. He’s a very creative player. He also picks some offbeat lines. To be fair to him, the Tim Taylor purchaser, ceteris paribus, would catch the David Vigorito purchaser completely unprepared.

This, if nothing else, is a great book of Sicilian games that are a delight to play through and instructive to boot. Buy it just to play over the games and read the notes! As to whether it will slay the Sicilian, well, it will give you just as good a shot as all the others. The Sicilian is far from being a corpse.

We started with some general principles about considering whether you should buy a particular opening book and hopefully you have been given some guidance here. One final thought was brought to mind by Taylor’s book. He tries to fit in one book what there is a specialty book that covers each line. You can’t expect him to spend the time on that Taimanov line that Emms does. They are two different formats. The reader with the “beat all these lines” books will be at a disadvantage against the player who has the comprehensive specialty book. The poor soul who plays 1. e4, 2. Nf3, 3. d4 is heading for unprepared.

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Visit www.USCFSales.com for the complete Chess King series.
Overlooking the Bluff

False confidence is a weapon. So is a grimace.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

WHEN YASSER SEIRAWAN CAME OUT of retirement two years ago, he was tested by a wily, world-class opponent:

Benoni Defense (A43)
GM Yasser Seirawan (FIDE 2635, USA)
GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (FIDE 2765, AZE)
World Team Championship, Ningbo 2011


White has a textbook positional advantage. Black instantly played 14. ... Bg5 because a trade of bishops would help him.

White replied 15. Qd2 and Black was back in the game after 15. ... c4! 16. Bxg5 Qxg5 17. Qxg5 hxg5 18. Bf5 Bxf5 19. Nxf5 Nb4!. But hold on. Wasn’t Black’s d-pawn just hanging after 14. ... Bg5?


But White spent 23 minutes on his last move, almost all of it calculating what happens after 19. ... dx5. Black quickly—and diabolically—replied 19. ... Rf8.


“When Kasparov has a bad position, he usually plays fast to pretend everything’s under control,” Anand wrote in his annotations—when he admiringly gave 19. ... Rf8 an exclamation point.

Making quick moves is a standard ploy at the highest level. When Mikhail Tal was about to challenge world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in 1960, his second advised him, “Misha, now it’s more important to bluff. It’s necessary to instantly reply to the moves of Botvinnik.”

Botvinnik himself was a master of bluffery. “Most of all I value in Botvinnik was his knowledge of how to bluff,” his 1951 match opponent, David Bronstein said.

But Botvinnik learned the hard way, as a victim: When he was 18 and about to play the veteran master Ilya Kan, Kan asked colleagues for opening advice. They told him to uncork the Evans Gambit, even though Kan knew almost nothing about it.

Kan followed the advice although he had to struggle to keep a serious expression when he chose 4. b4 (after 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5). It was hard, he said, to “not break out laughing,” he wrote in his memoirs.

But Botvinnik took Kan’s demeanor to mean he was booked up. He dodged the challenge and played 4. ... Bb6 instead of 4. ... Bxb4!.

Kan improvised the rest “since I didn’t have the slightest understanding of the theory of the Evans Gambit Declined,” he wrote. Botvinnik resigned on the 19th move.

Bluffing is a con—as in confidence—game. It’s based on projecting false confidence. Paul Keres fell for this in the 1948 world championship tournament when he introduced a powerful new weapon as White against the Open Defense of the Ruy Lopez. He was surprised when Sammy Reshevsky blitzed off the moves of an Open Defense as Black.

This was suspicious, Keres felt. Reshevsky rarely played that opening and usually took a lot of time in every opening. “I was convinced he had prepared the variation and in particular this,” he said of the key move, 12. c4. Keres played another move and lost. The next round Vassily Smyslov played 12. c4! versus Max Euwe and won one of his greatest games.

The blitz bluff can also be a weapon of last resort. When you’ve got nothing to lose, blitz.

Ruy Lopez (C78)
GM Gata Kamsky (FIDE 2741, USA)
GM Peter Svidler (FIDE 2739, RUS)
World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011
2012 World Youth

America invaded Slovenia last fall, when an 80-member U.S. delegation competed in the World Youth Championship. They came home with four medals and placed third overall in team standings. Games from the oldest age sections, the Under-18 and Under-16 Opens, provide our six positions this month. In each you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material. For solutions, see page 71.


Black was surprised by this last move and spent three moves to evaluate his chances: He realized he was busted. But he decided to play his next moves quickly, pretending that he was still following his opening preparation. He carried off a remarkable turnaround.


Based on 27. Qxe2 Qg3! and mates. The immediate 26. ... Qg3 fails to 27. Nc6. 27. Qc3 Rxf2 28. Nc6 Rxf1+, White resigned.

Peter Svidler’s acting was so convincing that some people asked him after the game if the final position was something he had analyzed at home. A bluff is the opposite of another theatrical tactic, the grimace. This occurs when a player feigns unhappiness with his position. Gullible beginners often fall for this: An opponent leaves his queen en prise and then sighs/frowns/shakes his head in annoyance. The beginner grabs the queen and his opponent replies with a mate.

More sophisticated versions of the grimace have even caught world champions:

An Oscar or a Kaspy?
GM Anatoly Karpov
GM Garry Kasparov
World Championship 1987

Anatoly Karpov was preparing to improve his already-good chances with Ke2-d3. Kasparov interrupted him with 31. ... Ke7?.

Then after 32. Bc5+, he confused him by taking five minutes to think about a reply.

This should have raised alarm bells. It doesn’t take five minutes to see that 32. ... Kd7? 33. Rf2! and Rf7+ is very bad—and that 32. ... Nd6? 33. Ke2 isn’t much better. Black had to play 32. ... Kf7.

But when Kasparov finally played it, he made a “decidedly theatrical ... assortment of grimaces,” according to IM Jonathan Tisdall, reporting for Reuters.

Karpov bought it. He played 33. Rf2+ Kg7 34. Rf6 and then 34. ... Bb6 35. Rc6??—because it seemed to be the only way to punish Black’s loss of time.

But after 35. ... Na5! he realized his rook was trapped. He lost.

Perhaps the most famous grimacing act occurred when Botvinnik regained the championship title he lost to Tal. What made it believable was his acting—and his thermos.

The thermos, and the mysterious beverage contained in it, was a Botvinnik trademark. He brought it to every important game. If he showed up without it for the second adjournment of the 20th match game, it would be “the most weighty proof” that Botvinnik was about to resign.

The game was resumed after move 89. Botvinnik “made the first moves with a lack of confidence, sighed heavily, shook his head,” Tal recalled.

But Tal was taken in and erred at moves 90 and 93. When he realized what was happening it was too late. Tal conceded the draw on the 121st move—and surrendered his title in the next game.

The deadline to register to vote for the USCF executive board election is March 31! See https://secure2.uschess.org/voter-registration.php
ONE OF THE WORST THINGS YOU CAN do in chess is to fall behind in development. You can make your life even worse if you leave a knight displaced on the board’s edge, obstruct your d-pawn with your king-bishop (so that the queen-bishop’s movement is prevented), and get your king caught in the center after the other side has castled. In this game between Mr. Lange and Mr. Lampert (Black) played in Berlin in 1903, all of those bad things happen and Black winds up paying dearly for those troubles. The game began as a Giuoco Piano. The opening moves were:

Giuoco Piano (C48)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5

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.**

4. c3 White has plenty of choices depending on how he wants to conduct the game. Take full credit for any of the following moves: 4. b4, 4. Nc3, 4. d3 or 4. 0-0. The text move indicates White's intention to build a big pawn center with 5. d2-d4.

4. … Nf6

The attack on the e4-pawn is meant to deter White from his plan. In the event of 4. … d6, White continues 5. d4 when Black must trade 5. … exd4, since 5. … Bb6? drops a pawn: 6. dxe5 dxe5 7. Qxd8+ Nxd8 (7. … Kxd8 8. Bxf7) 8. Nxe5. Add 1 bonus point if you knew or saw this.

5. d4 White continues undeterred by Black’s last move. Accept full credit for 5. d3. That guards e4 and directs the play into quiet positional lines. The text move is more lively.

5. … exd4

Add 1 bonus point for seeing that 5. … Bb6? 6. dxe5 Nxe4 7. Qd5 threatens mate and the e4-knight.

6. cxd4 White is committed to counterattack. If 6. … Bb6, the pawns advance on the knights, first d4-d5, then e4-e5. Not 7. e5 first because of 7. … d5. Add 1 bonus point for realizing this.

6. … Bb4+

Black is committed to counterattack. If 6. … Bb6, the pawns advance on the knights, first d4-d5, then e4-e5. Not 7. e5 first because of 7. … d5. Add 1 bonus point for realizing this.


7. … Nxe4

White garners the king-pawn and apparently threatens to take twice on c3. Add 1 bonus point if you thought of answering 7. … Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 Nxe4 with 9. d5. Black must not be permitted to play … d7-d5.

8. 0-0 It’s time to get the king to safety, which also unpins the c3-knight and makes it possible to attack along the e-file.

8. … Nxc3

And now for something old-fashioned: the Møller Attack. 8. … Bxc3 9. d5! had recently been discovered and was flying high. Today we know it can be defended.

9. bxc3 White opt to play it safe. After 9. … Bxc3 10. Qb3 (or 10. Ba3) White gains a powerful attack should Black take the rook in the corner. Add 1 bonus point if you knew or determined this.

9. … Be7

10. d5 White uses his center pawn to displace the enemy knight to the edge. That’s what you’re supposed to do when you get pawn control in the center.

10. … Na5

11. d6 Ignoring the attack on his bishop, White presses forward, attacking the enemy king-bishop and blocking Black’s d-pawn.

11. … Bxd6


The alternative, 11. … cxd6, devalues Black’s pawns and allows the sacrifice 12. Bxf7+ Kxf7 13. Qd5+ (2 bonus points) when White will have a powerful attack.

12. Re1+ White inserts a “free” check before deciding what to do about the attacked bishop at c4.

12. … Be7

Black is trying to avoid giving up his castling rights by not playing 12. … Kf8. It’s no good anyway because of 13. Bxf7!
(2 bonus points): (a) 13. Bxf7, when 13. ... Kxf7 14. Qd5+ Kf8 15. Bg5 Kf7(g8) 16. Qd5+; (b) 13. ... Qf6 14. Bh5 g6 (to stop 15. Re8 mate) 15. Bh6+ Kf7(g8) 16. Qd5+.

13. Bg5  
Par Score 6

White piles up on the pinned e7-bishop, and, in the spirit of the times, is willing to sacrifice a bishop or two. Take full credit for 13. Bxf7+, when 13. ... Kxf7 14. Qd5+ Kf8 15. Ng5 Qe8 16. Qxa5 results in a formidable attack.

13. ... f6

Black has no trust in 13. ... Ne6 14. Bxe7 Nxe7 15. Ng5. This line offers no hope if Black castles: 15. ... 0-0 16. Qh5 h6 17. Nh7.**

14. Bxf6  
Par Score 7

The bishop sacrifice busts up Black’s pawns and weakens the light squares leading to Black’s king. Add 1 bonus point if you had it in mind when playing 13. Bg5.

14. ... gxf6

15. Ne5  
Par Score 6

Ugh. White threatens 16. Qh5+ Kf8 17. Qf7 mate, so there’s no time to take either minor piece (1 bonus point).

15. ... h5

Here are a couple of lines to ponder. If 15. ... Kf8, then 16. Qh5 Kg7 (16. ... Qe8 17. Qh6 mate) 17. Qf7+ Kh6 18. Ng4+ Kg5 19. Qg7+ (a) 19. ... Kh5(h4) 20. Qh6+ Kxg4 21. h3+ Kf5 22. g4 mate; (b) 19. ... Kf4 20. g3+ Kf3(f5) with the bishop mating appropriately at d5 or d3. Add 3 bonus points for each of the two lines, if you worked them out beforehand.**

16. Qd5  
Par Score 6

White threatens 17. Qg6+, thereby inducing Black’s rook to leave the back rank. Equally good, though possibly dizzying, is the zig-zag 16. Qd5 Rf8 17. Qd3 f5 18. Qf3 Rh8 19. Qxf5.

16. ... Rh6

If 16. ... Kf8 17. Ng6+ Kg7 18. Rxe7+ Kh6 19. Qe3+ Kxg6 20. Qg3+ and mate next move (2 bonus points). Of course, Black can give up the queen by 16. ... Qxe7, but White will happily take it, 19. Nxe7.**

17. Qd5  
Par Score 6

17. ... Rh7

This delays mate, but that’s about it.**

18. Qg8+  
Par Score 6

18. ... Bf8

19. Ng6+  
Par Score 6

Other ways are 19. Bf7+ Ke7 20. Nc4 mate, or 19. Qg6+ Ke7 20. Nf7 mate. Accept full credit if you found either, and 1 bonus point if you found all three mating moves.

19. ... Re7

Or 19. ... Qe7 20. Qxf8 mate (1 bonus point).**

20. Bh7 mate  
Par Score 6

Full credit for either 20. Qxf8 mate or 20. Qf7 mate, and add 1 bonus point for finding all three final moves.

Black is mated. ✧
Winning with White

The Seattle Sluggers that played in the championship match: (l-r): Team Manager Eddie Chang, FM Marcel Milat, GM Varuzhan Akobian, IM Georgi Orlov, Roland Feng, Michael Omori, Josh Sinanan
Photo courtesy of Seattle Sluggers
IN THE JULY 2012 ISSUE OF CHESS LIFE, GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN AND WILLIAM FAULK WROTE ABOUT PLAYING THE BLACK SIDE.
THIS MONTH, THEY ADVISE OUR READERS ON THE FLIP SIDE, USING THE U.S. CHESS LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON AS THE CENTERPIECE.

A CRITICAL STEP FOR IMPROVING YOUR game is to increase your knowledge of the opening. This refers to a particular opening or to openings in general but with a focus on increasing knowledge of opening theory. Opening theory pertains mainly to the reasons underlying the best or text moves. The reason for this focus is that depth of opening knowledge is typically one of the most significant factors separating stronger players from weaker players and interestingly, even what separates a grandmaster from an international master.

In How to Think Ahead in Chess, I.A. Horowitz and Fred Reinfeld recommend that a less than advanced player choose, at least initially, a single opening as White. The rationale is to facilitate expeditious proficiency in at least one opening. Given the fact that White has the first move, he dictates and limits to a large degree, Black’s feasible responses. Whereas, Black must have a response to: 1. e4, 1. d4, 1. c4, and 1. f4 at least. With regard to less common openings, for example 1. b4, if Black possesses a sound knowledge of opening principles, he can often rely upon this knowledge to find sound responses to White’s quirkly opening without actually knowing it in detail.

Horowitz and Reinfeld also suggest adopting 1. d4, a queen pawn opening as Black’s feasible choices are more limited and fewer than they are against 1. e4. White’s move of the king’s pawn on the first move requires knowledge of, for example, 1. ... e5 and its many variations; the French and Sicilian Defenses each of which have several sound variations and a host of other defenses available to Black. The move: 1. c4 also makes for a game that can easily and quickly become very sharp especially tactically and in general makes for a less positional, quiet game than does 1. d4.

I concur with Horowitz and Reinfeld that settling upon a limited number of openings (ideally one) is a solid strategy to more quickly become stronger in the opening. If a player selects an opening and becomes intimately familiar with it, he is less likely to be overwhelmed with information and become discouraged. By focusing on only one opening, there is less to study. This in turn increases the speed with which one may become familiar with that opening.

The increased familiarity or knowledge the player possesses about an opening, that is, the more he knows about the theory involved, the text moves, the patterns that arise, the defender’s (Black’s) text/best moves, the more knowledgeable, confident and capable he tends to become with that opening. The net effect is that the player, using his or her “pet” opening, can perform at a level, at least in the opening, that is higher than indicated by his or her rating. It is important to note that many games are won or lost in the opening as it lays a foundation, good or bad, for the rest of the game. This is sound advice which I have adopted for myself as I open each game with the queen pawn.

However, if one is to preserve White’s advantage of the first move (and so the “attack”) he must avoid openings that eradicate White’s advantage. For example, the London System (in which White’s first three moves are: d4, Nf3, Bf4) is an easy opening to play for the player who does not want to study or become familiar with a large amount of opening theory. However, this opening and others like it (e.g. the Colle System) while solid, basically forfeit White’s opening advantage by allowing Black to equalize comfortably and with relative ease.

These openings may rightfully be called a “passive” opening and are not attacking openings consistent with preservation of White’s initial advantage and attacking chances. The London has been used by even the likes of Kasparov early on in his career; it is a “text” opening and there is no basis for denigrating it. Our criticism of it here pertains only to its failure to aggressively preserve White’s advantage bestowed by the first move.

To better understand White’s first move advantage, consider that the most recent research available regarding current opening theory demonstrates that, statistically, the Queen’s Gambit (1. d4 d5 2. c4), an attacking opening, offers White the best possibility for a win. This move combination may rightfully be deemed attacking, in that, c4 immediately contends for the center by hitting the d5 center square. Contrast these opening moves with those of the London and one can see that in the latter, normally no such attack is made on the center until later in the opening and after development is almost complete.

It should be noted that the best moves in the openings are “best” because they have been tested by the strongest chess engines and, more importantly, by the strongest human players. The best moves in a particular opening have been proven to secure an advantage. Other moves are
detrimental or at least less than optimal for one’s position; they fail to improve or sufficiently improve one’s position or cause it to become inferior. Another reason certain moves are best is that the ramifications of the advantages they bestow can extend far into the middlegame.

At the grandmaster level, having the white pieces constitutes a considerable advantage such that Black is typically trying to equalize and expecting to draw. White is able to dictate play as he starts the game with the initiative and has some control over what type of battle will ensue: positional or sharp. Having white allows a player to take full advantage of preparation and even a grandmaster is also generally significantly more confident with white.

My own results serve as evidence of the superiority of the white pieces when they are in the hands of a high-level player. My winning percentage is significantly higher when I’ve had white and this is true of most grandmasters. Grandmasters Kramnik and Aronian are particularly dangerous when they have the white pieces. They grab an advantage from the very first moves, are ever-pressing, impose pressures the knight on c4. It is important in this position for Black to activate his pieces else he remains in a bind due to the pawn wedge on d6.

25. Nfd2

This is an important move as I lack a better means to protect my knight on c4.

26. Qd5

Another active move on the part of my opponent.

26. Ne3!

This is another nice move—a discovered attack to win the bishop on a6 and it is the only means by which I can keep my advantage.

26. ... Qxd2 27. Bxa6 c4

This move is a virtual necessity for Black if he is to activate his dark-squared bishop. Another possibility was to play 27. ... Bg5 28. Rd1 Qc3 29. Nd5 Qb3 30. Qb1! and White has a nice advantage.

28. Nxc4 Nxc4 29. Bxc4 Bb6 30. g3

Creating light for the king and planning to place the king on g2 in order to avoid checks and tactical possibilities on the dark squares.

30. ... Qd4 31. Bd3

Even stronger is 31. Rc1! Qb2 32. Rc2. 31. ... Qc3 32. Kg2 Qc6+ 33. Kh3 Qc3 34. a4 Qd2 35. Kg2 Qe2 36. Bd5 Qd2 37. Bc4 Qc3 38. Qf4 Qc2 39. Rc1 Qg6 40. Rc3 Kh8 41. Rf3 f6 42. Bd3 Qf7 43. Qf5

Here I thought that my position was winning but I was low on time. Although I saw the winning move, the time pressure disallowed calculation of the variation in its entirety. 43. Qe4! Qg8 44. a5 A good move as it deflects the bishop on b6 from defending the a7-pawn which is no longer protected. 44. ... Bxa5 45. Bc4 Qh7 46. Qb7 White is winning, threatening to win the a7-pawn and, more importantly, the pawn on d7.

43. ... g6?! 44. Qe4?

Another missed opportunity for White to win immediately.

44. Qe4?

Still another missed opportunity for White to win immediately. 44. Qh3! h5 45. exf6 Bd4 46. g4 Qe6 47. g5 Qd5 48. Qg3 Be5 49. Qh4 White is just winning easily here because of the very strong pawn on f6 and the threat of Bxg6.

44. ... f5 45. Qh4 Kg7 46. Bc4 Qe7 47. Qe7+ Qxe7 48. dxe7 Re8 49. Rd3

The exchange of the queens leads to a very uncomfortable endgame for Black.

49. ... Rxe7 50. f4 Bc7 51. Bb5 Bb6 52. Bxd7

White is technically winning. My plan is to put the rook on d5 and bring the king to a6.

52. ... h5 53. Kf3 Kf8 54. Rd5 Kg7 55. h3 Rf7 56. a5 Bc7 57. e6 Re7 58. Kf3 Kf6 59. h4 Rh7 60. Rc5 Bd8 61. Kd3 Rh8 62. Rc8 Kg7 63. Ra8 Be7

Now White wins the a7-pawn because if 63. ... Bxa5 64. Rxb8 Kxb8 65. e7 and White will promote the pawn.


I was glad to win my first game of the season and help my team, the Seattle Sluggers, to win this match 3-1.

(see game on page 24)

Blumenfeld Gambit (E10)
GM Varuzhan Akobian (2697)
IM Mackenzie Molner (2511)

This game was played in the third week of the U.S. Chess League regular season. This was my first game so I wanted to help my team win the match.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 c5 4. d5 b5

As I prepared for this game, I noticed that my opponent prefers to play the Blumenfeld Gambit against 1. d4.

5. Bg5 exd5 6. cxd5 h6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Qc2 Be7 9. e4 Qg6?!

This is a very rare position given that all of Black’s pieces except the c6-knight are on the eighth rank. Also possible was 22. Rxb8 Qxb8 23. Qd5 Qb5 24. Bd3 and White is slightly better.

22. ... Ba6 23. Qf5

Activating my queen and attacking the pawn on d7.

23. ... Rxb1 24. Rb1 Na5

This is a good move for Black as he is the only means by which I can keep my advantage.

24. Rb6 Qb2

This is a very tempting move to make for the king and planning to place the king on g2 in order to avoid checks and tactical possibilities on the dark squares.

25. ... Qd4 31. Bd3

Even stronger is 31. Rc1! Qb2 32. Rc2. 31. ... Qc3 32. Kg2 Qc6+ 33. Kh3 Qc3 34. a4 Qd2 35. Kg2 Qe2 36. Bd5 Qd2 37. Bc4 Qc3 38. Qf4 Qc2 39. Rc1 Qg6 40. Rc3 Kh8 41. Rf3 f6 42. Bd3 Qf7 43. Qf5

Here I thought that my position was winning but I was low on time. Although I saw the winning move, the time pressure disallowed calculation of the variation in its entirety. 43. Qe4! Qg8 44. a5 A good move as it deflects the bishop on b6 from defending the a7-pawn which is no longer protected. 44. ... Bxa5 45. Bc4 Qh7 46. Qb7 White is winning, threatening to win the a7-pawn and, more importantly, the pawn on d7.

43. ... g6?! 44. Qe4?

Another missed opportunity for White to win immediately.

44. Qe4?

Still another missed opportunity for White to win immediately. 44. Qh3! h5 45. exf6 Bd4 46. g4 Qe6 47. g5 Qd5 48. Qg3 Be5 49. Qh4 White is just winning easily here because of the very strong pawn on f6 and the threat of Bxg6.

44. ... f5 45. Qh4 Kg7 46. Bc4 Qe8 47. Qe7+ Qxe7 48. dxe7 Re8 49. Rd3

The exchange of the queens leads to a very uncomfortable endgame for Black.

49. ... Rxe7 50. f4 Bc7 51. Bb5 Bb6 52. Bxd7

White is technically winning. My plan is to put the rook on d5 and bring the king to a6.
GM Varuzhan Akobian’s overall performance rating (PR) during the course of the 2012 U.S. Chess League season was 2748. From the white side, his PR was 2898 (three games); from the black side, 2449 (two games).
Queen’s Gambit Declined (D37)
GM Varuzhan Akopian (2697)
IM Jonathan Schroer (2414)

This game was played in round eight of the regular season and my opponent is an international master.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3
3. Nc3 allows 3. ... Bb4, the Nimzo-Indian Defense which I wanted to avoid.

3. ... d5

... and the game transposed into the Queen’s Gambit Declined.

4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bf4
Another main move in this position is 5. Bg5.

5. ... 0-0 6. e3 Nbd7
The main move in this position is 6. ... c5 but Black’s move has gained popularity in recent years.

7. c5 c6 8. h3

Usually, White plays 8. Bd3 to which Black may respond 8. ... Nh5 forcing the exchange of White’s strong dark-squared bishop. The move I selected allows me to keep the bishop by retreating it to h2. The following few moves are opening theory.

8. ... b6 9. b4 a5 10. a3 Ba6 11. Bxa6 Rxa6 12. 0-0 Qc8
Black wants to play ... Qb7 followed by ... Rfa8 planning to conveniently double his rooks on the a-file.

13. Rb1 axb4 14. axb4 Qb7 15. Qc2
This is an interesting position because Black appears to be relatively safe and without any significant problem. He has managed to exchange his bad bishop but the presence of the c5-pawn on the queenside restricts the movement of Black’s pieces and ensures that White will enjoy a long-lasting advantage.

15. ... Rc8
Slightly better would have been to play 15. ... Rfa8 followed by ... Qb7 as doubling rooks on the open file is natural and appears preferable here. It seems my opponent believed I would play 16. b5 Ra3 17. cxb6 c5! After this strong move Black is doing fine.

16. Rfc1 b5
Closing the queenside.

17. Ra1
Here, White is fighting for the a-file and is only slightly better.

17. ... Rfa8
Black hopes that I will capture on a6 but instead I continue fighting for the file.

18. Qb2 Bd8
Here, Black hopes to play ... Bc7 and exchange his passive bishop for my active dark-squared counterpart.

19. Nd2
After the exchange of the bishops, I plan to bring my knight to b3 and then to a5 putting pressure on the weak c6-pawn.

19. ... Bc7 20. Rxa6 Rxa6 21. Bxc7 Qxc7 22. Ra1
I continue my fight for the a-file.

22. ... Rxa1+?! I believe this is the first inaccuracy of the game. This capture surrenders the a-file to White. Black should have played 22. ... Qa7 23. Rxa6 Qxa6 24. Nb3. White has a slight advantage due to the strong c5-pawn and the pressure soon to be exerted by White’s knight on the c6-pawn once it occupies a5.

23. Qxa1 e5?
This is a serious inaccuracy because it allows White to activate his queen on a8 and virtually force Black to play ... Nb8 which leaves Black in an awkward position without counterplay and a very weak pawn on c6. Better would have been 23. ... g6 24. Qa8+ Kg7 25. Nb3 Ng8. White is clearly better though Black has some defensive resources.

24. Qa8+ Nb8 25. Nf3 exd4
If 25. ... e4? 26. Ne5 and there is no way to prevent capture of the c6-pawn which would precipitate the collapse of Black’s position.

26. Nxd4
Exerting more pressure on the c6-pawn.

26. ... Nfd7
Necessary to prevent the capture on c6.

27. f4!
GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN (2709) (4½/6)
Week 3: GM Varuzhan Akopian (SEA) versus IM Mackenzie Molner (ARZ) 1-0
Week 8: GM Varuzhan Akopian (SEA) versus IM Jonathan Schroer (CAR) 1-0
Week 9: GM Varuzhan Akopian (SEA) versus GM Vinay Bhat (SF) 1-0
Quarterfinals: GM Julio Sedorra (DAL) versus GM Varuzhan Akopian (SEA) 1-0
Seminifinals: GM Varuzhan Akopian (SEA) versus IM Mackenzie Molner (ARZ) 1-0
Championship: GM Sergey Erenburg (PHI) versus GM Varuzhan Akopian (SEA) ½-½
2012 MPP Points: 12
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2748

IM GEORGI ORLOV (2542) (4½/6)
Week 3: IM Mark Ginsburg (ARZ) versus IM Georgi Orlov (SEA) ½-½
Week 7: GM Julio Becerra (MIA) versus IM Georgi Orlov (SEA) ½-½
Week 9: GM Jesse Kraal (SF) versus IM Georgi Orlov (SEA) 0-1
Quarterfinals: IM Georgi Orlov (SEA) versus GM Conrad Holt (DAL) 1-0
Seminifinals: IM Levon Altounian (ARZ) versus IM Georgi Orlov (SEA) ½-½
Championship: IM Georgi Orlov (SEA) versus SM William Fisher (PHI) ½-½
2012 MPP Points: 6½
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2648

FM COSTIN COZIANU (2508) (1½/6)
Week 1: FM Cristian Chitila (DAL) versus FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) 1-0
Week 2: FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) versus GM Joel Benjamin (NJ) ½-½
Week 4: GM Giorgi Margvelashvili (BAL) versus FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) 1-0
Week 5: GM Ben Finegold (STU) versus FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) 1-0
Week 6: FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) versus GM Vladimir Romanenko (MAN) ½-½
Week 7: FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) versus SM Robert Perez (MIA) ½-½
2012 MPP Points: ½-½
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2367

FM SLAVA MIKHAILUK (2415) (1½/6)
Week 1: FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) versus IM Puchen Wang (DAL) 0-1
Week 2: GM Boris Gulko (NJ) versus FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) ½-½
Week 4: FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) versus IM Pai Aikidze (BAL) 1-0
Week 5: FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) versus IM Priyadharshnan Kannappan (STL) 0-1
Week 6: FM Kassa Korley (CAR) versus FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) 1-0
Week 10: IM Zhanibek Amanov (LA) versus FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) 1-0
2012 MPP Points: (1½)
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2265

FM MARCEL MILAT (2358) (1½)
Week 2: FM Marcel Milat (SEA) versus FM Carsten Hansen (NJ) ½-½
Week 6: IM Dmitry Schneider (MAN) versus FM Marcel Milat (SEA) ½-½
Week 10: FM Marcel Milat (SEA) versus IM Keaton Kiwra (LA) 0-1
2012 MPP Points: (2½)
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2286

FM CURT COLLYER (2277) (3/6)
Week 1: Artur Safin (DAL) versus FM Curt Collyer 1-0
Week 2: Vince Klemm (NJ) versus FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 0-1
Week 4: Aditya Balasubramanian (BAL) versus FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 1½-½
Week 5: IM Levan Bregadze (STU) versus FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 1-0
Week 7: FM Alex Rodriguez (MIA) versus FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 0-1
Week 10: FM Konstantin Kavutskiy (LA) versus FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 1½-½
2012 MPP Points: 3½
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2320

JOSHUA SINANAN (2253) (7½/10)
Week 3: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus FM Robby Adamson (ARZ) 1-0
Week 4: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus Richard Selzler (BAL) 1-0
Week 5: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus Andrew Shvartsman (MAN) 1-0
Week 6: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus FM Ron Simon (CAR) 0-½
Week 7: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus FM Andy Lee (SF) 0-1
Week 10: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus FM Eugene Yanayt (LA) 1-0
Quarterfinals: Artur Safin (DAL) versus Joshua Sinanan (SEA) ½-½
Seminifinals: Joshua Sinanan (SEA) versus IM Shakh Mohandes (ARZ) 1-0
Championship: FM Dov Gorman (PHI) versus Joshua Sinanan (SEA) 0-½
2012 MPP Points: 7½
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2490

MICHAEL OMORI (2161) (1½)
Week 7: Michael Omori (SEA) versus Nicholas Rosenthal (MIA) 1-0
2012 MPP Points: 2½
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2546

ROLAND FENG (2148) (2½/4)
Week 3: FM Pedram Atoufi (ARZ) versus Roland Feng (SEA) ½-½
Week 8: Craig Jones (CAR) versus Roland Feng (SEA) 1½-½
Championship: Roland Feng (SEA) versus IM Richard Costigan (PHI) 1-0
2012 MPP Points: 2½
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2353

PETER LESSLER (2140) (1½)
Week 1: Peter Lessler (SEA) versus Jonathan Chiang (DAL) 0-1
Week 6: Alex King (MAN) versus Peter Lessler (SEA) 1-0
Quarterfinals: Peter Lessler (SEA) versus Travis Guenther (DAL) 1-0
Seminifinals: Dipro Chakraborty (ARZ) versus Peter Lessler (SEA) 1-0
2012 MPP Points: (½)
2012 PERFORMANCE RATING: 2003

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Western Division

DALLAS (7 - 3)
GM Julio Sadorra (2580); GM Conrad Holt (2548); GM Cristian Chirila (2540); IM Puchen Wang (2523); FM Aluc Getz (2415); FM Jeffery Xiong (2347); Artur Safin (2327); Jonathan Chiang (2208); Daniel Gater (2174); Travis Guenther (1867).

ST. LOUIS (6 ½ - 3 ½)
GM Andre Diamant 2527; IM Priyadharshan Kannappan (2457); IM Levan Bregadze (2416); WGM Anna Sharevich (2366); WIM Carla Heredia (2292); FM Doug Eckert (2229); Nolan Hendrickson (2202); Nick Karlow (2127); Tony Rich (2102); Matthew Larson (1918).

ARIZONA (5 ½ - 4 ½)
GM Rogelio Barcenilla (2583); IM Mackenzie Molner (2499); IM Levon Altounian (2493); IM Mark Ginsburg (2416); IM Shahin Mohandesi (2399); FM Robby Adamson (2390); FM Pedram Atoufi (2297); Dipro Chakraborty (2211); WFM Amanda Mateer (2161); Isaac Martinez (2040).

SEATTLE (5 ½ - 4 ½)
GM Varuzhan Akopian (2709); IM Georgi Orlov (2542); FM Costin Cozianu (2508); FM Slava Mikhailuk (2415); FM Marcel Milat (2358); FM Curt Collyer (2277); Joshua Sinanan (2253); Michael Omori (2161); Roland Feng (2148); Peter Lessler (2140).

SAN FRANCISCO (4 - 6)
GM Jesse Kraai (2567); GM Vinay Bhat (2555); IM Daniel Naroditsky (2546); IM Dmitry Zilberstein (2472); IM John Donaldson (2402); FM Vian Liou (2354); FM Samuel Sevian (2299); FM Andy Lee (2273); Cameron Wheeler (2154); Kesav Viswanadha (2134).

LOS ANGELES (3 ½ - 6 ½)
GM Mekis Kachiani (2545); IM Andranik Matikozyan (2473); IM Zhanibek Amanov (2473); IM Keaton Kiewra (2436); WGM Tatev Abrahamyan (2401); FM Konstantin Kavuktsiy (2372); FM Michael Casella (2308); FM Harutyun Akopyan (2303); FM Eugene Yanayt (2301); Nicky Korba (2011).

MIAMI (3 ½ - 6 ½)
GM Julio Becerra (2612); SM Robert Perez (2474); FM Eric Rodriguez (2364); Jeffrey Haskel (2344); FM Fabio La Rota (2305); Ernesto Alvarez (2276); WFM Vladiena Ciubar (2146); Miguel Recio (2144); Nicholas Rosenthal (2102); Sam Silberman (2052).

CAROLINA (3 - 7)
FM Andrey Chumachenko (2433); IM Jonathan Schroer (2414); FM Kassa Korley (2353); Chris Mabe (2314); FM Ron Simpson (2288); Craig Jones (2249); Joshua Mu (2242); Carlito Agner (2288); Rahul Swaminathan (2197); John Timmel (2155).

PHILADELPHIA (7 ½ - 2 ½)
GM Sergey Erenburg (2679); IM Jay Bonin (2458); FM Tom Bartell (2416); SM William Fisher (2405); SM Peter Minear (2350); FM Dov Gorman (2294); IM Richard Costigan (2288); Troy Daly (2271); IM Karl Dehmelt (2263); FM Michael Shahade (2227).

MANHATTAN (6 ½ - 3 ½)
GM Vladimir Romanenko (2535); IM Eli Vovsha (2531); IM Dmitry Schneider (2522); IM Farai Mandizha (2498); IM Lev Milman (2464); FM Oleg Zaikov (2374); Andrew Shvartsman (2289); Andrew Ryba (2244); Alex King (2164); Shaun Smith (2044).

NEW YORK (5 ½ - 4 ½)
GM Tamaz Gelashvili (2720); GM Giorgi Kacheishvili (2681); GM Alex Lenderman (2665); GM Pascal Charbonneau (2565); SM Matt Herman (2394); FM Michael Bodek (2345); Justus Williams (2255); Alexander Katz (2222); Isaac Barayev (2027); Nicolas Checa (1942).

Baltimore (5 ½ - 4 ½)
GM Niclas Huschenbeth (2568); GM Giorgi Margvelashvili (2538); IM Teghshuren Enkhbat (2518); IM Nazi Paikidze (2461); GM Larry Kaufman (2459); Jared Deffbaugh (2325); Kevin Wang (2317); Adithya Balasubramanian (2302); FM Ralph Zimmer (2280); Richard Selzler (2216).

NEW JERSEY (5 - 5)
GM Alex Striupsnsky (2700); GM Joel Benjamin (2625); GM Boris Gulko (2587); IM Albert Kapengut (2374); FM Arthur Shen (2325); FM Carsten Hansen (2318); Christopher Wu (2268); Vincent Klemm (2080); Praveen Balakrishnan (2072); John Michael Burke (1963).

CONNECTICUT (4 ½ - 5 ½)
GM Robert Hess (2717); GM Mikhail Kekelidze (2521); IM Justin Sarkar (2454); SM Arslan Otchiyev (2423); Daniel Lowinger (2342); WIM Yuanling Yuan (2270); Ian Harris (2215); Joshua Colas (2198); Kapil Chandran (2175); Zachary Taenbaum (1850).

BOSTON (4 - 6)
SM Jorge Sambour-Hasbun (2608); GM Eugene Perelshteyn (2587); IM Steven Zierk (2531); SM Denys Shmelyov (2494); FM Kazim Gulamali (2443); Vadim Martinov (2362); Michael Vilenchuk (2306); Ilya Kraski (2246); Jake Miller (2118); Andrew Liu (2118).

NEW ENGLAND (3 - 7)
GM Sam Shankland (2651); GM Alexander Ivanov (2565); GM David Vigorito (2549); FM Charles Riordan (2438); FM Braden Bournival (2385); FM Christopher Chase (2377); IM Jonathan Yedidia (2365); Andrew Wang (2269); Ben Goldberg (2230); Bennet Pellow (2128).
This game was played in the ninth round of the regular season. We faced a formidable opponent in the San Francisco Mechanics. My opponent is also a grandmaster.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5

After approximately 10 minutes, I decided to play the Slav Defense Exchange Variation in order to obtain a slight but stable advantage. My decision was made over the board and not prior to commencement of the game. I was also acting upon my estimation that my opponent would be surprised by my choice as I play this variation only infrequently, perhaps 25 percent of the time.

4. ... cxd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bf4 Nh5

This came as somewhat of a surprise because the move is uncommon. By playing this move, my opponent avoids all of the main lines of this particular defense.


I am virtually compelled to play this move for if I play anything else, White is without any discernible advantage. This move also helps prepare f2-f4 which will allow me to gain the initiative.

12. ... Ne4

If Black plays 12. ... Na6 13. a3 and White has a nice advantage as Black’s knight is misplaced.


A good developing move for Black.

15. b5!

This move is very important because I must prevent Black’s bishop from reaching c6. If I allow the bishop to occupy this square, his otherwise passive bishop becomes very active. If 15. Qxe4?! Bc6 16. Qd3 Qh4+ and Black has activated his pieces and obtains good counterplay.

15. ... f5

This is necessary to keep the e-pawn.

16. exf6 e.p. Qxf6 17. Rd1!

This is another important move which is necessitated if White is to retain any advantage.

17. ... Qf5 18. Qc7

This is still another important move. I must delay completion of development in order to prevent Black from playing ... Rc8 and diminishing White’s advantage.

18. ... b6 19. Be2

Stronger would have been 19. Bc3! Qf7 20. Be2 Rc8. 21. Qe5 and White has a big advantage because of the huge lead in development and Black’s weak pawns.

19. ... Qc5 20. Qb7 Qd5 21. Qa6

Thought the move looks awkward, it is the means by which White can keep a significant advantage.

21. ... Rc8 22. Bc3?

This is inaccurate. Much better was 22. 0-0! Rc2 23. Bc3 Qxa2 (23. ... Qa8 24. Bh5+ Kd8 25. Rxd7+ Kxd7 26. Rd1+ Bd6

27. Qa3) 24. Qb7.

22. ... Qc5 23. Bd4!

At this point, I nearly lost my advantage. Stronger was 23. Bd2 and White retains his slight edge.

23. ... Qb4+ 24. Kf2 Rc7?

Here, Black misses an opportunity to play 24. ... Rc2! 25. Rhe1 Bxb5 26. Qxa7 Bxe2 27. Qa8+ (27. Rxe2?? Rxe2+ 28. Qxe2 Qxe2+ 29. Kf1 Bb4+ 30. Kf2 Qc2+ 31. Kg3 Qxd1 and Black is winning) 27. ... Kf7 28. Qb7+ Ke8 29. Qa7+. Had Black played this line, he could have drawn. However, the line is quite lengthy and very difficult to find in time trouble.

25. Rc1!

White is ready to sacrifice his queen in exchange for a bishop, rook and a very dominating position. Black would still be far behind in development and his uncastled king would face serious dangers.

25. ... Bc6 26. Rxc7 Bxa6 27. bxa6 Bd6

This loses the rook on h8 but a better move is hard to find because White threatens to capture the a7-pawn and White’s pawn on a6 is very strong as it threatens to promote. If 27. ... Be7 28. Rc8+ Bd8 29. Bxg7 Rg8 30. Bf6 and White is winning.

28. Rc8+ Kf7 29. Rxb8 Bxf4 30. Rc1!

This is still another important move. White brings his last piece into the game. Activation of this rook helps guard against movement of the e6-pawn.

30. ... e5 31. Rc7+ Kg6 32. Bc3

Gaining a tempo on Black’s queen and the rook on c7 is covering the c5-square disallowing its occupation by Black’s queen. Black had wanted this square for his queen in order to attack the e3-pawn.

32. ... Qb1 33. Rg8 Bxe3+

Black sacrifices his bishop in order to attempt to create some counterplay.


Black runs out of checks and resigns. I was happy to help my team to win this match and clinch a playoff berth.
Sweet Home Al-Ain

At the 2012 World Cities Team Championship in the United Arab Emirates, a team from Chicago takes on the world.

By GM BEN FINEGOLD

I was playing in the Motor City Open in suburban Detroit over Thanksgiving weekend when I got an e-mail from Chicago chess organizer Sevan Muradian: “Do you want to play in the World Cities Team Championship in the UAE [United Arab Emirates]?” I had read about this event a few weeks back, but normally, I do not get asked to represent the USA in international competition except as a coach. Also, why was Sevan, and not the USCF, e-mailing me about this event? Further, the event started in three weeks! I was puzzled.

Eventually the pieces of the puzzle came together. The USCF didn’t have money budgeted for this event and the organizers asked Sevan if he could organize a team. With less than a month to get a team together, this proved difficult, as most of the top American grandmasters already had plans (North American Open, Pan-Ams, maybe even spending time with family[!], etc.) There was also no money for appearance fees, so, that also made things difficult. Sevan did a tremendous job getting the players for our team on such short notice. I said I would play, but I told Sevan I wanted to be board four, so he should make sure I would be the weakest player. Sevan, in his own words, said it happened this way:

“I was contacted Thanksgiving Day by the organizer requesting to send a team from the U.S. because multiple attempts to the USCF went unanswered. I began contacting GMs at that late date unfortunately to be informed that many already had plans arranged given how close already to the holidays we were. Eventually I was able to get four grandmasters and had to secure sponsorship for the airline tickets which I was able to do (thank
you to the anonymous sponsor for [$12,000] in airlines tickets)."

After a few days it was clear Jaan Ehlvest and Robert Hungaski (who just got his last GM norm a month earlier) would be my teammates, and Sevan thought it was likely Var Akobian would play board one, and it turned out exactly that way. Although I am slightly higher rated than Robert I was still allowed to play board four, so things were looking up!

Some of you may wonder about me playing chess at all, especially if you read my Chess Life article a few months back on the 2012 National Open, where I announced my “retirement.” Well, things change, and one thing that changed quickly was which job I was retiring from! August 2012 saw my full-time employment at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis end, so I needed to play more chess. Let’s just say I “switched retirements.” This means I will be doing a lot more of everything chess-wise, including writing articles for Chess Life, you lucky readers. I have actually played in several tournaments in several states in the latter half of 2012, including Minnesota, Michigan, and Missouri (I guess I am only allowed to play in states that start with “M”).

When I told my friends I was likely going to the UAE, I would get blank stares. Quickly I realized I should just say “Dubai,” then clarify later that it was about 90 miles from Dubai, in the city of Al Ain. It turns out that approximately 80 percent of my friends have not heard of the UAE, but about 90 percent have heard of Dubai!

What did I know about Dubai from a chess point of view? Well, my first wife, Gina, played in the Olympiad there in 1986 (we were married in 1989, so this was before I was in the picture) and not only did she score well for the U.S. team, she was able to go see camel races. I guess women like camels, since my girlfriend really liked the pictures I sent with camels, and Var’s wife also wanted to see, and ride the camels! As it turned out, she was successful in both accounts.

I was a little skeptical about getting a visa in less than three weeks, but it turns out Americans just need their passport. Since I did not have holiday plans, going to a new country was an easy decision. Also, I saw the weather reports which indicated sunny and temperatures in the high ’70s and ’80s every day.

I met Sevan and his wife Yana at O’Hare in Chicago on December 19. We took a flight to Dulles (Washington, D.C.) and then the very long flight to Dubai (13 hours). We arrived December 20 and were taken by car to Al Ain. Luckily, we were staying at the best hotel, The Danat Resort, a five-star gem. The hotel was really fantastic, and had fabulous swimming pools, good Internet access, great food (probably the best breakfast buffet I have had the pleasure to sample). The tournament started December 21, so I had time to get some sleep, in the extremely comfy king-size bed with pillows galore, and acclimate to the time change.

Since there was no chess December 20, Var, his wife Lucy, Robert, and I all went sightseeing in Al Ain. Our first stop was the most important, as we went to the Camel Market. We saw hundreds of camels for sale and we took lots of cute pictures. We heard an interesting story about camel milk, and decided we had to try it, although we were warned it puts you to sleep for days! Then it was off to the mall, which was quite nice. Our taxi driver was quite colorful. We asked him about changing currency, and he offered to give us money to use in the mall, and to give it back to him later after he took us to a better currency trader. We did not take him up on his generous offer, since we did not want him to sit and wait for us for a few hours while we shopped. After the mall, we went to the top of the large mountain, Jebel Hafeet, where we could see all of Al Ain and even Oman! The road leading to
the top is actually quite famous, and has many twists and turns. It actually took about 25 minutes to get from the bottom to the top, and the views (especially coming down the mountain) were simply breathtaking. On another day we all went to the zoo. It was not a particularly great zoo, but, Lucy was able to ride a camel, so it was well worth the trip.

But enough about fun in the sun, what about chess? The World Cities Team Championship is a lot like the Olympiad, only smaller. The event had 24 teams, four boards on each. Unlike the Olympiad, the tournament was a “cities” tournament, not for countries. Our city was Chicago. It is a bit odd, since no country had more than one city, and it seemed unlike the players on each team were all from the same city, but hey, are NFL, NHL, NBA, and MLB players all from the same city? Also with team chess popular now in Europe and the U.S. (Bundesliga, U.S. Chess League, etc.), it is common for teams to be named from the city, but for many of the players to be from elsewhere.

The format of the tournament was quite interesting. There would be six round-robin (RR) groups of four teams each. After each RR was completed, the top two teams from each would go on to a knock-out (KO) phase. Also making it to the KO were the four best wildcard teams, allowing 16 teams to move on. Now, you may ask, what do the players on the eight teams do after they are eliminated in the RR phase? Ah, the organizers thought of that, and set up a Swiss tournament, with excellent prizes!

The Swiss event started when the RR team event began, and when players were knocked out of the team event, they would take their individual score and enter the Swiss tournament. Also, players that were knocked out in the KO phase did the same. So, theoretically, everyone had a chance to play nine rounds, and go for prizes in both events. Some strong players who were not in the World Cities Team started the individual tournament in round one, but, they were soon to be joined by a plethora of grandmasters who would get knocked out of the team tournament.

You could even argue that the team players were playing in two tournaments at once when they were playing in the team event, since their individual score would carry over once they were knocked out. This may have been a bit unfair to the players on board one, like Varuzhan Akopian. Var only had 1½ points after the four rounds we played in the team event, but his opponents were far stronger than mine for example, and I had 2 out of 4. But, I am getting ahead of myself.

The drawing of the lots was an interesting affair. Team Chicago ended up being in the RR group E with Kampala (Uganda), Tehran (Iran), and the overall number one seed Paris (France) team.

Team Chicago realized the most important match in the RR section would be against Tehran, since they were only slightly lower rated than our team. We were fortunate to play the teams in the order listed, so that if we had an accident with Tehran, we could still get in to the KO stage with an upset of Paris.

Ok, let’s look at some of the chess games. As I stated earlier, we played Kampala in round one, and we won 3½-½, as Ehlvest was held to a draw in a very complex Benoni. Robert had warned me about Ehlvest’s opponent (Robert thought he might play him in round one) as he had international master norms and seemed to be their best player. I was able to win my game employing an unusual opening and taking advantage of some adventurous play by my opponent.

English Opening (A10)
FM Stephen Kisuzo (FIDE 2150, Kampala)
GM Ben Finegold (FIDE 2498, Chicago)
World Cities Team Championship (1), 12.22.2012

1. c4 b6

Unusual, but I play it against lower rated players often, with good success.

2. g3 Bb7 3. Nf3 Bxf3 4. exf3 c5

Black tries to take control of the d4-square.

5. Bg2 Nc6 6. 0-0 g6 7. d3 Bg7 8. Nc3 Rc8

This move is a bit odd, but I wanted to play ... Nh6-d4. I thought if I played 8. ... Nh6 straight away, that he would take it, but he would be less likely to do so if he already moved his bishop. Maybe I think too much?

9. Be3 Nh6 10. Qd2 Nf5 11. Rad1 0-0 12. a3

A positional [k]nightmare! My opponent, for some reason, really wanted to play Bh6, but this is too much.

13. ... Nfd4 14. Bh6?

Losing a pawn.


35. ... Rd2! 36. Rbd1 Qxf1+ 37. Rxf1 Rxa2, White resigned.

Paris defeated Tehran 3-1 in the first round. I noticed early on that Paris seemed to be the only city that basically fielded their country’s Olympiad team. They would be tough to beat. They crushed Kampala 4-0 in round 2, but we also qualified to the KO stage, winning handily over Tehran by a score of 3-1. Early on it looked good for Ehlvest and Hungaski. I was fine with black out of the opening and forced a repetition, as things looked good on the other three boards. Var couldn’t make any headway with his very slight advantage, but Jaan and Robert both won, securing our place into the KOs.

The pawn duo decides
IM Robert Hungaski (FIDE 2469, Chicago)
GM Asghar Golizadeh (FIDE 2476, Tehran)
World Cities Team Championship (2), 12.23.2012

(see diagram next page)

28. ... Nc5

Hungaski played a nice positional game and was pushing his passed pawns to victory. Black tries to stop him by attacking
the Nc7 and Pa4, but Robert continues forth!

29. Rxc5! dxc5 30. Rxc5 Rfd8 31. a5
Black is helpless against the pawn duo, so he tries one last tactical trick. But Robert is up to the task.
31. ... Bxb5 32. Bxb5 Rd5 33. Ne8+! Rxe8 34. Rxd5 Ra8 35. Bc6!, Black resigned.

Now things got tough for our team! One of the first things I did when the groups were made at the opening ceremony was to try to figure out who we would play in the likely scenario that we came in second in our group. The drawing of the lots was not kind to Team Chicago, since not only were we in the group with the highest seed, but it was very likely we would play seed #2 in the first round of the KO!
We were placed in group E, and the pairings for the KO had the second place finisher in group E play the winner of group F. Well, the Dutch team (Hoogeveen) were likely going to win group F, and they had Anish Giri, Ivan Sokolov (winner of the 2012 World Open), Sergei Tiviakov (who beat World Champion Vishy Anand earlier in the year!), and Jan Smeets. I actually thought this team was a bit better than the
A Short Story

When I am hanging out with my chess friends, I like to tell “tall tales” about the short and the not so short. For example, Nigel Short is quite tall, and Mikhail Tal was quite short. Who is the tallest USCF-rated master? Easy, it’s Gregg Small!

While I was busy playing and preparing for my games, I noticed the aforementioned Nigel Short was playing board one for England. I see Nigel on occasion, although, not as often as I hope. How come? Well, my typical FIDE rating for the past 20 or so odd years has been around 2500. If I was 200 points higher rated, I am sure Nigel and I would bump into each other more often. On the other hand, Nigel was at my first wedding, and even won the tournament (Hastings, 1988-89).

My Nigel sightings reminded me of Walter Browne. When Walter played in top-level events, he made sure everything is “just so.” Joel Benjamin told me many years ago that this is a good thing—if you are concerned about the chess sets, clocks, tables, chairs, lighting, etc. and Walter is playing, then you have nothing to complain about, because you can rest assured Browne has already taken care of the complaining! Well, Nigel has similar qualities, and watching him “in action” is quite humorous (well, it was for me, maybe not for those in his line of fire). Nigel complained the bus was not leaving early enough, he complained the restaurant needed to stay open later, and when Nigel talks, it is not in quiet tones! It was good entertainment for the chess players to see Nigel in action.

Speaking of Nigel in action, let’s take a look at the end of his game with Bangladesh GM Niaz Murshed:

If you’re not winning, you’re losing

GM Niaz Murshed (2464, Dhaka)
GM Nigel Short (2692, London)
World Cities Team Championship (2), 12.23.2012

It is White to play here. White just sacrificed his bishop on f6. Black played 29. ... gxf6. After 30. Qxf6 how would you evaluate this position? Well, the answer is, Black is winning, but he needs to find the winning move, or he is losing. However, this did not occur. Why? Because Murshed resigned (!) instead of playing 30. Qxf6. (30. Qxf6 Qh2+!! Murshed must have seen this only after Nigel captured the bishop on f6. 31. Kf1 (31. Kxh2 Ng4+ 32. Kg2 Nxf6) 31. ... Qh1+ 32. Ke2 Rxa2+ And Black wins.

White was so sure Nigel would find 30. ... Qh2+, he resigned. Of course, if Nigel did not see this brilliant queen move, he would not have played 29. ... gxf6!

Paris team, so, I was hoping we would somehow beat Paris in the last round, and avoid playing the Dutch so early in the KO. Alas, it was not to be, as we lost 3-1 and Hoogeveen did win their section.

The sad part is we were better on all four boards at one point or another. Var had the tough task of playing the black pieces against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. They played an extremely tense Advance Caro-Kann, and Var simply played too slowly in the complex middlegame and could not figure out all the tactics in time trouble. Var told me afterwards that he was really not himself this event, being unsure and playing too slowly.

Jaan Ehlvest was better but could only draw against 2700-rated Laurent Fressinet. Robert Hungaski played the super-sharp Schliemann Variation of the Ruy Lopez against Romain Edouard. The game was back and forth, but Robert made an error in mutual time trouble and lost a worse ending. Unfortunately, I chose a bad time to be under the weather, was not feeling well at all, and forced a draw in a better position against Hicham Hamdouchi. I went back to my hotel room right after the game and watched my team from my bed.

The position was so complicated, so early, that Var used up tons of time. Already he was in mild time trouble!

14. Rg5

Black would have the advantage after the unusual 17. ... Be8! This threatens the h5-pawn, and in some instances allows Black to play ... axb5, since the ... Kc8 has the d7 flight square.

26. ... Rd8? 27. Bxh6 Nc4 28. Be3 Nxe5

White is only slightly better here, but Var had less than one minute to get to move 40 and simply cannot figure out all the tactics.

Caro-Kann Defense, Advance Variation (B12)

GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FIDE 2711, Paris)
GM Varuzhan Akobian (FIDE 2622, Chicago)
World Cities Team Championship (3), 12.24.2012

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. h4 h6 5. g4

Maxime is very much a fighting player.

5. ... Bd7 6. h5 e6 7. Nf3 c5 8. c3 Qb6 9. Be2 Nc6

Now the position looks more like Var’s beloved French Defense.


14. Nb5

The h-pawn decides. If 34. ... Qxf7 then 35. Re8+ and White checkmates.

Things could have gone either way in our final match. We lost 3-1, but the games were closer than the score. Akobian was fine against Giri, but then made a tactical error (once again with very little time on his
33. Rd6?! Rb8 34. Rd1 Ne6?

32. ... e5

I was slightly worse the whole game. Now Jan gives me a chance.

33. Rd6?! Rb8 34. Rd1 Ne6?

Black has good drawing chances with his active rook and knight.

35. b4 axb4 36. axb4 Nd4 37. Be4 d6 38. Rh1 dxc5 39. bxc5 Ne6 40. Bxe6 Kxe6 41. Rxd4 Rdh8 42. Rhx5 Rd2+ 43. Kg3 Rc2

44. Rh7!

I completely missed this excellent move.

44. ... Rxc5 45. Nc8 Bxe4

No better is 45. ... f5 46. exf5+ Kxf5 47. Rc7 Ke6 48. Na7.


So the event ended for us, and many other teams. There were a few upsets, but the most surprising was the top-seeded team from Paris losing (!) to the tough team from Baku. The most interesting team was the Chinese team from Wuxi (a suburb of Shanghai). The Chinese team had Wang Yue, a world class grandmaster, and three unknown players. However, this team was not so easy to beat, due to the

clock) and Giri won handily. Ehlvest was winning with black against Sokolov, but things slipped away in mutual time trouble and the game was drawn.

Hungaski was a real force for our team, playing all out to win and showing great spirit. He looked to have a big edge throughout against Tiviakov, but somehow Black held the draw in the longest game of the match. I was worse throughout against Smeets, but he gave me a chance to equalize in mutual time trouble, but I was not up to the task and instead played a losing continuation.

Chicago’s run ends
GM Jan Smeets (FIDE 2614, Hoogeveen)
GM Benjamin Finegold (FIDE 2498, Chicago)
World Cities Team Championship (4), 12.25.2012

This was one of the most fun events I can remember, on the chess board and off. I cannot thank Sevan enough for his support and willingness to get our team to the event. This was my first time representing the U.S. in a FIDE team event, and I really felt close to my teammates as we battled against other teams. The hotel was absolutely fabulous, and the unusual starting time of the rounds, 6 p.m., made it easy to be a tourist.

Finally, I would like to think the following people for their tireless efforts to make such a huge event go off so well: Mr. Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh (organizer), Mr. Casto Abundo (chief arbiter), Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al-Nehyan (president of the Asian Chess Federation, president of Al Ain Chess Club) and especially Sevan Muradian, who put the team together and three unknown players. However, this team was not so easy to beat, due to the

tiebreaking system used! First off, the Chinese lost one match and drew two in the round robin stage, but was fortunate to be a wildcard team to make the KO stage. The tiebreak used in case of a 2-2 tie in the KO was to give four points for a win on board one, three for board two, etc. Wang Yue can beat anyone on a given day, so beating them was not easy.

After the event ended for our team, Var, his wife Lucy, and I went to Dubai for a couple of days and had a lot of fun sightseeing. Robert and Jaan stayed on for the Open tournament, with Ehlvest finishing undefeated with 6½ points and tied for third place. In fact, Robert and Jaan were paired in the Open tournament with Jaan coming out on top.

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Sense of Presence

GM Timur Gareev, who has quietly snuck up to become the third-ranked U.S. player, shows why as he takes clear first at the North American Open

Story and Photos by IM IRINA KRUSH

Bally’s Las Vegas Resort had no trouble attracting players to the Continental Chess Association’s North American Open.
HE NORTH AMERICAN OPEN, which closes out every chess calendar year in the U.S., was particularly strong at this past December 26-30, 2012 event in Las Vegas, Nevada, drawing 16 grandmasters (for comparison’s sake, 2011’s version gathered only seven). As usual, there were a few foreign visitors; at 2670 FIDE, GM Chao Li from China came in as the top seed, while Norwegian GM Jon Ludvig Hammer ranked fourth.

It was quite a surprise to discover Chao Li amongst the registered participants—the major U.S. events regularly attract players from Russia, Israel, and the rest of Europe, but they’ve never been a draw for the Chinese, who prefer the big opens in Asia. China has many talented players, but because of their relative insularity, I’m sure many of our readers are not familiar with the name of Chao Li—even those who follow chess news closely.

I first got acquainted with Chao Li through the game Hou Yifan-Chao Li where he was on the winning side, from the 2011 Danzhou tournament. It was featured in a 'best games of the month' column on a Russian chess site, and it was quite striking how Chao Li demolished White’s king position based on a weak dark-square complex. This is a guy with tactical flair.

I saw more of his play this year in the Chinese Chess League when he faced my teammate Xiangzhi Bu, another of China’s top players. When I began watching, they both had around 10 minutes left for the game (with increment), and White started out noticeably better. But Chao Li showed he is extremely resourceful and outplayed Bu from a worse position. It was an up and down game, where the initiative swung from one side to another, and I remember thinking that these guys play better quality chess on increment than I do when I’m swimming in time! The game ended in a draw, but Chao Li’s dynamic defense made an impression on me.

Young (23 years old), who is professional and used to this time control (they use it in China as well), and possesses great calculating ability—I considered him to be a favorite.

Things were flowing smoothly for Chao Li for the first five rounds and he emerged with the tournament lead with 4½ points. His round-six matchup with Timur Gareev, who trailed him by half a point, was perhaps the most pivotal moment of the tournament. Here is the game, annotated by the winner.

**Queen’s Indian Defense (E15)**

GM Chao Li (2747)  
GM Timur Gareev (2758)  
Notes by Gareev


10. a3 Nc6

11. Ne5 a5 12. e3 d5

I was happy with the straightforward nature of Black’s moves. Black’s usual strategy would be to set the key pawns on black squares playing ...d7-d6 followed by ...e6-e5. That is due to an earlier swap of the dark square bishops. Black is now flowing with the position’s dynamics. White’s b1-knight is restricted. Black must keep up the pace to utilize the edge in development.


14. a4 Rad8 15. f4 dxc4 16. bxc4 Nxd4!

15. a4! Ba6 16. f4 dxc4 17. bxc4 Nb8 18. Nb2

A major strategic mistake allowing White to restrict Black’s counterplay. Better for Black is 14. ... bxa5 15. Qc1 (15. Nb1 a2 16. Rxa5 Nb4) 15. ... Nb4 16. Qxa3 dxc4 17. Bxb7 (White loses a piece with 17. Nxc4? Bxg2 18. Kxg2 Qb7+) 17. ... Qxb7 18. Nxb4 c3! was the move I missed in my calculation (18. ... axb4 19. Qxb4 cxb3 20. Nxb3 N5d5 is about even, but seemed better for White).

18. Ne5 Ne8 19. Rc1 f5

This is a nice technical decision, preserving the pieces from being attacked or exchanged. Right about here I considered my position strategically lost. The computer says Black is a little better. The position is unclear after 18. Ne5 Ne8 19. Qb3 N6d6 20. Rfc1 Rc7 Black has an opportunity to later target the e5-knight.

19. g4 Nh6 20. f5

Black restricts White’s potential cen-
trial takeover with e3-e4.


Also playable is 22. ... Nxe5 23. fxe5 Ng4.

23. Rc2 Rfc8 24. Rfc1 Bb7

Even after we swap the bishops White’s holes are not so easy to exploit. White directs the central knight to cover those nicely, although Black is happy to exchange pieces having less space.


The computer supports my play throughout and gives Black a little edge after 27. ... Qd6. The evaluation is not correct. White has more opportunities to maneuver and build up pressure. Black on the other hand has resources to maintain balance.

27. ... Kh8 28. h3 Ne8 29. g4 Nfd 30. g5 Qf7

31. Kg2 Qh5

32. Qd3 Nb7

A nice computer-like move, being proactive against the c5-break and potentially setting up a c5-knight sacrifice.

33. Nf3 Rd8 34. Qh3 Nf8

A multipurpose move covering e6 and potentially transferring the knight to g6.

35. Kg3

35. Nd3 followed by the c4-c5 break is the computer’s preferred way.

35. ... Nd6

White cannot conveniently advance on the kingside. Therefore the only other place to break on is the queenside.

36. c5 bxc5 37. Rxc5 Rxc5 38. Rxc5 Ne4+ 39. Nxe4 fxe4 40. Ng1

This is the first time the computer suggests a tangible edge for White.

40. ... Ng6

We now hit the 40 move time control. I noticed a couple of ways that Black was penetrating. I now felt like I finally seized the initiative in the game.

41. Rc1

My opponent missed his golden opportunity, and White gets on the defensive. Black must act fast to take advantage of this. White’s best continuation is 41. Qxe6! Qd1 42. Kh2 Nh4 43. Qxe4 b3 44. Re5 g6 45. Re7 Qc2+ 46. Qxc2 bxc2 47. Rc7 Nf5 when Black retains some drawing chances.

41. ... Rf8

41. ... c5 is a thematic break. 42. dxe5 h6 (42. ... Qh4+ 43. Kg2 Rd2+ 44. Kh1 is good for White due to Black’s eighth rank weakness.) 43. Qf7 hxg5 44. f5 Qh4+ 45. Kg2 Nf4+ with complications apparently leading to a draw.

42. Qc2

White continues with his cautious strategy covering the essential points of penetration. The past few defensive moves took Chao Li a lot of effort. I was now ahead on time 20 versus eight minutes with 30 seconds per move increment.

42. ... Qh4+ 43. Kg2

43. ... Nxf4+!

This is a natural sacrifice for pawns and initiative.

44. exf4 Qxf4 45. Re1?

Right about here Chao Li offered a draw. That certainly did not seem to be an option. White is down on time and has a wide open king. My e- & b-pawns are dangerous. 45. Qc5 seemed like the best continuation. 45. ... e5 46. dxe5 c3 47. e6 Qc4+ where Black is satisfied with a perpetual check.

45. ... e3! 46. Qe2?

Second mistake allowing Black to break through White’s defenses. 46. Kh1 was the best defense. 46. ... b3 47. Qd3 (47. Qxb3 Qe4+ 48. Kh2 Rf2+ checkmate) 47. ... b2 The computer is still holding on. Even then White would have faced a challenging task saving this game.

46. ... Qxg5+ 47. Kh1?

White could resist longer with 47. Qg4 Qd5+ 48. Nf3 Qa2+ 49. Kh1 Qf2.

47. ... Rf2, White resigned.

Irina mentioned she wanted to focus on the most competitive battles. I have a clear feeling as to what a chess battle represents to me. There has hardly been a time that I had a good feeling about making a draw without discovering the truth behind the position. In order to truly tap into your potential, you must let go of the outcome and immerse yourself in the game as it is unfolding. My killer final round results were a combination of focus, flow, and lots of good luck. Each one of the games I wanted to win more than my opponents. Even stronger than my desire to win was my curiosity to explore the game.

I’m struck by the resemblance of the previous game to our next featured one. In both games Chao Li had a space advantage and carried out an aggressive yet loosening expansion strategy on the kingside, which later backfired.

In round eight, my coach Giorgi Kachishvili was paired with black against Chao Li on board two. They were both half a point behind Timur, who won so quickly with black against Alejandro Ramirez that initially I thought their game had ended in a draw. A decisive result on board two would put the winner within striking distance of the leader going into the final round.

At the beginning of the tournament, I had told my coach that I wanted him to play Chao Li, but that in order to win, he’d have to play his very best. Why did I want him to play who I considered the most difficult opponent for him (both in terms of relative strength and for how their styles match up)? I guess because I wanted him to be forced to show his best. The more difficult the opponent, the more you have to dig out from your inner reserves.

There might be some exciting shows in Vegas, but I’m sure nothing can surpass the battle between the Chinese “panda” and Georgian “wolf” that took place on the evening of December 29th. My own game finished relatively early, so starting from move 30 until the end, I observed it firsthand.

Sicilian Defense, Moscow Variation (B52)

GM Chao Li (2747)
GM Giorgi Kachishvili (2698)
North American Open, Las Vegas (8), 12.29.2012

We looked at the game briefly when it was over, so my notes incorporate some of Giorgi’s comments.

1. e4

Apparently Chao Li can open with either hand; he played 1. d4 against Timur.

1. ... c5

Aha, the pawn moves up a square further than usual.


A favorite line of the Chinese.

3. ... Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 Nf6 6. Qe2 Nc6
7. Rd1

7. ... e6?! 

Giorgi was very hard on himself for this positional lapse, calling it “unforgivable.” He underestimated the bind he was about to get into. 7. ... Rc8! is the move he realized he should have played. The main point is that Black hasn’t committed himself to ... e6, so 8. d4 is not a problem at all—Black will take and play ... g6, getting a very comfortable position. And on 8. c3 e6 9. d4 cxd4 10. cxd4 d5 11. e5 Ne4 again we see the power of the rook on e8, because the typical 12. Ne1 fails to (12. Be3 Be7 13. Ne1 f6 14. f3 Ng5 Black is also totally fine.) 12. ... Nxd4! I’m sure not everyone will appreciate the tragedy of substituting a normal looking move like 7. ... e6 for 7. ... Rc8, but these types of decisions are normally his bread and butter and this one misstep led to many moves of passive suffering. The computer shocked us by suggesting 7. ... g5! with the point that on 8. Nxg5 Black follows with 8. ... Nd4 and 9. ... Qg4 or 9. ... Qg8 winning depending on White’s response. Well, ... g5 wasn’t taught in any positional handbooks from the last century—maybe from the twenty-first.


White avoids the exchange of pieces before setting up a Maroczy bind structure. Also 11. e5 is now a threat.

10. ... Qc7 11. c4 

Giorgi said he didn’t think White would be able to hold this setup with the pawn on c4 (after all, there are already two potential attackers on the c-file), but by move 15 it becomes clear that White can indeed hold his space advantage.


The pawn is safe as is shown from the following variations: 14. ... Qxc4 15. Nd5; 14. ... Nxc4 15. Nb1 with b3 to follow.

15. b3 0-0 16. Nd4

Here’s the outline of what we will be seeing for the next 20 moves. We’re going to skip over the subtle hedgehog maneuvering and pick up when the action accelerates closer to the time control.
In the Arena / 2012 North American Open


Pushing those kingside pawns is a double-edged strategy.

36. ... Nc5

I'd say the past couple of moves have seen more useful maneuvering from Black than from White. White's made himself vulnerable to the ... b7-b5 and ... f7-f5 pawn breaks.

37. Re1

Black has counterplay after 37. a5 f5.

37. ... b5 38. cxb5 axb5 39. a5 b4 40. h4

Yes, White's definitely overextended himself a bit, but Black's natural final move before the time control largely forgives him.

40. ... Qc6

The computer recommends 40. ... Ra7 with advantage to Black.

41. Ned4 Qb7

Another small mistake, 41. ... Qa8 was stronger, but it's a human instinct to want to control the b5-square.

42. f5 exf5 43. Nxf5 Re8 44. Rd4 Ne6

44. ... Ne5 or 44. ... Rc6 were alternatives to giving the d6-pawn away.

45. Nxd6 Bxd6 46. Rxd6 Rc3 47. Rd3 Rc5

This move seemed strong to me after Giorgi played it, but now Chao Li finds a powerful continuation. I was thinking about 47. ... Rxc8??, for example, on 48. Red1 Black has 48. ... Nc5!.

48. h5!

Never underestimate the usefulness of pushing back your opponent's pieces.

48. ... Ng8 49. Ne5!

(see diagram top of next column)

This was the nice find from Chao Li—using the h-pawn to gain the e5-square for the knight. I didn't like how things were going, because it looked like White would either get to keep the a5-pawn or Black would lose the Exchange. Well, technically that's not the case, but the position is still tricky.

49. ... Qa8

It looked like 49. ... Rxa5 was impossible because of 50. Nc4 but Black can slip away from the loss of material with 50. ... Ra2 51. Nc4 Qb8! and the pin to the Bh2 keeps White from capturing on e8. This is of course how Black should have played to keep the balance, but Giorgi missed the ... Qb8 idea.

50. Nc4

The knight has reached a great outpost, and Black is down a pawn. The only source of hope for Black is those overextended pawns on the kingside ... there is always hope when the king is weak. The computer suggests the ... Nh7-g5 maneuver and says that Black has compensation. But Giorgi made an unusual decision to lodge the rook there instead.

50. ... Rg5!? 51. Qf3 Nc5 52. Rde3 Nfe6 53. Rd1

Through these last moves, you can feel that Black is close to the edge, that he's holding on, but not by much...

53. ... Rd8 54. Bd6 Qc6 55. Re1!

Putting the rook on a safe square, and defending against Black's ... Nxb3 idea.

55. ... f6 56. Kh2 Rc8

Renewing the ... Nxb3 idea.

57. Nb6 Rd8 58. Nc4 Rc8

Well, it was unlikely that White would repeat moves here. However, what the computer shows as his only try to retain an advantage is nearly impossible to find, especially with little time. The computer suggests taking on c5 and then some Qg3 move, but it's still unclear. So practically speaking, Black is back in the game.

59. Kg2 Nxb3

Finally Black carries out this idea.

60. Nb6

White was counting on this move, but it happens to lose ... It was time to bail out with 60. Qxb3.

60. ... Ned4

60. ... Nbd4! was the right knight: 61. Nxc8 Qxc8 62. Qe3 Nc2 but honestly it's hard to tell the difference with a few minutes on the clock.

61. Nxc8 Qxc8 62. Qf4 Qc3+ 63. Qe3 Qc8 64. Qf4 Qc3+ 65. Qe3 Qc8 66. Qf4

So here's an interesting moment. The position is super sharp, but Black has the initiative. They were both down to a minute or two, and Giorgi gave some checks to gain time. They actually repeated the position thrice, and White offered a draw (he missed his chance of claiming it). I kind of thought maybe Giorgi had had enough of excitement, and since there was nothing clear and no time, he'd take it. But he used his remaining time and found a way to play on for a win, proving that he's a real wolf!

66. ... Nc2! 67. Re2

The computer says 67. e5 and White can make a draw. It's really like the game with Gareev—White has some defense but it's basically impossible to find with so little time on the clock.

67. ... Nb4

This knight dance was the point. Now Black forces White's rook to leave the e-file, and we shall soon find out why this is important ...

68. Red2

(see diagram top of next column)
that Chao Li pointed out after the game. Just a little deflection, and attacking the most juicy square in White’s position. Everything falls apart because White can’t hold g4. Alas, in the heat of battle these simple things are missed.

69. Kf2

Well, Black would have had an advantage after 69. Rd3, but Giorgi blundered this simple king retreat, and his initiative is starting to run out. It was clear that things had turned in the wrong direction.

69. ... b3!

Black is no longer better, but this counterplay at least keeps the balance.

70. Rd3 Qc4

This is a big mistake; let’s just say it’s not a good idea to get yourself pinned on the fourth rank. Chao Li immediately seizes his opportunity. 70. ... Qxa5 was possible and good, because Black is winning after 71. Rxd4 Nxd4 72. Rxd4 Qa2+ 73. Rd2 b2 and the b-pawn marches on.

71. e5!

It was looking bad. I didn’t think Black could recover.

71. ... b2!

Counterplay with the b-pawn is the only chance.

72. exf6 gx6f 73. Qe4!

I kind of prefer giving “exclams” to question marks. But really, these guys had no time, and there was a lot of resourcefulness in the attack/defense.

73. ... Qc8

I liked this move. Turns out it is completely losing in more ways than one—White can just take the knight on d4—but it entices White to try a plausible winning plan that ... doesn’t win.

74. a6

White deflects the queen with the idea of Qe8+.

74. ... Qxa6 75. Qe8+

Finally Black is no longer losing. 75. Rc3 would’ve won for White.

75. ... Kh7 76. Bf8

(see diagram top of next column)

Still looking dangerous, but Black has:

76. ... Qxd3! 77. Rxd3 b1=Q 78. Qe7+ Kg8 79. Bxh6

After all is said and done, White has enough to make a draw.

79. ... Rxg4 80. Qe8+ Kh7 81. Qd7+ Kxh6 82. Qxg4 Qe1+ 83. Kg2 Qe2+, Draw agreed.

Black offered a draw as after 84. Qxe2

Nxe2 85. Rd6 Nf4+ 86. Kf3 Nh3 87. Rxf6 Black can’t win with two knights versus king.

Both players had obviously given a lot of themselves during this game, though Chao Li gamely went up to sign for the blitz tournament that was about to begin (he won). As for Giorgi, I’ve rarely seen him so happy, though maybe it was just the battle-induced adrenaline rush. Still, when you’re at that level of adrenaline, it’s probably the happiest the game of chess can ever make you.

It wasn’t clear what the final round pairings would look like; I think Giorgi prepared for every possibility except the one that happened. Timur was a point ahead of Chao Li, Giorgi, Sam Shankland and John Bryant and due white. At some point that morning, Giorgi, discounting the possibility of a head-to-head encounter with Gareev, and not expecting him to lose with White against whomever he was paired with, said that it would be the first time he wouldn’t win the North American Open (he won in 2008 and 2010). But getting a consecutive black, he was paired with Gareev, and his fate was in his own hands. However, his remark proved prescient. Eschewing the prospect of a long fight in a slightly better endgame that he thought White should be able to hold, he went for an overaggressive pawn sacrifice that Gareev refuted with precise play. And so—Timur Gareev won the 2012 North American Open with the extremely convincing score of 8/9 (defeating his last five opponents, including four grandmasters!)

I sat down with Timur and asked him to talk about what he thought produced this great result. But really, when you interview a person, at least for me, you’re trying to figure out, what makes this person tick, who are they? Timur is easy to talk to, genuine with his time and seems to genuinely want to express himself in his answers. There’s no need to drag anything out of him because he’s already willing to share it. In that sense, he is the ideal interviewee. Just be prepared for the particular vocabulary of Timur’s world! If the words ‘inner game’ and ‘sense of presence’ leave you with a blank stare, you might have some trouble following his ideas, so it’s good to ask for a translation every once in a while.

Timur said that people tend to focus on results, but for him, the result is a side effect. He expressed surprise at having done so well, but acknowledged that he was a lot more “committed” to this tournament than he had been to others. He attributed his success to a “solid outer game”—good nutrition, exercise, and, I suppose, chess preparation would go into this category as well—and a “strong inner game” which he explained was the “inspiration and drive you get from your vision.” He stressed the importance of adding a sense of presence to each of your decisions, which evidently he was able to do throughout the event, and said that this state of presence gives you greater focus and the ability to think outside the box. He went with the flow in his games, taking the position as it was.

Staying positive and happy is a big thing for Timur, and he strives for “happy” to be his default state of mind. As I spoke to him, I could feel that despite having just won close to $10,000 with a fantastic result, he was pleased but not elated at this particular “side effect”—he seemed more inspired talking about the things that helped him reach it.

His positivity was palpable, and knowing how hard it is to maintain that state, you can’t help but admire someone’s conscious striving for it. When I asked Timur what he’s been doing the year and a half since he’s finished his studies at the University of Texas at Brownsville, he said, “getting inspired!” Among the many conduits for this inspiration he mentioned yoga, dance, improvisational theatre, skydiving, riding his motorcycle, spending time in nature, and attending Anthony Robbins empowerment seminars. Apparently, inspiration combined with a sense of purpose leads to great things!

Clear second place in Las Vegas went to 21-year-old FM John Bryant, from Tehachapi, California, with a 7/9 score, a wonderful result that would usually be good enough for a share of first. It also merited John a second win. He stressed the importance of adding a sense of presence to each of your decisions, which evidently he was able to do throughout the event, and said that this state of presence gives you greater focus and the ability to think outside the box. He went with the flow in his games, taking the position as it was.

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I overheard a funny dialogue just prior to the start of the final round. Sam Shankland was passing by John on board three, and helpfully asked, “Did you calculate if you make a norm if you lose?” Sam’s friend and roommate Jon Ludwig Hammer was John’s opponent. To which John replied...
decisively, “I don’t know, but I don’t plan on losing.”

John’s confidence bode well for him—despite having the black pieces against a strong grandmaster; he played an aggressive opening, the Benoni, and won a convincing game. He seemed particularly pleased at having employed the Benoni, an opening his opponent’s roommate had expressed disdain for in the past. He said he didn’t do anything special before the event, just came relaxed and ready to play.

**Modern Benoni (A61)**

GM Jon Ludvig Hammer (2702)
FM John Daniel Bryant (2525)


John mentioned that this move, stopping White from playing a4—a5, had been an important inclusion. Later on Black is able to push his queenside pawns.

17. f4 Nf7 18. Bd3 Nf6 19. Qc2 Qb7

An important inclusion. Later on Black is able to push his queenside pawns.


Besides this game, John also had nice victories over GMs Alexander Shabalov and Mikhail Kekelidze.

23-year-old Zhanibek Amanov also scored a grandmaster norm with 6½/9 and won the Under 2500 prize. Clearing up the confusion once and for all, Zhanibek is not a relative of Chicago GM Mesgen Amanov! (This is obviously one of the first questions I asked him). They are even from different countries, though from the same region: central Asia. Zhanibek came to the U.S. from Kazakhstan two years ago on a student visa. He studies at a business school in Los Angeles, and said he might go for a master’s degree in the future.

Zhanibek is one of those rare birds in chess: someone who took up the game in adolescence rather than childhood, and still became good at it. He learned the rules when he was five or six, but that was it—he preferred more active sports to chess, like kickboxing. Eventually, though, his father became worried that he’d be injured in kickboxing, and urged him to switch to a safer hobby. When he was 14, he saw an ad for chess and only then began his pursuit of the game. Five years later, he was an international master. Moreover, he’s essentially self-taught, having studied by himself and with the computer.

Zhanibek, like everyone else, was surprised he performed so well, not having done any special preparation for the event, although he’d warmed up at the Metropolitan Invitational the week before. He felt like some of the grandmasters he won against underestimated him, which is a typical way for a lower rated player to pick up points. He pointed to his game against Hammer from round five, where he drew with black, as a critical point, giving him the confidence to believe he could make a norm here.

**Nimzovo-Indian Defense, Rubinstein Variation (E43)**

GM Jon Ludvig Hammer (2702)
IM Zhanibek Amanov (2435)


White is setting some tricky problems here.

17. ... hxg5!

The point is that on 17. ... Rxe5 18. f4 Re8 19. Bxh6 gxh6 20. Qxh6 White’s attack looks very dangerous.


A solid effort by Black. I can see why it gave him confidence. He neutralized White’s bishop pair and initiative quite easily, despite his opponent’s inventive play.

As for your author, my attempt at creativity in the final round did not quite work out, and I finished with 5/9.

**Creative, but falling short**

IM Irina Krush (2541)
GM Dmitry Gurevich (2560)

22. ... Re6

I thought White must be winning here, and all I had to do was calculate it out. The most natural move is 23. Nxe7 but I couldn’t find more than a draw there. Finally, I had to give it up and decided to make a ‘clever’ preparation for this sacrifice.

23. Bxe5


23. ... Nb2
27. Rf3

I thought it was impossible for Black to take the rook because of 24. ... Nxd1 25. Rxd1 (Black also fares well versus the alternatives: 25. Qxd1 Kxg7 26. f5 Qd4; 25. Nxe6 Nf2+ 26. Kg1 Nh3+ 27. Kh1 Qg1+ 28. Rxg1 Nf2 mate) 25. ... Kxg7 26. f5 Nxe6 27. f6+ Kxf6 28. Rf1+ and Black was supposed to be losing the e5-rook, but what about 28. ... Ke6? I am just down a rook here!! Oh, how awful to miss 28. ... Ke6!.

26. Rg1 Rg6

The knight is safe because of 26. ... Kxg7 27. f5 Rxe5 28. Rg3+ Qxg3 (28. ... Kh7 29. Qg4! Qxg3 30. Qxg3) 29. Rg3 Be4 31. Nxg6

27. Rf3

The idea is to defend the f4-pawn before retreating the knight. My planned 27. f5 fails to 27. ... Rxf3!! 28. Rxf3 Qf1+ 29. Rg1 d4+ and mate soon.

27. ... Qd2 28. Nf5 d4 29. Nh4

No better is 29. Rg3 Qxf4.

29. ... Kg7

This Exchange sacrifice is a little extravagant, and definitely not forced. I was expecting 29. ... Re8 which was probably a better idea. The position is dynamically balanced.

30. Rg3 Be4 31. Nxe6

It looks like Black has good compensation for the Exchange with the strong bishop and d-pawn, but with correct play I could’ve come out with an advantage. Instead, in time trouble I let it all slide downhill.

31. ... fxe5

It seems like Black could've just taken this pawn. 34. ... Qxe5.

32. Qg4?

32. e6! Qxf4 33. Qd1! appreciating, or even noticing, this move requires some help from the computer. 33. ... Qe5 (Black loses material after 33. ... d3 34. Rf5 Qf5 35. e7 Re8 36. Rf1 Qe5 37. Re1) 34. Qd4 allows White to swap the e-pawn for d-pawn in many lines which leave me with a nice edge.

32. ... Qxf4

Here I noticed that the intended 33. Qd7+ Rf3 34. Qxd4 loses to 34. ... Bxg2+. Well, that is a big oversight. I’m still not worse though. I could have exchanged queens and played Rf1 with the idea of Kg1. Even what I played, 33. Qd7+ is okay.

33. Qd7+ Rf7 34. Qd8

Better is 34. Qe8.

34. ... h5
A Promise For Tomorrow

In future support of the work of the U.S. Chess Trust, I want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of services by the U.S. Chess Trust.

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☐ Making an outright gift to the U.S. Chess Trust during my lifetime in the sum of $__________.

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BRIAN DAVIS LOST THE GAME HE SUBMITTED (below)—but, judging from his notes, he’s already learned a lot from it! I was especially impressed by Brian’s frequent evaluations of positions which occurred either in the game, or in variations Brian analyzed. The ability to evaluate such positions is a very important ingredient of chess strength. Try to build it up! (My further comments are in italics).

Wrote Brian:

I enjoy your “Back to Basics” and would like to submit an analyzed game from a correspondence tournament I’m currently in. It was a loss, but it was very instructive for me to look at; hindsight is 20/20 but in this case it was beneficial. White played very well. My rating and my opponent’s are between 1700 and 1800.

When I was stationed in North Carolina at Camp Lejeune while serving in the Marine Corps I played at the United Servicemen’s Organization (USO) with the local club, run by Jeff Walsh. An international master, Tim Taylor, would occasionally show up. He agreed to give me lessons and required me to analyze my games, especially my losses. Following the 2½ months of lessons, I had a gain of over 100 points.

Taylor’s advice was very good.—L.A.

King’s Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E90)

Tom Chromczak
Brian Davis
2011 Golden Knights

1. e4 d6 2. d4 c6

(see diagram top of next column)

More common here is 2. ... Nf6—the Pirc Defense.

3. c4 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Nc3 Nf6

A King’s Indian type position.

6. h3

This is a move to allow Be3, preventing the f6-knight from harassing it at g4.

6. ... 0-0 7. Bd3

7. ... e5

Offering what looks like a free pawn; 8. dxe5 dxe5 9. Nxe5. But 9. ... Nxe4—see analysis diagram below—

8. d5 cxd5 9. cxd5

In the classical King’s Indian (with Nf3) it is usually White who strives to exchange the c-pawns (by playing c4-c5 and then c5xd6); here, the exchange was done by Black and on Black’s time. This alone should make White’s position slightly better (+/= in Informant-speak). Black must be both careful and inventive here not to descend down to really “worse” territory. My choice here will be mostly between 9. ... Ne8 (asking for 10. g4) or the more ambitious (and quite risky) 9. ... Nh5—but Brian’s 9. ... Nbd7 would also be considered.

9. ... Nbd7 10. Be3 Ne8

Prepares the ... f7-f5 break/attack and protects d6 and c7 from invasion by the knight at c3.

With the queen’s knight already on d7, 10. ... Ne5 11. Bc2 a5 deserves serious attention. Note that Bxc5, leaving Black’s “King’s Indian” bishop unopposed, shouldn’t be dangerous for Black.

11. 0-0

(see diagram top of next column)

11. ... Kh8

Slow and made from fear of threats on the white square diagonal a2-g8 following the ... f7-f5 break, related to the f3-knight plaguing Black via Ng5 to Ne6 requiring my white-squared bishop to capture and weakening my white squares for an offensive by White. Looking back, I believe
I mixed up two ideas and should have played ... h7-h6 and ... Kh7. As you will see, I only imprisoned the king.

Here, too, my first move to consider would be 11. ... Nc5. After 12. Bc2, f5!?

12. Qd2 f5 13. exf5 gxf5 14. Bg5 Bf6

This move allows White to dictate where my pieces are going to be. Another hallucination (analyzing this game I see that I allow myself to react to imagined threats instead of calculating and determining my best response) this time of a foray by White, attacking f5 with the bishop on d3 and 15. Nh4 but if 14. ... Nd6 15. Nh4 then 15. ... e4 and the d3-bishop will have to move and the h4-knight will be on the rim. (14. ... Nd6 15. Nh4 e4 16. Bc2 with equality.)

15. Bh6

Not 15. Bxf5 Bxg5 16. Nxg5 Rxf5 and Black is off the hook. 15. Bh6 continuing to dictate where Black’s pieces will end up. Now because the f5-pawn is really hanging, 15. ... Bg7 must be played.

Not so: 15. ... Ng7 was possible—and good.

15. ... Bg7 16. Bxg7+ Nxg7 17. Bc2 Qf6

Brings the queen over to cover g5 and e6, and to protect f5.

18. Ne2 Rg8 19. Qf5

19. ... f4

Here was my second to last chance of recovering from a worsening position. 19. ... Qxg5 20. Nxg5 Rf8 (a good move and not a “perceived” loss of tempo) 21. Ng3 Nb6 or 21. Ne6 Rf7 22. Ng3 Nb8 with equality.

In the second line, after 21. Ne6 Rf7 (relatively better is 21. ... Nxe6) 22. Ne7 Rb8 23. Nb5 wins a pawn. Black’s best was 19. ... Rf8, freeing the d7-knight to move and which would allow, for example ... Ne5, ... Bd7 and ... Rac8 completing his development (an attack on the g-file is a daydream).

20. Nc3

Immediately bringing the knight back around to the hole at e4 or potentially to b5, threatening d6 or gaining a tempo via 22. Ne5 Rb8 23. Ne6.

Black’s concessions of 19. ... f4 are both real (e4-square, activated c2-bishop) while his games are illusionary (the g-file attack).

20. ... Ne8

Last opportunity to keep the game close was by 20. ... h6, i.e. 21. Qxh6 Nxh6 22. Nh4 (threatening a windmill with the knight by 23. Ng6+ etc.), then 22. ... Rd8 and equality.

Not exactly equal—but still Black’s best.

21. Qh5

Game over! Mate is threatened. Not quite after 21. ... Qe7 Black is still worse, but not immediately lost.

21. ... Qg7

Threatening mate, but without substance.

22. NQ5 Rf8

The only move to stop 23. Nf7+, and a last-ditch effort to make White show the correct move.

Of course, the knight is untouchable because of 23. Qxh7, checkmate.

23. Nxe7, Black resigned.

For a long time this game vacillated between “slightly better for White” and “almost equal.” Then Black erred three in a row, on moves 19 through 21. After 19. ... f4, White got the e4-square for his knight and, even more importantly, the open diagonal for his c2-bishop, now eyeing the black king. A calm 19. ... Rf8 keeps the game almost even.

Then 20. ... Ne8 (errors often come in pairs) missed a chance to exchange queens—giving White a strong attack. It seems that Black put too much hope into his likely attack over the g-file (In fact, it’s rather highly unlikely—look at the diagram after 21. ... Qg7 to compare White’s real and Black’s phantom attack). White finished with a bang: 21. Qh5 and then 22. Ng5.

A useful tip: Not all threats are created equal.

Send in your games!

If you are unrated or were rated 1799 or below on your Chess Life (CL) label, then GM Lev Alburt invites you to send your most instructive game with notes to:

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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.
Pawn Down

Being a pawn down in the ending, while not desirable, is not necessarily fatal.

By GM PAL BENKO

WHEN YOU’VE ARRIVED IN AN ENDING a pawn down, you must vigilantly fight while looking for an escape route. By doing so, you make your opponent’s task harder while he likely hopes to simply nurse his advantage. There is always the chance that they will lose focus or patience—and mistakes happen. This is true of even top players, as you will see below.

Endure!
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2795, RUS)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2848, NOR)
4th London Chess Classic, 2012

A long, hard defensive task lays in front of Black since his b7-pawn is merely a permanent target.

19. ... Qd7 20. Qb3 Rfc8 21. Bb2 Qd6

More active is 21. ... Qc6+ followed by ...

22. Rb1 Rc5 23. Rb6 Rc6 24. Rxb7

A courageous pawn has no fear of the pin.

24. ... Rb7 25. Qxb7 Rb6 26. Qc8+ Qf8 27. Qd7 h5 28. e4

After 28. Rc1 Rxb2! 29. Rc8 Rxe2 30. Rxf8+Bxf8 the black position would be a nut too hard to crack.

28. ... Qd6 29. Qe8+ Qf8 30. Qd7 Qd6 31. Qxd6 Rxd6 32. Rd1 f5

It is advisable to trade pawns to weaken Black’s pawns.

White naturally keeps trying to make the extra pawn a winner but Black defends accurately and persistently.

34. ... Rb6 35. Bc3 Rb3 36. Ba1 Kf7 37. Kf3 Ke6 38. h3 Bh6 39. Ke2 Bg5 40. Rg1 Bh6 41. h4 Kd6 42. Rd1

The position after 42. g4 Bf4 is holdable for Black.

42. ... Ke6 43. Rf1 Rb4 44. Rd1 Rb3 45. Rg1 Kf6 46. Kf3 Ke6 47. Rd1 Kf6 48. d4

White plunges into action, but not at an optimal moment. There is no winning plan to be forged from this raw material.

48. ... Re3+ 49. Kf2 Rxe4 50. dxe4+ Kf5 51. Rd7 Kg4 52. Rd6 Be3+ 53. Kf2 Bf4+

53. ... Bc5+! 54. Kd3 Re3+ 55. Kd2 would also result in a draw.


Looking at the original diagram, one can say that every last drop of possibility has been wrung from it.

Resist!
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2848, NOR)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2775, IND)
4th London Chess Classic, 2012

(see diagram top of next column)

The game is about equal.

March 2013 | Chess Life
Stunning but wrong. Simply retrieving the pawn after 46. ... Ra1+ 47. Kd2 Nxf3+ 48. Kc3 Ng5 gives equal chances.

47. Rd7+ Ke8 48. Rb7 Kd8 49. Nd5

A plausible move but either 49. Kc1! Nxf3 (49. ... Rxf3? 50. Ra4 wins.) 50. Kg7 looks formidable with a mate threat in the air; 49. f4 was better.

49. ... Ra1+ 50. Kd2 Ra2+

Much worse is 50. ... Nxf3+, since 51. Kc3 Ra3+ 52. Kb2 Raa6 53. Rf7 wins.

51. Rb2

White had no time to examine the complications after 51. Kc1?!

52. ... Rxb2+ 52. Rxb2 Nxf3+ 53. Kd3 Ng5 54. Rb8+

Chases the king to a safer place. There were better chances offered by either 54. Rb7 or 54. Rb5.

54. ... Kd7 55. Rb7+ Kd6 56. Nxf6 Ra6

The activity of the black pieces is now satisfactory compensation for the pawn.

57. Ne8+ Kc5 58. Rc7+ Kb4 59. Rb7+ Kc5 60. Rc7+ Kb4 61. Rb7+, Draw agreed.

Time: White 38 seconds—Black 38 minutes. Despite missing his winning chances in this game Carlsen won the tournament and has reached 2861, the highest ever in the history of chess ratings.

Hope!
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2815, ARM)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2760, USA)
World Mind Games, Beijing 2012
(see diagram top of next column)

Momentarily, Black has three extra pawns. White’s hope is in the opposite color bishops. Sometimes material must be given back to make progress.

53. ... e4?!

Surprisingly the better move was 53...

61. ... Bh5?
SUPERNATIONALS V—THE MEGA SCHOLASTIC CHESS EVENT and the largest of its kind in the world—returns to Nashville, Tennessee, aka Music City, this April 5-7.

The quadrennial event, which drew more than 5,000 young players during the last go-round in 2009, promises to deliver an abundance of opportunities for upcoming players—from beginners to masters—to prove their mettle on the 64 squares.

GM Robert Hess, 21, a two-time SuperNationals winner, describes the tournament as a “fantastic experience” and the “ultimate team event for youngsters.”

“Thousands of kids of all ages and skill levels compete in the same place, at the same time, with the same goal in mind,” Hess said. “That goal is to play the best chess possible.”

Hess—who led his team, Stuyvesant High School in New York, New York, to victory at the SuperNationals IV in 2009 by winning all seven rounds in the K-12 section—achieved grandmaster status just days later. He credits his first experience at the SuperNationals II in Kansas City, Missouri, where he won the K-3 section, with playing a pivotal role in his chess career.

“For me, the first event was much more important to my chess career, as it proved to me that I was a great chess player,” Hess said of SuperNationals II, held in 2001.

Similar stories are expected to play out at SuperNationals V, which is set to take place at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center.

“This is such a special event that it not only attracts considerably more players than the three spring nationals combined, but it also seems to better attract the stronger players,” said Bill Hall, Executive Director of the USCF. “This is the largest chess tournament under one roof in the world.”

It also promises to be one of the most exciting. In addition to the hundreds of trophies that will be up for grabs in the 20-section tournament, so will $15,000 in scholarship money.

The events heat up April 4, one day before the actual tournament, with bughouse and blitz tournaments, and a 40-board simultaneous exhibition by chess celebrity GM Alexandra Kosteniuk.

The venue—the Gaylord Opryland Hotel—offers a variety of family-friendly activities. A copy of the In-Room Directory, for instance, lists an arcade, indoor and outdoor heated pools, and a nearby renowned golf course. It also lists a series of free fountain shows that take place hourly in the evening, and Mississippi-style flatboat rides along a ¼-mile indoor river.

For those with time to venture offsite or go downtown, shuttle rides—either free or at a discounted price for tournament-goers—carry riders to a variety of attractions, including the Wildhorse Saloon, the General Jackson Showboat, the Grand Ole Opry, and the Ryman Auditorium.

Downtown you’ll also find a Laser Quest, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, and Cumberland Park, a multi-use play park, and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

For additional information on things to do downtown, visit www.nashvilledowntown.com and click on the “PLAY” tab.

For details on the SuperNationals V, visit uschess.org/tournaments/2013/snv/ or see the TLA section, page 53.
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<td>GM Tamaz Gelashvili</td>
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<td>GM Alexander Ivanov</td>
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<td>FM Thomas Bartell</td>
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<td>GM Alexander Stripunsky</td>
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<td>GM Nikola Mitkov</td>
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CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES!
FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!

2nd: $2,500 | 3rd: $1,000
4th: $900 | 5th: $800
6th: $700 | 7th: $600
8th: $500 | 9th: $300
10th: $200

Trophies Plus:
IT’S NOT JUST A TROPHY.
IT’S THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT.

Proud sponsor of USCF National Scholastic tournament awards since 1999.
Proud sponsor of the USCF 2007-2012 All-America Team.

PHOTO: CHRIS BIRD

315 W. 1st St., Templeton, Iowa 51463 | 800.397.9993 | www.trophiesplus.com
CHECK OUT USCFS'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

$800 FIRST PRIZE
(PLUS TITLE OF USCFS'S GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH - ENTRY FEE: $25

These USCFS Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCFS members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those USCFS members with an APO or FPO address. USCFS members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCFS membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCFS 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.

2013 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship

$800 FIRST PRIZE
(PLUS TITLE OF USCFS'S GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH - ENTRY FEE: $25

These USCFS Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCFS members with e-mail access. Your USCFS 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

Name ___________________________ USCF ID# ___________________________
Address _______________ City _______________ State _______________ ZIP ____________
Phone __________________________ E-mail __________________________ Est. Rating ________
Credit card #: (VISA, MC, Disc., AMEX) _______________ Exp. date _______________
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 DOUBIS, USCFS, PO BOX 3967, CROSSVILLE, TN 38557

USCF’s 66th ANNUAL Chessmagnetschool.com 2012 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRANDPRIX FINAL STANDINGS

Name State Pts.

LUI, BRIAN WA 5419
HEIBRUR, JACK E NY 5363
GANES, VIKRAM CA-N 5200
TANEBAUM, ZACHARY CT 5284
HARRON-VELLOTTI, CARL ID 5262
DASARI, SRITHRA GA 5227
OBB, ABDISHEK TX 5191
BANDY, ROHIT CHAUDHRY TX 5165
KRISHNAN, JAY CA-S 5146
WANG, MICHAEL CA-N 5143
ZHILL, RICHARD TCA-S 5143
GERICH, THOMAS M WI 5119
SHIN, JAE MO 5103
LUD, MAGGIE VA 5088
BUZEK, JAN WA 5083
SHUFIN, WILLIAM NC 5076
KING, KENNY PAUL AK 4922
MARKIN, ARDEN QUINLAN AL 4903
CHIKKAL, SRIKIR AR 4854
ENG, RAVCHEL AZ 4829
SENTHILPAWARA, PRANAY CA-N 4804
PETERSSEN, DANTE CA-S 4896
HERMAN, REBELLA CA 4896
JULUS, MATTHEW CT 4827
GUCKMAN, DANAY DC 4823
KAPARA, ARUBKAARR DE 4800
WU, HENGY FL 4754
BALACHANDRAN, NITHIN CA 4750
WONG, NICHOLAS NAKOA HI 4750
SALEEM, ARSHAA IA 4756
HARRON-VELLOTTI, LUKE ID 4750
TURSUG, AYON IL 4751
EGAN, MAX IN 4838
ALBIT, AGRAM P KS 4745
LIU, HENRY DE 4749
HONG, JASON ZHANG CA-N 4542

Name State Pts.

URBACH, ANNE E WI 1260
HOPFMANN, EVAN CA-S 1154
MADDEN, KERRIGAN CA-S 1017
ABE, MAHRO NY 9295
PATEL, ADITYA WI 7690
VLI, JENNIFER R VA 7516
ASARA, CHANDAL NI 7267
KOBEL, VISHAL WI 7266
LIU, ADIDYER WI 6928
PROLOSE, JULIAN MO 6924
MEHTA, MOLLIKA WI 6915
GHRIT, SANJAY GA 6998
HARI, YACASSA PA 6896
GOTT, ARSHITA VA 6863
PAPAGEORGIOU, EFTHYMIOS NY 6796
CAO-DAC, VIHAN VA 6698
GROO, SATTUVAI CA-N 6577
SIRIVAN, RAHUL CA-N 6497
GO, MAXIMILIAN OH 6355
PATTANUK, NEHA VA 6006
KOTTHAPPEL, TANISH TN 5950
AVIRIPALI, SANTHANUSIRI GA 5888
PURUSHO, SITKAN IN 5788
UANG, RAREM WI 5753
WANG, ANDREW WI 5731
TAYLOR-BRILLI, SETH NC 5694
TANG, CHARLES CA-N 5628
CHOW, COLUM CA-N 5591
DER MANUELIAN, HAK OLIVER WI 5579
DOMAKAPPATI, MAHA VA 5547
ZENG, SHEENA KS 5507
DOMAYK, ARCHIT CA-N 5483
LI, HENRY DE 5479
HONG, JASON ZHANG CA-N 5452

Name State Pts.

LUI, BRIAN WA 5419
HEIBRUR, JACK E NY 5363
GANES, VIKRAM CA-N 5200
TANEBAUM, ZACHARY CT 5284
HARRON-VELLOTTI, CARL ID 5262
DASARI, SRITHRA GA 5227
OBB, ABDISHEK TX 5191
BANDY, ROHIT CHAUDHRY TX 5165
KRISHNAN, JAY CA-S 5146
WANG, MICHAEL CA-N 5143
ZHILL, RICHARD TCA-S 5143
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BALACHANDRAN, NITHIN CA 4750
WONG, NICHOLAS NAKOA HI 4750
SALEEM, ARSHAA IA 4756
HARRON-VELLOTTI, LUKE ID 4750
TURSUG, AYON IL 4751
EGAN, MAX IN 4838
ALBIT, AGRAM P KS 4745
LIU, HENRY DE 4749
HONG, JASON ZHANG CA-N 4542
USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

2013 U.S. Junior Chess Congress  March 23-24 • Burlingame, California
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. 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 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship  December 27-29 • Lubbock, Texas
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 • Orlando, Florida
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  TBA • Nashville, Tennessee
2021 SuperNationals VII  TBA • 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, West)
2013 U.S. Class Championship
2013 National Youth Action (NYA)
2013 U.S. Game/15 Championship
2013 U.S. Game/60 Championship
2013 U.S. Action G/30 Championship
2013 U.S. Masters Championship
2013 U.S. Junior Closed

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:

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

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.
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF Members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TULAs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total.

SUBMISSIONS: If possible e-mail your tula to tula@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tula deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 Chess Life pg 50 and 51 or check uschess.org/go/tulainfo. Payment can be done online through the TULAffiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

USCF Membership Rates

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Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bi-monthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online access only to Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids; a tournament announcement newsletter will be mailed to adults bimonthly and to scholastic members three times per year. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life for Kids, other lists above monthly Chess Life. See uschess.org for full details. Discounts are not available for members who choose to categorize. Disputes are not refundable and may be changed without notice. (Ages at expiration)
Tournament Life / March

17th annual MID-AMERICA OPEN
March 15-17 or 16-17, Clayton, MO (Saint Louis)
$16,000 projected prizes, $12,000 minimum guaranteed

5 rounds, 7 sections, play only those in your section. Choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule, both merge after rd 2. Prizes based on 200 paid entries (re-entries & U1200 sections count half); 75% each prize minimum guaranteed.

Open Section: Prizes $2000-1000-600-300, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus, top U2200 $900-500. FIDE rated, 80 GPP.
Under 1800 Section: $1300-700-400-200. Unrated limit $800.
Under 1600 Section: $1200-600-300-200.
Adult Under 1200 Section (born 1994/before): $300-150-100, trophy to first 3, top U1000. Unrated limit $150.

FULL DETAILS: see "Grand Prix" in this issue or chesscomptour.co.uk.

Чесс Магнат Сchool Junior Grand Prix!
MAY 15-17 OR 16-17, MISSOURI
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)
17th annual AMERICAN OPEN
550, 0/2, 50/1, 1/5 (6-day option, rds 1-2/5, 6/5), Under 1200 Sections play March 16-17 only, 10/1, 5/1, Crown Park Hotel Plaza St. Louis, 2300 S. Creve Coeur Lane at Clayton Rd., Clayton, MO 63105, PO Box WU-92 1 Ex 332, 1/2 miles north on Hanley Rd $10, 15,000 based on paid entries (re-entries to U1200 Sections count half), minimum $72,000 (75% of entries) guaranteed. In 7 sections: Top 2000-1000-60/300, clear/tiebreak win $1000, top 1st on $1800-1000-600, 2nd: plaque $700-500, 3rd: plaque $350. FIDE. Under 1200 (200/one/both): $300-150-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated. Adult Under 1200 (born 1994/before): $300-150-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600. Unrated. Prize limits: Unrated may not win over $150 in U1200, $350 U1400, $600 U1600, or $800 U1800. Top sections EF: $350 online at chessaction.com by 3/13, $10, plated on 406-896-2038 by 3/13 (entry only, no questions), $3-day $115-30, 2-day $112-50, $130 online until 2 hours before game or at site. GM free, $90 deducted from prize. U1200 Sections EF: $147 online at chessaction.com by 3/13, $50 plated on 406-896-2038 by 3/13 (entry only, no questions), Adult $55, Junior $52 mailed by 3/6, $60 online until 8 a.m. 1/2 point bye available. Online EF $5 less to McMahon Chess, Allen- tutor; Adult $121, Junior $91. Free USCF membership if paid with entry. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com. Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $90, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20. Re-entry $60; not available in Open Section. 3-day schedule: Top 2000, U1800-600-300-200. 2-day U1400 & up schedule: Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds Sat 11-3, 2:30 & Sun 6, 9:30 & 12:30. U1200: $100 online at chessaction.com by 3/13, $10, plated on 406-896-2038 by 3/13 (entry only, no questions), Adult $55, Junior $52 mailed by 3/6, $60 online until 8 a.m. 1/2 point bye available. Chess sets and boards provided for tournament play only, not for skittles. Please bring chess clock! THE LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL features the National Open, the US Game/10 Championship, the National Youth Championship, the World Open, the Sectional Championship, and other events. Many free extras and surprises! Free parking. Free raffles with great prizes. Free GM Lectures. Free GM analysis of your games. Grandmaster Chess Camp for all ages on Thursday, U.S. Game/10 Championship and Grandmaster Alex Lenderman Simul Thursday afternoon. Youth Tournaments Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Bitez Tournaments Saturday & Sunday, Poker Tournament Monday morning. Don’t be shut out — make your reservations early and be sure to get the dates — for the Chess Rates — $62 or $62 double (BFR Friday and Saturday night) guarantees a Saturday night and breakfast, flat screen TV and more. The complimentary resort package includes access to the Crescent Bay Atrium and its 10,000 square feet of game rooms, 4 pools and much more with no additional cost only if you are in our group. Cutoff for special hotel rate is May 16th, 1-800-634-7553 or (707) 734-5110 or on line at www.vegaschessfest.com. Venue: Las Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0253, on line at www.VegasChessFestival.com or fax at (702) 933-9112. Info. (702) 550-0593 and leave a message. NS, W, FIDE.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAR. 15–17 OR 16–17, TEXAS
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10
Lone Star Open
SSS, (Open Section is G/90, I/30, and FIDE rated; all other Sections are G/120, d/5), Free entry for GMs and IMs (EF deducted from winnings). SIDE EVENTS: (School, Team & Ind., SSS, G/30, d/5, 1-day, Sat. Mar. 16-17; SSS, Multi-Event, “CAJUN Knock-Out” Sat., night after Rd. 3). Separate rate for school. Players - A trophy or medal will be awarded to each school. DoubleFee by Hilton, 157-74 JFK Blvd., Houston (281-848-4000), 5 Sect., PRIZES: $10,000-$100,000 paid out. OPEN: $1,500-$600-$300-$200-$1200; $700-$400-$300-$200-$100; $1800; $1000-$200-$100-$50. $400-$300-$200-$100. **Unrated players may only win $501 of the prize fund except in the Open Sect. where they must pay full EF and are eligible for full prize fund. Sch. Sects. (Team & Individual) - K-2, K-5, K-8, K-12. Prizes: Trophies to top 5 individuals & top 3 teams in each section (more indiv. trophies depending on pre-entries). Every non-trophy winner receives a souvenir chess metal. Prizes: First place players as they wish from the same school in the same section but must have a minimum of 2 players to be considered a team; the top 3 scores will count for final team score. Scholastic players may play in both adult and scholastic tournaments by registering for both tournaments (either 2-day or 3-day schedule in the adult tournament) and taking a 1/2-pt/bye for Rd. 2 in the adult tournament. USCFC-recommended computer tiebreaks will decide trophy and medals for winners of all sections. Free chess clock to oldest player and to player who travels farthest to adult tournament. CAJUN BOUNTY: Defeat the top rated player and win free entry to next tournament! EF: $79 by 3/8; $89 at site; UNR (1600) and JRA (under 19 yrs of age and playing in U1200 or U1600 Sections) $49 by 3/8; $59 at site. Schol. EF: $25 per half for 3/8; $25 at site; Re-Entry Fee: $25 (avail. up to Rd. 4; 3 re-entries or 2 Jr. entries count as one additional entry for fund prize). 3-day Schedule: Reg. Fri. 5-3:30-7pm, Rds. Fri. 8pm, Sat. 2-7, Sun. 10-3, 2-day Schded: Reg. Sat. 8-8:30am, Rds. Sat 9-2, Sun. 10-12. Both schedules merge at Rd. 2. Sch. Schded: (All 5s) Rd. 70—day only day, Sat., Mar. 16, Reg. Sat. 9:30am-12:30pm, Rd. 1 at 1pm; Other Rds will follow immediately. Byes: Avail. all Rds. (commit before Rd. 3). HfRs: $84 for single or double; $99 for triples; $109 for quad (281-333-9000), reserve by Feb. 29 and mention Cajun Chess tournament to assure group rate. ENR: On-line registration, printable entry form, and more detailed info at www.cajunchess.com, or mail entry form to Cajun Chess, 12055 Highway Stp Dr., Branch, MS 38654, Info or Phone Ext: 504-208-9569 or 504-905-2971. Major credit cards accepted (no checks at site). FIDE.
MAR. 16, NEW JERSEY
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10
Dr. Luzviminda Machan Open #19
4-5s, G/40, G/10. EF: $40; members $30, U1600 less $5, GMs frees ($25 deducted from prize). Trophies to U1800, U1400 and Biggest Upset. Rds.: 1-3; 3.5, 5:00; 6:15-6:45 pm. 2 byes available, commit prior to game 2. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: http://www.chessmatesnj.com, 732-499-0118.
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 guaranteeing prizes. You might even make a profit! Either a based-on Swiss with projected prizes up to $500, a Quad format, or a 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!
Tournament Life / March

10:21-6:30, Sun, 10:21-15. One print page available in r 1, Z, 3, 4 or 6 requested.
Please join us again this year, at the 14th Annual

Bruce Bower Memorial Chess Tournaments March 30 & 31, 2013
at the Hotel New Yorker

for the year’s friendliest chess event! PLEASE NOTE that the SCHOLASTIC will be on Saturday this year and the GRAND PRIX on Sunday.

See TLAs for details. We look forward to seeing you again.

Email queries to: bowbyew@yahoo.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
MAR. 23 OR 24-25, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
Sterling Chess March
Hampton Inn & Suites Doves, 2270 Holiday Park Dr., Sterling, VA 20166.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
SacO Open
A Maine Chessplayer of the year event! Hampton Inn Saco/Biddeford, 48 Industrial Park Rd., Saco, ME 04072.
3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 2.
Rds: Sat/Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10
Dr. Lusitomba Mabula
Bona Vista, 2320-2300
100% GUARANTEED, other sections 80% b/30 total
Top 7
$$b/30
3-day Under 1100:
4-day Under 2300 to Under 1300:
(Open only): enter Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 10-1, 2 & 6, Mon 10 & 2.
5 Rd Swiss, G/90; d5.

Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel
610 1st Avenue
Wheeling IL 60090.
Free parking. In sections:
Open: $1000-5000-2500-1200-1000-600-400-300-200-100, clear or tiebreak first 200 bonus, top FIDE U2500 and U2000, $500-$300-$200-100-50. Tiebreaks for first to 3, top 9 U1000, U700, U500,
Unrated limits: U1000 $400, U1300 $800, U1500 $1200, U1700 $1600, U1900 $2000, U2100 $2500.

If any post-event rating posted 5/20/12-5/20/13 was more than 30 pts over section maximum, limit $1900.

Westin North Shore Hotel Mountain Inn
610 1st Avenue
Wheeling IL 60090.
Free parking. In sections:
Open: $1000-5000-2500-1200-1000-600-400-300-200-100, clear or tiebreak first 200 bonus, top FIDE U2500 and U2000, $500-$300-$200-100-50. Tiebreaks for first to 3, top 9 U1000, U700, U500,
Unrated limits: U1000 $400, U1300 $800, U1500 $1200, U1700 $1600, U1900 $2000, U2100 $2500.

If any post-event rating posted 5/20/12-5/20/13 was more than 30 pts over section maximum, limit $1900.

See previous issue for TIAs appearing March 1-14

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10
Okoboji Reserve:
5SS, G/40/d5.
5/23-27 (norms possible), 24-27, 25-27 or 26-27, Westin North Shore Hotel
1000 PRIZE and NOT CONDITIONALLY GRANTED
Free lectures & analysis by GM John Fedorowicz, $30 entry for IMs, WGMs (fee from prize)
APR. 20, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6
Walter Muir Memorial

APR. 21, NEW JERSEY
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event! 23rd Massachusetts G/60 Championship
APR. 21, MASSACHUSETTS
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)
APR. 21 - 23, CALIFORNIA, WEST
2013 Massachusetts G/60 Championship. Open to 1499 & under. $$GTD: $500-200-100, Top U2400/under, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600 each $100. EF: $50, members 25%. Slow-rated, but higher of reg or quick USCF rating used for pairings & prizes. FIDE Blitz Rated! Entry: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. $15 service charge for refunds.

APR. 26 - 28 OR 27-28, FLORIDA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50
South Florida Chess Open
APR. 29, 30 - MAY 1, 2013
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
APR. 29, 30-31, 2013
www.tristatechessclub.com
San Diego Chess Club
2225 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101, 619-238-7196
www.marshallchessclub.org.

APR. 3, 2013
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6
Walter Muir Memorial

GOLD AFFILIATES
Cajun Chess
7230 Chaebourne Drive
New Orleans, LA 70126
504-208-9596
cajunchess@yahoo.com

Chess Club and Scholastic Center
4576 Maryland Ave
St. Louis, MO 63106
314-361-CHES
info@stlouischessclub.org
www.stlouischessclub.org

Continental Chess Association
PO Box 298, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.
845-496-9858
chestour@aol.com
www.chessstour.com

Dallas Chess Club
200 S. Cottonwood Dr. Suite C
Richardson, TX 75080
972-251-2065
info@dallascch.com
www.dallascch.com

GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

Bay Area Chess (CA)
www.BayAreaChess.com
Beverly Hills Chess Club (CA)
info@beverlyhillschess.com
Michigan Chess Association
www.michchess.org
Monmouth Chess School & Club (NJ)
www.monmouthchess.com
Oklahoma Chess Foundation
www.OklChess.org
Sparta Chess Club (NJ)
www.spartachessclub.org
Skokie Chess Club (IL)
www.skokiechessclub.com
Western PA Youth Chess Club (PA)
www.wpychess.net

SILVER AFFILIATES

New Jersey State Chess Federation
info@njchess.org

New York City Chess Club
c/o Russell Makofsky & Michael Proper
PO Box 189, 1710 First Ave
New York, NY 10011
212-475-8130
info@chessnyc.com
www.chessnyc.com

North American Chess Association
4957 Oaklend Street, Suite 113
Sockeye, Idaho 60777, 888.80.Chess
sevan@nachess.com
www.nachess.org

PaperClip Pairings
c/o J. Houghtaling Jr. & Renny Ferrari
605 Forest St.
Brownsville, TX 78526, 656-459-2421
jrhoughtaling@hotmail.com

San Diego Chess Club
2225 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101, 619-238-7196
chiefford@sdchessclub.com

Shore HS Chess League
tourney@shorecheesegroup@yahoo.com

Silver Knights Chess
Silver Knights Chess
6001 Old Ste. 900
Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-574-2070
www.silverknightschess.com

St. Louis Chess Club
325 East 88th Street
New York, NY 10025-2136
212-475-8130
info@stlchessclub.com
www.stlchessclub.com

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

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

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San Diego, CA 92101, 619-238-7196
chiefford@sdchessclub.com

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)
www.spartachessclub.org

Skokie Chess Club (IL)
www.skokiechessclub.com

Tri-State Chess
www.tristatechessclub.com
San Diego Chess Club
2225 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101, 619-238-7196
chiefford@sdchessclub.com

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chief
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**APR. 26-28 OR 27-28, OHIO**

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 15**

**49th Cincinnati**

555, Top 5 Section IDE rated at G/60 + Increment 10. Lower sections G/30 + Delay 5. (2 sections Category C + Delay 10). Dover, Delaware: Tree Hotels, 1 South Oceanfront, 2898 North Atlantic Avenue. Hotel (908) 436-7777. President: Richard Eng. 600-690-232-75/215; U1000: 450-325-225-175; U1500: 325-225-175-125; U2000: 160-140-120-100. Prizes based on 100 entries, else proportional. (No unrated may win more than the third place prize amount except in Open.) Entry fee: All except U1000 $65, U1000 $75, if postmarked by April 22/23, 2013. All 10/10 after April 20/21. Re-entry $45. Discounts: Loyalty: Anyone who played in the 2012 Cincinnati Open may deduct $10 from entry fee. Ohio Grand Prix: Active OCA members may deduct $5. GMs/IMs may deduct $8. Western Reserve Chess Club: $15 deducted from prize; IMs $45 off EF, $20 deducted from prize; HR: $95, $200-130-70, top Under 1310 $120-60, trophies to first 10 players. One bye available, request at entry.

**A Heritage Event!**

**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**APR. 26-28 OR 27-28, OHIO**

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 15**

**Forty Ninth Western**

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Re-ends Sat 1 pm, rds Sat 2 & 4, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 2 & 6-2 day U1200 to U1400; G/30, d5, 4-4; Sun 2 & 4, Mon 10 & 2 & 6-2 day U1400 to U1600; G/30, d5, 4-4; Sun 2 & 4, Mon 10 & 2 & 6-2 day U1600 to U1800 schedule: Reg ends Sat 9 am rds Sun 10, 12, 4-5, Mon 6. U1200 to U1100 schedules merge & compete in Open; U1100 to U1200 can compete in last 2 rds & must commit before rd 2, others before rd 4. Hotel rates: $105-$105-$105-$100, 807-932-4817, 877-475-6000, reserve by 5/20 or rate may increase. Car rental at 9:30 am rds Sat 11, 2, 3, 6 & Sun 11, 10 & 12-3 day U1100 schedules: Reg ends Sat 2:30 pm Fri 10, 12, 2, 3, 4 & 6, Sun 10, 11, 12, 1, 2 & 3 day U1200 to U1300 schedule: Reg ends Sat 10 am rds Sun 11, 2, 3 & 6, Sun 11, 10 & 12-3 day U1100 schedules: Reg ends Sat 10 am rds Sun 11, 2, 3 & 6, Sun 11, 10 & 12-3 day U1100 schedules:
$50 less, if staying at the Hilton; $50 less, if born after 8/6/1963; $25
$20 more after 7/21, $30 more after 8/3, $40 more at the door.

2199 $399; FIDE below 2100 and USCF above 2200 $599; FIDE below 2100
$199; FIDE above 2300 $299; FIDE above 2200 $349; FIDE from 2100 to
top U2200 $1000-500.

A State Championship Event!

Mar. 17, 2013 Alabama Scholastic Team Championship

GM and IM norms possible. B Section (under
Grades K-
6): $249.

See Nationals.

3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over $300 in U900, $800 U1200, $1000 U1500,
$1990 U1900 $399; FIDE below 2100 and USCF above 2200 $599; FIDE below
2100 $199; FIDE above 2300 $299; FIDE above 2200 $349; FIDE from 2100 to
top U2200 $1000-500.

Regional

Alabama

Mar. 15-17 OR 16-17, Lone Star Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

A State Championship Event!

Mar. 16, Alabama Blitz Championship (OC)

5-round double round robin at the Held High School, 11366 County Line Rd.,

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

See Grand Prix.

A State Championship Event!

Mar. 16, Alabama Blitz Championship (OC)

5-round double round robin at the Held High School, 11366 County Line Rd.,

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

See Grand Prix.

A State Championship Event!

Mar. 16, Baton Rouge Chess4Less Swiss

SIS $68. $300 fee, mandatory for all US players not FIDE rated 2200 or over.

See Nationals.

A State Championship Event!

Mar. 16, Baylor Chess4Less Quads

3 x 6/3. 16/3A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Trophies: Players/w.
Players. Check-off by 3:30 pm. EF: $19 by 3/23, $24 online.

See Nationals.

A State Championship Event!

Mar. 20, Bay Area Chess4Less Swiss

SIS $68. $300 fee, mandatory for all US players not FIDE rated 2200 or over.

See Nationals.

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See Nationals.
Southern Class Championships
March 22-24 or 23-24, Orlando
$12,000 projected prizes, $9,000 minimum
5 rounds, Wyndham Orlando Resort- $85 chess rate, no resort fee.
Prizes based on 180 paid entries (re-entries, E Section count half).

Master (2200 up): $1200-600-300-200. FIDE rated.
Class B (1600-1799): $1000-500-300-200, unrated limit $650.
Class C (1400-1599): $800-400-250-150, unrated limit $500.
Class D (1200-1399): $700-400-200-100, unrated limit $350.
Class E (Under 1200): $400-200-100, unrated limit $200, trophies to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, Unrated.

Rated players may play up one section. Unrated may enter A through E.

Full details: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chessoutour.com.
Illinois

MAY 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Mid-America Open (MO) See Grand Prix

A Heritage Event! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  See Grand Prix

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open (VT) See Grand Prix

MAY 17-19 OR 18-19, 21st annual New York State Open (NY) See Grand Prix

JUNE 23-24 OR 23-26, 17th annual Northeast Open (CT) See Grand Prix

JULY 3-7, 4-5-7, 5-7 OR JUNE 29-JULY 7, 41st Annual World Open (VA) See Grand Prix

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

Michigan

MAY 15-17 OR 16-17, Lone Star Open (TX) See Grand Prix

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

Mississippi

MAY 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Mid-America Open (MO) See Grand Prix

Missouri

MAY 15-17 OR 16-17, Lone Star Open (TX) See Grand Prix

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

One half of the proceeds will be distributed to the University of Chicago Community Trust. REINVENTION: www.uschess.org

See previous issue for TLA’s appearing March 1-14

Montana

A Heritage Event! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! APR. 13-14, 17th Montana Open. Open, 5 SS, G/120. Mary Alice Fortin Health Conference Center, Billings Clinic Hospital, 2601 10th Ave., Billings, MT. EF: $30 by April 10th, $32 at site, 3/2 U25. USCF is MCA membership required, QSA. Tournament EV waived for new members. Reg: 9-9.95. Rds. 12:00, 2:30, 7:00, 9/3. Annual business meeting between rds 465. $525: $200, $120, $80. Please present identification on entry. Prize: $100. Located at the Heritage Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas 89119. Sections of 12-15 players with rating range less than 200 points whenever possible. $100-60, 2nd half $40, in each section. EF: $20, RED: by 9 p.m. Round 1 to 9:30 p.m. Higher of regular or quick rating used. HR: $62 single or double ($55 Friday and Saturday nights). (800) 634-6753 or (702) 734-9112—be sure to ask for the CHESS rates. ENT: Chess Magnet School, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, or online www.VegasChessFestival.com or fax at 702 933-9112. NS. CW.

JUNE 7-9 OR 8-9, 2013 National Open
See Nationals.

JUNE 8, National Open Blitz Sectional (QC)
12-RR, G/5, Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas 89119. Sections of 12-15 players with rating range less than 200 points whenever possible. $100-60, 2nd half $40, in each section. EF: $20, RED: by 9 p.m. Round 1 to 9:30 p.m. Higher of regular or quick rating used. HR: $62 single or double ($55 Friday and Saturday nights). (800) 634-6753 or (702) 734-9112—be sure to ask for the CHESS rates. ENT: Chess Magnet School, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, or online www.VegasChessFestival.com or fax at 702 933-9112. NS. CW.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JUNE 6-9, International Youth Championship
SSS, Game/60, Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas 89119. In 4 Sections by age and Under 14, Under 10, Under 7 and Under Reserve (rated below 800). Trophies to top 10 in each section plus class trophies and team trophies. 1st Place in each section wins a Computer loaded with valuable Chess Software and hundreds of Videos, 2nd-4th place chess prizes valued at $520-150-100. Unrated players may not win 1st in Reserve sections. EF: $69 by 5/16, $79 by 6/3, $90 later. 1½ point bye in any round (limit 2) if requested in advance. RED: $9-a-9. Rds.: 10-1, 1-1, 1-10, Blitz 6/7 at 6:31 p.m. ($15 by 5/16, $20 later) HF: $62 single or double ($55 Friday and Saturday nights). (800) 634-6753 or (702) 734-9112—be sure to ask for the CHESS rates. ENT: Chess Magnet School, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, or online www.VegasChessFestival.com or fax at 702 933-9112. NS. CW.

JUNE 9, 2013 National Open Blitz (QC)
See Grand Prix.

New Hampshire

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open (VT)
See Grand Prix.

New Jersey

NJCUS Quads - First Friday Every Month!
New Jersey Children’s Chess School, 662 DeGray Ave., Forest Hill, New Jersey. Info: 973-483-7927. Open to Under 1200 UNR or Under 1000 UNR. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.” Blitz: Time Control Game/5. Trophies such as “USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm” are accepted. COLLABORATE. A tournament limited to college students. JUNIOR. For age 20/above (age 20 must be eligible). NON-SCOLARSHIP WITH SCHOLAR. A tournament for all ages held concurrently (same location) with a scholastic tournament. Class all age levels are divided at least 50 players. We encourage organizers of scholastics to hold open or collegiate events on the side. SPECIAL PRIZES FOR CLUB ADS. Up to 5 lines $180 per year, $100 for 6-10 lines for unchanged club ads in the TLA Section. Announce meeting dates & times, activities, contact info, etc. USC SF DISCUSSION GROUPS. See www.uschess.org for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

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. This year 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 free 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:

SGNor. 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 booster renewal membership prizes, or a quad that offers at least one per section.

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL. A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

USCF

Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

RNBO. Open to Under 1200/Unr or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”

BLITZ. Time Control Game/5. TLAs such as “USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm” are accepted. COLLABORATE. A tournament limited to college students. JUNIOR. For age 20/above (age 20 must be eligible). NON-SCOLARSHIP WITH SCHOLAR. A tournament for all ages held concurrently (same location) with a scholastic tournament. Class all age levels are divided at least 50 players. We encourage organizers of scholastics to hold open or collegiate events on the side.

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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.)
MAR. 21, 3rd Thursday Quads
3 RR, G/30; d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prize: $55 1st per quad. Unrated cannot win more than $10. EF: $15, members $10. Players with less than 4 rated games $10, members $7. Reg. $2-$4, 45 mins. Rds. 7:45-9 pm. Info: cs@ATKhessSets.com. All Visa/MC/Disc OK w/ $1 surcharge. Bring a clock!

MAR. 23, Central Jersey Chess Tournament
455, G/40; d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prize: $15 to first in each section. EF: $701 to $701 of EF prizes. Prize Fund: $701 to first in each quad. Reg. 1:30, 3:15 PM. Info: Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

MAR. 24, Hamilton CC Saturday Quads
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60. EF: $25. Prizes: $50 to first in each quad. Rds. 1:30 PM, 3:45, 6:00. Info Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

MAR. 24, 4th Sunday G/60 Quads
3 RR, G/60; d5. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. EF: $25. Prizes: $50 to first in each section. Reg. 1:30-1:30 pm, at pre-register at www.ATKhessSets.com/quad4b. Bring a clock!

MAR. 30, Chess Mates Sunday Quad G/30

MAR. 31, Dr. Luzivminda Machan Open #20
See Grand Prix.

APR. 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss

APR. 6, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60. EF: $25. Prize: $50 to first in each quad. Reg. 1:25-1:30 PM. Rds. 1:30 PM, 3:45, 6:00. Info Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

APR. 7, Chess Mates Sunday Quads
3 RR, G/25; d5. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Prize: $55 to first in each section. EF: $20, $15 members. Reg. 10:00-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:10, 11:16 a.m., 12:20 p.m. Info: www.chessmatesnj.com, 732-499-0118. Also: Lessons with GM Yusupov 2:30-7:30 p.m. on April 7 & 14. Visit our web site or call for details.

APR. 7, Westfield Quads
3 RR, G/40; d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prize: $50 to first in each section. EF: $20, $15 members. Reg. 1:30-2:00 p.m. Rds.: 2:15-4:05-5:35 pm. Info: Please present identification on entering the building. John Maldovan: westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 732-548-8432 or 848-219-1358, westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com and www.westfieldchessclub.com

APR. 13, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60. EF: $25. Prize: $50 to first in each quad. Reg. 1:25-1:30 PM. Rds. 1:30 PM, 3:45, 6:00. Info Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

APR. 13, Dr. Luzivminda Machan Open
See Grand Prix.

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Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)
The MAP program continues in 2012. See details at main.uschess.org/go/MAP. Top standings will appear every two months in Chess Life.
New York

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAR. 12, 21, 28, APR. 1, 8, 15, 22, MAY 19, 26
1st June Long Island March Open SSS, G/60/G5, United Methodist Church, East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. 1st Round 10:00 AM. Free. (See Grand Prix)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAR. 12, 21, 28, APR. 1, 8, 15, 22, MAY 19, 26
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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR. 1, 8, 15, 22, MAY 19, 26
11th Long Island March Open SSS, G/60/G5, United Methodist Church, East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. 1st Round 10:00 AM. Free. (See Grand Prix)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, MAY 16, 23
11th Annual Open Fall Open SSS, G/60/G5, United Methodist Church, East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. 1st Round 10:00 AM. Free. (See Grand Prix)

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, MAY 16, 23
11th Annual Open Fall Open SSS, G/60/G5, United Methodist Church, East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. 1st Round 10:00 AM. Free. (See Grand Prix)
5th Friday every month. 3-RR, G/40d5. Open to all; quads formed by rat-
APR. 19
6:15-6:45

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 20
2:30 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.

Chees Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

APR. 21-25
Marshall March Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 20
2013 Watertown Open Chess Tournament

CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

APR. 22
5-SS, G/120d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 20
2013 Watertown Open Chess Tournament

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 20
2013 Watertown Open Chess Tournament

CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!
North Carolina

MAR. 13, Knights Templar II 3-45, G/25, Dove Valley CC, 400 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28202. In 10 man sections: $350-$300 per Ef. $25 (discount for CCC Membs.) Reg.: 3-20 pm. Rd.: 3-3:30 pm. Info: Charlottechessclub@gmail.com, www.charlottechess.com (704-963-8931).

MAR. 5-9 OR 4,5 The Big Enchilada III See Grand Prix.

JULY 27-24, 1, DC International (VA) See Grand Prix.

JULY 7-4, 5, 7, 1 OR JUNE 29-7 JUN 7-4, 5, 7, 1. Ohio High School and Middle School Championships 6SS; Sections: High School Championship (9-12), High School Reserve (9-12 U1200), Middle School Championship (K-6), Middle School Reserve (K-6). Prizes: $100-$50, 1st Class A, B, C, D, Under 40, 1st U1200-$50, 1st Class D. Contact/Information: Grant Neilley, grant@neilley.com, 614-314-1102. NS. W.

Ohio


MAR. 22, 12th Annual National Middle School Chess Tournament 6SS; G/30. Paul Brown Stadium, Club West, Downtown Cincinnati, OH. 14 Sections, including Individual - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and Festival. Prizes: $1000, U2000: $700, U1800: $600, U1600 $500. Top boards (1-4) $35; 2nd-30%, more prizes if 12 or more. Ph: 484-866-3045, Bruce. Info: Bruce@ochess.org.


APR. 6, 11th Annual Red River Shoot Out State Team match open only to OK and TX residents as defined as where you have your permanent address. Two rounds plus 30 sec. Must have USCF rating and current USCF membership. Treasure Valley Chess Club, 135-3 Hwy 7 < Exit 55 of I-355, Davis, OK 73017. EF: $50; Masters Free, all registration on site, reg. 9:30 to 10:45. Rd. 1 - 11:30am or asap. Prizes: 50% of entries, 1st-70%, 2nd-60%, more prizes if 12 or more. Ph: 484-666-3045, Bruce. Info: fredmandall@yahoo.com.

Every Friday - LVCA Quads/RBO (U1200 quads) 4-7/6, 5SS Event (NO CLUB March 23) G/40; 30 sec. Pre-Entries: 1-1:45, Rds.: 2 pm, then asap. Site: Holy Trinity Church, 514 3rd Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018. 7 Sections: Open Section/Sidekick, $350-300, sidekick team, $320-$420, sidekick team, $240-$300; 2 day, $450-$520. Info: DCC mbr). Info: DCC.18W5@bogoblast.net/, 976-461-283.
Tennessee

Mar. 15-17 OR 16-17, 2013 National Open (AM) (See Grand Prix)

Mar. 17, 2013 St. Patrick’s Day Open


Mar. 18-19 OR 18-19, 2013 Tennessee Senior Open

SS, G/120. Fair Park Senior Center, 1439 Livingston Rd., Crossville, TN 38555. EF: $255 if mailed by 5/10/2013 at $35 at site. 3-Day: EF Fri 200; Sat 200; Sun 350. Rds: 3/9-10-12, 9-10-12. FORFEIT: Late round forfeit will be 1 hour after scheduled round. NO BYES. Prizes: 1st – 50% of section EFs, 2nd – 40% of section EFs, 3rd – 30% of section EFs, 4th – 20% of section EFs, 5th – 10% of section EFs. Under 1200: $250. 50% of section EFs. Under 1600: $300. 50% of section EFs. Under 2000: $350. 50% of section EFs. Under $300: $400. 50% of section EFs. Under $400: $500. 50% of section EFs. Under $500: $600. 50% of section EFs. Under $600: $700. 50% of section EFs. Under $700: $800. 50% of section EFs. Under $800: $900. 50% of section EFs. Under $900: $1000. 50% of section EFs. Under $1000: $1100. 50% of section EFs. Under $1100: $1200. 50% of section EFs. 3:30 PM. Rds: 4, 10-4, 9-2, 1-2 (2 sections). See Grand Prix.
**A State Championship Event!**

**MAY 17-19 OR 18-19, 21st annual New York State Open (NY)**

**Virginia**

Maryland Chess Association (MD)

See Maryland.

Arlington Chess Club's Friday Action


**TOP QUALITY BARGAIN CHESS LESSONS BY PHONE**

Phone: 703-892-3358.

**For Sale**

**A Heritage Event!**

Wisconsin

**MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open

**DROPPING OUT?**

To have a miss a round? It is very important that you NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR before pairings are made, so no one is deprived of a game! If you forfeit without notice, you may be FINED up to the amount of the entry fee!
Problem I.

35. Qa5# mates (35. ... Ke3 36. Bd7 mate or 35. ... Kxc8 36. Qa6+ Kb8 37. Rfb8+.)

Problem II.

31. f5! threatens 32. Bxc6 as well as 32. exf6.

The game ended with 31. ... Qh6 32. fxe6 Qxe6++. White resigned because of the advance of the passed pawns.

Problem IV.

15. ... dxe4 6. c4 e3 7. c5 e2 8. c6 Kb6 9. c7 e1=Q 10. c8=Q Qe6+ 11. Kb7 Qe7 12. a8=Q+! Draws.

There are two knight promotions in this miniature!


Problem V.

1. a7 Rh8+! 2. exd4 Kb6 3. d5+ Kb6 4. a8=Q+! 2. Kb7 Ra8 3. Kxa8 Kc8 4. c3 Kc7 5. e4 dxe4 6. c4 e3 7. c5 e2 8. c6 Kb6 9. c7 e1=Q 10. c8=Q Qe6+ 11. Kb7 Qe7 12. a8=Q+! Draws.

There are two knight promotions in this miniature!
GM TIMUR GAREEV
Third-Ranked U.S. Player
2012 North American Open Champion

The love stories of incredible talent. José Raúl Capablanca’s genius was apparently discovered within the first few chess moves he played. For me, there were few major disciplines that I succeeded in right off the bat. Chess was not an exception.

It took a lot of dedication and competitive experience for me to eventually reach the grandmaster level by the age of 15 (the youngest ever out of Asia; I was born in Uzbekistan). In the last couple of years, I have upped the intensity level of my pursuit of chess mastery. Experiencing the game on a deeper intellectual and emotional level has made chess fun for me.

Consistently facing strong competition is crucial for both improvement and enjoyment. Outsmarting and outcompeting another top grandmaster is fulfilling. The best moves that are vividly in my mind are associated with moments of intense battle. The following game against Anatoly Bykhovsky at the 2011 Berkeley International is an example of that moment of intensity. “My best move” was an elegant solution inspired by curiosity.

Anatoly is a top expert on the Gruenfeld Defense. He confidently played opening theory, but still faced challenges in the middlegame. I managed to maintain pressure and I was fortunate to play a few excellent moves increasing the advantage. Now let’s go ahead and find my best move!

GM Timur Gareev (2675)
GM Anatoly Bykhovsky (2655)
2011 Berkeley International (7)

29... Bxc5, Black resigned.

Finishes the game on the spot. This neutralizes Black’s last chance, which is associated with a discovered attack. As I remember, it took me a few moments to find the move. Once I saw and realized the force of the solution, I got a rush of excitement. After checking the continuation many times, I executed the text move. Anatoly seemed surprised and took a few moments to examine possible escapes:

If White promotes right away with 29. c8=Q, Black finds an escape exploiting White’s king vulnerability: 29. ... Rfe2+ 30. Kf1 (30. Kh1 Re1+) 30. ... Rf2+ 31. Kg1 Rfe2+

29... Bxc5 (29... Rc2+ 30. Bxd4 Rxc7 31. Rxb7; 29... Rb2+ 30. Bxd4 Rxb1+ 31. Rxb1) 30. c8=Q Rf8+ (30. ... Rfe2+ 31. Qxc5) 31. Qxc5.

My best move in life
To finish on a philosophical note, I’ll dwell on a question of “my best move” in life. A lot of the times the best move is a result of many smaller solid steps. I believe I can accomplish anything I desire in life. All it takes is years of dedication and persistent action. The best move is a break through limitations. So let’s face the challenge, cultivate the right mindset, and strike with decisive action!

Read more about Gareev in our North American Open report on page 34.
Fighting Chess with Hikaru Nakamura
GM Karsten Muller - 232 pages
Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura's journey to the top of world chess is documented in this fascinating look at his life and career. Although he was not the typical child chess prodigy, Hikaru has risen to the top of the world of professional chess and is now widely regarded as the greatest American player since Bobby Fischer.

Mastering Complex Endgames
IM Daniel Naroditsky - 240 pages
This is NOT your typical encyclopedia or manual on chess endings, which are usually boring and difficult to follow. Full of lively lessons and exercises, this book features the most instructive examples of endgames in which you have to use ideas and plans to outplay your opponent. Take your endgame technique to the next level with one of America's top young players.

Kramnik - Move by Move
IM Vasily Ivanchuk - 400 pages
Vladimir Kramnik is a giant of the chess world. He firmly secured his legendary status when he won the World Championship in 2000 by defeating the previously unbeatable Garry Kasparov. In this book, the author invites you to join him in a study of his favourite Kramnik games. He examines Kramnik's renowned skills and shows how we can all improve by learning from Kramnik's masterpieces.

The Complete Chess Workout II
IM Richard Palliser - 320 pages
It's time to start your chess training! This is the eagerly awaited follow-up to The Complete Chess Workout. All top chess players agree that to keep your tactical muscles in shape it's imperative to continue training, and the easiest and most fun way to do this is by performing tactical exercises. The author provides something for players of all levels, including many brain-teasers that will tax even the strongest of players.

Positional Play
GM Jacob Aagaard - 321 pages
In Positional Play, Jacob Aagaard shares his simple three-step tool of positional analysis that he has used with club players and famous grandmasters to improve their positional decision-making. Working from the starting point that all players who aspire to play at international level have a certain amount of positional understanding, Aagaard lays out an easy-to-follow training plan that will improve everyone's intuition and positional decision-making.

A History of Chess
GM Yuri Averbakh - 88 pages
Arguably more books have been written about chess than all the other games combined, but relatively little has been written about the history of chess. The topic is difficult; it requires thorough knowledge, and there are still many unknown historical pitfalls. In this book, legendary Grandmaster Yuri Averbakh presents a well-researched and documented theory about the origins, development and spread of the game of chess.

The Chess Puzzle Book 4
GM Karsten Muller - 184 pages
Congratulations! You Have the Advantage! No What? Welcome to The Chess Puzzle Book 4! Most books deal with the important technical question of how to convert a static advantage. Topics include: Philidor's First Move, The Principle of Two Weaknesses, The Right Exchange, Do Not Recapture and Converting an Advantage. There are also many well-chosen exercises with comprehensive solutions to help guide and instruct the reader.

Beating 1. d4 Sidelines
GM Boris Avrukh - 360 pages
Most chess players are comfortable using their favorite defense against 1. d4 followed by ...e5, but it is not always easy to find an antidote to the many sidelines at White's disposal. This book provides a sound and active repertoire against virtually every non-standard opening line at White's disposal after both 1. d4 d5 and 1. d4 Nf6. Where applicable, Avrukh covers each White system after both 2...e5 and 2...g6, making this book suitable for fans of the Nimzo-Indian, King's Indian and Grunfeld defences alike.

The Magic Tactics of Mikhail Tal
GM Karsten Muller - 304 pages
Mikhail Tal was one of the greatest geniuses of chess history. The magician from Riga, as he was known because of his dazzling attacking games, took the chess world by storm and in 1961, at the age of twenty-three, won the world championship. In this book, the authors have created an instructional chess tactics guide by investigating and explaining the secrets of Tal's breathtaking combinations. Selected from Tal's games are one hundred exercises that will teach amateurs how they can finish a game with a stunning sacrifice.

The Powerful Catalan
GM Victor Bologan - 240 pages
The Catalan is a solid chess opening system which is popular with both masters and amateurs all over the world. It is a flexible opening and can be reached by different move orders. In this book, the author presents a complete repertoire for White. He covers all of Black's options as well as possible transpositions to other openings. With many original analyses based on the most recent tournament games, Bologan takes the reader by the hand with the accessible verbal explanations he is known for.
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Note change of time control to 40/90, SD/30, inc 30.

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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 only): Mon-Wed each 6 pm, Thu-Fri each 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 5 pm.

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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, chessstour.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.

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Bring sets, boards, clocks- none supplied. U2000 & higher prizes paid 7/17, others mailed by 7/22. $15 service charge for refunds.

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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.
UNDER 2200: $13000-7000-3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top U2100 (no unr) $2000-1000, top 65/over $800. FIDE rated.
UNDER 1200: $5000-2500-1200-1000-900-800-700-500-400-300, 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.

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 & 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.

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Bringing sets, boards, clocks- none supplied. U2000 & higher prizes paid 7/17, others mailed by 7/22. $15 service charge for refunds.

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Advance entries are posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).
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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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 crown, and, 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 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.
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First place winners of each section will qualify to play at the 2013 World Youth Championships

MAIN EVENT
6-SS, G/90

Sections (age as of 1/1/13)
• Under 8
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• Under 14
• Under 16
• Under 18
• Under 20

Friday April 26
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

Entry Fee
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USCF membership required

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Trophies will be awarded to top 15 individual players and top three teams in the Under 8, 10, 12 & 14 Sections; top 10 individual players and top three teams in the Under 16, 18 & 20 Sections. Three or more players from the same school to make a team (team scores will be calculated based on the top 3 scores to give teams their final standings). All players will receive a souvenir to honor their participation.

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

SIDE EVENTS
Bughouse Tournament
Fri. April 26 1:00 PM
Entry fee: $30 per team

Blitz Tournament (G/5)
Fri. April 26 3:00 PM
Entry fee: $20 by 4/15, $25 after/on-site.

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Chess Rate single $169, Double $169,
Triple $189, Quad $209
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breakfast included for the number based
on the room rate paid: 1-2-3 or 4 people

Online Registration www.renaissanceknights.org/allgirls
www.kasparovchessfoundation.org
Cleveland Scholastic Open
Spreading chess in northeastern Ohio

IN CLEVELAND, OHIO, THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, Delta Alpha Lampda Chapter, is actively promoting chess. They want educators to see chess as an essential component to education and not merely a fun activity. In October, they held the Cleveland Scholastic Open, with the awarding of iPads, Kindles, and savings bonds as well as trophies. 118 students played (60 rated, 58 unrated). The fraternity was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and holds the distinction of being the first African-American collegiate Greek Letter organization in America.

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.
For Adult Beginners

Do you have an adult friend you would like to introduce to chess? David MacEnulty’s new book will help you out.

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.
We offer this *Dilbert* cartoon without comment:

![Dilbert Cartoon](image)

*Dilbert © 2013 Scott Adams. Used By permission of UNIVERSAL UCLICK. All rights reserved.*

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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.

---

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.*

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**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

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**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.
U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP:
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CALL FOR ADMS  Advance delegate motions (ADM) 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.

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.
Beatriz Marinello


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.

www.uschess.org 13
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.

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 shoe-maker,” 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.


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 under-nourished 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.

Black can collect his well-earned victory with the obvious 38. ... b3. For example, 39. Ka6 h2 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.
“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

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:

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 Kgb 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.
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
Nurenberg 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. ... Nxe4 7. Nxe4 Nf6, yielded even chances.**

5. **e6**  
   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 regularly, 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. **0-0**  
   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
   One of the nice features of 6. c2-c3 is that it creates a drop-back square at c2 for the light-square bishop.

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.**

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

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.**
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. ...

dxc4

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. ...

Ncxe5
Another bad choice. Better would have been 14. ... exd5, when 15. Qxd5 leads to a queen trade: 15. ... Ndx5 16. Qxd5+ Kxd5 (not 16. ... Bxd5 17. Nxe5 Nxe5 18. Bb4) 17. Nxe5 Nxe5, and it is doubtful if White has any advantage.

15. dxe6 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

See scorebox 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.
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 to Aronian set the pace, and Nakamura never recovered his momentum. The following year, 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 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.

October saw his peak FIDE rating of 2786—MP
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. Rxg7!
Nakamura finishes off the attack with a nice sacrifice. Black's ... Qa2 and ... Rc5 provide no defense for the king.

31. ... Kxg7 32. Rg3+ Kf8 33. Qh7, 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.

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

62. Nd5!
Hikaru sees that Black is defenseless, even after promoting with check!

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)

47. g5!!
A brilliant breakthrough!

47. ... hxg5 48. h6 g6 hxg6 49. Rxe5!! fxe5 50. f6
Now White is threatening 51. Bxc5 and 52. f7+.

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)

45. ... Rf4!
Setting up a mating net in the endgame!

46. Nd3? Rg4! 47. Nd1 Bf1, White resigned.

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

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.

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 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-Maniscak. “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 rock and pawn ending against China’s GM Liren Ding, Nakamura posted the following to his Twitter account:

**Up in the Air**

The sheer amount that Nakamura flies would give an aerophobe a conniption. 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.
The position is bleak for Black, but Nakamura’s choice loses by force.

26. Rd1

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. qx7f 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.

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

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.
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 Frenchs 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 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 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 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 Dvoretsky’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.
Hikaru 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, Obiettive 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. B3 d 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—even 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 uncompro-
mising 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<td>3/6</td>
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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

www.uschess.org 27
A Winning Composition By Ludwig

IM Daniel Ludwig Dominates the 39th Eastern Open

In the Arena / 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 Nbd7 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. ... Rfd8

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


13. ... Ne5

13. ... Na5 is an alternative.

14. Bxd4 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. Qe1, 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?


20. Rd3?

Here I thought that 20. dxc6! e.p. was weak after 20. ... Qxd4 21. Nxd4 Rxh4 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. Nfd1! (not 22. Rxd1 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 thisbishop is needed for defense against White’s protected passed pawn after 25. ... Rab8 26. Be4 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 fx5 29. fxe5 Qb6 30. d6 Bxd3+ 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+ Kxe6 31. g4 is crushing. I had seen this but missed after 31. ... Be2 (I! 31. ... Bd3+ 32. Ka1 Rab8 33. g5+ Kh8 34. Bf3+ Kf8 35. Kh1 mate.) 32. g5+ Kh8 33. Bf3+ Kg8 34. Qxh3+ Kh8 35. Qf2+ Kh7 36. h4! is mating.

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

If 30. ... exd6 31. Bxd6+ Kg7 32. e6+ Kh6 33. Nxe6! Bxg5 34. Qxe6+ Kh5 35. Qg5 mate. However, Black is in the game after 30. ... e6 31. Rd1 Kf7 32. Ka1 Be6 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. Nxd5! 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 Qxb6 with near equality.

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

Unfortunately, Black again chooses activity over hanging 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 Rb8 37. b3 Kf7 38. Na5 Ra7 39. Ne4.

36. ... Rxb8?

Somewhat better is 36. ... Kf7 37. Nc2 Rg8 38. h4.

37. Kb2?


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

Attempting to open a second front with 39. g4 Kg7 40. gxf5 exf5 41. Kc2 Ke6 42. h4 h6 43. Rh3 leaves White significantly better. The committal 39. a4 was a clear 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 Kf7 42. Kc2 Rb6 43. Nb2 and the struggle continues.

41. Rc5 Rab4?

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

42. Rc7 Rb4?

Now it ends quickly.

43. Ne6 Rxb3+ 44. Ke2 Rb2+ 45. Kc3 Rb3+ 46. Kc4 Ke7 47. d7, Black resigned.

Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation, English Attack (B80)
Andrew Samuelson (2267)
IM Daniel Ludwig (2566)
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.


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 Nd7 9. g4 Nbd6 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 Nd7.

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. ... Nd7. 8. ... Nd7 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 Nb7 11. 0-0-0 Nc5 12. Bb3 (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!
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. Nal Nc5 put Black solidly in control, though I was outplayed later and lost.

11. ... d5!

This pawn push gains valuable space and time.

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 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. Rd1 (Otherwise, 18. h3 hxg4 19. hxg4 Rxb1+ 20. Bxb1 g6) 18. ... hxg4 19. Bxd5 Bxf5 20. Bxc6 Bxc3 21. cxd3 Rxc2 since the pawns are too strong.

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

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.

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 fast, but it is still unexpected due to the timing and setting.

17. Rd3?

Better is 17. Bf2 g6 18. fxg5 Nxe5 (18. ... hxg5 19. fxg5) 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. Rd1 (Otherwise, 18. h3 hxg4 19. hxg4 Rxb1+ 20. Bxb1 g6) 18. ... hxg4 19. Bxd5 Bxf5 20. Bxc6 Bxc3 21. cxd3 Rxc2 since the pawns are too strong.

18. Rxe3

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. Bxe8 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 fast, but it is still unexpected due to the timing and setting.

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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.


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.


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. Rd7 Bf5 31. Rxf7 Bxg3 32. hxg3 Rxf3 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. Rxb8+

White is almost without a choice in the matter. If 30. Rc4+ Kd7 31. Rxb4 Rxe2 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 Bf5 32. h3 f5 33. Nc5 Bd6! 34. Ne6

Worse is 34. Nxa6 35. Nd4 Ne5 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. Nxd4 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)
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. 0-0 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 0-0). Here I was afraid of 8. e4, but it doesn’t seem too good. After 7. ... h6 8. e4 Nge7, in view of Nb4 ideas, the knight needs to go here. But this is a good setup as well, and because of White’s c2-e4 move he will have to watch carefully for ... f5-f4.

8. Rb1 0-0 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. Bxh6 Qxh6 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 Bc6 12. Ba3 Nd5 (Also 12. ... Rc8 has been played here) 13. Nxd5 Bxd5.

11. ... g5 12. Nd5 Nxd5 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 Bb8 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. ... Qh6 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. Bb1.

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. ... gxf4 22. Kg2 Rxd3 (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 Ra8 with an overwhelming attack.) 23. Qxf3 Rb8 24. Qe2 hxg3 25. Rh1 Qg6 26. f3 Nf2 and White’s game is hopeless.

21. ... Bxg4 22. Qa4

22. ... a5 Bf3 23. Qc2 loses in a similar way to the game after 23. ... Bc2!, which is even better than 23. ... Bxd5.

22. ... Be2! 23. Bb2

White cannot move his rook: 23. Re1 is met by 23. ... Rxd2! 24. Kxd2 Qxd2 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 easternopenchess.com.
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
from other teams. The fight on board two drew a clutch of self-interested spectators Webster brought to the Princeton tables.

The teams ultimately drew—and also 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 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, Svendsnikov 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.

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. Rg1 Bb7 16. g5 Nbd3 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. It 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. Nx1 Re8 24. Rh4 Qc7) 23. ... Rc8 24. Rh4 Qc7 25. Ne3 (25. Rxe7? Qc2+ 26. Ka1 Qxc1+ 27. Nx1 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. Rhx7 Bg7 26. Ng3!
Now everything works for White.


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.”

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)
Aakaash Meduri (2082, University of Illinois)
IM Max Cornejo (2461, UT at Brownsville)
2012 Pan-Am Intercollegiate (5)

Houdini 3 Pro agrees that the knight’s hari-kari 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.

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.

26. Rxe3

White is simply a piece up.


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 - 1½. 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. Rdxh6+ gxh6 31. Rdxh6+ Kg7 32. Rh7+, Black resigned.

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

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 Nxd2 27. Bd6.

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. ... Nb6 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.


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.


This is the most energetic way to gain an advantage.

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


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. Bxd6!  

Now it’s all over.


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.

FAILING TO FIND THAT ONE, MIRACULOUS MOVE!

PHOTO: WEBSTER BY PAUL TRUONG; UMBC BY MARLAYNA DEMOND

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 Naiz Paikidze and alternates WGM Sabina Foisor and Adithya Balasubramanian.
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 Davison 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.
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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 USEF of corrections or updates, please e-mail akantor@uschess.org.

USCF ANNUAL MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, AND FUND BALANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Business Meeting</th>
<th>Membership (1)</th>
<th>Fund Balance (2)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
<td>76,151 (187,918)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Vancouver, Washington</td>
<td>77,254</td>
<td>61,492.20</td>
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(1) Membership totals are given as of May 31. Totals exclude Junior Tournament Players and tournament members.
(2) Figures enclosed in parentheses are deficits.

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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, Tamas Gelashvili, Alonso Zapata, Giorgi Kachishvili, 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 Luke 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

HIDSTON, TEXAS • JULY 2012

U.S. CLASS
2011 M. Timur Gareyev, Julio Sadorra; X: Austin Jiang; A: Daniel Ng; B: Angelito Abelga; C: Brian Shlooff, Ben Karren; D: Cindy Nam; E: Antonio Pereria, Adrian Patterson; Unrated: Alexander Oltchuk
2012 M. Julio Sadorra, Justin Sarkar, Salvijus Bercys; E: Ernesto Malazarte, Akshay Malhotra, Ondreyo Aljboyy; A: Ramy Farrag; B: Khoa Minh Nguyen; C: Charles Ventimiglia, Dale Bird; D: Srijisha Rangaraj; E: Matthew Minear; Unrated: Yezenq Cheng Dong

HOUSTON, TEXAS • SEPTEMBER 2012

U.S. BLIND
2011 Daniel Steininger
2012 Daniel Steininger

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA • AUGUST 2012

U.S. GAME/10
2011 Sham Shankland, Levon Atutian
2012 Tamas Gelashvili, Sam Shankland, Mikhail Kekezidze

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA • JUNE 2012

U.S. GAME/15
2011 Sergey Kudrin
2012 Georg Meier

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA • AUGUST 2012

U.S. GAME/30
2011 1800+: Vladimir Mezentsev, Raymond Kaufman
2012 1900+: Enrico Sevillano, Walter Browne, Cyrus Lakdawala, John Cline

PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA • OCTOBER 2012

U.S. GAME/60
2011 1800+: Vladimir Mezentsev
2012 2000+: Enric 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, Amirit Gupta, Rohan Mittal

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA • AUGUST 2012

U.S. AMATEUR TEAM
2011 West: USC (Jack Peters, Danyel Lawrence, Blake Phillips, Nathan Heusenstamm, Sriam Balasubramanian); East: Victor Fernandez, Victor Rosas; North: For Whom the Aebits Tolls (Doshi Friedel, Alex Betaneli, Erik Santarius, Gregory Azbel); South: Armageddon Your Pieces (Javad Maharramzade, Jeremy Mandelkern, Matt Hefst, Peter Dyson); National Playoff Winner: Team South

ERTH 2012

2013 West: Forfeit by Disconnection (Robin Cunningham, Dana Mackenzie, Julian Chan, Todd Rumphy); East: Forking with Tea (Robert Hess, Zachary Weiner, Shawn Swindell, Peter Hess); North: Chess X-Men (Mariano Acosta, Tenzing Shaw, Fred Alsbott, Dmitri Sergatskov); South: Yo Doy Clase (Eric Rodriguez, Ernesto Alvarez, Bennet Pellsows, Mohammed Yousef); National Playoff Winner: Team South

ERTH 2013

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 Golosayshy
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 Ding Dong

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • JULY 2012

U.S. JUNIOR INVITATIONAL
2011 Gregory Young
2012 Marc Tyler Arnold

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • JULY 2012

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY
2012 K-6: Amir Moazami, Vignesh Panchanathan, Alex Bion, Roland Feng, Kevin Moe; K-5: Bryce Tligon, Marcell Szabo, Danial Asaria, Advait Patel, Drex Webster, Andrew Zheng, Thomas Knowl; Zachary Tanenbaum, Luke Bohua Xia; K-3: Aidan Lawler, Ruthvik Ayyagari, Jeremy Mirlnas, Alex Wei, Advaith Bulusu; K-1: Anthony Bi He, Logan Wu

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • MAY 2012

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY TEAM
2011 K-6: Daniel Wright JHS (IL); K-5: Regnant 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), NVC Lab Middle School (NY), Dalton School; K-5: Greenbrier West Elementary School (WA); K-3: Dalton School (NY); K-1: Mission San Jose Elementary (CA), Hunter College Campus School (NY)

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • MAY 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONS
2011 Chinguen Bayarai, Ben Robid, Advait Budaraju, Maiti Milind, Rayan Taghizadeh, Vignesh Panchanathan, Samuel Beeker, Bingjie Liu

BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA • MARCH 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH
2011 John Hughes; K-8; Alexander Black, Jr., Jeewan Karametsky

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH TEAM
2011 K-9: Is. 318 NY; K-8: Is. 118 (NY); K-6: Kennedy Middle School (CA)

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2011 Eric Rosen
2012 Ben Gershnenov

MINNESOTA, MINNESOTA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
2011 Hunter College Campus School (NY)

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
2011 Under 15: Michael Maehlides; Under 15: Steven Chen, Andy Shao, Andrew Jacob, Annie Zhao; Under 11: Tianming Xie; Under 8: Jason Metally, Tristan Ma

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL JUNIOR OPEN
2011 Under 12: Michael Maehlides; Under 15: Steven Chen, Andy Shao, Andrew Jacob, Annie Zhao; Under 11: Tianming Xie; Under 8: Jason Metally, Tristan Ma

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA • APRIL 2012

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC K-12
2007–2009  Thomas Biedermann, Lawrence Coplin

2008  Larry Kaufman

AMERICAN WORLD CHAMPIONS
University of Texas at Dallas, Team A

PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM
BRANCHBURG, NEW JERSEY • DECEMBER 2012

Shvartsman
Giorgi Margvelashvili, Andre Diamant, Andrew

2011

PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE INDIVIDUAL

Francisco Vallejo-Pons

2011

AMERICAN OPEN

ORLANDO, FLORIDA • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012

Foothills High School (AZ); 11th: Hanna High School (TX);
(NY), Catalina Foothills High School (AZ); 10th: Catalina
School (CA); 8th: I.S. 318 (NY); 9th: Stuyvesant High School
(New York); Columbia Grammar (NY); 3rd: Scicore Academy
Westwood (TX); 11th: Plano East High School (TX); 12th:
I.S. 318 (NY); 9th: Catalina Foothills High School (AZ); 10th:
(TX); 5th: Scicore Academy (NJ), Dalton (NY); 6th: Canyon Vista
K: Oak Hall (FL); 1st: Oak Hall (FL); 2nd: Scicore Academy
Rudra; 9th: Justus D. Williams, Andy Shao; 10th: Bryan Hu,
Pinisetti; 8th: Abhishek Obili, Lyubomir T. Gospodinov, Pranav
Chase Frutos, Tad Mrozek, Tim Deng, Marc Huang; 5th:
Schmakel; 11th: Christopher Heung; 12th: Matthew Dahl
5th: Christopher Chen; 6th: William Graif, Vignesh Panchanathan;
7th: Christopher Wu; 8th: Mika Brattain; 9th: Bryan Hu; 10th: Sam
Heung; 11th: Matthew Dahl

2012 Yearbook

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INTERNATIONAL MASTER FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

Richard Becker • Pal Benko • George Spichas

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2013-2014 SCHOLARSHIP PLAYERS

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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.

Wrote 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)


*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 Encyclopaedia 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. Nxg6

15. ... Nxg6

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

26. Rxc7
Black is in Zugzwang. Very soon he’ll run out of moves, and checkmate will follow.

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.
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. 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!? 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+

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.

79. ... Ke5??
A big mistake, but in a lost position.
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

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. Rb8 Rb1 82. Ka7 Ra1+ 83. Kb8 Rb1 84. b7 Ra1 85. Rb4 (Starts building the famous “Lucena bridge.”)

(see diagram top of next column)

85. ... Ra2 86. Rd4+ Ke7 87. Kc7 Rc2+ 88. Kb6 Rd2+ 89. Kc6 Rc2+ 90. Kb5 Rb2+ 91. Rd4 This endgame decided the world championship title.

Interestingly, we had a similar ending at last year’s U.S. Championship.
The Bill Wright Saint Louis Open

APRIL 12-14

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

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.
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(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) $5 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).
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**OVERALL STANDINGS**

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<td>15 IM Kayden W. Troff</td>
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### 2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

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**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

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- Class A: 1800-1999 (very strong)
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**Entry Fee:** $5.

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

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Check out USCF’s Correspondence Chess Rated Events!

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- **LIGHTNING MATCH**
  - Two players with two or six-game option.
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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

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.

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
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess Life will exercise due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TLAs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total.

SUBMISSIONS: If possible e-mail your entry to tlachess@uschem.org (Joan DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 Chess Life pg 50 and 51 or check www.uschess.org/go/tlafinal. Payment can be done online through the TLA/affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Croswell, MI 48022.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

APR. 5-7, TENNESSEE
SuperNationals 2013
2013 Elementary, Junior High and High School National Championships in one great event 75S, 6-120 (K-1/9-G). Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, 2000 Opryland Dr., Nashville, TN 37214. 615.889.1000. 10, 6-30pm Fri; Rounds 2-4 – Sat 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm; Rounds 5-6 – Sun 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm. Chess Life will exercise due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

World Youth Championships.

– 6:30pm Fri; Rounds 2-4 – Sat 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm; Rounds 5-6 – Sun 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm. Chess Life will exercise due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.


– 6:30pm Fri; Rounds 2-4 – Sat 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm; Rounds 5-6 – Sun 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm. Chess Life will exercise due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Top Woman $350. Plaques for the top 10 players overall. Top finisher born 2000 $300 & $150, under 1800 $300 & $150, under 1500/unrated $300 & $150, to top U1200, U1100, U1000, U900 and U800. EF: $49 if postmarked by May 22, 2013, or $50 if postmarked by May 23, 2013.

Top Woman $350. Plaques for the top 10 players overall. Top finisher born 2000 $300 & $150, under 1800 $300 & $150, under 1500/unrated $300 & $150, to top U1200, U1100, U1000, U900 and U800. EF: $49 if postmarked by May 22, 2013, or $50 if postmarked by May 23, 2013.

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Top Woman $350. Plaques for the top 10 players overall. Top finisher born 2000 $300 & $150, under 1800 $300 & $150, under 1500/unrated $300 & $150, to top U1200, U1100, U1000, U900 and U800. EF: $49 if postmarked by May 22, 2013, or $50 if postmarked by May 23, 2013.
VERMONT RESORT OPEN, May 3-5 OR 4-5

At the Vermont's most upscale Holiday Inn, near Lake Champlain, Vermont.

10-4-30, 10-4-30: 2-day schedule: Reg.: 9-8 a.m. Saturday; Rd.: 10-2-6, Sun: 9-3-9. One bye per player allowed (on round 3 only), request at entry. Opening Round begins 8:30 Sat; Round 2 1:30 Sun. Entry: $40.00. $150 guaranteed prize fund, 2 sections.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

To register, visit www.scachess.org. For additional information contact Feliciano Delapaz e-scachez@gmail.com.

A1-6, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 5 (EACH)

Main Masters! $45, 65/3.5. Up to 3 days per round. RDs.: 1-7, Sun: 9-4-9:30. One bye per player allowed (2 rounds only), request at entry. Masters: only GM, GM’s free entry. $150 guaranteed prize fund.

A1-19 OR 21-20, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 5

The Cherry Blossom Classic!
Held at the Sherry Chess Club, 1100 Wall Street NW, Washington, DC 20005. Entry Fee: $25. Entry fee includes 2 rounds. Reg.: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Round 1 11:00 Sat.; Round 2 2:15 Sun. Entry: $25. $125 guaranteed prize fund for all members (minimum 8 entries needed).

A1-20, 21-22, ILLINOIS
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

Not 10-2-6 but 10-2-6: 2-day schedule: Rd.: 10-1-1, Sun: 10-4-4. Two half point byes available (1 on Round 1 and 1 on Round 2). Entry: $60.00. $150 guaranteed prize fund. 2 sections.

A1-6, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 7

Main Masters! $45, 65/3.5. Up to 3 days per round. RDs.: 1-7, Sun: 9-4-9:30. One bye per player allowed (2 rounds only), request at entry. Masters: only GM, GM’s free entry. $150 guaranteed prize fund. 2 sections.

A1-19 OR 21-20, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

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A1-20, 21-22, ILLINOIS
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A1-6, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 7

Main Masters! $45, 65/3.5. Up to 3 days per round. RDs.: 1-7, Sun: 9-4-9:30. One bye per player allowed (2 rounds only), request at entry. Masters: only GM, GM’s free entry. $150 guaranteed prize fund. 2 sections.

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A1-6, NEW YORK
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Main Masters! $45, 65/3.5. Up to 3 days per round. RDs.: 1-7, Sun: 9-4-9:30. One bye per player allowed (2 rounds only), request at entry. Masters: only GM, GM’s free entry. $150 guaranteed prize fund. 2 sections.

A1-19 OR 21-20, VIRGINIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

The Cherry Blossom Classic!
Held at the Sherry Chess Club, 1100 Wall Street NW, Washington, DC 20005. Entry Fee: $25. Entry fee includes 2 rounds. Reg.: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Round 1 11:00 Sat.; Round 2 2:15 Sun. Entry: $25. $125 guaranteed prize fund for all members (minimum 8 entries needed).
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

APR. 26-28 OR 27-28, OHIO
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2015 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2016 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2017 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2018 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2019 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2020 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIOR POINTS: 10

2021 Spring Western Pacific Open

SSS, Riverside Hotel, 991 Pfeiffer Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45241.
22nd annual

CHICAGO OPEN


Open 9 rounds, others 7 rounds, Memorial Day weekend at luxurious Westin North Shore Hotel

GM and IM norms possible! Free lectures & analysis of your games by GM John Fedorowicz!

$100,000 PRIZE FUND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED!

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, 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. FIDE rated.

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

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

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

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

Under 1300 Section: $3000-1500-1000-700-500-400-400-300-300. 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.


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 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
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

May 4-5, KENTUCKY

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 15 (Enhanced)
Western Kentucky University MasterMind Open
355, G/20, USCF rated. Prizes: $23,500 in scholarships & $5,000 open 7/5 full. Entry fee for GM, IM, & College (by 4/2).
SIDE EVENT: Scholastic Tournament: Sat. Only 5/4. 5/5, G/20, USCF rated. Trophies for top five teams in each section, and top 5 individuals in each section.
Entry fee: $15-$25, on site.
SID: Sat 9 am-6 pm, Rds. 9:30 am-4 pm.
2-day schedule: Rds. 9:30 am-4 pm, Sat & Sun.

Chess Club of Bowling Green
Cherry Hall, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. Info and registration information updates or to register online.

May 4, INDIANA

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10
Dr. Luzimvinda Machan Open #2
2 SS, G/40;d5. Entry fee: $40. Trophies for top five in Open, 1st $1000, 2nd $500, 3rd $250, 4th $125, 5th $65. All USCF-rated players.

May 4-5, NEW JERSEY

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10
Marshall Masters!
2 SS, 40/90, SD/1; d5 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/90 +30" incr) (2-day schedule: Reg. Fri 6:30 pm, Rds. Fri 7:15-11:45-12:30-5:30.）， Sat 11:45-12:30-5:30 each day.

May 4-5, NEW YORK

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
Chesstour.com MasterCard Memorial Open
5 SS, 40/90, G/5. Entry fee: $40-$50. Trophies for top five in Open, 1st $2500, 2nd $1000, 3rd $500, 4th $250, 5th $125.

May 5, MARYLAND

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20
Black Warrior Chess Challenge
9 SS, 40/115, SD/1, d5 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/90 +30" incr) (2-day schedule: Reg. Fri 6:30 pm, Rds. Fri 7:15-11:45-12:30-5:30.），Sat 11:45-12:30-5:30 each day.

May 5, GEORGIA

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20
Georgia Chess Extravaganza in T-Town
355, G/20, USCF rated. Prizes: $5,000 open/75 full. Entry fee for GM, IM, & College (by 4/2).
SIDE EVENT: Scholastic Tournament: Sat. Only 5/4. 5/5, G/20, USCF rated. Trophies for top five teams in each section, and top 5 individuals in each section.
Entry fee: $15-$25, on site.
SID: Sat 9 am-6 pm, Rds. 9:30 am-4 pm.
2-day schedule: Rds. 9:30 am-4 pm, Sat & Sun.

Chess Club of Bowling Green
Cherry Hall, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. Info and registration information updates or to register online.

May 5, INDIANA

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10
4th Annual Indiana Memorial Open
555, G/20, USCF rated. Additional site and information updates or to register online. Entry fee: $40 open or by Rv’d 4/27, $50 at site. U1000: 1st $200, 2nd $150, 3rd $100, 4th $75, 5th $50, 6th $40, 7th $30, 8th $20, 9th $10, 10th $5. Trophies to first 10 open. Trophies to first 5 in U1000. Trophies to first 5 in U1100. Trophies to first 5 in U1200. Trophies to first 5 in U1300.

May 5, NEW JERSEY

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10
East Coast Junior Open!
3:15, 5:00, 6:45 p.m. 2 byes available, commit prior to game 2. Re-entry: $20, before round 2 or 3 only. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065.

May 5-6, NEW YORK

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20
NYSCA Open
355, 50/90, SD/30 + 30" incr , (Rnd 1 G/90 +30" incr) (2-day schedule: Reg. 5/10-5/12; $2500 GTD; 5SS, 30/90, SD/1; d5).

May 5-6, INDIANA

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10

May 5-6, MARYLAND

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
15-CLASSIC CHESS: Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
May 5-7, NEW JERSEY

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 15 (Enhanced)
May 5-7, MARYLAND

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20
An American Classic!
May 5-7, TENNESSEE

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
Regional Open
May 5-6, FLORIDA

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 15
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
82nd Manhattan Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-27 OR 26-27, MASSACHUSETTS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
District 8 Tournament:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 24-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open


TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
District Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:


TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
District 8 Tournament:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 24-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open


TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
District Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 24-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 24-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 24-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 24-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
3rd Annual New York Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, CLEVELAND, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 25-26, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
68th OCF Open and Jenny Shamra and Memorial 2013 OCF Regional Championship
5/5-S, 9/9-G, 10/10-S; 3rd $200, 4th $100; U1300 $150; U1100 $100; U1000 $50
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 3 PM, Sat 9:30 AM-4 PM. Sunday Schedule:
Tournament Life / April


JUNE 7 OR 9-8, NEVADA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30

JUNE 9, NEVADA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 60

CONTINENTAL CHESS SCHEDULE
Visit www.chesscout.com for late news, results, games, minimum ratings, entries, etc. To be added to our email list, see chesscalendar.com. Most tournaments have alternate schedules playing 1 or 2 days, even if labeled as 3-day entries. Asterisk means full details in this issue otherwise, see future issues or our website. Excluding the following tournaments, entries closed two weeks prior to entry deadline._designer.
G/75, d5; 3-day option, rds 1-5 G/45, d5).

Sections, July 3-7, 4-7 or 5-7: projected prizes based on 1180 paid entries, $175,000 (70% of each prize) of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line.

2400/Unr: Under 1900 (no unr) $2000-1000, top senior 65/over $800.


400, top U1000 (no Unr) $1200-600, top senior 65/over $600.

Under 1200, Seniors in U1400/over as 60% entries, U900 as 15% entries.

400, top U1300 $1600-800, top senior 65/over $600.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

Open 7-day schedule: Mon-Wed 7 pm, Thu-Fri 6 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 5. Open to 2000/2-weekend schedule: 6/9 & 11, 6/10 & 4:30, 7/6 & 11/6, 7/7/10 & 6. All above schedules merge & compete for same prizes. Under 900 schedule: Fri 6 & Sat each 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm. $20 fee for switching EF (U900 Only).

Under 900 Section, July 5-7, 6/29 11 & 6, 6/30 10 & 4:30, 7/5 6 pm, 7/6 11 & 6, 7/7 10 & 5.

$20 less in U1200 Section.


US player ratings: Official Fide ratings used for all players. Unofficial uschess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. USCF tournament: 5SS, G/10, d2. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (see World Open). Prizes for Open: 5 sections.

$500-250-120-60-30, top Adult $250, Young Adult $150.

GMs free; $1000 deducted from prizes. IMs, WGMs: $100 less, $100 deducted from prize. All Under Open Section EF all $50 less than above. Under 900 Section EF: $40 online at chessaction.com by 6/28, $52 mailed by 6/18, $60 online until 9 am 7/7, $60 at site until 8/5, $70 online until 9 am 8/5, $70 at site until 9 am 8/5. EG/28, SD/30, inc. 30.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60

JULY 5, 2013

With 2000/2-weekend schedule: 6/9 & 11, 6/10 & 4:30, 7/6 & 11/6, 7/7/10 & 6. All above schedules merge & compete for same prizes. Under 900 schedule: Fri 6 & Sat each 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm. $20 fee for switching EF (U900 Only).

70% of each prize goes to next player(s) in line.

Advance entries will be posted at chessaction.com.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)


By paying an annual payment of $50.00 (instead of $350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.

Gold Affiliate is the highest affiliate status available. Affiliates with Gold Affiliate status will be recognized 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 Affiliate status may be subtracted $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 $50.00 (instead of $350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.

Silver Affiliate Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 USCF memberships during the current 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, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Silver Affiliate status may be subtracted $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 $250.00 (instead of $150), Silver Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.
Tournament Life / April

$80, no unrated may win over $150. Entry fee: $40, at site only, no check. Reg: 6-6, pm, rounds 11-15, 12-18, 1 30. Bye: On 1. Bquit or 2. quitting (if regular rating). prizes based on highest of blitz or quick ratings.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 11-12 or 20-21, ILLINOIS

CHESS LIFE MAGNATE SCHOOL JR GPP GRAND OPEN! 6th annual Chicago Class
555, Westmoreland North Shore Hall, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, Illinois 60090, 847-495-3300, info@chessmagnate.com, ChessMagnetSchool.com, 1-877-880-8885. Entry fee: $37, mailed by 7/16, cash, check or money orders only. Prizes: Top 100% of over $150. Total Prize fund guaranteed $1,500. No unrated may win over $90. No entry fee. Fees paid in advance. All entries due by 7/15. Mail to Chessmagnate School, 1400 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60613. Questions: chess@chessmagnate.com or 1-877-880-8885.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!


CHESS LIFE TRAVELERS PLUS GRAND OPEN PRIZES: $1500-750-300-100-50-25. Sponsoring: California Chess School, 1400 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60613. Entry fee: $20 or $15 if mailed by 7/12, $25 thereafter. BYES: Limit 1, request before rrd 2, other sections before rd 4.


CHESS LIFE TRAVELERS PLUS GRAND OPEN PRIZES: $1500-750-300-100-50-25. Sponsoring: California Chess School, 1400 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60613. Entry fee: $20 or $15 if mailed by 7/12, $25 thereafter. BYES: Limit 1, request before rrd 2, other sections before rd 4.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 20-31 or 31-30, ALABAMA

CHESS LIFE MAGNATE SCHOOL JR GPP GRAND OPEN! 6th annual Chicago Class
555, Westmoreland North Shore Hall, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, Illinois 60090, 847-495-3300, info@chessmagnate.com, ChessMagnetSchool.com, 1-877-880-8885. Entry fee: $37, mailed by 7/16, cash, check or money orders only. Prizes: Top 100% of over $150. Total Prize fund guaranteed $1,500. No unrated may win over $90. No entry fee. Fees paid in advance. All entries due by 7/15. Mail to Chessmagnate School, 1400 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60613. Questions: chess@chessmagnate.com or 1-877-880-8885.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 20-31 or 31-30, MARYLAND

CHESS LIFE MAGNATE SCHOOL JR GPP GRAND OPEN! 6th annual Chicago Class
555, Westmoreland North Shore Hall, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, Illinois 60090, 847-495-3300, info@chessmagnate.com, ChessMagnetSchool.com, 1-877-880-8885. Entry fee: $37, mailed by 7/16, cash, check or money orders only. Prizes: Top 100% of over $150. Total Prize fund guaranteed $1,500. No unrated may win over $90. No entry fee. Fees paid in advance. All entries due by 7/15. Mail to Chessmagnate School, 1400 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60613. Questions: chess@chessmagnate.com or 1-877-880-8885.
all $120 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. Fee $5 for WCL, free for non-members. Entries accepted on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $45, TO REGISTER: chesscom@chess.com, call 602-482-4687. SITE: 100th N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

APR. 13. Tempe Open

SITE: E. E. Redd, Tempe, AZ.

MAY 11. Tempe Open


JULY 18-21, 2013 18th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

North Carolina, Southern

Cheess MAGNET School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 6, Birmingham Challenge
4SS, TC: G/120. 1639A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Trophies. Players: w/plus, s/plus, chess by 2.50-40. EF: $25, 40 entries. Info: http://BayAreaChess.com/cupertino. NC. N.W.

APR. 14, Cupertino Quads

APR. 20, Bay Area Chess4Less Quads
3 x 6/0. 1639A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Trophies for plus score & teams. Sched: Reg. 9:15am Games: 2:45-5:45pm. EF: $19, 34 entries. INFO: http://BayAreaChess.com/cupertino. NC. N.W.

APR. 20, Bay Area Chess4Less Swiss
4 x 6/0. 1639A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Trophies & prizes to top 6 players. Sched. Reg. 9:15am Games: 2:45-5:45pm. EF: $33, 48 entries. INFO: http://BayAreaChess.com/cupertino. NC. N.W.

APR. 27.厂商 38, Huntsville Challenge

MAY 3-5 OR 4-5. 2013 Georgia State Championship (GA) See Grand Prix.


MAY 31-JUNE 2 OR 3-1. 2013 Alabama Championship (GA) See Grand Prix.

JULY 20. Evan格尔 Challenge See Grand Prix.


Arizona

Cheess Mag.net School Junior Grand Prix!

April 6, 9 y.o. CFCA student. Participants and their families (up to 4 people) in the 1st round onsite. Online registration: http://www.events4chess.chessaction.com, Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, cash or check payable to “Bay Area Chess” to Les Kline (TD), 801 Rush Dr ., Fayetteville, AR 72701; (479) 444-8530; (479) 969-2038, no questions), 3-day Adult $48, 2-day Adult $27, 3-day Junior $48, 2-day Junior $27, all site, or online. 2 hours before game. Online EF $5 less to OCA members. Unlimited chess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues if paid before site. Entry fee: $6 for adult, $5 for child. Checks payable to: CalChessScholastics.org. Questions: ask@BayArea ChessEmporium.com, call 602-482-4678. Advance entries posted at chesscom.com.

The publication of Chess Life may be found on the Tournament Listings by Statepage, Sponsorship Agency: ADG3416, CATALINA FISHES CLUB ACA. Tell the TD you heard about this event via TLA Mail or saw it on the USCF website.

APR. 13. Tempe Open

SITE: E. E. Redd, Tempe, AZ.

MAY 11. Tempe Open


JULY 18-21, 2013 18th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

Regions
APR. 27, SCCF WPDScholastics 5-SS, G/5, Sidco Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to g-12 below. In two sections: Open to Top 5, top 1 U2000, top 2 U1200. Grade 6 below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 U1200. RD: 9-30-11-14-35-45. EF: $20 if received by 04/01, $25 door. Info: metochess@yahoo.com. Online ent: www.metrochess.org. Em: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90054-9212.


MAY 26, MDC Scholastics 5-SS, G/30. Sheraton Ontario Airport, 429 North Vineyard Ave., Ontario, CA 91764. Open to g-12 below. In two sections: Open to Trophies to top 5, top 3 U2000, top 2 U1200. Grade 6 below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 U1200. RD: 30-12-11-14-35-45. EF: $10 if received by 05/24, $25 door. Info: metochess@yahoo.com. Online ent: www.sccshess.com. Em: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.


JUNE 5, 2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ) (NV) See National Open.

JUNE 7, National Open Scholastic Tournament (NV) See National Open.


JUNE 9, National Open Blitz Sections (BLZ) (NV) See Grand Prix.


JUNE 10, National Open Blitz Sections (BLZ) (NV) See National Open.

JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, 2013 Annual Northeast Open See Grand Prix.

JULY 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 1 OR JUNE 26-30, 2013 Atlantic World Open (NV) See Grand Prix.

JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 2013 Bradley Open See Grand Prix.

AUG. 2-4 OR 3-4, 2013 National Continental Open (NV) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 8-9, 10-11 OR 10-11, 2013 Florida Open Continental (NV) See Grand Prix.

District of Columbia

APR. 20, Rated Beginners Open (RBO) 4-SS, G/30. US Chess Center, 410 8th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004. Open to players rated under 1200 or unrated. EF: $10 ($20 if by 4/13). 5 sections by age. Registration: 9:15-9:45 Sat 6/8. Rd. 1-10:00, others ASAP. The top 5 overall in grade categories K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-13 will be eligible for U-1200 USCF membership. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 3, top 2 U1000, U1000 to U1200, U1200 to U1600. Top 5 in grade categories K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-13. Top 3 in grade categories U1300, U1500, U1700, U1800. The top 3 overall in grade categories K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-13 will be eligible for U-1200 USCF membership. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 3, top 2 U1000, U1000 to U1200, U1200 to U1600. Top 5 in grade categories K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-13 will be eligible for U-1200 USCF membership.

Florida

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! Boca Raton Chess Club Friday nights, G/40 Tournament, one game a week for 4 weeks. Info: www.bocachess.com, 561-479-0351.

APR. 20, 2013 Scholastic Tournament 5-SS, G/5, 6-10. Open: 45 + 5 reg. fee. Cash Prizes: ($500/1st, 250/2nd, 125/3rd, 75/4th to 8th). RESERVE: U1300 $20 + $15 reg. fee. Cash Prizes: ($500/1st, 250/2nd, 125/3rd, 75/4th to 8th). JUNIOR: ($75/1st, $40/2nd, $20/3rd, $10/4th to 8th). Entries: $25 if received by 4/30, $30 at door. Make checks to USA. Registration: 8:30-9:30 AM. Rounds: 9:00 AM-12:30 PM-3:00 PM. Em: rknights@icloud.com. Web site at www.rknights.org for our schedule of events and to find out more about our programs.

APR. 20, 2013 April Scholastic Tournament 5-SS, G/5. Open: 45 + 5 reg. fee. Cash Prizes: ($500/1st, 250/2nd, 125/3rd, 75/4th to 8th). RESERVE: U1300 $20 + $15 reg. fee. Cash Prizes: ($500/1st, 250/2nd, 125/3rd, 75/4th to 8th). JUNIOR: ($75/1st, $40/2nd, $20/3rd, $10/4th to 8th). Entries: $25 if received by 4/30, $30 at door. Make checks to USA. Registration: 8:30-9:30 AM. Rounds: 9:00 AM-12:30 PM-3:00 PM. Em: rknights@icloud.com. Web site at www.rknights.org for our schedule of events and to find out more about our programs.

APR. 21, 2013 Scholastic Chess Club, Sunday 4SS, G/5, Open: $20, members $10, GMs and IMs free (no deduction from prize!). Prize: ($500 1st, 250 2nd, 100 3rd). Registration: 11:15-12:15 noon. Rounds: 11:30-12:30-1:30-2:30. Info: mail or call 203-658-4111 or e-mail alexander@chessclubamps.com.


APR. 28-29 OR 27-28, 2013 24th Annual Open:

AUG. 5-6 AND 5-7, 2013 Georgia State Championship (GA) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 6-7, 2013 Summer Women's Open (NV) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 8-9, 2013 Sunshine Summer Open & Scholastic Chess Tournament See Grand Prix.


AUG. 7-8, 2013 Grand Prix Chess Open (NV) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 9-12, 2013 Florida Open Continental (NV) See Grand Prix.
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 in 1 section only. Credit Cards onsite OK. No checks onsite. Mail entries to: North American Chess Association (payable to), 4950 Oakton St., Suite 113, Skokie, IL 60077. Register online at www.nachess.org/competitions. Questions: sevan@nachess.org or contact info, etc.

FREE raffle prizes before round 6 with free entry, free room and free airfare to a tournament site. Prize (Boys and Girls each): 1st-Webster University Scholarship-2nd thru 4th-$500-300-200 per section. EF: $25 - $50 BD month, $50 per class. EF: $25 - $50 BD month, $50 per class.

Indianapolis Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! The Second Saturday of the Month
Rss., GS, US65. Donatos Pizza, 825 W. 10th St., Indianapolis. Reg.: 9-11:30, Rd.: 11-14:40. $50/30, $20/15, $15/10, $9/5. No checks onsite. Mail entries to akakarpov@att.net. 3 entries in a class req’d for that class prize to be awarded.

APR. 20, Fort Wayne CC Spring Open
4SS, 6-5SS. All Main Public Library, Meeting Room C, 1 Library Plaza.
Free parking on street. Reg.: 9-9:45, Rds.: 9:45-12, 2pm, 4pm. EF: $25 - pre-reg. check in at site, or cash/check at site. Prize(s): $25-15-10-5 BD month per class. EF: $25 - $50 BD month, $50 per class. EF: $25 - $50 BD month, $50 per class.

MAY 11, 4th Annual Indianapolis Medal
See Grand Prix.

MAY 23-27, 24-27 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.
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-V, B, C, D, E/Under. Players may play up one class. Some sections may be combined. All B/Under and Closed. G/40, d/30. E/Under, G/30, d/30. 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. USCF membership required, $13.00, $10.00 Jr. or Jr. Sc. Rds. M-V/4, B, C, D, K-3 9:30:20:50:30:70: E/Under, 9:30 am-10:15 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, 7140 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 JSP for sections M-V/4, B, C, D, Annual meeting at 1 am. Apr 27-29, 2013, Iowa Closed Championship. FD/FD rated. Invitation only. This event will be held in conjunction with this tournament. Time: G/60, Qd. Rds.: 8:30-2:30-7:30, 9:30-2:30-3. 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 hughouse. Individual and Team Awards. Sections: K-3, K-4-6, Round Swisss, G/45/5, K-8, K-12, 5 Round Swisss, G/75/5,6/$.

Where: The Grand River Center, 350 Bell St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Hotel: Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark, 350 Bell St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Reg.: On-Site Registration: 8:00 am. – 9:30 am. Rds.: K-3 & K-4-6: Rd 1: 11:30 am, Rd 2: 12:30 pm, Rd 3: 1:30 pm, Rd 4: 2:30 pm. K-8: Rd 5: 9:00 am, Rd 6:11:00 am, Lunch: Rd 7: 1:30 pm, K-8, K-12: Rd 1: 10:00 am. Lunch: Rd 2: 1:30 pm, Rd 3: 4:30 pm, Rd 4: 6:30 pm, Rd 5: 7:30 pm. Entry Fee: $40 if postmarked by May 1st. $50 postmarked after 5/1 or on site. Prize Info: Trophies for Top 10 Individuals: 1st 200, 2d 150, 3rd 100, 4th 75, 5th 50, 6th 30, 7th 20, 8th 15, 9th 10, 10th 5. Trophies for Top 3 Individuals: K-3 U400, K-6 U600, K-8 Unrated. Trophies for Top 3 Individuals: K-12 Unrated, K-12 Unrated. Team Awards (Top 4 individual scores): Plaques for Top 3 Teams K-3, K-4, K-8, K-12. Teams may be of common school or chess club per USCF current regulations. Send Entry Fee to: Checks payable to James Hod-
Mary Alice Forth Center Hall, 7530 Mclean Blvd, Mclean, VA 22102. Entry Fee: $100.00. Cash prizes. Prizes based on 50% of entry fee. Adults, $20 if received by 4/6/2013, $30 at site. Prizes will be awarded to top 10 in each section plus class trophies. Rds: 9:30, 12:15, 2:40, 5:00. Awards: Trophies to top 10 in each section plus class trophies. MCA membership required. Winners may collect prizes on 1st and 2nd place if declared before round 2. MCA membership required from $5. Entry: www.montanachess.org. Free Entry Unrated Players!

JUNE 2, 2013 United States Open (IL)

A Heritage Event! Chess Mates Scholastic Junior Grand Prix

APR. 13-14, 78th Montana Open

Open. 5 SS, U120. Mary Alice Forth Center Hall, 7530 Mclean Blvd, Mclean, VA 22102. Entry Fee: $100.00. Cash prizes. Prizes based on 50% of entry fee. Adults, $20 if received by 4/6/2013, $30 at site. Prizes will be awarded to top 10 in each section plus class trophies. Rds: 9:30, 12:15, 2:40, 5:00. Awards: Trophies to top 10 in each section plus class trophies. MCA membership required. Winners may collect prizes on 1st and 2nd place if declared before round 2. MCA membership required from $5. Entry: www.montanachess.org. Free Entry Unrated Players!

JUNE 6, 2013 U.S. Game 10 Championship (BLZ)

See Nationals.

JUNE 7, 2013 National Open Scholastic Trophy Tournament 5-5 Game. Hotel Riviera and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Entry: $200.00. Prizes based on 50% of entry fee. Adults, $20 if received by 4/6/2013, $30 at site. Prizes will be awarded to top 10 in each section plus class trophies. Rds: 9:30, 12:15, 2:40, 5:00. Awards: Trophies to top 10 in each section plus class trophies. MCA membership required. Winners may collect prizes on 1st and 2nd place if declared before round 2. MCA membership required from $5. Entry: www.montanachess.org. Free Entry Unrated Players!


JUNE 9, 2013 National Open Blitz (BLZ)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 12, 2013 World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ)

See Nationals.

JUNE 13-14, 78th Montana Open

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2013 North American Open (CT)

See Nationals.

JUNE 22-23, 2013 9th Annual Vermont Resort Open (VT)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 24-25, 2013 Missouri Chess Association Candidates Tournament (MO)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26, 2013 West Virginia Chess Open

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 28-29, 2013 Missouri 50/60 Open

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 29-30, 2013 Missouri Chess Association Candidates Tournament (MO)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 1, 2013 World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ)

See Nationals.

JULY 2, 2013 World Open Blitz Championship (BLZ) (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 4, 2013 World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ)

See Nationals.

JULY 5-6, 2013 Missouri 50/60 Open

See Grand Prix.

JULY 6, 2013 World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ)

See Nationals.

JULY 7, 2013 World Open Blitz Championship (BLZ) (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 7, 2013 World Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 8, 2013 Missouri 50/60 Open

See Grand Prix.


JULY 10, 2013 Missouri 50/60 Open

See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2013 World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ)

See Nationals.

JULY 17-18, 2013 Missouri 50/60 Open

See Grand Prix.
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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! APR. 22, 2013 Marshall Monday U1600 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 8-8, 9-9, 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, 13-13, 14-14: 4-SS, G/15d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. EF: $45, members $25. Free, see Grand Prix.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY. 5, 6, 13, 15, 22, 29, Community Chess Club of Rochester Wed Night chess! 1 game, G/80/5, Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14601. 540-1341. EF: $10, members $5. Free, see Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY. 1, 2, 3, 14, 22, 29, Community Chess Club of Rochester Wed Night chess! 1 game, G/80/5, Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14601. 540-1341. EF: $10, members $5. Free, see Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY. 3-4-5 2013, 24th annual Vermont Resort Open (VT) See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY. 4, 2013 Marshall Saturday U1800 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13, 13-14: 3-SS, G/60d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-424-2340. EF: $50, members $30. Free, see Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY. 4, 2013 Marshall Thursday U1800 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13, 13-14: 3-SS, G/60d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-424-2340. EF: $50, members $30. Free, see Grand Prix.


JUNE 8-9 OR 9, Marshall June GP
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 13, Marshall Thursday Game 30!
4-5/25d, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

JUNE 14, Marshall Friday U2000 Action!
4-5/25d, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, 19th Annual Northeast Open (CT)
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 Grand Prix.

JULY 2-9, World Open Under 2000 (VA)
See Virginia.

JULY 1-3 OR 2-3, 2nd annual World Open Women’s Championship (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 1-1 OR JUNE 29-JULY 7, 41st Annual World Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 18th Annual Bradley Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 24-25 OR 25-26, 6th New York International
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 2-4 OR 3-4, 19th Annual Northeast Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 9-10 OR 10-11, Cleveland OH (OH)
See Grand Prix.

North Carolina

APR. 13, Knights Templar II

MARY 3-5 OR 4-5, 2013 Georgia State Championship (GA)
See Grand Prix.

MARY 3-5 OR 4-5, The Big Enchilada III
See Grand Prix.

MARY 31-JUNE 2 OR 1-2, 2013 Atlanta Championship (GA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29-30, 50th annual World Open Senior Amateur (VA)
See Virginia.

JULY 29-30, World Open Under 13 Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

JULY 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.

JULY 3-4, 7-5, 7-1 OR JUNE 29-JULY 7, 41st Annual World Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

Ohio

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 1-2 OR 2, Marshall June Grand Prix
4-5, 5/25d, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 1, Marshall Saturday U1500
5-5S, 0/G/30, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 3-4, Marshall Sunday U1200
5-5S, 0/G/30, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 5-7, Marshall Monday U1000
5-5S, 0/G/30, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 8-9 OR 9, Marshall June GP
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 13, Marshall Thursday Game 30!
4-5/25d, Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-277-3716. EF: $40, members $25, GMs free. Prizes: ($530 based on 32 paid entries: $200-100, U1000 $95, U1500 $85, U1700 $60-45. 1st one available, request at entry.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 14, Marshall Friday U2000 Action!
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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, 19th Annual Northeast Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA)
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 29-30, 5th annual World Open Senior Amateur (VA)
See Virginia.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 29-30, World Open Under 13 Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 29-30, World Open Warmup (VA)
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 1-2, World Open Under 2300 (VA)
See Virginia.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 1-3 OR 2-3, 2nd annual World Open Women’s Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 3-4, 7-5, 7-1 OR JUNE 29-JULY 7, 41st Annual World Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
APR. 5-6 OR 12-13, 55th Dayton Chess Club Championship
6S Open, $200/240, info: DaytonChessClub@gmail.com, www.daytonchessclub.com or dccc.18w5@sbcglobal.net/, 937-461-6283.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
APR. 5-6 OR 12-13, 55th Dayton Chess Club Championship
6S Open, $200/240, info: DaytonChessClub@gmail.com, www.daytonchessclub.com or dccc.18w5@sbcglobal.net/, 937-461-6283.

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APR. 5-6 OR 12-13, 55th Dayton Chess Club Championship
6S Open, $200/240, info: DaytonChessClub@gmail.com, www.daytonchessclub.com or dccc.18w5@sbcglobal.net/, 937-461-6283.
Pennsylvania
Every Friday - LVCA 7 & 9 pm Blitz Events Open/U1200 (Closed 3/8/ 3/29) (BLZ)
MAY 24-26 OR 25-26, 55th Gen City Open (OH) See Grand Prix…
JUNE 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA) See Grand Prix.
JUNE 28-30, 5th Annual World Senior Open Amateur (VA) See Virginia.
JUNE 29-30, World Open Warmup (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 1-2, World Open Under 2300 (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 1-3 OR 2-3, 2nd annual World Open Women’s Championship (VA) See Virginia.
JULY 3-4, 2013 Atlantic Grand Prix Championship (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 1-7 OR JUNE 29-JULY 2, 1st Annual World Open (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 6, 2013 Chess Club of Washington DC (DC) See Grand Prix.
JULY 6, World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ) (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 7, World Open Blitz Championship (BLZ) (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 24-26 OR 25-26, 2013 South Carolina Open (CH) See Grand Prix.
Augsburg Chess Club, 701 E. Main St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130. 3 rated sections: K-4, K-6, K-12. Trophies: top 10 individual and 3 teams (from the same school) per section. EF: $15 by 4/14, $20 on-site. Reg.: 7:45-8:30. Rd. 1:6 pm, other rds. as noted. ENT: Central Maryland Chess, 1131 North Market St., 21202. Info: Kozubowicz, 410-728-7713 or kmcm@umd.edu.
MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 2013 Georgia State Championship (GA) See Grand Prix.
MAY 17-19 OR 18-19, 2013 Tennessee Senior Open MSS, $250. Far Park Senior Center, 1434 Livingston Rd., Crossville, TN 38555. EF: $25 if mailed by 5/16/13 $35 at site. 3-Day: Reg Fee: Fri 2:00- 3:30 PM. Rd. 1, 2, 1:30-3, 2: Day Reg Sat 8:00-9:30. Rd. 1: 2, 10-2, 9-2 Rds 1 & 1 at 2 & 6 PM. Reg.: 4/14-5/18. Rd. 1: 615 pm or asap. Prizes: 50% of entries, 1st-700, 2nd-301-350, more prizes if 12 or more. Ph: 448-864-3054 or bdavis@lehighvalleychess.org.
MAY 3-5 OR 4-5, 2013 Georgia State Championship (GA) See Grand Prix.
MAY 30-31 OR 6-7, 2013 U.S. Championship (NV) See Grand Prix.
MAY 31-JUNE 2 OR 1-2, 2013 Atlantic Championship (VA) See Grand Prix.
JUNE 6-9, 2013 U.S. Amateur South Championship See Nationals.
MAY 25, Rutherford County Open See Grand Prix.
Chess Mates National Junior Grand Prix! April 6-7, Danny Byrne Memorial Tournament 100% of entry fees (exempting scholarships) Free talks by Deelman and Eisler Byrne. 3rd Floor, Room 302 Huber-Residence Building, University Park, Pa 16802. Register at site or at info@chessmates.com. Reg.: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. 19th Annual Inter-State Tourney. 1st-25%, Top U2000, Top U1800 – 12.5%.
MAY 12-14, Philadelphia, PA 19119.
Maryland Chess Association (MD) See Maryland.
Pennsylvania Chess Club, 4370 Ford Ave., West Hazleton, PA 18202, 1/2 mile from Exit 1 4-81.
Prizes: $50 for 3-0 score, else $45 for 1st. RBO Section EF: $10. Prizes: to PCC members.
MAY 24-26 OR 25-26, 55th Gen City Open (OH) See Grand Prix.
JUNE 27-JULY 1, DC International (VA) See Grand Prix.
JUNE 28-30, 5th Annual World Senior Open Amateur (VA) See Virginia.
JUNE 29-30, World Open Warmup (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 1-2, World Open Under 2300 (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 1-3 OR 2-3, 2nd annual World Open Women’s Championship (VA) See Virginia.
JULY 3-4, 2013 Atlantic Grand Prix Championship (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 1-7 OR JUNE 29-JULY 2, 1st Annual World Open (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 6, 2013 Chess Club of Washington DC (DC) See Grand Prix.
JULY 6, World Open 10-Minute Championship (BLZ) (VA) See Grand Prix.
JULY 7, World Open Blitz Championship (BLZ) (VA) See Grand Prix.
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MAY 12-14, Philadelphia, PA 19119.
Maryland Chess Association (MD) See Maryland.
May 4, Kingstowne Quad #1 Action #6 #1
Kingstowne Thompson Center, 6000 Kingstowne Plaza, Alexandria, Va.
22313. 2 events. Quad #1: 3R8, 6R4, 15G5, 15E: $10 if received by 5/1, $15 at site. Prizes:
medals to 1st and 2nd in each quad; gold to 1st if 3 or more, silver to 2nd. Rds 1-3 17-4-1-2, 3-4 1-2-17/A-4, 4-5 1-2. $50 award for highest. Cash prizes.

May 10-12, 59th Annual Maryland Open NOTE DATE CHANGES (MD) See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize! May 25, 2pm Spring Open

May 25, Las Vegas HOTEL - CASINO - LAS VEGAS

NATIONAL OPEN

May 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 1-7 OR JUNE 28-JULY 2, 41st Annual World Open See World Open.

JUNE 7 – 9 OR 8-9, 18th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA) See Grand Prix.

Washington


JUNE 19-21 OR 20-21, 6th annual Chicago Class (IL) See Grand Prix.

Wisconsin

JUNE 20-22, 2nd annual Chicago Blitz Championship (BLZ) (IL) See Grand Prix.


JUNE 19-21 OR 20-21, 6th annual Chicago Class (IL) See Grand Prix.

JUNE 20-22, 2nd annual Chicago Blitz Championship (BLZ) (IL) See Grand Prix.
**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 0-0-0 2. Qg6 mate. b) 1. Qh1 0-0-0 2. Qc6 mate. c) 1. Qxa2 Rf8 2. Qe6 mate.

**PAGE 15 / CHESS TO ENJOY**


**TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
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<td>95+</td>
<td>2400+</td>
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<td>1200-1399</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-05</td>
<td>under 1200</td>
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**PAGE 45 / BENKO’S BAFFERS**


**THE USCF MISSION**

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the role of chess in American society. USCF serves as the governing body for chess players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accordance with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.

www.uschess.org
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.

Moon over Orlando
Ryan Joseph Moon (2113)
Michael Chiang (2013)
2008 Grade Nationals (6)

and even after Fritz thinks Black is winning for a while, until finally settling on a slight advantage for Black.

17. hxg4 N×g4+ 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 B×g4+ 24. K×g4 Q×g2+ 25. N×g3 h5+ 26. Kh4 Bf6+ 27. Qg5 B×g5+ 28. K×g5 Q×g3+ 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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Editor’s Letter: Teeming with Teams

When I was still in elementary school, I lived, breathed, and slept baseball. While I relished the individual challenge of playing well, hanging out with my teammates during and after long, sweaty practices certainly factored in. At the time I was also playing chess, but it was more of a solitary pursuit, an after-dinner activity with my father. If I had known of the U.S. Amateur Team, which was just hitting its stride about this same time, I can imagine begging my dad to let me participate in that amiable event. Team sports and chess combined? That was for me. Al Lawrence captures this feeling in his wonderfully atmospheric report covering the U.S. Amateur Team East from Pasippany, New Jersey beginning on page 20. The North, West, and South events follow. Our team theme continues as most of the members of our U.S. squad annotate their best efforts from the Pan American Team Championship in Campinas, Brazil. Our guys took the top prize, qualifying them to play in the FIDE World Team Championship in November in Antalya, Turkey. What is particularly exciting about this is how young they are, with an average age of only 25. This bodes well for continued success of U.S. teams, especially combined with the experienced leadership of IM John Donaldson. Team results are influenced by individual efforts, and IM Irina Krush reports on her exemplary results from the Women’s World Team Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan. While the team finished in sixth place, Krush herself defeated two world champions on the way to her gold medal performance on board two. These are certainly heady times for American team chess on both foreign and domestic fronts, and so I’m hopeful that my childhood baseball days will repeat themselves on these pages, and perhaps we’ll soon be reporting on our own “Murderer’s Row” (the nickname for the meat of the 1927 New York Yankees’ lineup). Here’s to your chess life.  

-Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: MAY

Five Years in St. Louis

The U.S. Chess Championship and U.S. Women’s Championship celebrate their fifth year at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis from May 2-13. This year’s event goes back to the original format, a 24-player Swiss. Competitors include GM Gata Kamsky, Webster student GM Ray Robson and blindfold whiz GM Timur Gareev. On the women’s side, U.S. Women’s Champion Irina Krush is coming off what she calls “her best result ever” in Kazakhstan. The opening of the event coincides with the World Chess Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Look for news and links on CLO, and catch live streaming commentary with GMs Maurice Ashley, Yasser Seirawan and WGM and CLO editor Jen Shahade.

STAR HEAD TO NORWAY: Watch GM Hikaru Nakamura battle with the world’s best in the first super tournament in Norway, held from May 8 to 12. Other players include Norwegian star and World Championship challenger GM Magnus Carlsen as well as GM Peter Svidler. Coverage will include GM Ian Rogers’ reportage from the scene.

CHI-TOWN CHESS: Find CLO coverage of the annual Chicago Open from May 23-27. The event features a $100,000 guaranteed prize pool and is the first of a fun season of large Grand Prix tournaments.

YOUTH AND VETERANS COME TO NY: The U.S. Senior Open (May 28-June 2) and U.S. Junior Open (May 31-June 2) will both be held in Tarrytown, New York. Look for updates and games on CLO.

CONTRIBUTORS

Al Lawrence The USAT East 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.

Betsy Carina Dynako The USAT North writer and photographer is a professional photographer from Chicago whose work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal and in other publications worldwide. She is also a national tournament director, FIDE arbiter, and a regular contributor to Chess Life and Chess Life Online.

IM Irina Krush Our Women’s Team coverage is provided by the current U.S. women’s champion, a frequent Chess Life contributor.

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Princeton A, the USAT East Champions back home on campus: Left to right, Patrick Thompson, Leo Kang, Jack Hutton, Dyland Xue, Andrew Ng, and FM Michael Lee.

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BEING THERE

On the ‘Letters to the Editor’ page of the April issue of Chess Life, Bruce Radford points out that the description of your reporter Ian Rogers of the short last-round game between Paco Vallejo and Fabiano Caruana at the Sao Paulo/Bilbao Grand Slam Final differed considerably from my account in New In Chess 2012/8. Mr. Radford rightly wonders which version is true. Whereas Ian Rogers saw the brief draw as a ‘chivalrous’ gesture from Caruana, who apparently wanted to spare Vallejo further misery after his tournament had totally gone off the rails, I described Caruana’s shock and disappointment after Vallejo’s opening choice, a well-known drawing mechanism in the Ruy Lopez, had robbed him of the chance to play for outright tournament victory.

In his reaction, Ian Rogers reveals that he was ‘rather stunned’ by my description, qualifying my words in New In Chess as ‘spin’ and ‘ridiculous.’ Let me say that I was more than ‘rather stunned’ when I read Ian Rogers’ defense of his own report. In his wish to stick to his original version he shows little interest in what really happened and doesn’t shrink back from misleading the reader and questioning my integrity.

So, what happened? At the start of the last round in Bilbao, Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana were tied for first. In that round Carlsen faced Levon Aronian. As Caruana told me after the tournament, he was ‘pretty sure that Magnus would not be able to beat Aronian with black.’ Caruana himself also had black, but he played Vallejo, who was in bottom place and out of form. How can a grandmaster with Rogers’ experience think or suggest that a renowned fighter like Caruana decide not to play for a win in this situation? And how can he say that Caruana could have avoided the repetition ‘at many moments?’ As Caruana told me: ‘I felt like winning would just give me the tournament.’ With his trainer [GM Vladimir] Chuchelov he had looked at various openings, but they had not considered the possibility that Vallejo would go for this forced draw. Caruana said he felt frustrated and disappointed. Regarding the move repetition he said: ‘I can avoid it, but then I am just worse.’

The reader, and the editor of Chess Life for that matter, may wonder why Ian Rogers didn’t substantiate his version with quotes from Caruana? One reason is: because he was not present in Bilbao. That’s right, you read correctly. While Ian Rogers was writing about an event that he didn’t attend, he had no qualms about ridiculing the story of a reporter who was an eyewitness to what happened.

It gets even more painful: he next uses this ‘example’ as a stepping-stone to judge my overall journalism and that of New In Chess in general. These lines of Ian Rogers’ reaction are puzzling. It’s beyond me why he suddenly launches an unfounded attack on New In Chess, when all he was asked to do is to explain what his version of what happened in the last round in Bilbao was based on.

Ian Rogers was wrong and he knows it. The fact that he was not present in Bilbao only partly accounts for his misguided speculations and distortions of the truth. After all he might have contacted Caruana or me to hear what really happened. What’s baffling to begin with is that a grandmaster, present in Bilbao or not, can think or suggest that Fabiano Caruana, famous for his fighting spirit, would allow a ‘depressed’ opponent a short draw and thus forego his chance to score what would have been the greatest triumph of his young career.

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam
Editor in Chief, New In Chess

PURPLE PEOPLE EATER SUIT

I was surprised at the caption on page 28 referring to a “pimp suit” in the Ramirez article in the January issue. As a respectable publication, Chess Life has an obligation to respect decency and especially young people that read this magazine. I would not want my children exposed to such lowlife terms. These kind of references have no place in a professional environment, as the editors failed to realize.

Marc A. Dippre
Richland, Washington
Life member 42 years

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Growing up with Chess
Leaving a legacy

By Andrea Lebedovych Bilaniuk

When my father, LTC (Ret., U.S. Army) Milas W. Lebedovych, MD, died a month before his 76th birthday, we found his peaceful, lifeless body in the same room as his piles and piles of Chess Life magazines. He had issues older than me, and I was born in 1971. My father lived and breathed chess; it was as much a part of him as his name. Chess was never a hobby or a pastime for my father; it was his lifestyle and the lifestyle of my family.

My older brother and I were born not with silver spoons in our mouths but with pawns and rooks in our tiny little hands. We learned to move chess pieces before we learned to move our limbs. While other children were learning their ABCs, colors and shapes, my brother and I were being schooled in the coordinates of a chessboard and the geometric movements of each piece. As elementary students we knew more about the biographies of Garry Kasparov, Bobby Fischer, and Boris Spassky than we knew about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or Benjamin Franklin. Our classmates knew that Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag, but we were the only ones who knew that chess originated from India.

By all accounts, chess figured prominently into our young lives. We spent our toddler days in chess clubs, typically on Friday nights. Now that I am a mother, I have to question my parents’ sensibilities of bringing three- and four-year-olds to a damp, cold basement in Detroit where old men played chess until 10 p.m. Chess was our toddlerhood, our youth, and our teenage years. Birthday presents were always chess books, sets, and clocks.

The not so secret truth is that I never enjoyed chess. My father was a strict teacher who “forced” the game on us and rarely made the lessons fun for me. Even when I cried to her in frustration, “What imaginary line? Why can’t the king go to c4?” she quietly let dad rule over the lessons.

My father’s desire to spread the chess love was evident everywhere he went. He taught all of my cousins, and later, their spouses and children to play. My theory is that dad was better at teaching other children, but not his own. Dad also taught neighborhood kids, strangers at the park, passengers at airports; no one was safe from my father’s chess recruiting campaign. He loved the game so much he would often sponsor teenagers at chess tournaments, buy clocks for people who showed the least bit of interest in chess, give away cherished books to young chess students. My father, with his thick eastern European accent, intense, powerful glare and hunched, sloping shoulders, looked the part of an imposing grandmaster, through the eyes of others. To us, however, Dad was a tyrant who assigned us chess homework instead of taking us to the movies. Weeknights were spent doing endless chess drills and weekends were spent at tournaments. It was exhausting, frustrating, and not fun at all.

Growing up, we had chess sets in the kitchen, in all the bathrooms, multiple travel sets in the car, several on my father’s bedside table; chess sets were like a spreading virus. This drove my mother crazy, since dad’s “chess junk” was competing for display space with her elegant collection of Waterford and Lladro.

Dad was in chess heaven in the 1980’s when he first discovered the chess computer. This novelty quickly faded, however, as my father preferred the personal, cerebral relationship of human player to human player. When my father visited other people’s homes, much to my mother’s horror, he would bring a chess set for the hostess. Eventually mom learned to appreciate dad’s corny chess gifts—the “Chess players make better mates” bumper sticker he embarrassingly slapped on her car; the “romantic” weekends at hotels where she was left alone with lousy HBO movies while he played chess for ten hours in the hotel ballroom.

haps that there are worse things you can teach your kids than chess. Even when I cried to her in frustration, “What imaginary line? Why can’t the king go to c4?” she quietly let dad rule over the lessons.

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Years later, when age crept upon my father, and travel to tournaments became more difficult, my father found a way to carry on a chess game with a friend via phone—one move per week. I never could comprehend the absurdity of this, but now that he is gone, I miss eavesdropping on those brief phone conversations.

When I became engaged, my father’s initial comment was, “great, but does he play chess?” Subsequently, my father provided me with a list of dates and very seriously mandated that my wedding not be scheduled on those dates, “because I am playing chess.” My father was a psychiatrist, who worked long, tiresome hours. Yet, he always made time for chess. My father chased chess clinics, tournaments, and workshops, like weather fanatics go after tornadoes. Many family trips were canceled in the last minute since dad’s chess took precedence over everything.

Over the years I grew to accept that like it or not, chess is a part of my life and will always be. No matter how I tried to escape it, chess would find it’s way into my world. When decorating my home a few years ago, I found bed sheets featuring chess pieces. Needless to say, I purchased the sheets for my parents’ bed. My father could not have been happier; he was now sleeping on a chess-board! However, the best gift my father could ever receive was a willing chess partner. When, as children, my brother and I were in trouble with my dad, the only appropriate way to redeem us would be to play chess with him. All was forgiven as the look of pride registered across my dad’s face when he saw his prodigy execute a perfect Sicilian defense.

My father left a tremendous legacy. He inherited his love of chess from his father and passed this down to his children and grandchildren. My oldest son played his first game with my father when he was eight months, and my younger son first played at age five months. Up until his death, my father was playing chess with my children, something that my sons would always cherish. It’s been nearly a year since my father passed, and not a month goes by when one or both of my kids sadly whimpers, “I miss playing chess with Dido.” (See photo above and opposite page, below.) On the 19th of each month, to commemorate my father’s passing, my children and I play chess. I also wear chess jewelry to honor my father’s spirit and his love for chess. His old, wooden analog clocks decorate my bookshelves, bringing back joyous memories of catching his red flag drop and reveling in my victory.

The day of father’s funeral, my children, other young relatives and I, placed chess pieces into his coffin. It never occurred to me not to send my father to heaven without his chess pieces. If we had the foresight, the family probably should have commissioned a master carpenter to design a coffin in the shape of a king. Losing a parent is a traumatic experience, but I like to think that dad is in good hands right now and is spending his time doing what he loved best—playing chess. After all, he brought his pieces with him to the pearly gates. ♟
USCF Executive Board Election

Candidate Statements The six candidates, listed in ballot order, present their May statements over the next three pages.

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.

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 500-word candidate statements that appear in this issue of Chess Life, there will be 500-word candidate statements in the June issue of Chess Life. Youth members are not scheduled to receive the May issue.

Awonder Liang Youngest Ever USCF Master

Nine-year-old Awonder Liang broke 2200 on the weekend of March 23-24, 2013 at the Midwest Open Team Chess Festival at the Dayton Chess Club. Find the MSA rating report from the event at www.uschess.org. Pending final confirmation from the USCF ratings department, this makes Awonder the youngest master in U.S. history. The previous record was held by World Youth gold medallist Samuel Sevian, who was nine years, 11 months and 24 days old when he became a master. Awonder was nine years, 11 months and eight days old. Others who have held this record include: Nicholas Nip at nine years, 11 months, 26 days; Jeffery Xiong at 10 years, two months, 10 days; and Hikaru Nakamura at 10 years, three months, five days.
MIKE ATKINS

Over the last four years, we have moved from the financial depths of lawsuits that threatened to destroy the Federation to several years of profits. Most if not all of the legal debts will have been paid by the time you read this. We have recently begun to replace the hardware in the Crossville office, and the next step is to revamp and upgrade the website, which is our face to the chess world. These improvements to our technical infrastructure are an essential part of moving the USCF forward.

The USCF is the governing body of chess in the United States. Its goal is to advance chess in the USA while managing a small national non-profit, which soon should be a 501(c)3 organization. With this change and increases in the funds to work with, we can do a better job getting the word out about chess in the USA.

I am 56 and have been involved with chess since discovering it during the Fischer-Spassky match in 1972. I’ve contributed at the club, local, state, regional, and national levels and hope to continue both playing and helping the USCF.

Aside from the almost daily participation in discussions and votes during my term, I think my notable accomplishments have been the following:

- Proposed and developed the National Chess Day program, which included working with Senator Rockefeller’s office toward the Senate proclamation of National Chess Day. Organizers from all over the country used this program of reduced and free listing and rating fees in order to promote the game. The 2010 Proclamation is on the wall at the Crossville headquarters. The 2011 Proclamation, signed by both the Democratic sponsor Senator Rockefeller and one of the Republican co-sponsors, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), is being donated this month to the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis.
- Blitz Chess: Prior to being on the board, I developed the successful motion to change USCF blitz rules from the Quick system to a modified version of the WBCA rules and continued to update them through additional motions. After an initial failure on the floor in Indianapolis 2009, the motion to create a USCF Blitz rating system was approved at the 2012 Vancouver meeting, and the Blitz system went into effect March 1, 2013.
- Proposed the Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award, which is intended to recognize tournament directors who have a distinguished history of directing but are no longer as active as they once were.

CHUCK UNRUH

A brief history has my chess origins in Ohio during high school. I was a regular at the Dayton Chess Club and the local USCF tournaments in the late 1960s. Just days ago, I was reading the history of the Dayton Chess Club and my name appears besides the word president in 1972. Somewhat at 19 years old, I was already cast into politics and chess leadership.

Much like today, jobs were difficult to obtain after high school and my chess experience found promise in the United States Air Force. Those were wonderful chess years as I earned the rating of national chess master in 1976 and won the Armed Forces Championship in 1975. The G.I. Bill was a benefit from five years of military service and the start of my college years. Many times, my friends have described me with the words “over achiever.”

After military service, I earned from the school of engineering technology at Miami University of Ohio a bachelor of science degree. The degree was earned in three years while holding down two jobs. My weekend employment was for a private land development as a lake security guard. I created the other job with my first business of collecting and selling night crawlers (worms). The business had an annual demand of 150,000 worms with distribution to several local bait stores. With the military benefits, the security guard employment and the worm business, I finished school with no debt. I have carried that philosophy into adult life and in my financial advice for the USCF.

30 years ago, I was offered an exciting opportunity logging in Oklahoma. Oilfield logging is about measuring wellbore properties and had nothing to do with trees. Work in the oil sector inspired my own energy business and I have resided in the Tulsa area to the present day. From 1981 until 2000, the energy sector busted and remained in a depression cycle until the turn of the century. My business remains fortunate to survive and I am no stranger to poor markets or economic challenges.

My election to the new board of directors means a voice for a more sustainable business cycle. I believe a solid financial position enables opportunities for membership growth. Basically, I am a fiscal conservative and practice policies of balanced budget with surplus in my own business. The current Federation’s summer debt without return on investment is an unnecessary risk. Changes in the USCF’s business cycle towards a debt free Federation is a multi-year task. I ask for your vote for a financially stronger USCF into the future.
BEATRIZ MARINELLO

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.

Choose Wisely

The most important decision you make regarding the USCF is who you choose to lead it.

The members of the executive board, who are now the board of directors, make up the governing body between the annual meetings. Practically speaking, the members of the executive board are accountable to the organization’s members to oversee the implementation of the organization’s goals.

Why vote for me?

I’m a master level player and have experience in aspects related with leadership, promotion, development, teaching, coaching, organization and implementation of programs.

My accomplishments in serving the USCF in different capacities are the following:

● First and foremost, I’m a former president of the USCF.

When I became president in 2003, the USCF was facing a monumental financial crisis, which was turned around. I’m an independent thinker, who is not afraid to make tough decisions. I work well with people to build consensus and find solutions. While I was president, the USCF was always in the black. There were no major lawsuits while I was president.

● I’m the World Chess Federation (FIDE) senior vice president. My involvement internationally began because of my connections in Latin America. I am working on projects that have a significant potential as humanitarian efforts. I was nominated as the chair of FIDE’s social action commission (SAC). I believe the chess world can greatly benefit from the alliance I have formed with United Nations Women “UN Women,” and the new project that I’m launching about chess and brain aging.

● Scholastics—“A leader should have the heart of a teacher.” I have strong support from the scholastic community. The Scholastic and Youth membership represent about 60 percent of the organization. I’m a member of the USCF scholastic council. From 1997-2000, I worked as the scholastic director. This experience gives me a unique perspective about the daily workings of the office. While serving in this capacity we began organizing the national scholastic championships in house. This provided consistency, and professionally run tournaments, which are also a major profit center.

● I’m a member of the life members assets (LMA) committee. Due to poor management and lack of accountability in the governing body, the USCF lost almost two million dollars. This situation created a huge liability since life members need to get services. In 2004, we sold the building in New Windsor, New York and relocated to a new building in Crossville, Tennessee. The city of Crossville donated the land, and the USCF got a mortgage to build the new headquarters. As a result of selling the old building, the LMA was able to obtain liquidated assets. I’m happy to report that nine years later the LMA paid off the mortgage, and the fund is being rebuilt.

I volunteer half of my time to chess, non-profit organizations, USCF and FIDE. Why do I do this? Because I deeply care about our mission. I would love to see millions of children, adults, seniors playing chess. This could be achieved if you make your vote count.

CONTACT: BEATRIZ@CHESSEDUCATORS.COM
I joined the USCF in 1965. Chess was very important to me as a teenager and I have always tried to give back to chess.

In 1978 I was part of a talented USCF executive board under the great leadership of Gary Sperling. Our task was to turn around the finances of the Federation, which had seriously declined as the Fischer boom turned into the Fischer bust. We did so. As USCF President (1981-1984) I focused on increasing membership. We broke even operationally and managed to increase membership by close to nine percent. I continued on the executive board for another year, under another great leader, Steve Doyle.

I served again on the executive board 1999-2001, and as USCF president a second time in 2000-2001. Under my predecessor we had run an operational deficit of $500,000. I cut that back to $50,000 in one year.

I also served as the president of the Illinois Chess Association and the Ohio Chess Association.

I became a national tournament director in the early 70s and an international arbiter in 1978. I edited the Official Rules of Chess (3rd edition). If you have a copy of the current rulebook, you can read about its impact in the Introduction.

In 1996 I founded the chess program at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and served as its director for ten years. In 2006, my associate director, Jim Stallings, took over as director. He has taken the UTD chess program to an entirely new level of excellence.

I am a tenured full professor at UTD and derive no significant income from chess. Think in the very low three figures, a couple of hundred dollars in a good year. That income derives largely from the occasional piece on the 98-year-old young retired federal judge George Leighton. I also write obituaries for the magazine, without charge. Giving back.

I am proud to have won perhaps a half-dozen national awards from the Chess Journalists of America.

Since its inception, the UTD chess program has offered millions of dollars in scholarships to gifted young players. Giving back to chess.

My current interest is in chess and education. I raised the money for and ran the first Koltanowski Conference on Chess and Education that took place in 2001, and I edited a book of its selected papers. In 2011 I raised the money for and ran the second Koltanowski Conference and am in the process of editing the book of its proceedings.

Of course, I have a lot of help doing these things.

I have served for six years now as the chair of the Life Member Asset Management Committee.

I have known and learned from every USCF president starting with Fred Cramer, every FIDE president starting with Max Euwe, and every USCF executive director starting with Ed Edmondson. Of course I have made my share of mistakes.

If you think that experience matters and credentials count, I would feel privileged to have your vote.

Scholastic retention is one of the most urgent and least understood puzzles facing the organization (see chart). USCF needs to focus in on this phenomenon to better understand the dynamics in play and develop strategies to convert scholastic members to lifelong members.

If elected, I plan to focus on media and publicity efforts, to support outreach to educate the public on benefits of organized chess in the scholastic setting, to provide support for our players, to improve membership retention, and spread the word that it’s FUN and COOL to play chess so that our community grows.

CHESS PROBLEMS ARE OFTEN described as the “poetry of chess.” You can show some really neat things that could never happen in a real game. In fact, when naysayers whine, “That could never happen in a game!,” my retort is,”Yes, that is precisely the point!”

The language behind chess problems, however, can be imposing. I know many of the themes and tasks associated with problems, but I also become a bit glassy-eyed when someone starts talking about combining Theme A with a Hannelius and a Finnish Novotny. The definitive English language reference book for chess problems has been John Rice’s Chess Wizardry: The New ABC of Chess Problems. As good as that book is, it isn’t (and never tried to be) definitive. This new encyclopedia does, and comes close to hitting the mark.

The only regret I have about this book is the occasional poor use of the English language. It is the type of English you see from many intelligent folks who have English as a second language—small gaffs here and there, and then a sentence that you have to struggle through. For a book that offers definitive descriptions of problem themes, that is a deficit, however small. If the language used to explain is murky, you end up no better off than before you looked the concept up.

The material that really makes a work an encyclopedia of note, such as the nearly 30 page General Index, is phenomenally well-done. The inclusion of study themes is wonderfully inspired; many studies today use problem themes and I have already tried to think how I might use a study theme or two in a more unconventional problem.

I would have liked to have seen more diagrams and illustrations. For example, I was looking last night for whether a problem of mine fell into the category of pin-model mate. The definition was not enough; I needed to see the mechanism, but it wasn’t there. The diagrams in the book are a bit small for my eyes, but are well-chosen classical illustrations of the various themes. The familiar Informant-style is also welcome.

One popular theme presented in the book is the Fleck. In discussing the Fleck, the book is short and sweet compared to Rice. It gives the main point in fewer words but has as many diagrams. It also does a good job of differentiating the types of Fleck mechanisms in further entries. Here is the main definition:

“White threatens three or more mates each of which is accurately forced by Black thematic defenses. Black moves, which allow more than one mate, are not permitted, while total defenses, which prevent all threats but allow new mates, are allowed (these are called Karlström defenses).”

The definition strikes me as a bit clunky. A Fleck simply allows for multiple threats. That is a paradoxical idea for a chess problem, where multiple and apparently strong threats are usually a deficit. The idea behind the theme is to differentiate amongst the three or more threats based on Black defenses.

The diagram example for the Fleck is a good one:

H.H. Brower
The Good Companions 1910

1. Ne8! (White plans 2. Nc7/Bf7/Qe4.) 1. ... Nhx5 2. Nc7; 1. ... Nxe8 2. Bf7; 1. ... Nf5 2. Qe4 mate.

After the key move, White has three potential mate threats. So each black defensive move shuts out two of the threats but allows another to break through. Neat!

This is a seminal and important work, but not perfect by any means. The flaws are small, and don’t undercut its authority. It should be on the bookshelf of any chess player who wants to know and be able to reference the poetry of chess.
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Amateurs Don’t Really Matter ?!

Don’t fret, class players. You too can make your mark on opening theory.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

WHEN A MASTER ANNOTATES A GAME he may point out an opening move with a comment like, “This was first played in the game GM So-and-So versus GM Whosis at Wherestan 2013.”

He’s guessing—at best. There is no way anyone can know what happened in the millions of games that have been played before. What the annotator really means is: “I looked at my database of master games and couldn’t find an earlier example of this move. So it must be a novelty.”

Or to put it another way, “If an amateur played the move first, it doesn’t really matter.” Oh, but it does matter. Some of the greatest opening innovations come from players who were simply better-than-average amateurs. They left their mark—and name—on chess by analyzing rarely played moves.


Now both g2 (after ... Bc6 and ... Rhg8) and f2 come under fire.


The threat is 26. ... Qf4 and a capture on f2 is decisive.


In some fields, like mathematics, you make your name when you’re young—or not at all. But amateurs have managed to make their imprint much later in life.

Army Major James Moore Hanham a Civil War officer, is best known for playing 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nd7! at the Sixth American Chess Congress at New York in 1889. At the time the Philidor’s Defense was discredited because Black typically played 3. ... exd4 and got mated around move 30.

Hanham took a new approach, maintaining the black pawn at e5, and he revolutionized the opening—at age 49. Virtually all Philadors that are played today are the “Hanham Variation.”

Dr. Adolph Schliemann, a German judge, analyzed 3. ... f5 in the Ruy Lopez when he was 50 and it’s been the Schliemann Defense ever since.

Armand Blackmar, a New Orleans lawyer and music publisher, was 55 when his analysis of 1. d4 d5 2. e4 dx5 3. f3 made it known as the Blackmar Gambit.

Pierre Morra, a Nice, France amateur, gave his name to the 1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 gambit through articles he wrote when he was 40. Ken Smith, a Dallas contractor and chess publisher, did his own analysis of the line in his ’40s and it’s known in some parts as the “Smith-Morra Gambit.”

There’s some confusion about the term “amateur.” We use it to mean a non-master. But we also use it to mean a non-professional. Most players are both but there are some notable examples of people who fit into one category but not the other.

William Davies Evans was a master in the nautical sense, as the captain of a mail delivering ship. But when he introduced the Evans Gambit, during shore leave in London around 1826, he certainly played at master strength.

Horatio Caro and Marcus Kahn were minor masters who are best known for sharing their thoughts about 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 in an 1886 magazine article that left us with the Caro-Kann Defense.

Fame doesn’t always come quickly. Clarence Seaman Howell was a 41-year-old Brooklyn master when he proposed 9. Qe2, rather than the standard 9. c3, in the

Of course, it’s good advertising for your eponymous opening if you win a nice game with it. Take the case of the Giuoco Piano variation that goes 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+ 7. Nc3 Nxe4 8. 0-0. This had been examined four centuries ago by Giaocchino Greco, who is considered the first chess professional because he sold his opening analysis. Greco indicated Black was busted because 8. ... Nxc3 9. bxc3 Bxc3 10. Qb3! and 10. ... Bxa1 11. Bxf7+ Kf8 12. Bg5 Ne7 13. Ne5.

But the defense 8. ... Bxc3 and 9. bxc3 d5! became famous after Emanuel Lasker used it in a world championship match. Then Jorgen Moeller, 25, of Denmark concluded in a magazine that White must stop ... d5 the only way he can, with 9. d5! (see diagram top of next column).

One of Moeller’s games went 9. ... Ne5 10. bxc3 Nxc4 11. Qd4 Ncd6? (11. ... 0-0) 12. Qxf6 Qf6.


The Moeller Attack is no longer feared but Moeller still gets the credit. That’s fitting because too often a master gets all the credit just because he played the analysis of an amateur.

At least Eugene Chardat of France got equal credit, for the Chardat-Alekhone Attack, when Alexander Alekhine followed up on Chardat’s analysis of 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. h4!? and won a brilliant game. But some books give him second billing, in the “Alekhone-Chardat Attack.”

And even losing a game can establish a legacy. If you look up the name Sammi Fajarowicz in databases you’ll find examples of him losing or drawing—never winning in this opening.
(see next game, next column)
The Black Death

Whether Joseph Blackburne was nicknamed “The Black Death” as a play on his name or because he plagued his opponents we don’t know, but in this 1863 contest he certainly left this hapless amateur dead and buried.

By BRUCE PANDOLFINI

ONE OF THE MOST FEARED PLAYERS IN the late 19th century was England’s Joseph Henry Blackburne (1841-1924), also known as “The Black Death,” even though he had nothing to do with plague. He indeed was a very successful tournament competitor, especially when not inebriated, but he seemed to prefer popularizing the game. To that end, he made public appearances and gave all kinds of simultaneous exhibitions, including those in which he was blindfolded. The following contest against an amateur (Black) was one of ten such games he conducted during an exhibition in 1863. The opening moves of this exemplary contest were:

Scotch Gambit (C44)
Joseph Henry Blackburne
Amateur
Kidderminster 1863 (One of 10 blindfold)
1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Bc4 d6

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. Nxc3 Par Score 5
   After his last move it is clear that Black is not going to bite on the b2-pawn, so White might as well take and develop his game.

5. ... Nc6

6. Nf3 Par Score 5
6. ... Ne5?
   This last move is weak. It was better to bring out a new piece, 6. ... Nf6, than to move the same one again.**

7. Nxe5 Par Score 5
7. ...
   8. Bxf7+ Par Score 6
   Accept only 4 points part credit for 8. Qxd8+ Kxd8 9. Bxf7, which regains the gambit pawn, but doesn’t gain time as does the text.

8. ...
   8. ... Ke7
   Obviously, on 8. ... Kxf7, White wins the queen. 9. Qxd8 drops the queen. Accept 1 bonus point if you realized this after Black played 6. ... Ne5?.**

9. Bg5+ Par Score 5
9. ...
   White develops with tempo on the king.
9. ...
   10. Qh5 Par Score 5
   White plays to protect the bishop and threaten 11. Nd5+. Accept full credit for 10. Qb3, which also protects the bishop, but doesn’t threaten 11. Nd5+. (Add 1 bonus point if you saw that Black would then have 11. ... Kxf7.)

10. ... c6
   Black prevents Nc3-d5 while providing the queen with an outlet.**

11. Rd1 Par Score 5
   Blackburne takes over the d-file with gain of time.

11. ...
   12. Qa5 Par Score 5
12. f4 Par Score 5
   Blackburne is showing his ultra-aggressive side. He means to open the f-file while pressuring e5. Accept full credit for the restrained, 12. 0-0, which holds f2-f4 in reserve.

12. ...
   12. ... Qc5
   Black employs harassment tactics, threatening 13. ... Qe3+. If 12. ... Bg4, White takes on g4 and penetrates to d7 (1 bonus point). Add 1 bonus point more for seeing that 12. ... exf4? is met by 13. Bxf6+ and 14. Qxa5.**

13. fxe5 Par Score 5
13. ...
   White opens the f-file, and that also enables the bishop to guard e3.
13. ...
   14. Qxe5 Par Score 5
14. 0-0 Par Score 5
   Blackburne tries to resolve the pin. If 14. ... Be6 15. Bxe6 Kxe6 16. Qh3+ Ke7[17] 17. Rf5 Qc7 18. e5 (2 bonus points). On 14. ...
   14. ...
   14. ... g6, the simplest is 15. Bxg6 hxg6 16. Qxg6, followed by taking the knight (1 bonus point).**

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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.

**May Exercise:** Pawn structure is typically a key factor in determining the prospects for each player. But in advising us where to go, it can also imply where we’ve been. While the formation could indicate the opening, it also might suggest apt strategies. As a habit of mind, when examining a chess position, try to figure out from the pawn layout at least what the last few moves were about, pro and con. Do this regularly enough, and don’t be surprised if you begin to think more logically and holistically. Indeed, looking at the past is another way to look at the future.

### Problem I
Deflection

15. Be8 **Par Score 5**

White vacates f7 for a queen mate, so Black has no time to take the bishop on g5.

15. ... Be6

If 15. ... Qe6, then 16. e5 hxg5 17. exf6+ and 18. Qxh8 wins the Exchange and likely more because of poor placement of Black’s king and queen. Moreover, White still retains the attack, which is right up the Black Death’s alley.**

16. Rxf6 **Par Score 6**

Accept only 3 points part credit if you bailed out with 16. Bxf6+. Deduct 1 point for 16. Bh4, which is answered by 16. ... Qxh5 17. Bxh5 g5.

16. ... gxf6

Practically all captures are venomous for Black: (a) 16. ... Rxe8 17. Rxe6+ Kxe6 18. Qxe8+ Be6 19. Qxe7 mate (2 bonus points); (b) 16. ... hxg5 17. Rd7+ Bxd7 (or 17. ... Kx6 18. Qe6 mate) 18. Qf7+ Kd8 19. Qxd7 mate (2 bonus points); (c) 16. ... Qxg5 17. Rxe6+ Kxe6 18. Qf7+ Ke5 19. Qc7+ Ke6 20. Bf7+ Kf6 21. Rf1+ Qf6 22. Rxf4+ Kg5 23. h4 mate (2 bonus points). If 16. ... Qc5+, then 17. Kh1, and the attack keeps rolling along lines similar to the above.**

17. Rd7+ **Par Score 6**

Blackburne is in terrific form. Add 1 bonus point if you saw 17. Rd7+ in advance.

17. ... Bxd7

Black had no choice. He had to accept the sacrifice, deflecting his bishop, letting the white queen enter.**

18. Qf7+ **Par Score 4**

On 18. ... Kd8, there follows 19. Qd7 mate (1 bonus point).**

18. ... Kc6

19. Qxd7+ **Par Score 4**

19. ... Kc5

The black king is forced out into the open board, where it must fend for himself. The prospects are not good with the bulk of the black army still on the home rank.**

20. Be3+ **Par Score 4**

Add 1 bonus point for spotting 20. ... Kc4 21. b3+ Kxc3 22. Qd2 mate. Add 1 bonus point more for noticing White must reject this course due to 21. ... Kb4. Furthermore White’s best line (after 20. ... Kc4) is 21. Bf7+ Kb4 22. Qxb7+ Ka5 23. Bb6+.**

21. Qxb7+ **Par Score 4**

21. ... Ka5

22. b4+ **Par Score 6**

Accept only 4 points part credit for the ordinary move, 22. a3, threatening 23. b4+ Bxb4 24. axb4 mate. If 22. ... c5 23. Qb5 mate (1 bonus point).**
EAST

“PRINCETON UNIVERSITY A” PUTS OTHERS ON IV AT WORLD AMATEUR TEAM—“CORNELL A” AND “OBAMA: NO CHANGE VARIATION” TIE FOR SECOND

IT WAS BOTH A CROWD-HANDLING INSTALLATION AND A metaphor. In preparation for the ruck of chess players on Saturday morning, the Parsippany, New Jersey Hilton had, for the first time in my memory, configured those line-channeling portable warrens you see in front of airport check-ins and busy bank tellers. As I walked through the nearly deserted lobby Friday night, the flimsy corridors made me consider the three days of tournament-chess twists and turns to come.

For no chess tournament provides the straight-ahead thrills, the side-steps and eddies, and the highs-and-lows—together with the breaks for pure, goofy fun—that the World Amateur Team Chess Championship, aka the U.S. Amateur Team East (USATE), serves up every Presidents’ Day weekend. Tournament chess is normally a solipsistic inner world of analysis and ego. Team chess obliges you to play for your buddies in a way that makes the game more important than yourself.

“The Team” is rivaled in attendance only by one other team chess competition in the world—the World Chess Olympiad. But you have to count all of the Olympiad’s teams, including the women’s squads, to put the biennial international event in the same league with the New Jersey behemoth. And organizer Steve Doyle and company host their event every year. So its annual attendance doubles FIDE’s premier team contest.

The World Team and the Olympiad share huge attendance and a spirit of fierce competition. After that, the comparisons break down. The World Team is a pro-am, handicap event that requires

a four-person team rating below 2200. To demonstrate how seriously some competitors take the math—25 of the 841 teams registered with average USCF ratings of 2180 or higher, with two, “Giorgi Girl” and “Whooop Whooop Gata Kamsky Style” pushing the point-barrier at 2199; and one, “Doping on Elo to Win the Benjamins,” coming in at 2198—even though there are no real Benjamins to win. It’s all for the team spirit, the fun, and the glory at the World Team.

As you notice, the team names are part of the fun. Clever, clean chess puns, racy double entendres, and references to topical movies and books populate the wall charts. A mixed sampler of my own favorites from this year: “Larry C, Larry Do” (led by GM Larry Christiansen), “Looking for Luft in All the Wrong Places,” “Argo Check chess puns, racy double entendres, and references to topical and enthusiastically received version of our national anthem by Huxley’s treatise on hallucinogens, “Philidors of Perception.”

literary allusions that didn’t win prizes but earned my respect—from pop fiction, “Fifty Shahades of Gray,” a Shakespearean takeoff; “The Winawer of Our Discontent;” and the erudite reference to Aldous Huxley’s treatise on hallucinogens, “Philidors of Perception.”

No lip-syncing

For some years, the West Point honor guard has opened the proceedings with a salute to the flag. This year, at the opening of The Team’s 43rd anniversary, we were treated to an impressive and enthusiastically received version of our national anthem by opera singer and chess master Nathan Resika, who also played board two on “Three and a Half Men.” “I was told that the government’s sequester restricted travel for the West Point honor guard,” Doyle said. “We’ve had them start us off for a long time. Nathan stepped in to give us a new beginning.” Doyle, a master of timing, waited just a heartbeat before his topical punch line: “And unlike Beyonce’s version, Nathan’s was live.”

It takes a perfect 6-0 to win it all

The massive event proves how effective the Swiss system is at determining a winner. (For those interested in under-the-hood details, the USATE uses accelerated pairings for its first two rounds.) Nearly every year, it takes a perfect 6-0 to take the overall team title. And nearly every year there is just one of those. (See sidebar, “Steve Doyle—40 Years as a Team Player.”) This year was no different.

When the sixth and final round began at the promised time of 3:30 Monday afternoon, there was an edgy excitement in the air. Many teams and individual players were in the running for special prizes, and this round would resolve the tension, one way or the other. But only two teams sat with perfect scores. “Knightmare 3,” ranked 18th at the start, sat across from “Princeton A,” pre-ranked 19th. A draw between the teams would allow “Obama: No Change Variation,” as well as Ivy-League rivals “Cornell,” a chance to tie for the title. “We had our hopes for a draw on table one,” Tom Riccardi, Cornell’s second-board player said. If Cornell won round six, which they wound up doing, the team would finish with great tiebreaks, which could put them at the top of a 5½ pack. It wasn’t to be—but the outcome was not without its share of quirky drama.

Decisive doesn’t mean correct

As every tournament player knows, in order to win, you sometimes need your opponent to cooperate with you. Then there are times when the two opponents see one thing, and the spectators see another.

As other team boards began to empty, only one matchup, on board two, remained in play on table one—and it was enough to keep the outcome in doubt. “Princeton A” had a match lead of 2-1. By winning, Black could tie his team for the title, as well as make other 5½-teams happy. Instead, the result was eponymous for team “Knightmare 3.”

Jack Hutton, captain of the Princeton team (and organizer of the very successful Pan-American Intercolligate Chess Team Championship in December), recalled the moment: “Sometime before move 30, our board three looked at Andrew’s position and agreed to a draw, even though his own position was much better.” Such decisions can sometimes make sense at The Team—for example, if one member has a superior but double-edged position and all he needs for the team win is a draw. In this case, Andrew’s win looked in the bag, so his teammate Dyland Xue played it “safe.”

Queen’s Gambit Declined, Semi-Tarrasch Variation (D42)
Andrew Ng (2305, “Princeton A”) Praveen Balakrishnan (2231, “Knightmare 3”)
World Amateur Team Championship (6)
Better is 19… Qd5 20. hxg6 hxg6.
20. hxg6 hxg6
Now White has a rook “sacrifice” that can’t be accepted.
(see diagram next column)

Re1 Qc6 24. Bb3 b5 25. Bf4 Kg7 26. Bxc4 bxc4
26. ... Qxc4 makes it much harder for White to prove a winning advantage.
27. Qe3 Rh8 28. Be5 Rh5 29. Qf4 Rf5
And now 30. Qg3 maintains a big edge for White. But the two opposing masters bemused onlookers with their 30th moves.
30. Qh4?

White counted on a cross-pin tactic to allow him to expose his queen to attack. But had Black seen the simple 30... Rxe5, the two teams would have finished with equal scores of 5½-5½!
30... Bxe5?
Of course, just 30... Rxe5 and White could resign.
31. dxe5 Rh5 32. Qg3
Even stronger is 32. Qe7!, threatening e5–e6.
32. ... Qc8 33. Nd4 Qh8 34. Kf1
Also possible is 34. f3.
34. ... Qh6 35. Ke2 Rg5
35. ... Qg5!? at least keeps the half-point a possibility, but of course the only thing that helps Black’s team is a win. 36. Qf4 Qh5+ 37. Kd2 Rxd2 38. e6 g5 39. Qxe5+ f6 40. Qc7+ Kh8 41. Qb8+ Kh7 42. Qxb7+ Kh8, Black resigned.

And so “Princeton A” notched up the only perfect score and the title.
“We’ve come so close so many times!” Cornell’s Riccardi said. And that was before he recognized the significance of one of his team’s fifth-round draws. (See Xue-Smith on page 24.) But Cornell, at least, did take
the second-place plaque on tiebreaks and will be back for another try.

Every board contributes
To win The Team, crucial moments arise in nearly every round. Each board must contribute at a key time. To illustrate, following is a game or position from the other three members of “Princeton A.”

Michael Lee played first board. In round four, he chalked up an interesting and crucial win against “Mayan Team Just Happy to Be Here.”

**Queen’s Gambit Declined, Semi-Tarrasch Variation (D41)**

Michael Lee (2445, “Princeton A”)  
Edward McHugh (2348, “Mayan Team Just Happy to Be Here”)  
World Amateur Team Championship (4)


**Board 1**


16. Nxf8 Kxf8 17. Be3 Rc8 18. Rac1


18. ... Ndxe3 19. fxe3

**Board 2**

**Board 3**

In this round, “Princeton A’s” third board made a key contribution.


22. Ncb5

22. Ndb5 would keep things fairly equal. White’s choice permits a positional combination. Knowing when and how to trade off the precious fianchetto bishop is normally the master’s touch.

22. ... Bxd4 23. Nxd4 Ne4 24. e5 dxe5 25. fxe5 Ne4 26. Qc1 Nd5 27. b3 Qc3 28. Rd3

White holds for the moment with 28. Rfe1.

28. ... Qxd3 29. cxd3 Rxc1 30. Bxc1 Ng3 31. Rf3 Nf4 32. Bb2 Rxd4 33. Bxd4

33. Rxc3 Rxd3 34. Rxd3 Nxd3 35. Bd4 wouldn’t be quite as bad for White. After her move, it quickly becomes hopeless.


In the first round, “Princeton A’s” fourth board, Leo Kang found a pleasing continuation that locked his opponent’s queen in jail and then threatened mate with bishop and rook or drastic material loss.

**A pleasing continuation**

Leo J. Kang (1832, “Princeton A”)  
Michael Williams (1663, “Frederick Douglas Academy”)  
World Amateur Team Championship (1)


27. Qe4 fxe4 28. Qxe4 Qe5 29. Rd3 Qxe4 30. Qc6 Qxe2 31. Qxc5 Qe4 32. Rd3 Qxe3 33. Qxd5 Qd4 34. Qxe6+ Rxe6 35. Rd6 Qe5 36. Rxe6+ Kxe6 37. Qc8+ Kd5 38. Qc5+ Kd6 39. Qc3+ Kd7 40. Qa5 Qb2 41. Qa7+ Kc8 42. Qc7+ Kd8 43. Qd7+ Ke8 44. Qf5+ Kd8 45. Qf8+ Ke7 46. Qd6+ Kf7 47. Qe5+ Kg7 48. Qe7+ Kh8 49. Qf7+ Kxh7 50. Qf8+ Kg6 51. Qf6+ Kxg5 52. Qf7+ Kf6 53. Qd5+ Ke7 54. Qd7+ Kf8 55. Qf7+ Kg8 56. Qg7+ Kh8 57. Qh7+ Kg8 58. Qe7+ Kf8 59. Qe8+ Ke7 60. Qf8+ Kd6 61. Qf6+ Ke5 62. Qf5+ Kd6 63. Qf6+ Ke5 64. Qe5+ Kd6 65. Qe6+ Kc7 66. Qe7+ Kb6 67. Qf7+ Kc6 68. Qd5+ Kd6 69. Qd8+ Ke7 70. Qf8+ Kf7 71. Qf7+ Kg8 72. Qg7+ Kh8 73. Qd7+ Kf8 74. Qd6+ Ke7 75. Qd7+ Kf8 76. Qf7+ Kg8 77. Qg7+ Kh8 78. Qd7+ Kf8 79. Qd6+ Ke7 80. Qd7+ Kf8 81. Qf7+ Kg8 82. Qg7+ Kh8 83. Qd7+ Kf8 84. Qd6+ Ke7 85. Qd7+ Kf8 86. Qf7+ Kg8 87. Qg7+ Kh8 88. Qd7+ Kf8 89. Qd6+ Ke7 90. Qd7+ Kf8 91. Qf7+ Kg8 92. Qg7+ Kh8 93. Qd7+ Kf8 94. Qd6+ Ke7 95. Qd7+ Kf8 96. Qf7+ Kg8 97. Qg7+ Kh8 98. Qd7+ Kf8 99. Qd6+ Ke7 100. Qd7+ Kf8 101. Qf7+ Kg8 102. Qg7+ Kh8 103. Qd7+ Kf8 104. Qd6+ Ke7 105. Qd7+ Kf8 106. Qf7+ Kg8 107. Qg7+ Kh8 108. Qd7+ Kf8 109. Qd6+ Ke7 110. Qd7+ Kf8 111. Qf7+ Kg8 112. Qg7+ Kh8 113. Qd7+ Kf8 114. Qd6+ Ke7 115. Qd7+ Kf8

With the black queen body-blocked out of play, Black is helpless.


**The “Gimmick” Speech that Wowed the Crowd**

“Patres, three weeks from now, I will be pushing pawns in Sturbridge ... Imagine where you will be, and it will be so ... Hold the line ... Stay with me ... Maintain that pawn chain ... If you find yourself alone, riding in a green field with the sun on your face, do not be troubled, for you are in Elysium, and your game is already over! Brothers, what we do in life echoes in eternity .... At my signal, unleash hell!”

—Monologue (a takeoff on Russell Crowe’s pre-battle speech from the film *Gladiator*) delivered by Lou Saltaformaggio (a.k.a. Lucius Vorenus), board 4, “Knights of the Roman Forum.”
What were the first years like?
The first ones were in Atlantic City. I remember we had to keep the meal allotments very cheap—so I would get a pork roll or cheese sandwich on the boardwalk for 50 cents. Denis Barry was chief organizer then. I never expected to be organizer. We never thought that The Team would be a fixture in New Jersey.

What’s now a USCF flagship event started humbly and moved around a lot, right?
When Atlantic City was no longer a good venue in the late 1970s, the tournament was going to be discontinued. Some of the members of the Toms River Club and I stepped in at the last minute to salvage the event. Even though we had to put the tournament in a less desirable venue, it still drew 80 teams. Those were the bridge years.

Do you have special memories about the moves The Team made from city to city?
The year in Cherry Hill was memorable because a blizzard shut down the state. No one could get out of the hotel since New Jersey had declared a state of emergency. There was no food, except little cheese cubes. Not exactly a satisfactory chess-player buffet! But something special happened that year—a kind of new enthusiasm in the face of the adversity.

The next year, Carol Jarecki joined The Team and the event was moved to Somerset, New Jersey. It kept growing. Jack Collins came with a whole troop of scholastic players, starting the tradition of the Collins Kids. As the event grew, we eventually moved it to the Parsippany Hilton, where attendance has broken records repeatedly. This year, despite the weather—beating that New Jersey and New York have taken, a near-record of 1,209 players and 283 teams made the trip.

What about special landmarks at the event?
In 1982, four computers entered. Ken Thompson brought his Belle computer [the first to achieve an official master’s rating]. Also in the 1980s, we hosted blind teams, complete with their service dogs and Braille boards. A huge development was watching the team-name competition grow into an incredibly competitive event. The names have gotten very clever over the years and are really a piece of chess Americana. Each generation highlights something different in sports, movies, current events.

When did you start emceeing the event?
Sometime in the early days of Somerset was my first year at the mike. The door prizes started at the Hilton in Parsippany.

What famous players do you recall at the event?
So many … Anatoly Karpov, Yasser Seirawan, Sammy Reshevsky, Leonid Shamkovich, Anatoly Lein, Lev Alburt, Nick de Firmian, Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen … so many others.

Were there events that led to rule changes?
Yes! When the “Four Gs,” with Roman Dzindzichashvili won, with three GMs [grandmasters] and a very low-rated player to get the average below 2200. Now two GMs on a team are the maximum.

Has technology helped a lot?
My wife Bernadette got involved once the tournament was in Somerset before we were married. She was assigned to do the wall charts. In the days before computers, this was an enormous job. Just writing the team names took hours and hours. She would never do that job again!

The first computer pairing was done in Somerset in the very early 1990s. The first couple of years were rough. In fact, the first year was pretty awful. We had to stop computer pairing and recreate the event, pairing by hand. Roger Inglis became the staffer to take charge of technology and get us into the modern day. Our whole staff is terrific and have stepped up to the challenges that have evolved in the enormous event.

Are you going to keep at it a while longer?
I love watching players come back year after year. I love getting to know people, organizing their annual chess vacation. In many ways, we’re all like a family. Sometimes long-attending players stop coming, and that’s sad. Players pass away. Often, their friends continue to organize teams to honor a deceased friend’s memory.

Do you have special memories about the events that led to rule changes?
Yes! When the “Four Gs,” with Roman Dzindzichashvili won, with three GMs [grandmasters] and a very low-rated player to get the average below 2200. Now two GMs on a team are the maximum.

Have certain categories developed into fierce competitions?
Wow—there are some strong Family teams! Benjamins, Fishbeins. And chess in schools—the best school teams throughout the tri-state area compete, as well as teams from distant states. Mixed Doubles are also led by top players. You see young international masters and FIDE masters mixing it up. College teams—how competitive they’ve gotten. We had about 30 college teams this year—Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Texas Tech. And the Military category took off after 9-11. We’ve had Air Force, Navy, and Army teams.

What were the first years like?
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Steve Doyle doesn’t have a chance to compete in the biggest team event in the world, since he organizes it. But you have to consider him the most important team player. The former U.S. Chess Federation and New Jersey State Chess Federation president began helping at the event’s very beginning as a runner.

For decades, there was only one U.S. Amateur Team Championship. Later, in the 1990s, the tournament was branched into regional versions, causing the designation “East” to be added to the seminal event. Some years after that, the original Team was given the additional designation of “World Amateur Team Championship” to recognize its stature.

I had a chance to talk with Steve about the evolution of the event over four decades.
No karma for Cornell

Two teams finished just a half-point behind “Princeton University A”—“Cornell A,” ranked 21 at the start, and “Obama: No Change Variation,” ranked 11th. “Cornell A” took the second-place plaque on tiebreaks. In the fifth round, these two teams drew their match and both went on to win in the final round.

But looking at a key game in that fifth-round matchup, we see that Princeton’s providential breaks were a tournament theme. Recall that White’s 30th-move mirage (the first game analyzed) in the last 30th-move mirage (the first theme. Recall that White’s king first: for example: 45. … Ke7 46. Kd5 Kd7 47. c5 Kc7 48. c6 (getting to a key position which Lev Alburt reviews at the end of his April 2013 CL column page 43) 48. … Kc8 49. Kd4! triangulating and winning. Wherever Black moves, his king will be forced out, and White will promote.

Probably the hardest thing to understand in the position diagrammed above is why White didn’t play on even if he thought the position was a draw. He can’t lose, except on purpose. Even if White thought the game was a theoretical draw, which it isn’t, his opponent could play less than perfectly. But it turns out this position has been misunderstood on very high levels! In Endgame Laboratory, Mark Dvoretsky relates the story of how a grandmaster (GM) told his international master (IM)-opponent, who had the extra pawn in such a position, that it was a theoretical draw. The IM took it as gospel, giving up half a point to blind faith. In another anecdote, a famous British GM-author claimed a draw for the position in a draft of his book on the endgame. But we should consider this a basic endgame position illustrating the power of triangulation.

Special prizes

My own Texas Tech Knight Raiders, who came all the way from Lubbock to compete for the first time at the USATE, won Top College prize with 4%. In the last round our third board, Josh Osbourn, a real contributor to the team result, was white and on move, had a forced win in the position below. He saw the idea, but opted to play it safe and obtain the draw that looked like it would be enough to win the match for the team. Let’s take a look at what he could have played.

Kg6 48. Ne7+ 48. Rhb7 wins.

“Princeton B” won Top New Jersey College Team, making it a terrific weekend for the Tigers. “NYU Chess” won Top New York College Team. “Steever-3E” took Top Pennsylvania College. “Cardinal Chessmen” won Top High School. “John Witherspoon” took Top Middle School, and “Dalton Ch-Hess Team” was the Top Elementary team. The Top Scholastic team was “Asian Invasion,” with “Hey, We Just Mate You” right behind.

GM Christiansen’s “Larry C, Larry Do” won the Mixed Doubles prize, which has become a popular category. So has the Family prize, won this year by “Kapengut Family.” Company honors went to “Winners of the Exchange.” “Bagier’s Blunders” was the Top Senior team, and “Maritime Strategy 2013” was the best military squad.

The Team also recognizes best results for teams from the surrounding states. See a complete list of prize winners at njscf.org.

The beasts of their boards

Best board winners are the all-stars of The Team. They win the treasured clock with commemorative plaque. This year eight full-time team members scored an impressive 6-0 on their boards, one scored 5½-½ while one alternate went 5-0. (See prize box.)

What “coulda” been

Joshua David Osbourn (1975, “Texas Tech Knight Raiders”) Michael W. Mockler (1907, “Double Entendres on the Seven”) World Team Chess Championship (6)

Names, gimmicks, countrymen

As we’ve seen, the name of a team is often the product of a lot of thought or a sudden inspiration. Winning the best name prize is the equivalent of being in the history books. The competition is fierce and fair. On Sunday each year, Doyle reads the nominations to the crowd, who indicate their favorite by applause. This year “Rg3 Offensive Rook of the Year,” a reference to Robert Griffin, III, taking football’s rookie of the year, won the most approval, beating my own favorite of those nominated, “Winawer of Our Discontent.”

As an old English teacher, I have my bard-biases.

Best Gimmick recognizes costumes, songs, skits or nearly any other “stichk” or melodrama dreamed up by a team. As always, the competition in this category was fierce and funny. Ultimately, “Knights of the Roman Forum” clinched the deal, whose legionario costumes and witty chess-toeoff on Russell Crowe’s pre-battle address to his legions in the film Gladiator (see sidebar, page 22) left little doubt among the 1,000 or so voters.

The ceremonies also noted Steve Immitt’s remarkable quarter-century of service providing weekly Manhattan tournaments, which sadly now comes to an end. But anyone who knows Immitt is sure he has many more contributions to make to chess.

Dedicated staffers make it all work

Staging this massive event so well and so successfully obviously requires thousands of hours of work from a significant number of dedicated staffers behind the curtain. Organizer Steve Doyle and Chief Tournament Director Carol Jarecki did their annually spectacular job of setting an impossible standard for fun and competition. Doyle’s entertaining emceeing style, as he gave away both door prizes and friendly bars at blitz speed, kept the crowd relaxed before their big games. National Tournament Directors Steve Immitt and Sophia Rohde helped keep the 1,209-player tournament under control without quashing the good time. It was the event’s 43rd anniversary as the USATE and Doyle’s 40th anniversary (see sidebar) at The Team and Jarecki’s 35th. In addition, Roger Inglis, Mike Somers, Walt and Judy Heerschapp, Frank Romano, Aaron Kiedes, Joe Ippolito, Bernadette Doyle, Lee Matola, Jack Ray, and Aaron Rohde each played a crucial role.

And let’s not forget the 17-year veteran Cricket, who knows the ropes at The Team as well as anyone, and is a traditional fixture at the tournament director tables. We all look forward to seeing her next year, and to many more years of twists, turns, friendship and fun at the World Amateur Team. See “East At A Glance” on page 29.

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CHESS PLAYERS ARE SMART, but the collegiate teams that played in The Team North tournament this year should be thankful that their games were not midterm exams, because they would have flunked. With eight collegiate teams, representing four universities, one might have assumed this tournament would have been about college kids beating up on scholastic players, club members and young students of titled players. In the end, such an assumption wasn’t even close.

Early on it was predicted that the top prizes would be awarded to the collegiate teams, who were well versed in playing together and were still strong from the Pan Am competition. Four teams were from Illinois, two from the University of Chicago, and two from the University of Illinois. The city of St. Louis was well represented by four teams, two from Webster, where Susan Polgar’s chess program now calls home; and two teams from Lindenwood, that are funded by Rex Sinquefield of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis.

Lindenwood lost to a Webster rival, “The Gorlock Express,” in round one while the other collegiate teams avoided playing each other. By round four, only four of the eight collegiate teams were still in the running for first place. Polgar explained Webster’s fall from the running, “We don’t have our top-five ranked players. We have the second and third team members. Here you have to have an average rating of under 2200, so it was kind of a combination of giving an opportunity to our much lower rated players to play along with higher ranked players, and it is a fun event.”

By round five, the only collegiate team left to fight for first place was “The Illini Schmakelers” of the University of Illinois, who had a perfect score. Facing off against them was the “WI Chess Academy,” led by GM Josh Friedel, with 3 ½ points. On table two, also with 3 ½ points, was a scholastic team, “Rachel’s Knights,” who defeated “The Gorlock Express” in round two; and a club team, “TMCC: Mating Specialists,” featuring IM Angelo Young and FM Albert Chow. Perhaps no one should have been surprised to see “The Illini Schmakelers” on top, as the team boasted three of the four members who tied for first, placing fourth on tiebreaks in the Pan Am tournament just two months before. FM Eric Rosen shared, “I jokingly told Akshay [Indusekar] before the last round that this tournament is just sparring practice for us in preparation for the final four.”

The top team victor came down to the result of the FM Eric Rosen versus GM Josh Friedel game. Their teammates’ games had finished and the match was tied at 1 ½ points. By this time the “TMCC: Mating Specialists” had already defeated “Rachel’s Knights” and the tournament hall was a buzz. Spectators crowded to see the final game. Rosen explained the outcome, “Well [Friedel] had connected passers marching down the board, and probably any move was winning except the move he played. It allowed me to sack my bishop for two pawns, leading to a theoretical drawn position ... We should have lost the last round.” (The game can be viewed on Chess Life Online). However, they did not lose. Instead the tied match allowed “The Illini Schmakelers” to take first place over “TMCC: Mating Specialists” on tiebreaks. And the unforeseeable draw added a nail-biting conclusion to what was already a fun and exciting weekend of friendship and chess.
WEST
NORCAL HOUSE, BAY AREA CHESS, AND HARKER SCHOOL DOMINATE U.S. AMATEUR TEAM WEST
By SALMAN AZHAR

264 PLAYERS CONVERGED IN PLEASANTON ON PRESIDENTS' Day Weekend to participate in U.S. Amateur Team West weekend. The attendance was about 15% higher in the main event than last year. The blitz side event attracted 18 players interested in having some more fun after the tournament.

The 3-day teams were much stronger with the median rating around 1710 compared to the 2-day median team rating around 1230. When the two sections merged in the fourth round there were two unbeaten teams from each section. Bay Area Chess “BAC Attack” and “Ancient Spartans” were the unbeaten teams from the 3-day schedule and “Norcal House of Chess Kings & Queen” and “California Girls” from the 2-day schedule. The “Kings & Queen” overcame “Ancient Spartans” 2½-1½ and “BAC Attack” beat “California Girls” 4-0 to set up the likely title match in round five.

In round five, professional coaches of “Kings & Queen” met the all-start juniors of “BAC Attack.” IM Ricardo De Guzman and FM Ronald Lazo Cusi of “Kings & Queen” won against FM Cameron Wheeler and Kesav Viswanadha of “BAC Attack” on the top two boards. Albert Lu of “BAC Attack” won against WFM Uyanga Byambaa on board three leaving Teemu Virtanen of “BAC Attack” in a must-win game against Ted Castro, “Kings & Queen” captain, to save the match for “BAC Attack.” In an even game Virtanen worked hard to create chances but Castro was able to fend off all attempts and win the match, and perhaps the title, for “Kings & Queen.”

In the last round “Kings & Queen” were paired against another all-junior team “Sicilian Mafia,” consisting of Vignesh Panchanatham, Allan Beilin, Tanuj Vasudeva, and Hemang Jangle. The “Kings & Queen” won 3-1 to clinch clear first with a perfect 6/6 score and 20 game points. “BAC Attack” beat “J’adoubious,” an all-adult team of FM Andy Lee and friends, to seal clear second with 5 points. “Sicilian Mafia” came in third on
French Defense, Tarrasch Variation (C06)

Colin Chow (2198)
FM Cameron Wheeler (2291)
U.S. Amateur Team West (3)

Notes by Wheeler

In the third round we were playing another team of top juniors. On board one, I was playing Colin Chow, a 13-year-old who just recently became a master.


I prepared this line which is similar to 8…g5 but if 9. dxc5 now then I can just take on e5 and castle kingside.


This was a mistake since it allows 17…Ne5 which threatens …Nd3+. 17. Bxc6 Bxc6 18. Nd4 is much better than the game continuation but I still have an advantage.


22…Qc6

If 22…Qxc5 I was afraid of opening up the files against my king: 22…Qxc5 23. Qe1 Rg5 24. Bf4 Rf5 25. Rxf4 Rxf5 26. Rxc5+ Bxc5 This is winning for me but I didn’t calculate the whole line during the game.

23. axb3 h4 24. b4 h3

White’s king will now be permanently weak.

25. Qf1 Rd6 26. Rxd8+ Bxd8 27. Kg1 Qe4 28. Bc3 Qh7 29. Qb5 a6 30. Qf1 Bc7 31. gxh3

No better is 31…c6 hxg2 32. cxb7+ Kh8 33. Qxg2 Qb1+ 34. Qf1 Bxh2+ 35. Kg2 Qh7.

31…gxh3 32. f3 Qf5 33. Kh1 Bf4 34. Qe2 Bg5 35. Be1 Bf6

I wanted to get my bishop to the a7-g1 diagonal.

36. c6 b5 37. Qd1 Bd4

Now its pretty much just over.

38. Bg3 Qd5 39. c7 Bb6 40. Qf1 Qd2 41. Be5 Qf2

Forcing a queen trade to get into a winning endgame.


Another game annotated by IM Ricardo De Guzman:

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B99)

Jason Shohe Zhang (1497)
Jeffrey Tao (1869)

Notes by IM Ricardo De Guzman


12…a3

Instead of the prophylactic 12. a3—again a knight sacrifice on d5 like 12. Nd5 exd5 13. Nf5 Kf8 14. exd5 Re8 15. Qg3 with pressure on g7 and e7.

12…Rb8

Instead of 12…Rb8??, a better move is 12…Rc8. This is not the best square for the rook.

13. g4 h6 14. Bxf6 Bxf6

Instead of 14…Bxf6, a more safer way to capture is 14…gxf6 always watching the d6-pawn while the bishop is on e7.

15. Qf2 Ba8

(see diagram top of next column)

16. Bxb5

White’s Bxb5 idea is a typical piece sacrifice on b5 with the idea of getting three pawns for a piece.
SOUTH

COOKIE MONSTERS CRUMBLE THE COMPETITION AT USATS

By HARVEY LERMAN AND MELINDA MATTHEWS

THIS YEAR THE U.S. AMATEUR TEAM, SOUTHERN-STYLE, moved to a Holiday Inn and Suites in Sunrise for this Presidents’ weekend event. The top team that elected to start Friday evening in the 3-day schedule was “Cookie Monsters” (2155.5). This team, consisting of Mel Goss (2238), Nicholas Rosenthal (2208), Eric Cooke (2208) and Lester Machado (1968), got off to a good start winning their match 4-0 in this lightly attended schedule, and gave them a chance to rest up the following morning, while the remainder of the 40 teams battled out their own first round matches.

Saturday the big guns entered the fray, with the top three powerhouse teams of “Pry My Alekhine Gun From My Cold Dead Piece Box” (2196.8): Jeffrey Haskel (2365), Makaio Krienke (2198), Jeremy Mandelkern (2169), Ulises De Cozar (2055) and Nickolas Moore (1988); “Luna1” (2195.3): GM Julio Becerra (2630), John Ludwig (2118), Gil Luna (2028), and Alejandro Allen (2005); and “Miami City Chess Club” (2184.5): FM Angel Perez Quinones (2407), Miguel Recio (2169), Juan Carlos Poza (2168), John Salisbury (1994), and Dereck Laureano (1946). Altogether, 40 teams and 164 players registered for the tournament, tying last year’s event but not quite breaking the 2007 record of 41 teams. This year, the tournament was highly Florida-centric, with no out-of-state teams participating, and like the year before there was just one section, but with many team prizes based on rating, age, etc.

The first “casualty” in the event was in round three when top rated “Pry” was held to a draw by “Miami Raiders” (2014.8) and then in the fourth round “Pry” faced “Cookie” in a critical match. Cookie won this match as three of the boards resulted in draws, while Rosenthal won on board two for his fourth straight win, giving his team a ½-point lead going into the final round. Her son’s perfect score at first surprised Melinda Matthews, until she remembered that “something about team competition brings Nicky’s fighting spirit out in full force.”

But the grandmaster-led “Luna1” team was having their own problems as they were held to a draw against “Miami City Chess Club” in round four, leaving them tied at 3½ with “Miami City Chess Club” (2196.8): Jeffrey Haskel (2365), Makaio Krienke (2198), Jeremy Mandelkern (2169), Ulises De Cozar (2055) and Nickolas Moore (1988); “Luna1” (2195.3): GM Julio Becerra (2630), John Ludwig (2118), Gil Luna (2028), and Alejandro Allen (2005); and “Miami City Chess Club” (2184.5): FM Angel Perez Quinones (2407), Miguel Recio (2169), Juan Carlos Poza (2168), John Salisbury (1994), and Dereck Laureano (1946). Altogether, 40 teams and 164 players registered for the tournament, tying last year’s event but not quite breaking the 2007 record of 41 teams. This year, the tournament was highly Florida-centric, with no out-of-state teams participating, and like the year before there was just one section, but with many team prizes based on rating, age, etc.

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Chess Club” and “Yanov” (2114.8). The final round would have “Cookie” versus “Miami City Chess Club” and “Luna1” versus “Yanov.” Melinda describes the situation: “Naturally, the final round against ‘Miami City Chess Club’ didn’t unfold as smoothly or as easily as the [‘Cookie’] team hoped. Eric [board 1] ceded his game first, followed by Lester [board 4], who apparently made a mistake in the opening and never quite recovered. Yikes! That left Nicky and Mel to try to pull out the draw apparently made a mistake in the opening and never quite...

Sicilian Defense, Taimanov Variation (B44)

Mel Hunt Goss

Board 1

FM Angel Perez Quinones (2407, CZE), Sibenik 2011.


... Na6 18. Na4 Nc5 19. Nac3 f5 would move further.

12. Rc1 Bb7 13. Nab1 Rc8 14. a3 f3

17. f4 Ng6 18. Qc2 f5 would be more combative.

29. ... g6 30. Qc1 h5 31. Be2 Rd7 32. Qe3 Qh8 33. Rf1 White’s position looks great, but Black is flexible and defensible. White has now drifted into time pressure.


38. ... exf5! 39. exf5 Qf6 40. Be5 Now White used most of his remaining time to play his trump, but Black has seen one move further.

Mel has his work cut out for him. His team is down by a point and facing an opponent rated almost 200 points above him.


Cover Story / U.S. Amateur Teams

East At A Glance

U.S. Amateur Team East


In Campinas, Brazil, the U.S. team tops Cuba by a full point and qualifies for the World Team Championship in November.
This game would be my debut playing for Team America, and it could not have gone any better—in fact, I would say that it was my best game in recent memory. We faced a very tough Cuban squad with an average rating of over 2650 FIDE in the very first round, but we managed to pull off a nice upset win to start the tournament with a bang.

1. e4!

Not my normal move, but what is life without a little experimentation?


The beloved Najdorf Variation, one of the main black weapons of my youth, although I don’t play it too much anymore. It definitely felt different playing from the white side!

6. Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. h3?!

I drew some inspiration from GM Gata Kamsky in his 2011 Candidates Match against GM Boris Gelfand. This idea has gained quite a following recently.


9. g4 Rd8

The point of Black’s setup is now clear—he is depriving the white queen of her best square on f3. However, I’m not sure how much of an achievement this is because the knight on d7 will often not allow Black to meet Nd5 with Nxd5, and furthermore I think developing the kingside pieces would be a higher priority than moving the rook to the c-file.

10. Qd2

Not 10. Qf3?, when 10. ... Rxc3! 11. bxc3 d5 would give Black exactly what he wants.

10. ... b5?!

In my opinion this move is too committal. Black doesn’t have much of an attack to carry out, and the c6-square has been weakened—a key theme in the English attack. Perhaps 10. ... h6 was a better option; 10. ... Be7 could be considered as well.

11. 0-0-0!
White is not concerned about ... b5-b4. My opponent once played 11. a3? in the same position with the white pieces—this move loses time and makes a hook on the queenside for Black to attack; if 11. g5?, then 11. ... b4!

11. ... Nb6

Now Black really is threatening ... b5-b4. Interesting is 11. ... b4, but insufficient. With 12. Nd5, Black’s problem is that White has not yet played g5—otherwise, he could play ... Nxd5 exd5 ... Bf5, with a fine position. As is, he is in big trouble. White has a fierce initiative after 12. ... a5 (12. ... Nxe4 13. Qxb4; 12. ... Bxd5 13. exd5 a5 14. Bb5) 13. Bb5 Nxe4 14. Qd3.

12. g5!


12. ... Nb6

Possibly the decisive mistake. Though it looks like a natural move, it greatly weakens the d5-square and closes the c-file, which frees the white queen to leave without having to worry about an Exchange sacrifice. 16. ... 0-0 was preferred, although I still would rather play white here.

17. Qg2 0-0


18. Nd5

Now possible because the black knight left b6.

18. ... Bxd5

It was hard to tolerate the knight on d5, but now the other one shows up on c6.

19. exd5 Qa5 20. Bxc4! Nxc4


21. Nc6

At this point it’s clear Black’s position has gone badly awry.

21. ... Qc7


22. Rhe1 Bd8

A sad necessity. Even worse is 22. ... Rfe8 23. Qe4! Bf8 24. Qxe8 Rxe8 25. Rxe8 and White should win.

23. Qg3

Putting pressure on d6. Black can hardly move any of his pieces.

23. ... f6

Creating more weaknesses, but what else? Black is nearly in Zugzwang and b2-b3 was threatened.


Now White shifts his attention to the kingside, where he has a decisive attack. The key threat is Re7.

26. ... Rxe8

No better are 26. ... Rf7 27. Re7 Rxe7 28. Nxe7+ Kh8 29. Nxc8; 26. ... Rf8 27. Re7.

27. Ne7+ Kh8 28. Rg1!

Mate is coming.

28. ... Nd2+

28. ... Rf7 29. Ng6+ hxg6 30. Rxe8+ Kh7 31. Qh4 mate; 28. ... Rg8 29. Ng6+ hxg6 30. Qh4 mate.


This game proved to be the decisive one of our round one match against the top-seed Cuba—all the other games were drawn. I was very happy with myself both for playing one of my best games ever, and for helping the U.S. team start strong.

Modern Benoni (A60)

GM Alexander Onischuk (FIDE 2660, USA)
GM Andrés Rodríguez Vila (FIDE 2508, URU)
9th Pan American Team Chess Championship, 01.26.2013

Notes by Onischuk

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 Bd6

This line is called the Snake variation because of the black bishop that moves like a snake to c7 and a5. I knew that my opponent plays this line although I did not expect it in this game. Yury Shulman showed me some ideas for White just before the game, so I was quite well prepared. I’ll use the opportunity to thank Yury, John Donaldson and Tony Rich for their professional work and great support during the event.

6. Bg2 0-0 7. Nc3 Bc7 8. d6 Ba5 9. Nh3! This move order refutes the snake. It is better than the normal Nf3 since the knight goes to f4 and d5 which is clearly more dangerous for Black.

9. ... Nc6 10. 0-0 b6
2013 SAMFORD FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO GM SAM SHANKLAND

The FRANK P. SAMFORD, JR. CHESS FELLOWSHIP, marking its 27th annual award, has selected Grandmaster Sam Shankland of Orinda, California, as its 2013 Fellow. The Samford is the richest and most important chess fellowship in the United States. It identifies and assists the best young American chess masters by providing top-level coaching, strong competition and access to study materials. The Fellowship also supplies a monthly stipend for living expenses so that the winners may devote themselves to chess without having financial worries. The total value of the Fellowship has been increased several times over the years and is now $42,000 annually. The prize is awarded for one year and can be renewed for a second year. The winners' term begins July 1st, 2013.

All in all, it gives these brilliant young American grandmasters the support and resources necessary to enhance their skills and reach their full potential.

Currently rated 2612 by FIDE, Sam Shankland was awarded the grandmaster title at the age of 20. His career highlights include tying for first in the Under 18 category in the 2008 World Youth Championship, taking third in the 2011 U.S. Championship, beating Hungarian Super GM Peter Leko in the 2011 World Cup and winning both team and individual gold while playing for the U.S. team in the 2013 Pan American Team Championship.

The winners were chosen by the Samford Fellowship committee, consisting of Frank P. Samford III (son of Samford Fellowship founder Frank P. Samford, Jr.), former U.S. Chess Champion Grandmaster Arthur Bisguier and International Master John Donaldson. The winner's potential was determined based on his chess talent, work ethic, dedication and accomplishments. The Fellowship is administered by the U.S. Chess Trust with particularly valuable services provided by Barbara DeMaro.

The Samford Chess Fellowship was created by the late Frank P. Samford, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Samford was a distinguished attorney and CEO of Liberty National Life Insurance Company (now Torchmark). He was active in civic, business, political, educational and cultural affairs. Mr. Samford was also an enthusiastic competitor in chess tournaments. After providing financial support for several chess projects he decided to do something significant for American chess. The result was the Samford Fellowship.

Since its inception the Fellowship has proven very successful. Many Samford Fellows have become strong grandmasters, members of the United States Olympiad team and U.S. champions. America’s two top players, Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky, are not only rated in the top 17 in the world but are former Samford Fellows.

Generous contributions from the late Mrs. Virginia Samford and the Torchmark Corporation support the Fellowship. The Samford Chess Fellowship is a fitting memorial to an extraordinary man. The dedication, creativity and achievement that marked Mr. Frank P. Samford, Jr.’s life are examples for all chess players to admire and emulate. – John Donaldson
Yury showed me 10. ... Re8 11. Nd5! Nxd5 12. Bxd5 when White is much better.

11. Bg5!

Now Black is objectively lost. The try 11. Nd5 here was not that strong since the f7-pawn is not as weak as in the previous line.

11. ... Bxc3 12. bxc3 h6 13. Bh4

This is an idea I knew from some Ruy Lopez lines.

13. ... g5

Black cannot tolerate the pin. After 13. ... Re8, White has 14. f4!? and followed by e2-e4-e5.

14. Nxg5

In case of 15. ... Re8 I would play 16. e4 with a winning attack (Also quite good is 16. Bxf6 Qxf6 17. Bxc6 dxc6 18. d7 Bxd7 19. Qxd7.)

16. e4 Qe8 17. Bxf6+ Kxf6 18. f4 Rg8 19. Qh5 Kg7 20. e5 Kf8 21. Rae1 Ba6 22. f5 Qc8 23. e6!, Black resigned.

14. ... hxg5 15. Bxg5 Kg7

In contrast to 15. ... Re8 I would play 16. e4 with a winning attack (Also quite good is 16. Bxf6 Qxf6 17. Bxc6 dxc6 18. d7 Bxd7 19. Qxd7.)

16. e4 Qe8 17. Bxf6+ Kxf6 18. f4 Rg8 19. Qh5 Kg7 20. e5 Kf8 21. Rae1 Ba6 22. f5 Qc8 23. e6!, Black resigned.

English Opening (A17)
GM Aleksandr Lenderman (FIDE 2619, USA)
GM Yuniesky Quesada Pérez (FIDE 2595, CUB)
9th Pan American Team Chess Championship 01.27.2013

Notes by Lenderman

This is a board three game against the solid Cuban grandmaster Yuniesky Quesada Pérez. Our coach Yuri Shulman as well as my teammates worked very hard on how to best approach this game, settling on avoiding a strategic battle and instead heading into a tactical mêlée, since my opponent was known to prefer strategic plans.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. g3!? This was the idea. If I played one of the main lines, such as e3 or Qc2 in the Nimzo Indian, he would know a lot of theory.

4. ... 0-0 5. Bg2 d5!? In the one game I saw of his in this

line, he played ... c5 instead, and after Nf3, he ended up getting a slightly worse position against a 2450 player, eventually holding a draw. I was happy to repeat that of course, since White was pressing there and had little risk. But of course I expected the ... d7-d5-move, since that's actually the main reason why 4. g3!? isn't played as often. Black's idea is to simply play against the bishop, and ambitiously take the pawn on c4 and hold on to it. However, from there on, Yury's preparation took over, and I was confident enough that I would create enough problems in that type of position to at least maintain equality.

6. Nf3 dxc4 7. a3!? This is the key move of my preparation, which puts the question to the bishop. Not only is it a relatively unfamiliar line, but also it's quite interesting and brings rich play to the game. Also this move gives Black some choices, which has a practical value since now Black would be thinking a lot and later on time can play a very important factor in the game.

7. ... Be7 Already my opponent was thinking a lot here. He also has a choice of playing ... Bxc3+!? with a complicated, unclear game.

8. Ne5 Nc6!? Trying to shift the game into familiar waters, similar to the line in the Catalan with ... dxc4.


The first real inaccuracy by my opponent but I failed to capitalize on it.

11. Nxe7+?!

And I return the favor by playing very fast in the opening due to it all being preparation. However, despite this, it would still be more mature and professional of me to spend at least 30 seconds—one minute on each move trying to just see if there is any move difference between my opponent's moves and my actual preparation.


20. Rad1?!

A natural move which I planned on before I played Be3, and played quickly because I saw that his only adequate defense would be ... Nf6, and after f2-f3 I seem to be consolidating. But I missed a better continuation, which isn't as natural: 20. Qe7! Threatening the queen trade. And now no matter what, I consolidate with an endgame with great winning chances. 20. ... Qxe7 a) 20. ... Qe6?! 21. Rfd1 Re8 22. Qd6; b) 20. ... Qc8! 21. Rfd1 Re8 22. Qd7 (Losing is 22. Qd6?? Re6 23. Qd7 Qxc5.) 22. ... Qxc5 23. Qxg4 Rad8 24. Qh5 (Less effective is 24. Rxd8 Rxd8 25. Rd1 Rd4 26. Qe2 Qb6) 24. ... Qe7 25. Qe2 (Black is down a pawn, but has good play after 25. Rxd8 Rxd8 26. Rd1 Rd4 27. Qe2 Qe6 28. f3 Ba6 29. Qf2 Qd6.) 25. ... Rd4 26. Rd2 Red8 27. Rad1 Qe6 28. Kg2 f5 29. f3.

20. ... Nf6! 21. Be3 a5!

A typical move of a classical player with a good positional foundation. Quesada sees now that he's worse and that forcing lines don't work. So at least he tries to play patiently and puts all his pieces into optimal squares, including removing his pawn from potential attack and also taking away ideas of b2-b4, Bc5, etc. trying to expand my queenside pawn majority. Now if I decide to ever trade the pawns, that can open the a-file for his use. Also there can be drawing tendencies in the opposite-colored bishops due to lack of pawns.

22. f3?!

This natural move surprisingly allows very annoying counterplay.

22. ... Qb3?!

A natural move but Black missed a great resource which gives him potential excellent counterplay and practical chances: 22. ... Ba6! 23. Rfe1 (23. Rxd8+? Rxd8 24. Rf2 Rd3 25. Bc1 Bc4 26. Kg2 [Losing is 26. Rd2?? Rxd2 27. Bxd2 Qb6+ 28. Kg2 Qxb2] 26. ... Qd6 Here Black is getting very active, controls the d-file, and it is very difficult for White to find a good plan to improve his position.)

This very nice winning idea is to restrict Black’s activity and win a pawn by force in a nice geometric way.

35. ... Nd7!

I definitely underestimated the strength of this move.

36. Qxa5 Qh3 37. Qb4 Qd1 38. Nc5 Qc2+ 39. Kg3 Qe4 40. Nxd7 Bxd7!

Not falling for 40. ... Qxe3? 41. Qb8+ Kh7 42. Nf5+ Kg8 43. Nxe6+ Kh7 44. Nf8+ Kg8 45. Nd7+ Kh6 46. Qb6 Qh4+ 47. Kg2 Qd2+ 48. Qf2 Qxd7 49. b4 with an easy win.

41. Bf2?!

41. Qd2! Qxd2 (No better is 41. ... Qb5 42. Qd5!.) 42. Bxd2 This would be a better practical chance for me. With a bad exposed king, it’s almost always a good idea to get rid of the queens, especially in opposite-color bishop endgames. Unfortunately I learned the lesson the hard way.

41. ... f6

For some reason I missed this simple defensive move.

42. Qb6 Kh7 43. b3 h5 44. Qe3 Qd1 45. Kh2 g5! 46. a4 h4

Now I simply cannot win. My king is not a positive factor and my pawns are being held up by the queen-bishop battery. I can’t use my opposite-colored bishop for help. It’s simply a dead draw now. I underestimated such a fortress.

47. Be1 Kg6 48. a5 Bb5 49. Qf2 Qd3 50. b4 Ba6 51. Bd2 Bb5 52. Be3 Kf7 53. Bc5 Kg6 54. Kg2 Ba6 55. Qe1 Bb5 56. Bf2 Ba6 57. Qc1 Bc4 58. Qe1, Draw agreed.

The moral of the story is twofold: Avoid automatic moves (and in general try to spend more time to find deeper unconventional ideas for both sides) and when your opponent has a potential initiative, try to trade queens and be aware of fortress ideas in opposite-colored bishop endgames.

Nimzo-Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E34)
IM Bernardo Roselli Malhe (FIDE 2449, URI) GM Varuzhan Akobian (FIDE 2615, USA) 9th Pan American Team Chess Championship, 01.26.2013 Notes by Akobian


An aggressive move—I am trying to take advantage of the facts that I have the lead in development and that the white king is still in the middle of the board.

8. cxd5

Doubious; better would have been for White to play 8. dxc5 d4 9. Qg3 Nbd7 with the idea of e6-e5 and the position is very complicated, but Black has good compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

8. ... Qxd5 9. Qd4 Ne6!

Gaining a tempo, and now White has to move his queen again losing more time and not developing his kingside minor pieces.

9. Qh4 Qa5+

The idea is to induce White to play b2-b4 so I can take advantage of weaknesses in the future that this move creates.

11. b4 Qxd5 12. Bxf6 gxf6 13. Rd1

If 13. Qxf6 Rd8 14. Nf3 e5 15. e3 Qb3 with the threat of ... Qc3 check and the white king is in trouble.

13. ... Qe5 14. Qg3+ Qxg3

It is important not to waste any time in this position because the only way I can get an advantage is with energetic play and pressuring my developmental lead.

15. hXg3 e5

Controlling the center squares and opening the diagonal for my bishop.

16. e3 Bf5

This is the best square for the bishop. If 16. ... Be6 17. Bd3 White gains a tempo since I need to defend the h7-pawn.

17. Rh4

An interesting move. White is trying to activate his rook by transferring it to the c4-square.

17. ... a5!

Pressuring b4 and forcing a White b5.

18. b5

If White tries 18. bxa5 Rxa5 19. a4 Rfa8 20. Bb5 Bc2 Black has a nice advantage.

18. ... Na7 19. a4 Rfd8 20. Rc4 Rxd1+ 21. Kxd1 Nc8

The knight is heading for the b6-square.

22. Rc7 Nb6 23. Bc4

If 23. Rxb7 Nxa4 24. Rc7 Nb6 25. Rc6 N5 Black is better since White hasn’t developed his kingside knight and bishop.

23. ... Nxa4!

A strong move. I don’t have time to defend the f7-pawn since that will allow White to play Bb3 and protect the weak a4-pawn.


26. ... Nd3+ 27. Kb1 Nxf2+ 28. Bc2

If White plays 28. Ka2, then ... Ng4 and Black has a big advantage due to the weak pawn on e3 and the threat of the a4-pawn advancing.

28. ... Rc8!

Both a very strong and important move after which my position is technically winning because I will be able to exchange White’s active rook.

29. b6

If 29. Rxc8+ Bxc8 30. Bxb7 Nd1 31. e4 Nc3+ Black wins the b5-pawn and has a winning position.

29. ... Rxc7 30. bxc7 Bc8!

I must blockade this pawn and get rid of it as soon as possible.


Even though we have equal material on the board, Black is winning because of the two connected passed pawns on the queenside.


I was happy to win this game and help our team win this match with a 4-0 score. 🌟
I WAS HAVING DINNER IN AN INDIAN restaurant one night at the Reykjavik Open, towards the end of the tournament, with my friends Daniel, Simon, and Ivan. Ivan asked where I would next be traveling, and I replied, “Kazakhstan.” “Oh,” he said, “what are you going to be doing in Kazakhstan?” He’d had a few glasses of wine and was less sharp than usual, because when you ask a chess player why they are traveling somewhere, what are the chances they are doing anything other than playing chess? Especially in Kazakhstan in March. It wasn’t like I said I was going to Costa Rica. So I did something I had a penchant for when I was younger—guess I never lost it—I decided to spice up this obvious question. “I’m going eagle hunting,” I announced, a reply which caused much interest. Eagle hunting, what’s that? Fortunately, this was a subject I could plausibly speak about as an expert, having just read the wonderful book by Christopher Robbins, *Apples Are From Kazakhstan*. I like to read about places I travel to, and this was the only offering of its kind on Kazakhstan, a travelogue infused with plenty of history.
I told Simon about my creation, and he said he liked the story even better now. I knew how to train the eagle, what kind of prey it could bring back (quite impressive—foxes and even wolves), how it would attack a wolf (from the front, going for the eyes), even its wingspan. My eagle had a wingspan of nine feet. Ivan started converting this to meters and was very impressed.

I explained I wanted to get a wolf coat out of this next hunting expedition, that winter was a good time to hunt for foxes as their coats were thickest, and that the way the hunt worked was that we'd go out on horses, spot the prey, and the eagle would fly off to take care of it; we'd join him later. Of course I had to field some questions, like where I kept my eagle when I was not in Kazakhstan (with my teacher, an experienced 65-year-old berkutchy), and what his name was—this was a surprisingly hard question. I gave him an African sounding name, like Mofuma (I'd recently watched a lot of animal documentaries, including some on lions), to which Ivan triumphantly said, “No, this is not Slavic!” “No, it's not Slavic, Ivan, it's Swahili—it means brave.”

Ivan was most concerned that my eagle would accidentally mistake me for prey, but overall he was exuberantly thrilled at my hobby, apologetically saying that the most exciting thing he's done is skiing. I think he loved the thought of me hunting for wolves. With an eagle possessing a nine-foot wingspan; on my horse; I look like I can do that, right? I invited him, Simon and Daniel to join me on a future expedition.

“This is the most exciting hobby of any chess player,” Ivan enthused, “I am going to write to New in Chess about this!” I couldn’t bring myself to rain any reality on his excitement. Incidentally, the next day I told Simon about my creation, and he said he liked the story even better now knowing it wasn’t true ... right on, Simon! Love me for my stories.

Anyway, off I went, eagle hunting in Kazakhstan. I'm sorry that we will have to leave the eagles for a little while now and talk about chess, but I promise to come back to them later.

Apart from a few games, I had not done well in the Reykjavik Open, from which I headed straight to the Women’s World Team. I lost 12 rating points; you can call it an abysmal failure. Astana presented the opportunity to start with a clean slate.

Still, the interesting question is, how did such a good tournament emerge from such unpromising beginnings? It was not like I was a different player than I was in Reykjavik.

A lot of factors came together. Astana is a team tournament, and I generally play well for the team. Astana had fixed round times at 3 p.m. (except for the final round), while in Reykjavik we had rounds at 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 1 p.m., and 12 p.m. I did not adjust to this very well, and lost all games that started earlier than the usual 4:30 (I also drew a much lower rated player at 9:30). I found a nice regime in Astana: taking naps of 1½-2 hours length prior to the game. This was a key element—without this nap, I wouldn’t have been able to play. My preparation started in the evening, when it was morning for my coach. We discussed the general strategy, and he would give me instructions for what I had to look at. I finished my preparation around 2 a.m., sending him any questions that had come up (there were invariably a few.) Forcing myself up at 10 a.m., I'd stumble down for a long breakfast—I joked that I ate like a camel at breakfast, storing up reserves for the entire day—and then come back to speak to Giorgi and get the answers to the questions I’d sent. Preparation was complete around 12:30. If you add up the hours, I prepared quite a lot, but most of it was done before I went to sleep for the night, and the nap erased all tiredness. For this nap, I even skipped lunch! When it comes to chess performance, sleep is worth five pawns, food three.

However, the first five games were shaky. I got to a solid +2 score, but I was nervous in the beginning (yes, inexplicably nervous, playing matches against Kazakhstan and Turkey!), coming down with a cold, and generally low on energy. I reluctantly played the round three match against China—I would have liked to rest, but ... you really can’t ask for a rest against the top teams. I got lucky to survive losing positions in rounds two and four, scoring +1½ from those games.

To top it off, we fumbled on the communication in round five, and I showed up in the tournament hall prepared to face the Georgian player IM Bela Khotenashvili, but found I was playing IM Lela Javakhishvili instead. This was quite unpleasant psychologically, and I played this game poorly—only my forgiving opponent and tenaciousness in defense saved me. But there it was! I had lived to see the free day!

Just like every game has a turning point, the free day was a turning point in my tournament. One day without the stress of preparation, without the stress of play, was a rebirth for me. By that point, I had shaken off the looming cold. I had listened to my coach’s advice to take short evening walks in the freezing temperatures of Astana, packing on layers of clothing in preparation for them. Our captain Michael Khodarkovsky was my walking companion. The first night we went out, as we were walking, I suddenly remembered, “Michael, Giorgi said to walk quickly,” to which he said, “Yes, that's easy to say, sitting in your fuzzy slippers in a warm room, but here with the ice ...” But we picked up the pace. These walks were also an integral part of my regime: they calmed my nerves and I'm sure they're what helped me fight off the cold. And they were always followed by a hot cup of tea, as per the instructions I received.

After the first half of the tournament, I was ranked third in performance on my board, after GMs Anna Ushenina and...
Alexandra Kosteniuk. I was to face them consecutively in rounds seven and eight. It was clear that the only way to move up the standings was through winning these individual encounters. I don’t know why, but I felt like this was how it was going to happen: I would get through one obstacle, and then through another. And then I would get the gold medal.

I really was motivated for these games. Russia and the Ukraine, those are big matches, and if playing the world champions doesn’t motivate you, what will? I tried to go into these games like they were the last games of my life. It’s not easy to steel yourself like that, but I’m pretty sure this approach helped me come out with the result I wanted.

After the game against former Women’s World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk in which she played the middlegame better than me, showing definite superiority in the tactical phase, I simply profited from a strange decision she made on move 34 to hand me the Exchange, and won the game in time pressure. Let’s see if the next day I could play more convincingly:

Reti Opening (A07)
IM Irina Krush (FIDE 2460, USA)
GM Anna Ushenina (FIDE 2477, UKR)
FIDE Women’s World Chess Team Championship, Astana, Kazakhstan (8), 03.11.2013

1. Nf3?

Could my opponent have guessed this? I already started with 1. Nf3 a couple of times in the tournament, but I also tried 1. d4 and 1. c4. Here’s a funny moment: in round two, we faced China, and I was white against WGM Huang Qian, to whom I lost in the 2012 Women’s World Championship Knockout. I played 1. d4, and my opponent sank into thought for five minutes! I just thought it was hilarious how my playing 1. d4, which I’ve played my entire life, could actually surprise someone now. It’s nice when even your first move is unpredictable!

1. ... d5 2. g3

The Reti opening. Some time ago I held such half-moves (Nf3, g3) in contempt; I thought they were the territory of those who were too lazy to study the main lines. These days it’s how people play for a win. You avoid opening theory—though there is theory here too—and switch the battle to the middlegame.

2. ... c6 3. Bg2 Bg4

My opponent shows she is not afraid of being caught out in the same setup she already used in this tournament. It was an interesting decision. She could not have expected this line from me, and knew I had seen her earlier game, but still ventured into it. It’s such a solid system though White is unlikely to have any killer surprises.

4. d3 Nf7 5. h3 Bh5 6. Nbd2 e6 7. 0-0 Bd6

It’s knights before bishops, isn’t it? But the reason Anna didn’t play 7. Ng6 is because she has a different plan for that knight. The setup she uses has become popular recently, and I hadn’t studied it. During the game, I wasn’t very pleased at my handling of the opening, and had the feeling the only way to exploit the knight being on e7 instead of f6 is to use the e4-square. There was a nice game from the white side, WGM Wenjun Ju-GM Antoaneta Stefanova 2012 where White played 8. e4, then 9. d4, then 10. c4. That seems like a more promising treatment than the one I chose.

8. b3 Ne7 9. Bb2 0-0 10. Qe1

My coach suggested 10. c4!? And what is the point of this strange looking 10. Qe1? Well, this is actually pretty standard, getting out of the pin so that one day you can play Nh4, but I didn’t want to play 10. e4 immediately because I was afraid of 10. Ne5. I thought it was advantageous for Black to trade off a pair of knights. My coach didn’t share my fears and we looked at the line 10. e4 Ne5 11. g4 Nxf3+ 12. Nxf3 Bg6 13. e5.

10. ... e5

Very logical, and exactly what I was afraid of. This is why my pawn needs to be on d4!

11. e4 Re8 12. Nh4

My only real plan here is f2-f4, even if it’s not that fearsome. If I was Black, I would have played 12. ... Qc7, preventing it.

12. ... f6

There is definitely nothing wrong with this solid move though, and my coach said maybe it’s even better—provoking me into playing f4.

13. f4 Qc7

The continuation 13. ... exf4 14. gxf4 would have been a very different way of playing the position. Ukraine’s coach, GM Michail Brodsky, strongly advocated it after the game, saying that White has no attack. Still, White’s pieces come to life after this trade, and the central pawns are strong. I think this is easier for White to play than against what Anna did in the game.

14. g4 Bf7 15. f5

A new stage of the game has begun. I’ve grabbed some space on the kingside, and have a clear strategy: pushing g4-g5 at some point, but I wasn’t sure I was doing too well. I wouldn’t have been surprised to hear I was worse. Indeed, the computer prefers Black. However, how should Black proceed here?
15. ... h6

I was happy to see this move, as it gives me a chance to prevent what I thought was Black’s most dangerous idea. 15. ... Bc5+ 16. Kh1 Bxd4! looked strong to me, forcing 17. c3, as clearly White can’t trade bishops. After 17. c3 Bb6 now the d3-square has been weakened, and Black’s plan is ... Nc5 and ... Rad8, and this constant threat of occupation of d3 will really tie White’s hands in regards to the kingside.

16. Nh3 Bc5+ 17. Kh1

Now at least there is no ... Bd4.

17. ... Qb6!? A move I hadn’t anticipated. Black prepares to use the e3-square with his bishop, and the bishop will be incredibly powerful there. After a long think, I couldn’t see a way to stop her plan, so continued with ...

18. h4 Be3 19. g5 Bh5 20. gxh5 gxh5 21. g5

I felt my position had become more promising after having carried out the g4-g5 advance. However, that ... Be3 is still a problem, and now my whole strategy centered around how to get rid of it ... I spent a lot of time here, and while we were about even on the clock before, after this move I had a considerable time disadvantage.

21. Nh2

21. Nh2 was another move I considered, with the idea of trading my “bad” bishop after Bf3. But it didn’t do anything to remove the Be3; 21. Bc1? was really tempting, threatening the discovered attack idea Nc4. But I was dissuaded by 21. ... Bf4 22. Ng1 (going after the bishop with Nh3) 22. ... Qe3 (Black forces a queen trade) 23. Nh3 Qxe1 24. Rxe1 and either 24. ... Bg3 or even ... Bxd2 looked OK for Black. I thought Black could afford to give up the dark squared bishop and be fine in the endgame—my knight on h3 is not very inspiring. But apparently ... Bg3 is too dangerous for Black; the bishop gets trapped: 24. ... Bg3 (Best is 24. ... Bxd2 25. Bxd2 Kh7 26. Rg1 Kh7 26. Bf3 Bxf3+ 27. Nxf3 Rg8 28. Be3 and Black is going to

The Team

Our team, which consisted, in board order, of IM Anna Zatonskikh, myself, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, WGM Sabina Foisor and our reserve player WIM Viktorija Ni, as well as our captain, FST Michael Khodarkovsky, finished in clear sixth place in the event (out of ten teams). This was by no means the disaster it was portrayed to be on certain Internet news sites. We were ranked fifth going into the event, solidly lagging behind powerhouse Ukraine, Georgia, Russia, and China. Nothing earth shattering happened, and these teams claimed the top four spots. India outperformed themselves, and overtook us for fifth by a match point. On the positive side, we improved on our 2009 Women’s World Team Championship performance in Ningbo, China where we finished in a tie for eighth-ninth, and we were the only team not in medal contention which produced a result that completely changed the medals race! That was our round seven victory against Russia, their only match loss in the event. Ni, in her debut for the U.S. team, employed the Nimzo Indian Defense for the first time in her life, and came up with a big win against Russia’s star WGM Olga Girya, who had been on a 100 percent score. After this, Russia could not realistically hope to take away more than the bronze. The match was reminiscent of our 2009 victory against champion China. We also had a hard fought match against winner Ukraine in round eight, losing by a minimal score of 2½-1½. It’s hard for us to be consistent, but we’re surely the most dangerous underdogs out there, and on a good day, we can take down the top teams in the world.

Individually, it was not an easy tournament for our team, but everyone showed stoicism in the face of personal disappointments. The common practice in team events is—you lose, you rest. We didn’t always have the luxury of letting our players lick their wounds, and they’d be asked to come back to the board the very next day. But everyone was prepared to do this, and did everything they could for the team. The fact that our second half was a marked improvement on our first is a testimony to my teammates’ fighting spirit and ability to put aside personal setbacks for the sake of the team effort.

Our team had the good fortune to acquire two prominent supporters in Astana: the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan Elisabeth Millard, and her husband Von. It’s not always so memorable to meet public officials; the interaction is usually brief and perfunctory, but we hit it off with the Millards from our first acquaintance at the opening ceremony. We saw them several more times; Von took a group of us shopping on the free day, and later we were invited to dinner at their residence. They also came to observe our match versus India and attended the closing ceremony. It was really a pleasure getting to know them and hearing about their travels—their previous two postings were in Morocco and Nepal!—and work in the U.S. Foreign Service. Von encouraged me to take the Foreign Service exam.

Thank you to the USCF for finding last-minute funds to send our team to Astana, to the Kasparov Chess Foundation for their additional financial support, and to our captain FST Michael Khodarkovsky for his work on the organizational side as well as his overall stewardship of our team. And thank you to the Kazakh people and organizers, your hospitality was of the highest level! 
have to devote a lot of resources not to lose that bishop.

21. ... Kh7 22. Bc1 Bd4

This is necessary, as Nc4 was a huge threat.

23. Rb1 dxe4!

A surprising decision. My first impression was that it was dubious, giving me a very strong square for my knight on e4. But then I realized that if I capture with the knight, Black also frees the ... Ne7, and gets a good square on d5, from where it controls e3 and f4. So I decided it wasn’t worth it to allow the activation of her knight, but actually—my first impression was right. I should not have missed the opportunity to get a knight to e4!

24. dxe4

Perhaps my pawn recapture was disappointing for Anna, because now she makes a mistake with that same knight she was hoping to activate. Not seeing any future for him on e7, and knowing that the h6 pawn is a weakness that could use protection (for example, the natural 24. ... Rg8 looks like it doesn’t work because of 25. Ne4 and 26. Qd2 and h6 is unprotected, though Black would still have ... Qd8 with ... Qf8), she proactively puts the knight on defense, but it gives her a very passive position. During the game, I was not sure what she should have played, but I felt that 24. ... Ng8 was a serious error. Never make your pieces passive before you have to! This was the turning point of the game. Stronger was 24. Nxe4! Nd5 25. Bf3! (Employing the strategy of trading your poor pieces.) 25. ... Bxf3+ 26. Nxf3 Be3 27. c4! Bxc1 28. Qxc1! Nf4 29. d4! With some very precise moves, White achieves a superior position. But of course I didn’t see all this, and in case I played less precisely, my evaluation was more or less correct, that Black gets counterplay by activating her d7-knight.

24. ... Ng8

24. ... Qa5! is a strong move that stops Nc4, and creates ideas of ... Qc3 as well as ... Qxa2. It would be a lot harder for White to start their consolidation after this move.

25. Ne2

This last part of the game I had just a few minutes left, so it was mainly my hand playing, because there certainly wasn’t time for any deep thinking. It was a bit surprising for me that I managed to create such harmony among my pieces with my hand making the decisions. Ironically, my time pressure helped me win, because Anna clearly started to play against my clock. Black’s position is getting precarious, but instead of using her remaining time (she had about 14 minutes left) to try to create maximum resistance, she played quickly, hoping for some time-induced errors from me.

25. ... Bc5 26. Nc4 Qc7 27. b4 Bf8

Black was fine just a few moves ago, but suddenly all the pieces have been sent back.

28. a3

A careful little move. You don’t want to accidentally give away the a2-pawn (after ... Bf7).

28. ... Bf7 29. Ne3 a5 30. Rh1

By this point, I had noted a plan, based on the idea of piece improvement ...

30. ... axb4 31. axb4 Re7

What is Black’s best piece and what is White’s worst? Which squares can White weaken around the king?

32. Bf3! Be8 33. Ng3 Rg7 34. Bh5

This is everything I could have dreamed about since Black’s mistake exactly ten moves ago. White will dominate on the light squares.

34. ... Qd8

I have two ways to break through: a timely Bg6+ (sacrificing a negligible pawn for the sake of the f5-square) or the prosaic buildup I chose in the game. (Bg6+ was definitely the stronger option; I should have been braver and went for that, because in the game my opponent could have put up a better defense.)

35. Bd2 Qe7 36. Qe2 b5 37. Rg2

Much better is 37. Bg6+! Bxg6 (White wins material after 37. ... Kh8 38. Nh5) 38. fxg6+ Rgx6 39. Ng5 Rxg1+ 40. Rgx1 Qf7 41. c4 bxc4 42. Nxc4.

37. ... Nb6

Black’s last chance was 37. ... Bxh5 38. Nxh5 Rxg2 39. Qxg2 Qf7 with ... Ne7 to follow, and White cannot make further progress on the kingside. I was very happy Black bypassed this.


Why did Black resign, instead of trying 41. ... Qf7? I’ll leave you with that question. This game truly gave me a rush of happiness. Going into it, Ushenina had a score of 6/5/7 and a performance of over 2700. So I had managed to beat the world champion when she was in top form, in the stage of the game where I’m usually weakest (time trouble).

The reasons for my success

Apart from the naps and the walks, there are two more reasons this tournament broke my way. Whenever my coach asked me if I wanted to equalize, I always responded with, “You know what I want. I want a chance to win.” With white or black, that was what I wanted, so I took some risks in my preparation, and when things got dangerous, probably fortunate smiled at the one looking for her chances ...

I want to thank my coach for his support and his immense input into my preparation. Whenever I do well, his help is a key factor behind my success, and when I don’t, it’s because I am lazy and don’t do what he tells me to do.

I noticed that there were some parallel elements between the fable I told in Reykjavik and my experience in Astana. I tried to figure out, between my coach, myself, and my opponents who was who in that tale. GM Pascal Charbonneau had the final say:

Pascal: no
you are the eagle!
no to G being the eagle
stop trying to take no credit.

See more about the Women’s Team Championship on uschess.org, Chess Life Online, March archives and at www.womenchessfide.com!
The Chess Journalists of America (CJA) once again sends out a call for nominations to our annual Chess Journalists of America chess journalism awards. The CJA awards honor the best in all facets of chess journalism, print and online. The most excellent in chess articles, columns, photojournalism, infographics, layout and online work are honored within their respective categories. Recognized annually by their peers, the public and members of CJA, these prestigious awards showcase work in the categories listed to the right which were published between June 1, 2012 and May 31, 2013.

CJA is the national not-for-profit body formed to encourage, promote, represent and influence policies as they relate to chess journalism. Membership is open to everyone and not necessarily chess journalists at an annual membership fee of $10. Award winners are presented with certificates and are acknowledged both in Chess Life and CJA’s newsletter The Chess Journalist. CJA’s annual chess journalism awards are also open to anyone and there is an entry fee of $15 (which includes membership or renewal to CJA) for the first entry and an $8 fee for each subsequent entry. CJA is online at http://chessjournalism.org. For additional information on the awards or in joining CJA, please contact CJA Awards Committee Chairman Joshua Anderson at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com or visit http://chessjournalism.org/pr120512.htm. Our CJA President Frank Niro looks forward to seeing you, the CJA members, at our annual meeting (held concurrently with meetings at the USCF U.S. Open) this Summer 2013, thank you.
Hasty Rush For A Draw

Once you find a good move, look for a better one.

By GM Lev Alburt

IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY, several “Advanced Chess” matches have been played, featuring top grandmasters such as Kasparov and Topalov, each assisted by an already very strong computer program. Unfortunately, each player had only about three hours to complete the game, thus overall quality wasn’t that impressive.

But imagine Carlsen and Anand, or Kramnik and Kasparov, playing a two-game match with all the assistance, human and silicon, they can arrange—playing under correspondence chess conditions, three days (or at least one day) per move. (Both games, white and black, can be played simultaneously). With a proper prize fund to make both the effort and the preparations worth it—say, $5,000,000—couldn’t we get a look at nearly perfect chess?

The winner of this month’s award, Paul Kinion, couldn’t use any assistance but books, but he used the right book, and used it well. Writes Paul (Lev’s future comments are in italics):

The October 2012 issue of Chess Life was so full of serendipity I was compelled to write you. It featured a cover photo of Ivan Sokolov, the 2012 World Open champion, Alex Dunne’s article on correspondence chess, and your Back to Basics column “A Hasty In-Between Move.” The “friendly” game was the first I’ve seen you analyze that did not come from an official face-to-face tournament. This monitor-to-monitor game is one I played in the Rochester (MN) Chess Club’s first online correspondence tournament and from it I’ve learned much. You can title this article, “A Hasty End-game Move”.

To quote Alex Dunne, “The truth about correspondence chess: the players may not be so good, but the chess is often better.” In a face-to-face game I don’t often play like a grandmaster but I did the first half of this one. While chess engines are not allowed in correspondence games, books are. Lars Schandorff’s Playing the Queen’s Gambit is my guide for this game. I usually have a hard time reading chess books, except for Sam Palatnik’s, but it’s easier and more instructive when it pertains to a game you are playing.

Schandorff describes two main lines that branch from this point. There is the “complicated 6. … e6” but in our game, Tim chose the “old.”

6. … Nbd7 7. Nxc4 Nb6

Black’s seventh move embarks upon what is often called the “Sokolov variation.”

8. Ne5 a5 9. Bg5

When you have three days to make a move and the use of a book, hasty mistakes in the opening are avoided. It’s also a good opportunity to get to a cutting edge position.

Here the umbilical cord is cut. Tim is no longer playing against my book, he is playing against me. My assessment of the position is that the game is close with a slight edge to White. Black is slightly ahead in development where White has control of the center and initiative.

14. Nc5 Bc8 15. 0-0 Nd7

When Black dropped his bishop back to protect his b-pawn, I felt I was ahead in all three categories. It seemed a good time to castle.
Tim relieved some pressure by swapping knights and proceeded to push me back with a couple of pawn moves.

16. N3e4

I’d prefer here to change the pawn structure with 16. Nxd5 cxd5 ...

... and now probably 17. Qc2. The likely dominance over the c-file, combined with Black’s weak queenside pawns and restricted g7-bishop, should give White a real, dangerous edge.

16. ... Nxc5 17. Nxc5

17. ... h6 18. Bh4 b6 19. Ne4 Bf5

His bishop move gave my knight few opportunities. Moving it to g3 would trap my black bishop. Protecting it with the f-pawn would cost the e-pawn and a bad fork. I saw moving the knight to d2 or c3 as my only options with d2 giving my steed more room for future moves. I was backing up and I could feel development and initiative slip through my fingers.

We jockeyed for position.

Perhaps the move 19. ... Be6 was a bit more accurate.

20. Nd2 Nb4 21. Rc1 Rc8

When his rook slid over I saw I could force a trade of bishops. I had had enough of his and went for it.

I like 22. Bg4. Thus, as Black, I would have tried to find an alternative to 21. ... Rc8—perhaps 21. ... e5 or 21. ... Ra7.


25. ... f6

At this point I felt the game was still close but I had a sinking feeling that I had let my grandmaster guides down by not doing more with the position they left me. One problem with using books is that you don’t get to finish the game with the same talent you started with.

No, you didn’t—White’s advantage here is certainly larger than it was on move 14 (out of book). Even the simple 26. Bg3 (to avoid ... g6-g5 and ... h5-h4) followed by the “normal” 27. Rfd1, 28. e4 is fine—but I like Paul’s 26. f4.

26. f4

Tim’s next move looked odd.

26. ... e6

I’m not used to seeing five pawns on the sixth row. It took me a while but I found what I thought was my best contribution to the game. In face-to-face games, Tim’s face is usually smiling when the game is over. I saw a path to a draw and took it.

Tim, with 26. ... e6, wanted to preclude f4-f5. White’s reaction was fine—but why a draw?

27. Ne5 g5

The move 27. ... Kh7 was a lesser evil, and it at least delays Black’s capitulation.


I was happy with the outcome and Tim honored me with an unhappy emoticon because he missed the perpetual.

During a post-mortem with tournament director and expert Matt Jensen I learned my 27. Ne5 move was better than I thought. Instead of capturing the h-pawn on move 28, I should have first captured 28. Bxg5 and after 28. ... fxg5 29. Qxh5 there is no defense against g5-g6. I don’t think a subsequent g6 move could be defended. The move I made was hasty, inexcusable given I had three days to make it. I should have kept in mind the old adage, “once you find a good move, look for a better one.” This advice is best when applied to the end of a game. [Paul means here, I suppose, not “the endgame” but rather a position where the game can be or in real life, is likely to be] decided by checkmate, achieving decisive material advantage, perpetual check, etc. In short, what chess lovers call critical/crucial positions.—L.A.]

To summarize, White achieves a better position in the opening and then further increased his advantage. In the worse—but far from lost—position, Black made a series of dubious, antipositional, weakening moves. But, “happy with the outcome,” Paul went straight for a draw, ignoring a relatively easy winning continuation. ♦
Endgame Lab / Instruction

Exchange Sacs at Tata Steel
Exploring how sacrificing the Exchange can potentially save a bad position.

By GM PAL BENKO

There are often opportunities to employ an Exchange sacrifice to escape from an inferior position. This is especially so with bishop against rook since there are many book draws, sometimes even when a pawn down. Here are some examples from the 2013 Tata Steel tournament in Hoogovens, The Netherlands.

Pawn Down
GM Loek van Wely (FIDE 2679, NED)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2769, USA)
Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2013 GM A

White has only slight winning chances due to his pawns being on the board’s edges.

60. Rc6
Trying to prevent ... c4-c3 because after 60. a5 c3! 61. Kxd3 Rxf3+ 62. Kc2 Rf5! leads to equality because of the white rook’s poor placement.

60. ... Bc2!
Preparing the Exchange sacrifice so as to get rid of the passed a4-pawn.

61. Rxc4 Bd1 62. Rf4 Rxf3+
Now, 62. ... Bxf3? loses because of 63. Rxf3 Rg5 64. Ke4 Rhx5 65. Ra3! and the side pawn suddenly becomes strong with the rook behind it.

63. Rxf3 Bxa4
(see diagram top of next column)

64. Rf6
The last pawn disappears soon after this. White could try 64. Kf4 but after 64. ... Kh6 65. Rh3 Be8 (or 65. ... Bd1) 66. Rh2 Bb5 (66. ... Bxh5? 67. Kf5 wins) 67. Kf5 Bc4 draws.
Even 67. ... Kh7 68. Kg5 Bd3! is a book draw but it is important to know that if the pawn is still on h4 it is now a win.

64. ... Be8 65. h6 Bg6 66. Rgx6 Kxg6 67. h7 Kxh7, Draw agreed.

Passed Pawns
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2769, USA)
GM Ivan Sokolov (FIDE 2667, NED)
Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2013 GM A

The win is in a stranded position with no good move.

47. ... f4!?
Nice but unnecessary. The silent waiting move 47. ... Rc3! leaves less escape opportunities. 48. Kf2 Kh3 49. e3 (Black trades down into a winning endgame after 49. Kf1 Rgx3) 49. ... Kg4 50. Ke2 Rb3 wins.

48. gxh4 Kxh4 49. e4 Kg4
With a couple of more accurate moves Black could have won a pawn and kept all of his own: 49. ... Re3 50. f5 Kg5 51. Be7+ Kh6 52. Bf8+ Kh7 wins.

50. f5 Rd3 51. Bb4 h4?
Sharpened the game unnecessarily. Simpler was to eliminate counterplay by playing 51. ... Rf3 first.

52. f6 h3+ 53. Kh2 Rf3 54. e5 Rf2+ 55. Kh1

55. ... Kh5?
Why not continue with 55. ... h2! here?

56. Bc5 Rf3 57. Kh2 Kg4 58. Bb4?
Instead 58. Bb6! Rxa3 (In case of 58. ... Kf5 59. Bc7 holds on.) 59. f7 draws.

58. ... Rf2+ 59. Kh1 h2
Black has made up for his earlier mistake, but the win is now difficult and long.

60. f7 Rxf7 61. Kxf2 Rf5+ 62. Kg1 Re5 63. Bd6 Kf3 64. Kf1 Re4 65. Kg1 Re1+ 66. Kh2
(see diagram top of next column)
The win is still there, but Black must force White’s hand here.

66. ... Rd1 67. Bb4 Rd4! 68. Bd6
After 68. e6 Rh4+ 69. Kg1 Rxb4 wins.
### 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

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#### Problem I:

**Pal Benko**  
*First Prize, Magyar Sakkelet, 1975*

**WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN**

- 68. ... Rh4+?
- The key move was 68. ... Rd2+! 69. Kg1 (since after 69. Kh3 Kf4! wins) 69. ... Rd1+! 70. Kh2 Re1 71. Bc7 Re2+! 72. Kg1 Kg2 73. Kh1 Kf2 74. Bd6 Kf1 75. e6 Kg6 wins.

- A serious mistake that leads to a draw. The win is as given after 68. ... Rd2+.

- 79. e6! Kg2 80. Kh1 Re2 81. e7 Kg4 82. Kg1 Kf5 83. Kh1 Re6 84. Kf2 Kg6 85. Kf3 Ke7 86. Bd4 Ke8 87. Bc5 Kh7 88. Bd4 Rb6 89. Bc5 Rc6 90. Bb4 Rc4, Draw agreed.

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#### Problem II:

**P. Benko - after T. Gorgiev**  
*Magyar Sakkelet, 1989*

**WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN**

- Naturally, it is possible to sacrifice an Exchange to reduce or eliminate the opponent’s counterplay, as we see in our next game.

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#### Even Pawns

**GM Anish Giri (FIDE 2726, NED)**  
**GM Yifan Hou (FIDE 2603, CHN)**  
*Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2013 GM A*

- Black’s position is miserable. After 43. ...Bg7, 44. Kd5 followed by Rc6 is easily winning. Therefore Black tries to break out of his restricted position.

- 43. ... Bb4 44. Rc2 N6d+ 45. Kd5 Nb5 46. Bxh6 Nc3+

- There comes a neat finish after this. Instead, 46. ... e4 may have provided more resistance but after 47. Be3 Ng7+ 48. Rxc7 the Exchange sacrifice again looks good.

- 47. Rxc3!

- Of course he cannot allow 47. Kc4 Rc8+ 48. Kd3 e4+ 49. Kd2 Nxa2+, that would let his entire advantage slip away.

- 47. ... Bxc3 48. Be3 Bxd4 49. Bxd4

- Even 49. Ke4 was quite good.

- 49. ... exd4 50. Kxd4 Ke5 51. Kh8d8+ 52. Ke4 Kf7 53. g5, Black resigned.

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See executive board candidate statements for May and election information beginning on page 10. Additional statements will appear in the June issue.
U.S. Amateur South
JUNE 8-9

FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE UNUSUAL
There is so much to do and see in Memphis. If you arrive early, come warm up at the chess club meeting on Friday at Tropical Smoothie, 1779 Kirby Parkway. Of course, the most famous of all attractions would be Graceland, home to the king of rock and roll, Elvis Presley.

Will you have time to relax between rounds or just come early or stay later? The River City is a tourist’s delight, so board a paddlewheel boat cruising down the mighty Mississippi River, take a stroll down Beale Street, the famous street in Memphis which is the Home of the Blues featuring more than 25 clubs and shops, or come visit the National Civil Rights Museum showcasing the struggle for civil rights in the United States.

For the sports-minded: How about golf at Mirimichi Golf Course where you might catch a glimpse of the course’s famous owner, Justin Timberlake. Or take in a baseball game at AutoZone Park, home of the Memphis Redbirds, a minor league team of the St. Louis Cardinals.

For animal lovers: Visit the Memphis Zoo, home to more than 3,000 animals on 70 acres—even giant pandas on loan from China. There is also a most unusual Memphis animal attraction: Each morning and afternoon since 1932, a parade of five ducks march off an elevator and down a red carpet into the fountain of the famous Peabody Hotel's grand lobby (the Peabody Duck Walk). It is really a sight to behold.

For further information about the Home of the Blues and the birthplace of Rock and Roll, including traveling to Memphis, visit www.memphistravel.com. For registration or further information about the U.S. Amateur, see the Tournament Life section in this issue or visit www.shelbycountychess.blogspot.com.

YOU MIGHT NOT BE RIDING IN A PINK CADILLAC when you arrive to play in the U.S. Amateur in Memphis, Tennessee, but there are plenty of other ways to get to The River City. If you’ve dreamed of owning a national title but thought you had to be a grandmaster to get one, this is the tournament where the class player has a fighting chance.

Special guests will include 2004 U.S. Co-Champion GM Alexander Stripunsky, Texas Tech Head Coach and 2006 U.S. Champion GM Alexander Onischuk, four-time U.S. Women’s Champion IM Irina Krush, and IMs Jake Kleiman and Teddy Coleman. Though not playing, they will be mingling and signing autographs. They are all in town for the start of a great chess week as the Mid-South Chess Camp kicks in immediately upon the completion of the U.S. Amateur.

This is the third year running that the U.S. Amateur will be in Memphis. Held at the University of Memphis Fogelman Executive Center and Hotel, the tournament is a two-section Swiss with an Open section (open to under 2200) and a Reserve section (open to under 1600). A special one-day scholastic tournament will be on Saturday, June 8.
## 2013 Membership Options

Choose Between **Premium** and **Regular** USCF Memberships

---

**Premium Membership**

PRINTED COPY of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership.

**Regular Membership**

Online-only access to Chess Life or Chess Life for Kids; TLA Newsletter will be mailed to you (Adults: bimonthly; Scholastic: 3 per year)

---

### What You Get as a Regular USCF Member:

- The right to play in USCF-sanctioned tournaments and be assigned an official rating
- Access to member-only content on uschess.org, including our USCF forum discussion group.
- Online access to Chess Life & Chess Life for Kids.

### What You Get as a Premium USCF Member:

All of the above plus a printed copy of Chess Life or Chess Life for Kids!

---

### Premium USCF Membership Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>2 Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADULT</td>
<td>$46</td>
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<td>YOUNG ADULT (3)</td>
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### Regular USCF Membership Rates

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<td>YOUNG ADULT (3)</td>
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### Other USCF Membership Rates

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A $3 affiliate commission will apply to all memberships submitted by affiliates.
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 April 9 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  GM Mikheil Kekelidze</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>129.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  GM Zviad Izoria</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>112.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>3  GM Melikset Khachiyan</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>66.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  GM Aleksandr Lenderman</td>
<td>NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>5  GM Gregory Kaidanov</td>
<td>KY</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6  GM Alexander Ivanov</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>58.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7  GM Alexander Shabalov</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>56.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8  GM Sergey Kudrin</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>55.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9  GM Alexander Fishbein</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>54.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 IM Daniel Naroditsky</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>44.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 GM Giorgi Kacheishvili</td>
<td>NY</td>
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<td>12 IM Ricardo De Guzman</td>
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<td>13 IM Andranik Matikozyan</td>
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<td>14 FM Jeffery Xiong</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>37.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 IM Jay Richard Bonin</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>31.45</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Four-time U.S. Champion GM ALEXANDER SHABALOV has once again gotten off to a fast start in a Trophies Plus Grand Prix race.

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES!
FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!
2nd: $2,500 | 3rd: $1,000
4th: $900 | 5th: $800
6th: $700 | 7th: $600
8th: $500 | 9th: $300
10th: $200

Trophies Plus:
IT’S NOT JUST A TROPHY.
IT’S THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT.

Proud sponsor of USCF National Scholastic tournament awards since 1999.
Proud sponsor of the USCF 2007-2012 All-America Team.
Chess Magnet School is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by April 10, 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.

ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by April 10, 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 of 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 ChessMagnetSchool.com.

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Fast, Fun, and Easy to Use

ChessMagnetSchool.com

Better Than Any Textbook for Learning Chess

"Great Stuff! I just delivered my first Belgian champion under 10 and boosted his development by using ChessMagnetSchool.com"
- Ton Montforts, Coach
  Schaakacademie
  Limburg, Belgium

"Your website was integral to our team's winning."
- Mike Hosford, Coach
  Alcott Elementary
  2008 Washington State
  Grades 4-6 Champions

Proud Sponsor of the 2013 USCF Junior Grand Prix!

Start Your 30-day Free Trial Today at
www.ChessMagnetSchool.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 month</th>
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<th>1 year</th>
<th>1 yr USCF</th>
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<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Works on Windows and Macintosh computers (requires internet access)

To learn more, call 650-284-5062
877-378-4319 (US toll-free)

email info@ChessMagnetSchool.com

Free to teachers/coaches of at least 5 students
Includes our powerful, easy-to-use Coaching Tools & Reports
LETTER OF INTENT

A Promise For Tomorrow

In future support of the work of the U.S. Chess Trust, I want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of services by the U.S. Chess Trust.

Therefore,

☐ I have made provision ☐ I will make provision

to support the U.S. Chess Trust by:

☐ making a bequest or endowment provision in my Will
☐ creating a charitable remainder or lead trust naming the U.S. Chess Trust as a beneficiary.
☐ establishing an endowment or special fund at the U.S. Chess Trust.
☐ directing the trustees or directors of my foundation to continue beyond my lifetime making an annual gift to the U.S. Chess Trust.
☐ Making an outright gift to the U.S. Chess Trust during my lifetime in the sum of $__________.

This Letter of Intent represents my commitment to the work of the U.S. Chess Trust. It does not represent a legal obligation and may be changed by me at any time.

Whatever the amount of your gift, when you leave a legacy for the future of the U.S. Chess Trust, you are an important part of the Promise for Tomorrow.

Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information and email Barbara DeMaro at bduscf@aol.com (845-527-1167)

U.S. Chess Trust

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor. Write or send an email to Barbara DeMaro, bduscf@aol.com for this amount. Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax-deductible. A 501(c)(3) organization. 80-08-03
USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

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
2013 U.S. Class Championship September 27-29 or 28-29 • Houston, Texas

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 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
2017 K-12 Grade Championship December 8-10 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship May 11-13 • Nashville, Tennessee
2018 K-12 Grade Championship December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida

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.
Chess Magazine School Junior Grand Prix!

May 25-30, 2013

130 Granada Hall Hotel in Tarrytown, 455 South Broadway,
Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Chess Rate $129 single/double/triple/quad
Free Parking, Free internet connection.
Reservation: Call 914-631-5700 or online at www.tarrytown doubles.com and enter the group code CHS.
Make a reservation by April 26th. Sections: U12, U15, U18 (ages as of 1/1/2013). One 1/2 point bye available, except if red, if requested prior to R1.
Individual and Team Awards (schools and clubs). Prizes are decided by a draw, breaks, cash prizes are divided.
Under 21: Fide rated.
#1 player gets the U.S. Junior Open Championship title, qualifies to play in the 2014 U.S. Closed Invitational, if still eligible by age. Prizes and $600 #2: Cash prizes: $400-$200-$100. Prizes for best player age 17 and under.
Under 15: Trophies and plaques to top U1000, U1100, U1200 and U1300.
Under 12: Trophies to top U1200, U1100, U1000, U900 and U800. Eff: $49 if postmarked by May 20, or paid online via ChessCommons.
Eff: $55 online or $58.50 if by 5/10, mention “SACA”.

Chess Festival 2013:

June 6-9, NEVADA

An Heritage Event!
Chess Magazine School Junior Grand Prix

In partnership with the Nevada Chess Association –
held at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Entries: 1-day, 1-1/2 day, or 2-day schedule.
Registration:

June 7-9 OR 8-9, NEVADA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)


SCHEDULE:

North Sea Chess Festival - 10 rounds, 8SS, G/10 d5; Thursday, May 30th at 5pm.


Sunday: U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, U600, U400, U200, U100, U50. Eff: $49 if postmarked by May 20, or paid online via ChessCommons.
Eff: $55 online or $58.50 if by 5/10, mention “SACA”.

INFO:

To book your hotel for the event, please call 866-999-QUICKS, or visit www.vegaschessfestival.com or fax (702) 933-9112.

E-mail: info@vegaschessfestival.com or by fax at (702) 933-9112.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

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TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

2013 U.S. Game/10 Championship (BLZ)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**MAY 11, OKLAHOMA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6**

CFCC Tornado at UUU

MAY 11-12, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6**

CFCC Tornado at UUU

MAY 11-12, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
of prize.

7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

day schedule

$30, Scholastic $20.

to U1300 schedule:


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAY 24-26 OR 25-26, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

500 Gem City Open

5-5, 9-20, 90, 40/110, SD/30 + 10-second delay

no 2-Day Open

U1400 & may play in different sections, teammate pairings avoided but possible, teams must commit before both players have played rd. 4). EF if posted by 5/17/4-DAY: $79, 5-DAY: $78, 7-DAY: $77, all $75 on-line

www.chesscenter.cc, current NYCA members, $5 off or online entries only, all $80 by phone due 5/22, $90 at site; EF $40 less to unrated in U1600 Section only (players with 3 lifetime games or less are unrated), GMs free ($60 from prize), specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. Re-entry $50 except from Open. 4-

Day Schedule: reg. Fri 6-6 pm, Rds. Fri 7-7 pm, Sat 11 & 11, 6, Man 10 & 6, 3-30, 1 hour before game. Online or mailed EF $5 less to ICA members; join at i-chess.com, an ICA Tour Event. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid online. Online at chesscenter.cc, actual Adult, Under 2000, Under 2100 & U1400 schedules merge & deduct $3 from EF. Byes: Any player who loses Fri night may re-enter for $30 and loss will not count in tournament standings. One 1/2 pt bye available in Rds. 1-4 (request prior to R1). Unrated players may play in any section with prizes limited to 1/3/nine in excess of Open for prizes.

GTOPHILE HOTEL

"Where Elegance Meets Style in the Heart of Downtown" beautifully

resorted-4 star at 33 5th St., 1/2 block from playing site. (888)-

332-9357, with the incredibly slow of only $6 per $1000. EF $100

less to seniors age 65 or USCF in U1300 Section or above (except seni- or GM/WM in Open, who get no discount but have $100 less taken out of prizes).

U1200 & 1100 sections EF $25-

U1600 $20-

no questions), 5-day $252, 4-day $234, 3-day $223, 2-day $222 mailed by 5/14; all $250 online until 2 hours before game or at site until 1 hour before game. No checks at site, credit card OK. Byes: Must be committed before round 3.

5-SS, 30/90, SD/60 (2-day schedule, rd. 1 G/90) at Dayton Chess Club, 18 West 5th St., Dayton, OH 45402. 441 greater Prize Fund & Still UNCONVENTIONALLY GUARANTEED. 3 sections: OPEN, open to all. STD $1200, 800, 400, 300; U2000, $300, Premier/U1800, $301, U1600: $500, $300. Reserve/U1400, $301; U1400, $700. EF: 3- day schedule

11AM-1PM-2:45PM-4:30PM. Format: 4 Round Swiss, G/120 d5

A Heritage Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAY 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

55th Gem City Open

5-5, 9-20, 90, 40/110, SD/30 + 10-second delay

no 2-Day Open

U1400 & may play in different sections, teammate pairings avoided but possible, teams must commit before both players have played rd. 4). EF if posted by 5/17/4-DAY: $79, 5-DAY: $78, 7-DAY: $77, all $75 on-line

www.chesscenter.cc, current NYCA members, $5 off or online entries only, all $80 by phone due 5/22, $90 at site; EF $40 less to unrated in U1600 Section only (players with 3 lifetime games or less are unrated), GMs free ($60 from prize), specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. Re-entry $50 except from Open. 4-

Day Schedule: reg. Fri 6-6 pm, Rds. Fri 7-7 pm, Sat 11 & 11, 6, Man 10 & 6, 3-30, 1 hour before game. Online or mailed EF $5 less to ICA members; join at i-chess.com, an ICA Tour Event. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid online. Online at chesscenter.cc, actual Adult, Under 2000, Under 2100 & U1400 schedules merge & deduct $3 from EF. Byes: Any player who loses Fri night may re-enter for $30 and loss will not count in tournament standings. One 1/2 pt bye available in Rds. 1-4 (request prior to R1). Unrated players may play in any section with prizes limited to 1/3/nine in excess of Open for prizes.

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U1200 & 1100 sections EF $25-

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no questions), 5-day $252, 4-day $234, 3-day $223, 2-day $222 mailed by 5/14; all $250 online until 2 hours before game or at site until 1 hour before game. No checks at site, credit card OK. Byes: Must be committed before round 3.
19th annual NORTHEAST OPEN
NEW DATES! August 16-18 or 17-18, Stamford, CT
$8,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND
5 rounds, $94 room rates, free parking, downtown location, trains from NYC run frequently. In 4 sections:

Open Section: Prizes $1000-500-300-200, top U2250 $600-400, GPP: 50 (enhanced)
Under 2050 Section: $800-400-300-200, top U1850 $500-250, GPP: 50
Under 1650 Section: $700-400-300-200, top U1450 $400-200, GPP: 50
Under 1250 Section: $500-250-200-100, trophy first to top 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated. Unrated prize limit: $150 in U1250, $400 in U1650.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstour.com.
JUNE 2, NEW JERSEY
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Summer 2013 Open Championship
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, N J 07601. Open To All Ages With Rating above 1,400. Entry Fee: $60. USCF Membership Required. Prize Fund ($15/40 1st - 3rd $300, $250, $200, $150, $100, $80, $60, $50, $40, $30, $20, $10). For more Information: E-mail: chess@bergenacademy.org, call 201-641-0760.

JUNE 6, NEVADA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PKR POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)


www.uschess.org 57

See previous issue for TLAs appearing May 1-14
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JUNE 21-23, 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND Prix POINTS: 15
2013 State Open
5-15, 1/10 inc (3-2 day Rd. 1 6/7 1/2). RAMAGA ENN, 1-79 Exit 49A, 1201 Garner Street, Garner, NC 27529, $790-450. $400-230, $250-95, $100-35, $50-15 per entry, 50% of entries. 20130: $800-400; 20120, $600-300; 20110, $500-250, $200-50, $100-30. $25-10 per entry. Limits 1-6. 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One Bye. 3-day option.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND Prix POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
JUNE 22-23, TEXAS
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND Prix POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
2013 Dallas Open
55, G/100, 30/75, 60/150, 90 sections. $318 by 4/15, $328 by 6/28, $350 until 2 hours per Round. In 9 sections. $250,000...............................................

JUNE 23, 2013
CHESS LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS
CHESS LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRizes: 50 (ENHANCED)
2013 Dallas Open
55, 1/10 inc (3-2 day Rd. 1 6/7 1/2). RAMAGA ENN, 1-79 Exit 49A, 1201 Garner Street, Garner, NC 27529, $790-450. $400-230, $250-95, $100-35, $50-15 per entry, 50% of entries. 20130: $800-400; 20120, $600-300; 20110, $500-250, $200-50, $100-30. $25-10 per entry. Limits 1-6. 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. One Bye. 3-day option.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRizes: 50 (ENHANCED)
DC International
5-SS, 40/2, SD/1 d5 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/75 d5). Holiday Inn, 6225 Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, $900, $500-250, $200-100, $100-50, $50-25, $25-12. 2-day schedule. Reg. Sat 9:30-10:30am, Rds. Sat 10:45-1:30-3:30, Sun 10:45-3:30. Two 3-hour breaks. No half point byes unless full entry by RD 2.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRizes: 50 (ENHANCED)
JULY 5-7, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRizes: 50 (ENHANCED)
2013 National Chess Championship
5-SS, G/45, 30-second increment, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202 (free shuttle from Reagan National Airport; see World Open for rates & parking info). $6100-3050-1525-762-381-190. TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRizes: 50 (ENHANCED)
2013 National Chess Championship
5-SS, G/45, 30-second increment, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202 (free shuttle from Reagan National Airport; see World Open for rates & parking info). $6100-3050-1525-762-381-190.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 6-7, NEW HAMPshire
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 3 (ENHANCED)
Nashua Hotel
Radisson Hotel Nashua, 11 TARA Blvd., Nashua, NH 03062.
In 3 Sections,
Open: 455, 40/90, SD/30 + 30 sec. increment, analog clocks play 40/90, SD/60, Chronos using setting CH-64, Open to 1899 at 8:50; U2000 $100, U1500 $900, U1000 $700, U550 $500, U300 $200; $40 by July 10, $50 thereafter.
Ent: $50 by July 10, $60 thereafter.
Rds.: 4-5 on 7/8
See Entry List for more info.

CSSC membership
For Later Events, see chesstour.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 13-14, 18-20, 21-23, NEW YorK
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
New York City
11 Bradley Airport (visible at airport entrance), Windsor Locks, CT 06096
In 5 Sections,
Top 4 sections EF: $8000 guaranteed prize fund.
Top 5 sections EF: $16,000 guaranteed prize fund.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 19-20 OR 21-20, ILLINOIS
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 120 (ENHANCED)
Chicago
Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
In 12 Sections;
Top 2 sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; team pairings avoided but possible. Unrated may not win over $125 in U1000, $250 in U1500, $375 in U2000, $500 in U2500. Top 4 sections EF: $3,500 online at chessaction.com by 7/7/11, $1000 bonus, top U2300/Unrated $1400-700. FIDE. Under 2100, $1000-500-300-200.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 20, ALABAMA
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 15 (ENHANCED)
Evangel College
SSS, 5G/5D, round times: 9/0, 11:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 21-22, 2013
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 80 (ENHANCED)
21st annual Southern Open

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 28-29, 2013
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 3 (ENHANCED)
Central California Open
Central California Open Chess Club, 4824, 1210 40th Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308
In 9 Sections;
Top 3 sections EF: $750 online at chessaction.com by 7/29, $150 bonus, top U2500 $1000-500-300, top U2000 $750-500-200, top U1500 $500-300-200, top U1000 $250-100-50, top U500 $100-50-10. FIDE. Under 2100, $500-300-200.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 29-30, 2013
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 5 (ENHANCED)
Los Angeles Open, Agoura Hills CA
In 14 Sections;
Top 4 sections EF: $16,000 guaranteed prize fund.
Top 5 sections EF: $3,500 online at chessaction.com by 7/7/11, $1000 bonus, top U2300/Unrated $1400-700. FIDE. Under 2100, $1000-500-300-200.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 31, 2013
TROPhIES PLUS GraNd PriX POinTS: 10 (ENHANCED)
San Francisco
International Chess Club, 1555 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103
In 3 Sections;
Top 4 sections EF: $8000 guaranteed prize fund.
Top 5 sections EF: $16,000 guaranteed prize fund.

ContinentAl Chess SChedule
Visit www.chesstour.com for late news, results, games, minimum ratings, events, etc. To be added to our email list, see chesschess.com.

Events in red offer FIDE norm possibilities.

CONTINENTAL CHESS SCHEDULE
Visit www.chesstour.com for late news, results, games, minimum ratings, events, etc. To be added to our email list, see chesschess.com.

Check mailed by 7/24, $140 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online phoned to 406-896-2038 (no questions) by 7/31, 3-day $123, 2-day $122.

Questions: cajunchess@yahoo.com, DirectAtChess.US, 845-694-9568. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix**

**Aug. 2-4 OR 3-4, NEW YORK**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

12th annual Manhattan Open

St. Louis Chess Club, c/o Michael Regan, 1827 Thornton Ridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63144, 314-361-CHES

info@stlouischessclub.com

www.stlouischessclub.com

Continental Chess Association

PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577, 845-494-8658

www.chessclubusa.com

Dallas Chess Club

200 S. Cottonwood Dr. Suite C

Richardson, TX 75073

972-251-2065

www.dallaschessclub.com

**GOLD AFFILIATES**

Cajun Chess

7230 Chadbourne Drive New York, NY 10011

504-208-1440
cajunchess@yahoo.com

www.cajunchess.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 Enidis, 49 A Mara Rd.

Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

973-263-8696, nwj@nycpcheques.com

www.njcf.org

New York City Chess Inc
c/o Russell Makofsky & Michael Propper

PO Box 189, 82 West 3rd Street

New York, NY 10012

212-475-8130

info@chessnyc.com

www.chessnyc.com

Village Chess @ Zin
c/o Michael Proper & Russ Makofsky

PO Box 189, 82 West 3rd Street

New York, NY 10012

212-475-8130

info@chess-shop.com

www.chess-shop.com

San Diego Chess Club

2225 Sixth Avenue

San Diego, CA 92101, 619-239-7166

custserv@sdchessclub.com

www.sdchessclub.multiply.com

Shore HS Chess League

PO Box 773

Lincroft, NJ 07738

shoresholmcasque@yahoo.com

Silver Knights Chess Tourney

5001 Lakeway Ste 920

Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-574-2070

www.silverknightschess.com

www.chesssilverknight.com

Tri-State Chess

The Chess Exchange

325 East 10th Street

New York, NY 10122, 212-589-5997

info@TriStateChess.com

www.TriStateChess.com

**SILVER AFFILIATES**

Bay Area Chess (CA)

www.BayAreaChess.com

Beverly Hills Chess Club (CA)

www.bhchessclub.com

Monmouth Chess School & Club (NJ)

www.monmouthchessclub.com

Okahoma Chess Organization

www.OkChess.org

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)

www.spartachessclub.com

Success Chess School (CA)

www.successchess.com

Western PA Youth Chess Club (PA)

www.wpychess.org

**GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES**

GOLD

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 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 Affiliates costs $300 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, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Silver Affiliates 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.

**Tournament Life / May**

May 2013 | Chess Life
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  
AUG. 6-13 OR 10-17, INDIANA  
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED) 
19th Annual Northeast Open  
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED) 
AUG. 9-11 OR 10-11, OHIO 
Cleveland Open  
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED) 
AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, VIRGINIA 
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED) 
19th Annual Northeast Open  
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED) 
AUG. 23-25 OR 24-25, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  
AUG. 23-25 OR 24-25, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED) 
35th annual Atlantic Open  
Reg: Ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 & 6 & Sun 10 & 3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10, 2 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30. Bye: all, limit 2; must commit before rd 2. HR: 94-94, 800-408-7640, FAX: 94-94, 800-408-7640. Car rental: Avis, 800-800-2000-700-600, AWD D65763, or reserve car online through chess.com. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chess.com, Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20. All tournaments playing only on 1 line. Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 free TLA sections. Announce meeting dates & times, activities, tournament name must include “Rated Beginners TLA” and a mailed TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. The 8 free TLA categories cannot be applied to longer TLA(s).

Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

Adult Dues Options!

NEW FREE TLA CATEGORIES ADDED!

ACTIVITY MEANS MEMBERS! Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!  

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 the TLA and the e-mail are used by the appropriate deadline. The 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES QUALIFY FOR FREE TLAS! Each affiliate has been approved to issue 8 TLAs for the current month of August 2013. Each affiliate is eligible for up to 3 categories 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 free membership or tournament real 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/Unc or Under 1000/Unc. 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 20/20 (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 RULES FOR CLUB ADS. Up to 5 lines $18 per month for 6 months for unchanged club ads in the TLA section. Announced 10 days before; contact uschess.org contact info, etc.


See previous issue for TLAs appearing May 1-14

Ages 2-24
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 (bimonthly). (Note to affiliates: If you collect a $46 membership, you may submit it online to USCF for $43.)

www.uschess.org 61
Top Under 1900 $400.

Different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before $100 bonus to top NYS resident. FIDE.

700-500-300, top U2300/Unr $700, U2200/Unr $600. State title and Unrated both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible.

Out of state welcome. 6SS. Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Rd., Albany 12205.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

A Heritage Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!

Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2013, 2 or 3, 1-2, 1-2, NEW YORK TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

135th annual NY State Championship


Parking: Valet parking $10/day to 2 am or $20/day overnight; garage has limited space. Entr: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. 518 service charge for refunds. Questions: New miu@miu.com, Director@Chess.US, 914-665-8152. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entry posted instantly).

A Heritage Event!

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Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2013, 2 or 3, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, NEW YORK TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

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May 2013 | Chess Life
MAY 27, Azhar Memorial NorCal Grade Level Champ
Brettor Matson, Mission College Santa Clara, CA 95054. hotel $69 Trophies:
7 sects KG-3: 5xG/30 d5 games 9:30, 17:00, 24:30, 32:00, 40:30, 48:00.
USCF member yields. Prize: $19, $34 onsite. Info: http://BayAreaChess.com/cupertino. NS. NC. W.

MAY 22, Chess Less Bay Area Quads

MAY 23, Cupertino Quads

MAY 24, Cupertino Quads


MAY 26-28 OR 27-29, 21st annual Southern Open (FL) See Grand Prix.


AUG. 11, Cupertino Swiss

AUG. 17, ChessLess Bay Area Swiss

California, Southern
The Los Angeles Chess Club
The premier chess club in Southern California (310) 795-5710 * www.LACheSS.com • Beginner novice Classes. Sundays: 12-1 pm Intermediate Classic Saturday: 10:30 am – noon Advanced Lecture Tuesdays: 7-9 pm Grandmasters and Grandmasters – 3 Sections: +5000, +6000 Everybody receives a prize (trophies & medals) + free pizza & Juices. Details: www.LACheSS.com. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (4 blocks 402 West, SW corner of Santa Monica & Butler * 2nd Floor) Grand Prix Classes "Tournaments Private chess for plus score"}

www.uchess.org 63
MAY 25, 2013 Colorado First Annual Rapid Chess Open (GC) 5-5, 6/15 дер. Sherry Denver Tech Center Hotel, 7007 S. Clinton St., Greenwood Village, CO 80121. Open: U1000. EF: $50; trophy prizes Registration: 8:30 AM. Players meeting 9:00 AM, Opening Ceremony 10:00 AM. Rds.: 9:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:45, 3:30. Awards Ceremony at 5:30 PM. Online entries: at fmc2013rapidregistrationor by e-mail to csca@chessclubofcolorado.org, 7375 S. Quince Ct., Centennial, CO 80112. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Denver Tech Center, Rotary Club of Englewood, Rotary Club of Centennial, SoCal Class Championship, 2013 National Open Blitz (BLZ) (NV) See Grand Prix.

MAY 26, 2013 Chicago Scholastic Open (GC) 5-5, 6/15 der. Sherry Denver Tech Center Hotel, 7007 S. Clinton St., Greenwood Village, CO 80121. Open: U1000. EF: $50; trophy prizes Registration: 8:30 AM. Players meeting 9:00 AM, Opening Ceremony 10:00 AM. Rds.: 9:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:45, 3:30. Awards Ceremony at 5:30 PM. Online entries: at fmc2013rapidregistrationor by e-mail to csca@chessclubofcolorado.org, 7375 S. Quince Ct., Centennial, CO 80112. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Denver Tech Center, Rotary Club of Englewood, Rotary Club of Centennial, SoCal Class Championship, 2013 National Open Blitz (BLZ) (NV) See Grand Prix.
See previous issue for TLAs appearing May 1-14.
Mississippi

JUNE 15, 2013 Pearl Open
45, 0S5 dd 2 sections: Open & U1000. $35, 1st-10, 2nd-20, 3rd-25, 4th-35, PRIZES b/70% entries, $250 guaranteed. Pre-entry fee: Adults $20 and Scholastic 12th grade or lower $12 if received by June 6, 2013. Onsite Fee: Adults $30 and Scholastic 12th grade or lower $15. USCF membership required. Contact: Ralph McNaughton 601-278-9670 or ralph@kcschess.org. www.kcschess.org. More info at: www.mccchess.org. N.C. W.

Missouri

JUNE 24-27, 25-27, 26-27, 27-28, 2nd annual Chicago Open (IL)...

New Jersey

JUNE 1-3, 2013 John Barto Memorial Open
In conjunction with the Monta State Chess Championships (closed), SSS, G/120: Holiday Inn, 22 Last Chance Gulch Ave., Helena, MT 59601. Phone (406) 443-2200. Ask for chess rate. EF: $20 to May 29, $35 at site, 1/2 point bye. Reg. 1:00 p.m. Checkout: 11:00 a.m. Info and entries: Murray Strong, 530 State St., Helena, MT 59601, murstrong@ aol.com, 406-457-9134, www.montanachess.org. USCF and MCA membership required. Contact email: hamiltonchessclub.org. N.C. N.

New York

MAY 18, 2013 National Open Blitz (BLZ)...

New York Chess

MAY 18, 2013 National Open Blitz (BLZ)...
June 1, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-45, G/45 d/45. Entry: $40, members $30, U1600 less 55$, GMs free ($32 deducted from prize). Fund Prize: $701 if EF: Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, U1200, U1300, U1700. Reg: 10:00-10:15 a.m. Rds: 10:45-11:15 a.m. 1-1:45 p.m. 2:15-3:45 p.m. 4:15-5:45 p.m. EF: Please present identification on entering the building. John Moldovan: westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 722-548-8423 or 488-219-158, westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com and www.westfieldchessclub.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
June 1, 12, 19, 26, Chess Mates Wednesday G/90
3-RR, G/90 d5, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prizes: $55 to first in each section. EF: $50, members $30. Reg: 6:15-7:30 pm. Rds: 7:15 PM SHARP ea. Thursday. 2 schedules: 2 day 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry.
June 3, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
June 3, Central Jersey Chess Tournament
June 8, 9-8-9-9, Chess Mates Open Championship
See Grand Prix.
June 8, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
June 11, King's Chess Club Quads
Morning quads and afternoon quads, G/30, Kindergarten-undergraduate (scholastic, youth, and adult youth members). Bethlehem Church, 756 Route 13, Hamilton Square, New Jersey. $1 Entry: 9:30 Art; by noon to reg. only for afternoon quads. Medal to each quads winner. Info: Bethlehem Church 973-366-3404 or Bob Molkaids 973-469-3884. rwm@lambcom.net.
June 16, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
3-RR, G/25 d5, 3131 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Prizes: $55 to first in each section. EF: $50, members $30. Reg: 10:00-10:15 a.m. Rds: 10:30-11:30 a.m. 1-1:15 p.m. 1:30-3:00 p.m. 3:15-4:30 p.m. 4:45-6:15 p.m. EF: $2 byes available, must commit prior to game 2. Re-enter $20, before round 2 or 3 1:30. 3131 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Info: cheasmateschess.com, 732-499-0118.
JUNE 2, 2013 | Chess Life

Riverbank South 6-2 to 7:45 AM St and Riverside Dr., NYC. EF: Free. Pre-registra tion required www.chessclubofnewyork.org by Fri 8:00 PM with Sunday 9:15 check-in required. Rd. 1 at 10:00.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, July 1, 8, Marshall FIDE Mondays!! 6-55, 6-120, 6-7, 6-170, 6-140. Open to all members $20, GMs free.

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Problem I. White wins a piece with 45. Ra7! Nxa7 46. bxa7, threatening to queen. Or 45. ... Kc6 46. b5+. 

Problem II. 51. Nf6+ Kg8 52. Rd7, threatening 53. Bd6 mate, or 51. ... Kd8 52. Bc7+ (or 52. Bd6 Kc8 53. Rc7+ Kd8 54. Rb7 is how Nakamura finished it) 52. ... Kc8 53. Ne8!, threatening Nd6 mate. 

Problem III. 82. Rxe5! fxe5 83. f6 and a pawn queens. 


Problem VI. Black could have won after 26. ... Nd4! For example, 27. Nc3+ 28. Kf1 Nc3 29. Rxb7 Qxb7 30. Kxb7 Nxd1. The key line is 27. Qxb7 Black played 27. ... Ne2?? 28. Kf1 and lost.

Problem I. Deflection: Black wins the queen with 1. ... Bxf2+. 

Problem II. Overload: Black wins a piece by 1. ... Qxd1+. 

Problem III. Discovery: White drops the queen to 1. ... Bxh3+. 

Problem IV. Deflection: Black wins with 1. ... Rb2+ 2. Bxd2 Qf2+ 3. Kd1 Qxd2 mate. 

Problem V. Fork: White drops his rook shortly after 1. ... Qxc2+. 

Problem VI. Matting net: Black ends it with 1. ... Bb3+ 2. axb3 Qxa1 mate.

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Looking at my daughter now, who is about to turn six, I understand that most little girls dream of becoming a princess or even a queen one day. These fairy tales that little girls love to listen to are all about believing in magic, miracles, and love. They show us that hard work, kind hearts and a clear mind are often key to fulfilling our dreams. When I was growing up, my dreams and thoughts were not connected with an ordinary kingdom, but with a very specific one —a chess kingdom. I was taught to play chess at the age of five and very soon chess had become a significant part of my life, and therefore a great part of my dreams and goals.

My first big success in world chess came in the year 2001, when at the age of 17 I reached the finals of the Women’s World Chess Championship in Moscow and only lost on tiebreak to GM Chen Zhu. This great result had proven that I had enough talent to show great results with proper training and hard work, of course. Seven years later, after working a lot on chess, once again, I reached the finals of the Women’s World Chess Championship, and thanks to the following victory I was able to fulfill my dream and become the 12th Women’s World Chess Champion and Chess Queen.

The Women’s World Chess Championship of 2008 started in Nalchik, Russia on August 28. The first game of the final match against Hou Yifan was played on September 14, after several very difficult elimination rounds. The nerves and physical strength of both finalists were at their limit, and the stress intense, since the world championship title was at stake. We reached the following position. I was playing black.

A wish is a dream your heart makes ...

WGM Hou Yifan (FIDE 2557, CHN)
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE 2510, RUS)
World Women’s Chess Championship 2008, Nalchik, Russia (6)

33. ... Nd3!
After this move White’s position collapses like a house of cards.

34. Bxd3
On 34. Ng3, Black would continue 34. ... Nxf3! 35. Bxd3 (35. Qxf3 Ne1+)

35. ... Nh4+ 36. Kh3 cxd3 37. Qxd3 Nf3, with total domination.

34. ... cxd3 35. Qf2 d2 36. Ng3 Nxf3! 37. Qxf3 Bxg4!

This move almost ends the game and I was precise to convert the advantage into a full point.

38. Qf2 d1=Q 39. Nxd1 Bxd1 40. Qe1 Bf3+ 41. Kg1 f5 42. exf5 gxf5 43. Qf2 Kg6 44. b3 e4 45. c4 bxc4 46. bxc4 Qg5 47. c5 f4 48. cxd6 fxg3, White resigned.

It was the first game of the match and the first victory with black, which paved the road to the world throne for me and helped me to fulfill my dearest dream, to become women’s world champion.

I wish everyone who is reading these words, to have a dream, to believe in it and to work hard towards it, and always to move forward despite every obstacle that gets in your way. Good luck, go out and achieve your dreams! 🌟
The French Winawer - Move by Move
B0362EM
Steve Giddins - 288 pages
In this book, the author invites you to join him in studying the French Winawer and its many variations. He examines instructive games, covers the most important lines and provides answers to all the key questions. The Winawer is a very popular choice amongst French Defence players. It enjoys a sound reputation and reaches positions rich in possibilities for both players.

Fighting Chess - Move by Move
B0361EM
Colin Crouch - 304 pages
What separates the best chess players from the rest? What gives them the edge over their rivals? Chess legend Vladimir Kramnik believes it’s their fighting skills and the ability to continuously find ways to keep a game alive. In this book, the author examines the tremendous fighting qualities of today’s top grandmasters.

Tune Your Chess Tactics Antenna
B0124NC
Emmanuel Neiman - 240 pages
If only life was as straightforward as a book of chess exercises! If only someone would tap you on the shoulder every time the moment to show your tactical skills has arrived! The author offers help. He has identified a number of signals that tell you that somewhere in the position you are looking at there is a tactical blow just waiting to be found.

New in Chess Yearbook 105
B0105HYB
The NIC Team - 246 pages
The Yearbook contains all major new chess opening developments in 35 chapters. Each issue brings dozens of new ideas on the cutting edge of modern chess theory. An accessible way to keep up to date with main line opening theory. Readers from all over the world join in discussions on previous Surveys.

Bobby Fischer and His Predecessors
B0232IS
Max Euwe - 230 pages
The distinguished author, himself a past world champion, offers detailed analysis of Fischer’s play in comparison with Alekhine, Botvinnik, Capablanca, Euwe, Lasker, Petrosonian, Smyslov, Spassky and Tal. The comparison of Fischer’s strengths and weaknesses in various compartments of the game with those of other champions affords great insight into his style.

Chess for Amateurs
B0223IS
Fred Reinfeld - 98 pages
This book is an endeavor to help the aspiring amateur by giving him the sort of games that are played by himself and his circle of intimates. In the games of this book, the reader will find many mistakes of just the kind that are repeatedly committed by himself and players of his calibre.

The 1000 Best Short Games of Chess
B0221IS
Irving Chernev - 536 pages
Perhaps if you owned one of the four or five great chess libraries of the world, you could, by diligent search, find most or all of these delectable nuggets. But who has either the time or the assets? So, Mr. Chernev, who has both, provided us here with 1000 of the sweetest sugar-coated pills in all chess literature. Each introduced with a brief, pungent or witty commentary.

Wojo’s Weapons - Volume 3
B0095EU
Ippolito and Hilton - 402 pages
In this third and final volume of the acclaimed Wojo’s Weapons series, Ippolito and NM Hilton claim to have found a sure route to an advantage against the Grunfeld. Based on the repertoire of the late GM Aleksander Wojtkiewicz, the authors reveal the fruits of a combined 35 years of Grunfeld analysis.

Simple Attacking Plans
B0094EU
Fred Wilson - 192 pages
Does “I had a fantastic position, but I couldn’t figure out what to do next!” Sound familiar? If so, this book was written for you. The author distills the complexities of mounting an offensive against your opponent’s king down to four principles that lie at the root of most successful chess attacks.

World’s Most Instructive Amateur Game Book
B0093EU
Dan Heisman - 328 pages
Who says that you can’t learn from the games of amateurs? The author presents thirty games by intermediate-level players, each one offering a rich variety of lessons. The catalog of errors runs the gamut from taking too much little time to think, to shoddy calculation, cutting off analysis too soon, and ignoring the principles of sound strategy.
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OPEN SECTION: $20000-10000-5000-2500-1200-800-600-400-300-200, 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.


UNDER 900: $1000-700-500-300-300-300-300-300-300-300, 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 in U900, 7/30 in U1200, 8/30 in U1400 or U1600).

Reserve early! Chess rate $95-95, 703-418-1234, may sell out by 5/31.

Time limit: OPEN 40/90, SD/30, inc/30. UNDER 2400 to UNDER 1200 40/115, SD/1, d5 (4-day option, rounds 1-2 G/75, d5, 3-day option, rds 1-5 G/45, d5). UNDER 900 G/65, d5, July 5-7 only.

Open through U1400 entry fees: Online at chessaction.com, $328 by 6/28, $350 at site to 1 hour before game or online until 2 hours before game.

U1200 entry fees: All $100 less.
U900 entry fees: $48 at chessaction.com by 6/28, $60 at site or online to 9 am 7/5.

Seniors 65/over: entry fee $100 less in U1400 & above, $20 less in U1200.

Mail or phoned entries: see Tournament Life.
Advance entries are posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). $15 service charge for refunds.
Bring set, board, clock- not supplied.

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**Flank Attacks by FM Valeri Lilov**
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Do we really need to master flank attacks to use them or protect ourselves from them effectively? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" In this DVD, FM Valeri Lilov dwells on the importance of understanding flank attacks by presenting a number of conceptual and typical scenarios with which a master of the flank attack should be familiar.

**The English Defense by GM Bejan Bojkov**
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In the 1970s a group of strong English players developed a slightly unusual opening starting after the moves 1.d4 e5 2.d4 b6. Recently, this young and largely unexplored opening has recently attracted some top players (Motylev, Ivanov, Nemekov) who have made good use of it in their games.

**The Sicilian Najdorf - A Repertoire for Black by GM Daniel King**
WIN0375CB  
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The Najdorf Variation of the Sicilian Defense is the opening of champions. Kasparov, Anand, and Bobby Fischer all made this uncompromising opening a central part of their repertoire. GM King, a life-long practitioner of the Najdorf, explains the fundamental principles of the opening and offers a repertoire of systems for Black against all of White's major alternatives.

**The Flank Openings - ChessBase Tutorials #5**
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The fifth volume of the ChessBase openings tutorials discusses the Flank Openings. It features mini-lessons by such leading instructors as GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, GM Daniel King, GM Lars Schandorff, and FM Valeri Lilov. It covers all of the important flank openings, including the English Opening, King's Indian Attack, the Dutch Defense and even such off-beat openings as the Grünfeld and Van Geet.

**Rook Against Knight by GM Karsten Mueller**
WIN0380CB  
**Running Time:** 5 Hours 38 Minutes  
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The 12th DVD of GM Mueller's popular CHESS ENDGAMES series continues the journey and discusses endgames with an uneven material - Rook Against Knight. The internationally acclaimed endgame expert looks at the winning motifs of the side with the rook like giving back the exchange, opening lines and restricting the knight with many well-chosen examples.

**Secret Weapons Four Knights Game by FM Valeri Lilov**
WIN0379CB  
**Running Time:** 4 Hours 14 Minutes  
$35.95

The Four Knights Game is a strong opening system that White can employ to crush his opponent with its simplicity. FM Lilov, an experienced Four Knights player, will acquaint you with the ins and outs of his favorite opening. He demonstrates to you its power and flexibility when played from the White side by famous top GMs like Carlsen and Radjabov.

**Attacking with the Pirc by GM Dejan Bojkov**
WIN0382CB  
**Running Time:** 4 Hours 29 Minutes  
$35.95

The Pirc Defense, 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6, is one of the most underappreciated openings in chess. While many Grandmasters have considered it a dubious opening, it has lately come back into fashion because of the flexible nature of the position and the variety of possibilities it gives both sides.

**1.e4 by GM Viktor Bologan**
WIN0381CB  
**Running Time:** 4 Hours 30 Minutes  
$39.95

Club-level Chess players tend to spend the majority of their time studying the major opening lines, often ignoring the side lines. This DVD focuses on 3 of those critical sidelines - the Pirc, Scandinavian, and Alekhine Defenses - and will give you an incredibly aggressive repertoire to help strengthen your opening repertoire.

**The Advance French Structure by GM Sam Collins**
WIN0383CB  
**Running Time:** 3 Hours 36 Minutes  
$35.95

This DVD provides an in-depth examination of the Advance French Structure (white pawns on d4 and e5 against black pawns on d5 and e6, with an open c-file). While characteristic of 3.e5 in the French, it is also typical of other French variations, the Advance Caro-Kann, the Queen's Indian, the Catalan, the Slav and various Anti-Sicilians.

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Editor’s Letter: Doubling Pawns with Bisguier

People who love chess really love chess. This point was driven home to me when as a reporter I attended the 2001 Emory Castle Chess Camp Grand Prix in Atlanta, Georgia and I met GM Arthur Bisguier for the first time. The then-71-year-old was a bundle of energy, bounding from lecture to game analysis to his latest shmooze. I watched him as he held court analyzing campers’ games from the morning tournament round. Here are some snippets I wrote about him in the August/September 2001 Georgia Chess: “Invariably more than just the players involved gathered around his table." “You played that?” “(Disgusted look on his face.)” “You really have to learn this opening. In fact you have to learn some opening!” (Kid smiles and nods ruefully.) “When you’re playing a better player, play aggressively [he makes two fists for emphasis] and put the fear of God in him!” “Just double his damn pawns!” (Four pairs of young eyes immediately brighten.) “Seeing you trade a good bishop for a bad knight hurts me as much as if I had seen you hang your queen.”

This month’s “Knight’s Tour” (the department we added to this magazine last August that combines rated tournament play and travel, see page 46) looks at this year’s incarnation of the Castle Grand Prix on the beautiful Emory University campus. This tournament gives you the opportunity to see some of our top grandmasters; recent winners include GMs Varuzhan Akobian, Yury Shulman, Alejandro Ramirez, Ildar Ibragimov, Greg Serper, and Babakuli Annakov. So make sure to check “Knight’s Tour” each month and consider travelling to an event you might not otherwise have considered. You never know, you may run into an American chess legend who tells you to “just double his damn pawns!” Here’s to your chess life. -Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: JUNE

U.S. Chess Scoop in Vegas

This year’s Las Vegas International Chess Festival, held from June 7-9 and the Riviera Hotel and Casino features an $80,000 guaranteed prize fund and a top-notch roster of grandmasters vying for the National Open title. Side events include a simultaneous exhibition by defending National Open Champ Aleksandr Lenderman, the U.S. Game 10 Championship and even a poker tournament! Look for U.S. Chess Scoop videos, which you can find on CLO or our YouTube channel at USChessFederation.

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL KICKS OFF EAST COAST SUMMER TOUR: The East coast summer tour of chess tournaments begins with the 6th annual New York International, leading up to the World Open. The nine-rounder in New York is held form June 19-23 and sponsored by the Marshall Chess Club and St. John’s University. Look for games and updates on CLO.

U.S. JUNIOR CLOSED IN ST. LOUIS: Our youth players are more successful than ever and the U.S. Junior Closed, held from June 13-23 is a great chance to see our top young players battle for a prestigious title and a spot into the 2014 U.S. Chess Championship. This year’s event will be held at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. Look for coverage on CLO and uschesschamps.com.

GREG ON COACHING MASTERMAN: IM Greg Shahade’s opinionated CLO editorials include recent pieces on how to stop cheating and a chronicle about coaching Masterman, a public school in Philadelphia, which he once led to a National High School Championship title. This year his alma mater scored a K-8 Championship victory at SuperNationals V.
Carlsen Wins Epic Candidates Tournament in London

BY GM IAN ROGERS

22-year-old Norwegian star to challenge Anand for world title in November.

SuperNationals V

BY MELINDA MATTHEWS

Bigger, Better, and Bughouse Too: SuperNationals V breaks the record for the largest rated tournament in history with 5,335 participants.

ON THE COVER Atulya Shetty of Michigan tops 5,335 other players in Nashville, Tennessee at SuperNationals V. Photo by Myra Klarman
New software by Chess King!

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HAMP’S A CHAMP

Bruce Pandolfini is a great communicator, author and teacher. I have enjoyed his books and his monthly Chess Life instructional series “Solitaire Chess” for many years. I recently used the November 2012 article, “Excitement in the Four Knights,” as an online lesson for my student Benjamin Hamp.

On move 16, Benjamin wanted to capture the e-pawn I read to him from the article, “Black proposes a trade of king-pawn for queen-pawn, which White is advised not to accept.” He insisted that he could take the pawn and showed me the hole in Pandolfini’s analysis. Here is the game along with some of my commentary and annotations along with a few quotes from the article.

Four Knights Defense (C49)
Karoly Sterk
Frank James Marshall
Pistyan 1912

9. Bc4 Qd6 10. c3 Bc5 11. b4 Bb6 12. a4 a5
13. b5 Ne7 14. Ng5 Qg6 15. Qe2 Bf5

Pandolfini wrote, “Black proposes a trade of king-pawn for queen-pawn, which White is advised not to accept,” but Benjamin wanted to take the pawn and refuted Bruce’s line.

16. g4

Pandolfini gave this line: 16. Qxe5 Bxd3 17. Bxd3 Qxd3 18. Qxe7 Rae8 19. Qa3 Bxf2+, But Benjamin pointed out to me that 20. Kxf2 is winning! (20. ... Re2+ 21. Kg1) ...

leaves White up two minor pieces for one pawn. You might ask, what about 21. ... Qc2? An international master commented online that with the reply 22. Kh1 or 22. Nf3, White is better with his two pieces for the one pawn.

Benjamin Hamp turned six years old last March and was five years old when the USCF February list of top 100 players under seven years old was published. He was then number 53, but was the top-rated five-year-old in the USCF.

CORRECTIONS

In the April 2013 issue’s “Endgame Lab,” the first diagram had a rook on b7 instead of a pawn. The correct diagram for the “White to play and win in 260 moves” diagram is:

In the April 2013 “Yearbook” (“Top 50 FIDE-Rated Americans”) #15 GM Larry Christiansen was inadvertently repeated at position 23. GM Lev Alburt is ranked 23rd.

Chess Life regrets the errors.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

I have been reading a lot about rapid events and time-pressure blunders. I have a suggestion about using an old way to conduct rapid chess, one that might be a teaching tool as well.

Ten seconds a move was a popular event in the Manhattan and Marshall chess clubs a half century ago and longer. Some old columnists, notably I.A. Horowitz, mention it (Larry Evans observed it and wrote about it once in Chess Life). Back then, it required a referee to count off the 10-second limit (“Move, one, two, three”) which is distracting to say the least, not to mention that some players would grab a piece at the word “Move” and spend five seconds moving it.

But with our new electronic clocks, I think it is possible again. Why not set the clocks at one second per player for the entire game, and then set the delay at nine seconds? The player has to think and move on his/her own time, but it does give a small amount of time for thinking, and no penalty as long as they completed the move on time. This would still have relatively quick games (three complete moves in a minute; 30 in 10 minutes), but it would reduce the number of literal “Beat-The-Clock” games that seem to plague rapid chess now.

Peter Harris
Lubbock, Texas

INCANDESCENT

Aleksandar Hemon, since leaving Bosnia two decades ago for Chicago, has garnered superlatives in his new language. In his new book of essays, The Book of My Lives, (Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2013, $25 HC) 20 bitter-sweet pages (of 214) are devoted to chess. He started the game in intimacy with his Ukrainian father, who invariably won—until one final game decades later in exile.

Hemon tried to console a classmate who went mad and imagined that Alekhine was the son of God. Hemon studied the games of the great players, and frequented a Chicago cafe where he found an opponent from the same chess-rich country of Yugoslavia—whose degeneration via bloody nationalisms he explained profoundly at the Los Angeles Central Library on April 4.

When Hemon found his skill as a writer on the borderline of fact and fiction, he no longer needed chess. Why play chess, when critics call your writing “incandescent”?

IM Anthony Saidy
Los Angeles, California

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.
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In December of 2002, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov went into training for their scheduled match that was to take place later that month in New York City. Karpov was looking for a quiet place to train with his second, Chilean GM Ivan Morovic Hernandez. A good friend of Karpov’s, GM Alex Onischuk had previously competed in a tournament in Lindsborg, Kansas, and Onischuk suggested that the small quiet Kansas town of 3,300 people might be a good place in which to train. Karpov agreed, and Bethany College placed a residence at their disposal. Later that month Karpov won the match against Kasparov in New York. When the reporters gathered after the match, one of them asked Karpov what he did to prepare himself for the match. “Well, it was no joke; four months later he would establish his first chess school in the United States in Lindsborg.

The school continues to flourish today. “We have grown to where we have about 250 students encompassing 15 area schools,” said Marck R. Cobb, president of the International Chess Institute of the Midwest (ICIM) that owns and operates the school. ICIM bought the chess school in January 2006, and Cobb shifted the focus from high profile tournaments to expanding chess instruction for K-12 students. “In addition to our regular classes, we continue to host our summer camps that are taught by the top grandmasters in the United States,” said Cobb.

“I was the first grandmaster to visit Lindsborg,” said Yury Shulman. “I really enjoyed playing the tournaments and teaching at the chess camps.” Var Akobian, who will teach the upcoming camp in July, said, “This will be my fifth year teaching at the school, and it’s such a pleasure because there are some very talented kids there. We have a good time, not only with chess, but with soccer and other things as well.”

Some ask, “Why Lindsborg?” Karpov probably answered it best when he replied to a reporter who asked the question, “Why would you establish your first chess school in the U.S. in a small town? I grew up in a small town, and I didn’t turn out so bad, did I?”

Organized chess had started a few years earlier in Lindsborg. In 1997, Jan Cambridge-Lewis ran an upscale coffee house on Main Street, and wishing to enhance the coffee house ambiance, she advertised for chess players on the local media access channel. Wes Fisk, a chess player who had recently moved to Lindsborg from Pasadena, California, began working with the few regulars, who were mostly mid-
played chess in his native Russia, winning several tournaments. He began to enter local tournaments, and it was in a tournament in Oklahoma where he met GM Shulman. It was Shulman that introduced Korenman to GM Alex Onischuk, who in turn became the link to Karpov.

Before coming to Lindsborg, Karpov had established several chess schools around the world. Karpov set certain conditions before he would lend his name to a school, namely that the city in which the school was to be located would have to guarantee their support for a period of not less than five years. In April of 2003, the city of Lindsborg agreed, and Karpov officially sanctioned his first school in the U.S.

Korenman, with the assistance of local grant writer Lee Ruggles, applied for and got a $261,000.00 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce. This grant enabled the school to purchase a building, furnish the chess school, and have enough money to start the summer camp program.

GM Shulman agreed to teach the first summer chess camp, which has become an annual tradition at the school. Community volunteers organized dinners, picked up players at distant airports, housed players in their homes, and worked diligently to make the chess school a success.

In 2004, the Karpov school hosted the 2004 Junior Open and U.S. Cadet as well as the Final Four collegiate championship. Teaching chess in the area schools and the grandmaster summer camps remain a mainstay of the school.

In December of 2004, the school hosted a match between Karpov and Susan Polgar; the match was promoted as the Match of the Titans. Coordinated with this event was a tournament with several international masters and 16 grandmasters, including Shulman, Onischuk, Jaan Elvest, Evgenij Agrest, Pascal Charbonneau, Idar Ibragimov, Alexander Moiseenko, Alexander Goldin, Pavel Blehm, Kamil Miton, and many others. Women were also in the forefront when Susan Polgar played two separate matches with Karpov. Anna Zatonskikh, Irina Krush, Camilla Baginskaite, and Rusudan Goletiani also graced boards at the school.

At least two grandmaster norms were made in Lindsborg, including IM John Donaldson and Melikset Khachian.

The USCF named Lindsborg the City of the Year, and named Mikhail Korenman Organizer of the Year for 2004.

In 2005, in a cultural exchange, Korenman invited students from Poikovsky, Siberia to come to the school to play and interact with local students. The head of the Russian Chess Federation, Alexander Bah, and several dignitaries from Siberia accompanied them.

In October of 2005, Korenman launched the Chess for Peace initiative. Karpov came back to Lindsborg, and this time he brought the former president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev. USCF Executive Director Bill Hall, Director of Scholastic Programs Jerry Nash, and USCF Directors Don Schultz and Joel Channing came, along with several grandmasters. On October 29, Gorbachev sat across a chessboard from the editor of the Wall Street Journal on stage at Bethany College. The two made moves on the board while discussing world affairs.

Three months later, ICIM purchased the school, and hired former USCF Scholastic Director Tom Brownscombe as their executive director. The U.S. Junior Open once again came to Lindsborg as well as the Final Four collegiate championships. Teaching chess in the area schools and the grandmaster summer camps remain a mainstay of the school.

I hope we can continue to expand the vision to see a need to expand chess in the Midwest,” said Cobb. “I credit Karpov with having the vision to see a need to expand chess in the Midwest.”

“Why would you establish your first chess school in the U.S. in a small town? I grew up in a small town, and I didn’t turn out so bad, did I?”

—FORMER WORLD CHAMPION ANATOLY KARPOV
Celebrate National Chess Day!

Saturday, October 12, 2013

DEADLINE FOR TLA SUBMISSION: June 10, 2013 for two issues of Chess Life or July 10, 2013 for one issue.

ORGANIZERS! Plan a tournament or an event of any kind to promote chess on National Chess Day.

ANY RATED BEGINNER OPEN that includes “National Chess Day” in its TLA title and falls on October 12, 2013 gets both a complimentary TLA and free rating fees. Event must include October 12, 2013, but could include shoulder days.

RATED BEGINNER OPEN or RBO’s are open to under 1200/Unrated or Under 1000/Unrated. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”

ANY 1-DAY EVENT for October 12, 2013 which has “National Chess Day” in its TLA title gets a complimentary TLA and rating fees.

ANY 2-3 DAY EVENT held over a period which encompasses October 12-13, 2013 which has “National Chess Day” in its TLA title, will get a complimentary TLA and free rating fees.

ORGANIZERS/AFFILIATES: In the TLA, be sure to mention National Chess Day in the title and that it actually happens on Saturday, October 12, 2013 and then expect to receive an e-mail from the office explaining how to get the free rating fee.

Submit your articles and photos for possible publication in Chess Life and/or Chess Life Online. Photos for Chess Life must be high resolution.

U.S. House, Senate Recognize St. Louis as Nation’s Chess Capital

Representatives WILLIAM “LACY” CLAY (D-MO) and BLAINE LUETKEMEYER (R-MO) and Senators CLAIRE MCCASKILL (D-MO) and ROY BLUNT (R-MO) introduced resolutions in the U.S. House and Senate on April 18, 2013 recognizing St. Louis as the nation’s chess capital. The resolutions also recognized the success of chess after-school programs and the benefit for students, including fostering problem-solving skills, and improving math and reading test scores.

Read the full story on uschess.org, Chess Life Online April archives.

(L-R) Irina Krush, Sarah Chiang, Jennifer Shahade, Yasser Seirawan, Sam Sevian and Kayden Troff attend a special event held at the United States Capitol Building on April 18, 2013 in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Ilya S. Savenok/Getty Images for the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis)
Mike Atkins

This is my final campaign statement for 2013. I’d like to mention several future issues that concern me.

Fiduciary Duty—Every member of the executive board owes complete fiduciary duty to the USCF. This is the duty to act in the best interests of, and for the sole benefit of, the USCF; it is the strictest duty of care recognized by the U.S. legal system. Is this possible when someone makes his or her living solely from chess? Is it possible when someone is also on the board of another chess organization that is potentially competitive with the USCF? How can you be sure that a plan or a decision was made to benefit the USCF and not someone’s livelihood or another organization? During the past four years, I have scaled back my personally organized tournaments to nothing other than a couple club events in Maryland, and my personal “chess cave” little events. I owe no other chess organization a duty that could interfere with my duty to the USCF. You should think about that when casting your vote.

501(c)3 status—If and when the IRS approves the USCF application for 501(c)3 non-profit status, it will be able to attract more and larger donations. The U.S. Chess Trust has served as the donation arm for chess for many years, but it is a self-contained organization. It can donate to and sponsor chess activities of its own choosing. I think there is more than enough room for the Chess Trust and the USCF to function as chess philanthropic entities without competition. Each will focus on different areas of the chess community.

Over the past couple years, we have set a realistic budget and are living within it. This has often meant that we had to choose, for example, to upgrade our IT infrastructure rather than something more “attractive.” The Website Advisory Committee is hard at work coming up with suggestions and plans to update our aging website. This is crucial for the face of the USCF to the chess world and should be ongoing, with re-evaluations every year.

With the new blitz rating system now in effect, we should start either a national series of blitz tournaments or a national blitz league. In our world of sound bites and limited attention spans, blitz is the one form of chess that can be shown to the public from beginning to end, developing personalities that build a following, like the World Poker tour. Wouldn’t it be nice to see a weekly blitz show?

We have not done a good job in being transparent to the membership. More conversations should start in BINFO so that members can see the discussion and debate the way that CSPAN shows Congress at work. If re-elected, I plan to start more discussions with BINFO from the beginning. Now that I am retired, I have more time to devote to the executive board. Thank you for listening and be sure to exercise your vote!

Chuck Unruh

In the last message, I spoke to the issue of the USCF business cycle and my conservative agenda. Building through surplus in our not-for-profit corporation still leaves the questions of organizational growth and the Federation’s mission in chess. First and foremost is the solid business and economic platform that provides the flexibility of engaging chess business opportunities. In short, the macro policies of the past decade were based on survival and have not kept membership growth rates even with the U.S. population expansion.

During my state chapter leadership with the help of several scholastic leaders, a pilot program was presented to the executive board as one step forward in building the USCF rated base at the scholastic level. The concept was known as the national rating service (NRS) and approved unanimously by the executive board. Although the program was never implemented owing to the legal struggles at the time, the NRS offers a method to introduce USCF to every chess playing school in America without subsidy or financial loss. School administrators are more likely to accept a chess rating service than sanction membership in a national organization. The lower profile rating service should promote the name of USCF while expanding the potential pool of future Federation members.

Establishing a pool of USCF friendly players does little for membership retention or longevity without the support of area chess clubs. The Tulsa Chess Club (TCC) is an example of chess adults sharing their knowledge and USCF heritage. The TCC has flourished as a destination for the pool of local chess juniors created by the Oklahoma Scholastic Chess Organization in the use of a rating service only firm. I was around when the Federation membership was primarily anchored in adult and junior memberships. Times change, and scholastic members are the largest percentage of the membership categories. The rise in the scholastic membership according to the Federation’s financial reports has meant a decrease in surplus margins per member. The best volume membership margins remain with the adult membership categories, a group whose numbers have declined over the past decade.

Currently, the scholastic membership dropout rate after the first scholastic tournament experience is very high. The high dropout rate is a natural target for revisiting why the membership experience wasn’t rewarding or enjoyable for so many juniors.

Instead of looking towards volume scholastic memberships with lower margins, the Federation should acknowledge that long term solutions are based in the original adult, junior membership heritage. All other scholastic memberships are just passing through and retention is naturally bounded by percentages in the single digits. The mission in the scholastic years should center on chess for fun and a positive image of the Federation.

The future of a relevant USCF is in membership growth at least equivalent to the expanding population. If our business model lags over long periods of time to accomplish the above minimum goal, then creative change is a high priority, along with solid finances.
RANDY BAUER

I've had an opportunity to participate in United States chess governance at nearly every level—as a local tournament director, a state board member, state newsletter editor, state association president, USCF delegate, committee member and chair and executive board member. This has given me a unique perspective on our organization’s governance.

Each of the candidates in this election has a strong chess background, and I am confident that all can do a great job for the USCF. There is one area where I have experience that is not found in other candidates: I am regularly hired by organizations to improve their management, budget practices and operations. As a director of the management and budget consulting practice for Public Financial Management, Inc., I spend every day working to improve operations and the bottom line of non-profit and public sector entities. It is my 'day job' and I am willing to volunteer that skill and expertise to the USCF.

I don’t have the ‘holy grail’ answers that will lead the USCF to greater heights. However, between my USCF experience and my career, which includes providing strategic management and budgeting advice to governments and non-profits, I have identified some important approaches to management that I have applied and will continue to apply at the USCF, should you wish to once again entrust me with membership on the executive board:

• Leadership is about vision. The executive board should not be confused with the day-to-day operations of the professional staff, or the volunteer activities of committees. It should steer the organization and lead the rowing to others.

• Vision must be clearly articulated. I was a strong supporter—and participant in the USCF issues forum, because we need opportunities for the executive board to communicate with members. While I have a great deal of respect for the current members of the executive board, I think we have fallen short of a reasonable standard for articulating our vision and goals and communicating our strategies with the membership. I promise to do better in this area.

• Results must be reported. When I was last on the executive board, I emphasized articulating the rationale behind our budget decisions, and I reported these at our annual meetings. I take great satisfaction in the fact that revenue estimates were much more accurate in this time period, and I attribute it to being willing to identify the rationale and report our results. I pledge that I will do the same in all aspects of executive board decision making.

The USCF has done better financially in recent years, and I am proud to have been a part of that. We now must extend those positive results to other aspects of the organization, whether it is marketing, member development or improvements in customer service. I pledge to approach all of these efforts with a focus on vision, communication and measuring results. With this approach, we can continue to move forward with the USCF mission of growing chess in the United States.

BEATRIZ MARINELLO

Six “good candidates” are running for four positions on the executive board; the $64 question is whom to vote for.

Our organization doesn’t have a business plan, except for the latest idea of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. We need a pragmatic and sustainable plan. U.S. Chess is driven by not-for-profit organizations, for-profit corporations, affiliates, clubs, chess professionals and volunteers. Most members are tournament players, it’s quite expensive to play chess in big open tournaments. If we have clubs all over the nation, it will be less expensive to play in tournaments. The key component is to make an investment in technology.

Here are some ideas:

1) Create a mentorship program for a network of clubs and affiliates. This program should be web-based, with videos, forums and interactive tools.

2) Establish free online advertisement for clubs.

3) Create national club leagues online, with a certified tournament director on site—The top eight qualifying club teams can compete in a national team club championship. This is not a new idea; chess leagues are successful in many countries.

4) Support our members’ learning, and interest in chess. The USCF can develop a “learning program” with weekly free lectures online (video). The USCF can pay grandmasters, international masters and national masters to give these lectures free of charge to our members. At the same time, we can begin building chess materials which are web-based and free to all members.

In the last five years, the USCF has spent over $500,000 in legal expenses and engaged in dangerous litigations exposing the Federation to financial liabilities.

The USCF represents the United States in the World Chess Federation (FIDE), linking U.S. members to chess players around the world. The latest “legal battle” which was initiated by the current executive board was against the World Chess Federation, which resulted in FIDE spending over 1,000,000 euros in legal fees. The USCF and the other four federations lost the lawsuit, and are vulnerable to a countersuit by FIDE for cost incurred on this frivolous lawsuit.

While I was president of the USCF (2003–05), we didn’t have significant legal expenses and didn’t initiate legal actions. Our board was fiscally conservative.

The last 23 years of my life, I have been contributing to the development of scholastic chess, and supporting the USCF mission. Last year, I began a new venture as chair of the FIDE Social Action Commission, which is working on projects related with chess equalities and utilizing chess to prevent brain aging and Alzheimer’s.

On a personal note, back in 2007, I got a kidney transplant. Right now I’m doing well, but I approached the very complicated task of surviving a catastrophic illness as a chess game. The strategic thinking and fighting skills necessary to play chess, also saved my life.

We have a bright future ahead of us if we make wise choices.

Please consider voting for me. CONTACT INFORMATION: BEATRIZ@CHESSEDUCATORS.COM
TIM REDMAN

All six candidates running for the executive board (EB) are qualified. Which to vote for? I hope that credentials and experience figure in your choice. I've known every USCF president since Fred Cramer, every USCF executive director since Ed Edmondson, and every FIDE president since Max Euwe. I have learned a great deal from all of them, as I have by serving on fiscally conservative executive boards for nine years, four of them as USCF president. Last September, the executive director and board certified the need for money from the LMA due to a serious cash shortfall. We loaned Operations the money and it has been repaid. Nonetheless, such a lack of ready cash should never occur. We have not yet reached a healthy state in USCF finances, as some members of the current administration claim. Things are getting better, but we need to build towards a substantial cash reserve so there is no more need for borrowing. As we seek a 501(c)(3) status, we must bear in mind that no one gives money to an organization that needs loans to stay afloat. With two lengthy terms on the U.S. Chess Trust, I can bring considerable experience to bear in launching the Federation's own tax-deductible branch.

We need to keep chess money in chess. I have served since 2007 as chair of the Life Member Asset Management Committee. Last year, LMA bought the remaining $220,000 of the outstanding mortgage from Cumberland Bank. We reduced the interest paid by Operations to 4.5%, a good investment for the LMA and good for Operations, win-win. The money stays in chess.

In 2007 a serious conflict between two members of the EB led to litigation that cost the Federation more than $500,000. The money went to lawyers, not to chess. Money out of chess.

RUTH HARING


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

In my first statement, I presented a summary of my background and accomplishments on the USCF executive board (EB). In my second statement, I discussed my vision for growing chess in the USA. Now I will share my thoughts on governance.

At tournaments, I am frequently approached by parents and players who want to discuss specific issues important to them. I am moved by the thoughtfulness of these conversations and have come to realize that players and parents are an underrepresented group in USCF governance and feel they do not have a voice. These members state that they most definitely want to avoid committees and USCF politics. We need to reach out to players and parents who pay the majority of our dues and support our events faithfully, and ensure they are represented.

A growing and successful organization must have its key stakeholders who are involved in the governance process, be well qualified and have applicable experience. An ideal candidate should understand fiduciary duty, have no conflicts of interest, and should be a team player. Over the past four years the executive board was faced with many complex and difficult decisions. I have been honored to serve with colleagues who respectfully debate their positions on issues. After votes are cast, if we feel strongly, we openly voice our dissent if we are in the minority and go on to support the process and decision of the majority. The EB is always willing to reconsider an important question if new information comes to light. The collegial atmosphere is the secret sauce that has made the executive board on which I have served over the past four years successful. I pledge to you that I will continue to serve in this spirit.

When USCF has its classification changed to 501(c)(3) non-profit, I believe that board member responsibilities should likewise change to include fund raising goals. Every Olympiad year USCF has huge costs to support our teams. Though we do get some donations, the USCF pays a majority of these expenses. If we were to raise ALL funds needed for the Olympiads, USCF would be in a much stronger position financially.

If elected, I plan to support policy emphasizing marketing efforts, to provide better representation for our players and parents, to improve membership retention, to start a program to raise funds for the Olympiad and other events, and spread the word that it’s FUN and COOL to play chess so that a larger percentage of the 209 million Americans who “played chess at some time” will consider joining USCF.

The way we step forward and change our culture and improve the organization is through the election process. Your vote is important and will determine who is in a position to make decisions that will affect the organization for years to come.

Completing a Wojo Trilogy

Are you a class player in search of a white-piece repertoire that leaves room for creativity? Look to Wojtkiewicz.

By GM BEN FINEGOLD

ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES facing club players today is trying to get a stable opening advantage with the white pieces. We all know how it feels to get nothing out of the opening with white and how satisfying it is for Black to develop safely and easily. Wojo’s Weapons: Winning with White Volume 3 takes a stab at collecting pleasant positions from some double-edged opening choices by Black including the Dutch, Hedgehog, and most importantly, the Gruenfeld. This volume completes the series that looks at the late GM Aleksander Wojtkiewicz’s play from the white side of the board, dual authored by IM Dean Ippolito and Jonathan Hilton.

If you are the kind of player who relies on an understanding of interrelated positions with room for creativity, you will be thrilled with the content of the entire series. Considering the sharp opening choices covered in this volume, there are some lengthy lines, but ones easily memorized by any A-player. That is not to say the repertoire itself is unambitious. As White you will be pulling for space advantages, more active piece play, even occasionally blood-thirsty kingside pillaging. The repertoire is centered around fianchettoing your king’s bishop, but also incorporates lines without d2-d4.

The content in this volume is as rock solid as always. Objectively this is the most precise volume in all of the Wojo’s Weapons books simply due to the continual advancement of chess engines. The recommendations against Black’s choices are interesting and keep life in the position with White more often than not getting the “sunny side of the torture”. I was most impressed with the choices espoused by Ippolito and Hilton against the Gruenfeld.

Achieving a lasting advantage

Interestingly enough, Wojo did not champion this line with the white pieces, but the authors found this line more of a try for the advantage than his usual 10. Bg5, a testament to the their attempt at objectivity throughout the book. What I enjoy about this line is that it stays true to their aims: White very often gets a small and stable advantage, Black has a tough time simply developing, White’s play is logical and concrete, the position remains imbalanced (great for beating lower-rated players), and yet it isn’t very topical for White, so the second player will be less likely to have reams of theory to pump out.

They recommend Qb3 against the symmetrical Gruenfeld which also becomes surprisingly imbalanced in most lines; the Maroczy Bind is covered with some new ideas revitalizing drawish lines; their recommendation against the Leningrad Dutch is rather straightforward aiming for rapid queenside expansion with Rb1 and b2-b4 making it difficult for Black to get a satisfactory position most of the time. Similarly they suggest Qc2 and Rb1 against the Stonewall, with some very instructive points on why not to play with the most common method of b2-b3 and Bc1-a3.

I have some mild criticisms. This book has the same problems that every opening book is guilty of. Although the authors truly attempt objectivity throughout the book, I have a hard time believing that Black cannot equalize with the Gruenfeld and my good personal friend, Houdini, rather agrees. But this stands to reason as this sharp opening is at its height in popularity including several elite practitioners (Peter Svidler, Alexander Grischuk, Boris Gelfand, Anish Giri and many others use it as one of their main weapons) and how many players with the White pieces trot out the d4-d5 plus Qc2 method of play? I think it is a great practical choice in open tournaments, but objectively Black equalizes. Also, as IM Greg Shahade points out, this book is too long. In my utopian chess society a perfect chess book would be full of recommendations going no more than 15 moves. Right now this is a very current, up-to-date, useful manuscript, but that will all change as happens with all chess books, not just the ones limited to the first handful of moves.

Overall I would highly recommend this book to any non 1. e4 player rated less than 2200. The content is interesting, the analysis is sound and computer approved, and together with the other volumes you have a complete white repertoire.
## U.S. OPEN SIDE EVENTS

May register online except for the Bughouse which is on-site only.

### 27 July:
**U.S. Open Bughouse**, G/5. Entry fee $20 per team. 80% of entry fees in cash prizes. Registration ends at 7:00 p.m., first round begins at 7:30 p.m.

### 27-28 July:
**U.S. Open Weekend Swiss**, GPP: 6. 5-SS, G/60 d5. $1,000 guaranteed prizes. $200-100-50, U2200/Unr $160, U1800 $140, U1600 $120, U1400 $100, U1200 $80, Unr $50. Entry fee $40, Unr free if paying USCF dues. On-Site Registration 10:00-11:30 AM 7/27, Rds: Sat 12-3, Sun 10-12:30-3.

### 28 July:
**U.S. Open Scholastic**, Open to K-12 [2013-2014 school year] 4-SS, G/30 d5, in four sections: Junior High - High School Champ. (K-12); Junior High - High School U1200 (K-12); Elementary Champ. (K-6); Elementary U1000 (K-6); EF: $25 online if by 7/14; $35 after; $27 if postmarked by 7/14; $37 after (do not mail after 7/21); $30 phone-in by 7/14, $40 by 7/26 at 5 p.m. CDT. Reg.: 9-11:30 a.m. Rds.: 12-1:30-3-4:30. Trophies to Top 3 in each section. The above sections may be split in multiple sections if the entries warrant it. (Unrated MUST play in the Championship sections.). Trophies may be added if the section(s) split. See [www.uschess.org/tournaments/2013/scholastic](http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2013/scholastic) for venue info, updates and correction.

### 29, 30, 31 July; 1, 2 August:
**U.S. Open Quads**, G/30 d5. Entry fee $20. Registration 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Rds. 12-1:30-3:00. $50 to first in each quad.

### 31 July:
**U.S. Open G/15 Championship (QC)**, 5-SS, G/15 d5. Quick rated, higher of regular or quick rating. Entry fee $40. Registration 9am-11:30am. Rds: noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00. 80% of entries as returned as cash prizes. First 30%, second 15%, U2100 12%, U1800 10%, U1500/Unr 8%, U1200 5%

### 3 August:
**U.S. Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)**, Trophies Plus GPP: 15. 7-SS (double round, 14 games), 1 section, G/5 d0. Blitz rated, higher of regular or Blitz rating. Entry fee $40, free to Unrated if paying USCF dues. Registration 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., first round begins at noon. $2000 guaranteed prizes! $$400-200-150, Expert $200-100, U2000 $200-100, U1800 $180-90, U1600/Unr $140-70, U1400 $100, U1200 $70. The July 2013 Rating Supplement will be used.

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### Schedule for 2013 U.S. Open Workshops & Committee Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>9AM</th>
<th>10AM</th>
<th>11AM</th>
<th>NOON</th>
<th>1PM</th>
<th>2PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY Jul 31</td>
<td><strong>Forum Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Forum Workshop</strong></td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Women's Chess</strong></td>
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<td>TDCC</td>
<td><strong>TDCC/Problem Solving</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Denker H.S. &amp; Barber</td>
<td>College Chess</td>
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<td>K-8</td>
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<td>Scholastic Committee</td>
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<td>THURSDAY Aug 1</td>
<td><strong>Executive Board CLOSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>Executive Board OPEN</strong></td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chess in Education</td>
<td>USCF Legal</td>
<td>International Affairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Chess</td>
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<td>Rules Workshop</td>
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<td>FIDE Trainers Seminar</td>
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<td>FRIDAY Aug 2</td>
<td><strong>Bylaws/GTF</strong></td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>Finance / LMA</td>
<td>Website Advisory</td>
<td>Staff Forum/General Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>SATURDAY Aug 3</td>
<td><strong>Delegates Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>AWARDS LUNCHEON</strong></td>
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<td>SUNDAY Aug 4</td>
<td><strong>Delegates Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>SATURDAY, July 27, Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Invitational Tournament Opening Ceremony, 3PM</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, August 2, Executive Board Reception 5:30PM</td>
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<td>USCF Awards Luncheon, Saturday, August 3, 2013 in Monona at NOON</td>
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<td>SUNDAY, August 4 Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 3pm and Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6pm</td>
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**Schedule Subject to Change - Check [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org) for updates**
LIKE MANY GREAT PLAYERS, MIKHAIL Botvinnik had a remarkable memory. But even a world champion’s ability to recall failed when he was shown this position.

Botvinnik was on a lecture tour of Germany when he visited a computer center in the city of Seigen. Chess players there set up a demonstration board and asked him about the position.

Botvinnik could see that Black is winning. For example, 1. Qxh3 d1=Q+ Black forces mate (2. Kh2 Rf2+ 3. Kg3 Qg1+ 4. Kh4 Bf6+). In fact, White resigned in the position in the diagram.

What Botvinnik didn’t realize is that this was a famous game—won by Botvinnik. It should have prompted instant recognition because it was one of the best games he played in the previous decade.

The reason he didn’t recognize it is that, since he was Black, he hadn’t looked at the position from the perspective of White, that is, as it appeared on the demonstration board.

That’s one of the optical board illusions that afflict most people. For example, would you recognize this position?

You should know the game. Everyone knows the game. It’s the end of Paul Morphy versus the Duke of Brunswick. The reason you may not recognize it is that the colors have been reversed.

Morphy was White in that historic 1858 miniature, which has been reprinted in books and magazines and on websites a few gazillion times. Here I’ve made his white moves with the black pieces and vice versa. Morphy won with 1. ... Qb1+! 2. Nxb1 Rd1 mate.

We think of chess as being all about the pieces. We rarely take note of how much a role that the board plays.

We take for granted that someone who can calculate the movement of the pieces five or six moves into the future should be a master. But masters—and other experienced players—can also visualize the board without pieces.

Visualize an empty board? Sounds easy, right? Well, close your eyes and tell me what color the square a7 is?

Or, how about g6. Try b4. Or e7. There seems to be a definite correlation between this quality—we’ll call it board vision—and playing strength. But whether correlation means causation is unclear.

In other words, is board vision one of the skill sets that makes you a master? Or do masters naturally pick up the ability to, say, name all the light squares on the a2–g8 diagonal? Or does board vision have nothing to do with rating points?

What seems clear is you begin acquiring board vision from the moment you are introduced to chess. That’s when you learn that h1 is always going to be a light square.

So, let’s try an experiment: Turn the board 90 degrees so that h1 is a dark square. Now reset the pieces as if things were normal, so that White’s queen is to the left of his king.

If an absolute beginner plays over a game—even if he knows about the 90 degree shift—nothing would seem amiss.

But you’re not a beginner. Play the moves of a Ruy Lopez, 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5, on this board. Did it strike you as strange that the Lopez bishop is dark squared, not light squared? It should.

And when the board is turned 180 degrees, not just 90. you might not be able to recognize other very familiar positions. That’s what tripped up Botvinnik.

We do know that being able to recognize tactical patterns is a skill set you need to acquire to become a master. Even if the name “Morphy” didn’t occur to you, you might have spotted the 1. ... Qb1+! mating idea in the last diagram.

It’s simply one of hundreds of patterns that a master learns on his way to 2200. But in addition to learning patterns, you also become familiar with famous games. It’s not necessarily helpful, but you do.

If someone shows an experienced player a key position from one of them, he’ll say, “I know this. It’s called the Evergreen Game.” Or “Yeah, I’ve seen it. It’s that Kasparov brilliancy against Topalov.”

I wonder how many would be able to recognize this:

This features what is arguably the most famous move ever made. But it may seem unfamiliar because you usually see it with white pieces towards the bottom of the diagram and black pieces near the top.

Here, with the board flipped, you may not have recognized Frank Marshall’s marvelous 23. ... Qg3!!.
2013 Wijk aan Zee

Magnus Carlsen began 2013 as impressively as he ended 2012, with a runaway victory in the Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands super-tournament. Carlsen scored 10-3, matching Garry Kasparov’s best-ever result in the tournament and finishing a point and a half ahead of an all-star field. This month’s quiz comes courtesy of the three top sections of the annual event. 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.

We know other tricks that the board plays on us. For instance, beginners often overlook threats of their opponent and allow knight-takes-queen. That’s not because they can’t calculate. It’s because they can’t visualize the board the way their opponent does.

Even some experienced players have trouble. I’ve noticed this a few times in large Swiss Opens: Player A makes a move and walks away from the board. Player B takes his time thinking of a reply. When Player A returns he stands behind Player B, looking over his shoulder, so he can see the position through B’s eyes.

The strangest case of that that I can recall occurred after A walked away, B made his move and also walked away. A returned and stood behind B’s chair to study the position. B returned and stood behind A’s chair to do the same. This ludicrous situation lasted until they both looked up and saw their opponent, then slowly walked around the table to take their proper seats.

Seeing threats may become easier when you sit in your opponent’s chair. But it becomes almost impossible when you sit on the side of the board.

Before you look at the final diagram below I want you to try one more experiment. Turn the magazine 90 degrees and then try to spot White’s best move.

(see diagram top of next column)

Yes, I know it’s hard to even recognize pieces when you look at them sideways. I made it simple by limiting it to pawns and kings. (Solution on page 71.)

And that’s one of the problems with trying to promote chess on television. If you wanted to show two elite grandmasters playing a game, the best camera angle is from the side of the board, so you can see both players.

We expected this viewpoint in televised football or basketball. The action goes from left to right to left. It’s easier on our eyes to take it in while you’re on a virtual 50-yard line or at center court.

But if you see two grandmasters playing in, say, a YouTube video, when your viewpoint is from the side, following the moves becomes almost impossible.

If you registered to vote and your USCF membership remained current through May, look for your executive board ballot to arrive in the mail this month. You can read more about the election, including the six candidates’ statements, beginning on page 10.
A Starkly Woven Web

“If you play differently, you lose differently.”

By BRUCE PANDOLFINI

WEAVER ADAMS (1901-63) WAS AN opening theoretician and an American chess guru. In his most famous book, *White to play and Win* (1939), he took the position that 1. e4 gave White a winning advantage, saying that if both sides then played correctly, “White ought to win.” But in the following game contested in Ventnor City in 1943, he had black against Martin Stark, so he couldn’t play 1. e4. Instead, he had to answer a d-pawn opening, opting for an Albin Counter Gambit (1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5). But it didn’t quite work out. In the end, his king was caught in the center, and that can be a bad place to be with enemy pieces all around. The initial moves were:

**Albin Counter Gambit (D09)**

Martin Charles Stark
Weaver Warren Adams
Ventnor City, 1943

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4

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.**

4. Nf3 **  Par Score 5

Add 1 bonus point if you knew to avoid the trap 4. e3? Bb4+ 5. Bd2 dxe3! 6. Bxb4 exf2+ 7. Ke2 fxg1=N+! 8. Rxg1 Bg4+, skewering king and queen. If the black d4-pawn were easy to get rid of, the Albin would be out of business.

4. ... Nc6

5. g3 **  Par Score 5

Since he’s not going to play e2-e3, this is the only other way to develop the king-bishop. Take full credit for the alternatives 5. a3 and 5. Nbd2, with g2-g3 coming later.

5. ... Bc5

In *White to Play and Win*, published in 1939, Adams himself recommended 5. ... Be6.**

6. Bf4 **  Par Score 5

An unusual move, but one reinforcing his king-pawn can’t be bad. The bishop does stand better on f4 than on c1. Naturally, 6. Bg2 was also good, and gives full credit.

6. ... Nge7

7.Bg2 **  Par Score 5

This is the logical follow-up to his 5th move, which also has the merit of preparing castling (or just vacating f1 for the king).

7. ... Ng6

8. Nbd2 **  Par Score 5

With this simple developing move, intending Nb3, White shows up the downside of 5. ... Bc5, presenting Black with a problem. If 8. ... 0-0 9. 0-0 Re8, then 10.Nb3 hitting both c5 and d4. And if 8. ... Qe7 9. 0-0 Ngxe5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5, then White has 11. b4! Bxb4 12. Bxe5 Bxd2 (12. ... Qxe5 13. Qa4+) 13. Bxg7 Rg8 14. Bxd4. Lines like these prompted Adams to make the following move in an attempt to maintain some initiative.

8. ... f6

9. exf6 **  Par Score 5

9. ... Nxf6

Adams may have figured that White was going to continue with 10. gxf4 Qxf6. One must always be careful with such figuring.**

10. f7+ **  Par Score 5

Here we see an excellent in-between-move, much better than 10. fxg7? (deduct 2 points) 10. ... Nxe5. Receive only 3 points part credit for 10. gxf4.

10. ... Kxf7

11. gxf4 **  Par Score 4

11. ... h6

If 11. ... Rf8, then 12. Ng5+ Kg8 13. Bd5+. It’s a bad sign when the gambiteer has to take time out to make unproductive defensive moves. It often means he’s lost the initiative.**

12. Nb3 **  Par Score 5

This is much more vigorous than 12. 0-0, which is worth only 3 points part credit.

12. ... Qd6

Black keeps guard on the bishop as well as the d4-pawn. Add 1 bonus point for intending to answer 12. ... Bb4+ with 13. Kf1 and the queen’s pawn is indefensible.**

13. Ne5+ **  Par Score 6

White harasses the enemy king and soon the enemy queen.

13. ... Nxe5

14. fxe5 **  Par Score 4
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.

June Exercise: Pawn structure is typically a key factor in determining the prospects for each player. But in advising us where to go, it can also imply where we’ve been. While the formation could indicate the opening, it also might suggest apt strategies. As a habit of mind, when examining a chess position, try to figure out from the pawn layout at least what the last few moves were about, pro and con. Do this regularly enough, and don’t be surprised if you begin to think more logically and holistically. Indeed, looking at the past is another way to look at the future.

Now both queen and bishop are under fire. Meanwhile, 14. ... Qxe5 is met by 15. Bd5+ Kf8 16. Nxc5 c6 17. Nd3, gaining a piece. Add 1 bonus point if you saw this interception idea when playing 13. Ne5+.

14. ...

As cited before, 14. ... Bb4+ drops the d-pawn to 15. Kf1 Qxe5 16. Qxd4. But here the queens come off the board and with two bishops he can still make a fight which is Black’s best chance.**

15. Bd5+ Par Score 5

On 15. ... Be6 White has 16. Qd3, threatening 17. Qf5+.**

16. Qd3 Par Score 5

White activates the queen and prepares for queenside castling. It also prevents 16. ... Bb4+ 17. Kf1 Bh3+, which could prove awkward.

16. ...

Black tries to get his rook into the game, while setting up his next move.**

17. Rg1 Par Score 5

There is no let up in Stark’s conduct of the attack. How does Black save his g7-pawn?

17. ...

Black can’t try 17. ... g5 because it allows the queen to come in, 18. Qh7+ (1 bonus point). But he can still try to develop his queenside pieces.**

18. ...

No credit for anything else. Why not take a free pawn with check and post a rook on the seventh rank?

18. ...

Ke8 Par Score 5

The light-square bishop has nothing more to do on d5 and can now contest different light squares.

19. ...

Bxe4

Black exchanges to avoid loss of time entailed by retreating.**

20. Qxe4 Par Score 4

20. ...

d3

This is a kind of last ditch attempt to stir up trouble, either on the d-file or the f-file.**

21. 0-0-0 Par Score 6

White chooses a vigorous response, although 21. e3 (3 points part credit) was also acceptable.

21. ...

Bxf2

Black could have tried 21. ... dxe2 22. Qxe2 Rxg2. The problem is that it leaves the black king practically defenseless.**

22. Kb1 Par Score 5

Alert! Allowing 22. ... Qe3+, with the ensuing trade of queens, would kill White’s attack. But now 22. ... Qe3 runs into 23. Qg6+ Kd8 24. Rxd3+ (1 bonus point).

22. ...

Rd8

At last Black has managed to develop all his pieces. But of course there are major problems.**

23. e6 Par Score 6

With two major threats: 24. e7 and 24. Qg6+ (1 bonus point for seeing each). Having had enough, Black resigned. 🙄

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
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<tr>
<td>95+</td>
<td>2400+</td>
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<tr>
<td>81-84</td>
<td>2200-2399</td>
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<td>0-05</td>
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www.uschess.org
ise old heads wondered whether the tournament they had just witnessed was the greatest of the modern era—perhaps the greatest of all time.

The London Candidates tournament was an eight-player, double round-robin designed to find a world title challenger for GM Viswanathan Anand and it had everything: a stellar cast of players scrapping for every point; a fast start by the two favorites, young stars GMs Magnus Carlsen and Levon Aronian; a second-half comeback by former world champion GM Vladimir Kramnik who raced Carlsen to the finish line; a crazy tailender in Vassily Ivanchuk, who would lose five games on time and yet win his first game against the world number one Carlsen three rounds from the end; plus the bizarre final round on April Fools’ Day which saw both leaders lose and Carlsen qualify to play Anand by the most random of tiebreakers.

Little of the coming drama was apparent when the tournament began on March 14 at London’s historic Institute of Engineering and Technology, adjacent to Waterloo Bridge on the Thames.

A decidedly modest crowd of 70 paying spectators saw four quiet draws and complaints about the new ChessCasting game display system were widespread. If this was the future of chess under the new stewardship of AGON, the body granted a 10-year license to run the world championship cycle, perhaps the good old days were not so terrible.

However within a few days, such quibbles were forgotten. First Aronian, dipping into his bag of tactical tricks, raced to the lead but Carlsen stayed with him and at the halfway point these two players were well clear of their rivals.

In the second half the tournament was turned upside down when Kramnik, who had not won a game up to that point, went on a 4½/5 run while Aronian lost to his good friend Boris Gelfand and then overpressed against Kramnik to fall out of contention.

Carlsen took over the lead, then lost it after falling to Ivanchuk, then pulled level with Kramnik with one round to play. Only one player was to go through to challenge Anand for the world title in November and Kramnik seemed to be in the box seat.

While Carlsen was battling against third place-finisher Peter Svidler, Kramnik was paired against back-marker Vassily Ivanchuk. Ivanchuk may have beaten Carlsen a couple of rounds earlier, but the mercurial Ukrainian was making a habit of leaving himself with 10 moves to make in under a minute and simply exceeding the time limit.

Carlsen’s one advantage was the tiebreaking system—since he had won (and lost) one more game than Kramnik; should the
Norwegian GM Magnus Carlsen is now a world championship contender. If two players finish tied then the Norwegian would proceed to the world title match.

London’s final round lived up to all expectations. After pushing hard for a win, Carlsen—apparently physically and mentally spent after playing a total of 179 moves in his previous two games—was hit by a counterattack and Svidler wrapped up victory after four hours play.

Kramnik by then seemed more enthralled by Carlsen’s demise than worrying about his own game and erred badly, allowing Ivanchuk to wrap up an upset victory—Kramnik’s only loss of the tournament—half an hour later.

Carlsen thereby earned the right to the world title challenge that most fans had been hoping for; a battle of the generations with Anand almost twice Carlsen’s age.

The difference between first and first equal in London was enormous. Although the top two players shared around $300,000 for their tie for first place, Carlsen has guaranteed himself an extra $1.5 million; the loser’s purse from the bid immediately offered by Anand’s home town Chennai.

For Carlsen, success in London continues a Federer-like run of consistency; his 15th win in his last 21 classical tournaments, stretching back four years. (His failures include two seconds and three thirds.) The London Candidates was also Carlsen’s 15th consecutive tournament performance at above a 2800 level.

All that remains is for the Norwegian to take the world title against Anand in November, though the Indian veteran remains a formidable foe. Should Carlsen win the title at 22, he will not be the youngest world champion of all time—Garry Kasparov will retain that honor by a margin of six months. However Carlsen could usher in an era of dominance that, like Kasparov, burns off all his peers.

**HOW CARLSEN WON**

Carlsen set up his victory with almost error-free chess over the first 11 rounds. When Carlsen was slightly better, he ground out a win, when in trouble he found a way to liquidate to a draw. The nervous finish was quite unexpected—over the past four years, Carlsen has been the best final round closer in top level tournaments—but by then the Norwegian had done enough—just enough—to triumph.

Gelfand was Carlsen’s first victim, in a classic Carlsen game where Gelfand always seems to have a draw within reach—until he doesn’t!
Queen’s Gambit Declined, Cambridge Springs Variation (D52)
GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2740, ISR)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2872, NOR)
London Candidates (3), 03.17.2013

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Nbd7 5. Bg5 c6 6. e3 Qa5

Carlsen springs his first serious surprise for the tournament—he had just only once previously—in 2008 at the Dresden Olympiad—played the Cambridge Springs.

7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. Rc1

A side line in place of the standard 8. Qd2. Carlsen could hardly have known which line Gelfand would choose since the Israeli had apparently never previously faced the Cambridge Springs.

8. ... Nxc3!? 

The alternative continuation 8. ... Bb4 9. Qd2 would lead back to the main line.

9. bxc3 Ba3 10. Rc2 b6

The move which makes the line playable; exchanging light-squared bishops removes Black’s biggest worry.

11. Bd3 Ba6 12. 0-0 Bxd3 13. Qxd3 0-0 14. e4

Played after long thought. “I had to find a good plan,” explained Gelfand. “It’s a rare line, a very original position. The pawn structure isn’t determined yet. I had to think about the best way to configure it.”

14. ... Rfe8 15. e5 h6 16. Bh4 c5

17. Nd2 cxd4 18. cxd4

18. ... Rac8!

“So Black is just in time and I don’t get anything,” said Gelfand.

19. Nc4 Qb5 20. f4!? 

The line 20. Qxa3 Rxc4 21. Rxc4 Qxc4 22. Qxa7 Qxd4 offers White less than nothing so Gelfand tries his only active plan.

20. ... Rc7/ 21. Qxa3

“I knew that if 21. f5 Rec8 22. fxe6 fxe6 then the position must be fine for Black,” said Carlsen.

21. ... Rxc4 22. Rxc4 Qxc4 23. Bf2 Qc7

Commentator GM Jon Speelman wanted Black to play 23. ... Qd5 24. Rc1 Nf8 but Carlsen was unconvinced—“What about 25. Qxa7 Ng6 26. g3 Ra8 27. Qxb6? I am not even close to winning this,” he said. “I tried to keep control of the position.”

24. Rcl Qb7 25. Qd6 Nf8 26. g3 Rc8 27. Rxc8 Qxc8 28. d5 exd5 29. Qxd5 g6 30. Kg2 Ne6

“Of course this should be drawn but there are always some practical possibilities for Black,” explained Carlsen.

31. Qf3 Kg7 32. a3 h5 33. h4

A move which surprised the commentators, who believed that White should keep the option of h2-h3 and g3-g4 in reserve.

33. ... Qc2 34. Qb7 Qa4 35. Qf3 b5

Carlsen’s last throw of the dice, allowing f5 and hoping that his queenside pawns will be fast enough. Gelfand approved of Carlsen’s decision, saying, “It is a drawn position but I didn’t manage to solve the practical problems.”

36. f5 Qxf5 37. Qxf5 Qxa3 38. Qxh5 a5 39. Qg4+ Kf8

40. h5?

“I was hoping for this,” admitted Carlsen. “After 40.
Qh5 I couldn’t see a way to continue.” “It is the [unlucky] 40th move,” said Gelfand.

“After 40. Qh5 I think it is an easy draw but after 40. h5 Black’s king becomes relatively safe.”

40. ... Qc1 41. Qe4 b4 42. Be3 Qc7 43. Qa8+ Kg7 44. h6+ Kh7 45. Qe4+ Kg8 46. h6+ Kh7 47. Qe4+ Kg8 48. Qa8+ Qd8

47. Qxd8+?

“I miscalculated,” admitted Gelfand who thought for 20 minutes over this exchange. “If I play 47. Qb7 then 47. ... Qd3 is annoying, while after 47. Qc6 b3 I don’t see what White can do.” Gelfand was correct that 47. Qb7 Qd3 is bad for White but he was unduly pessimistic in his second line; after 47. Qc6 b3 48. Bc1! White has slowed down the pawns and keeps drawing chances.

45. ... Ke4!

Using the king aggressively is the only way to save the game. Other defenses leave Black in big trouble, e.g. 45. ... Ke6 46. Ne3 Kf7 47. Kh6 Kg8 48. Nc4 and White will start pushing his pawns, or 45. ... a5 46. Kh6 and White’s g-pawn is too fast.

46. Ne3

Carlsen parries Ivanchuk’s last winning try 46. Ne3 47. Kh6 a4 48. Nc6 a3 49. Nb4 with the clever maneuver 49. ... Kf5 50. f4 Nd6! 51. Kh6 Ne4! 52. g6 Nxf3! 53. g7 Nh5! and Black draws.

46. ... Nd6 47. Kh6 Ne7+ 48. Kxh7 Nxf5+ 49. Kg6 Nh3

Now a draw could happily be agreed but Ivanchuk plays on until the bitter end.

The next day Carlsen played his best all-round game, again with Black, against a player who was sitting just half a point behind him and the other leader, Levon Aronian.

Closed Ruy Lopez (C84)
GM Peter Svidler (FIDE 2747, RUS)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2872, NOR)
London Candidates (6), 03.21.2013


An increasingly popular line with which both players have extensive experience.


A quiet move, in place of the more direct 13. ... Bg4.


20. h3

Very meek. Svidler had planned 20. d4 but then noticed that the intended 20. ... exd4 21. Be4? allows 21. ... Rxa5! and talked himself out of the idea. However 20. d4 is quite playable as a pawn sacrifice, i.e. 20. ... exd4 21. cxd4 Nxd4 22. Nxd4 Rxd4 23. Bd3 with some pressure for the pawn.

20. ... Bf5 21. Rd1 Qe6 22. Bb1 Qd7 23. Be3 e4

"I looked at 23. ... Rxb1?! but couldn’t make it work,” said Carlsen.


"I was happy to find 25. Bxd4 and 28. Be5! because after 25. cxd4 exd3 26. Bxd3 Bxd3 27. Qxd3 Rbb5 a pawn is just dropping off,” said Svidler.

25. ... exd3

When told at the press conference that the computer line 25. ... Bxh3! 26. dxe4 Rg5 27. g3 Bg4 28. f3 Rb2!! 29. Qxb2 Bxf3 gave Black a winning attack, Carlsen was not perturbed; “I didn’t really consider 25. ... Bxh3,” he admitted. “At this point I was thinking that straightforward moves would be good enough.”


20. h3

After the game Radjabov thought that he could save the position with 80. Nb5+ Kd7 81. Nd6+ Kc7 82. Ne4 but, as Carlsen pointed out, 82. ... Nd5!+ 83. Kd4 Nc1! 84. Bf1 Bb5 wins just as in the game; Tired and running short of energy to grind down a peaceful -position afloat with 33. Re8—

33. Qh5?

Now White has two mating threats—the obvious one with 34. Qf5+ and the sneaky one with 34. Rh8+! Kxh8 35. Qxh6+!. Svidler thought that the reply 33. ... Qe6 was forced, but instead came ...

33. ... Qe4!

Turning the tables. Now 34. Rh8+ Kxh8 35. Qxh6+ Qh7? is not mate—in fact it is nothing for White, so “after 33. ... Qe4 I can just resign,” admitted Svidler.

34. Rb2 Rds1 35. Re2 Qb1+ 36. Kh2 f6!, White resigned.

The final example of Carlsen’s determination and technique came after his upset 12th round loss to Ivanchuk. Despite the disappointment and consequent fitful nights, Carlsen found the energy to grind down a peacefully inclined Teimour Radjabov.

A Carlsen grinding down
GM Teimour Radjabov (FIDE 2793, AZE)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2872, NOR)
London Candidates (13), 03.31.2013

Carlsen has been plugging away since move 25 in an endgame many would have abandoned as drawn—"I had no choice but to keep on going,” he said. Despite picking up a pawn, it seems as if a draw is inevitable but ...

80. Nc4?

After the game Radjabov thought that he could save the position with 80. Nb5+ Kd7 81. Nd6+ Kc7 82. Ne4 but, as Carlsen pointed out, 82. ... Nd5!+ 83. Kd4 Nc1! 84. Bf1 Bb5 wins just as in the game; Tired and running short of energy to grind down a peaceful -position afloat with 33. Re8—

80. ... Nxd3+! 81. Kd4 Nc1! 82. Bf1 Bb5!

The idea that Radjabov had missed.

83. Nx a5

Desperation, but 83. Nd2 Bxf1 84. Nxf1 Ka6 would be a slow but sure death.

83. ... Bxf1 84. Nc6+ Kb6 85. Ne7 N d3 86. Nxf6 Kc7 87. Ne7 Bh3 88. Nd5+ Kd6 89. Nf6 Bg4, White resigned.

WHY KRAMNIK LOST

Kramnik played some powerful games but was the luckiest player in the tournament, receiving three—arguably four —gifts from opponents.

After six consecutive draws, Kramnik knew that he needed some wins to peg back Carlsen and Aronian, but his chosen method almost led to disaster, as Gelfand missed two clear-cut wins on a single move—and a move over which the Israeli thought long and hard.

Overthinking
GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2740, ISR)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
London Candidates (7), 03.23.2013

Gelfand was expecting 18. ... Bxe4 19. Bxe4 Ra7 followed by 20. ... Rc7 with a rapid draw but instead was shocked by Kramnik’s surprising move ...

18. ... Ne8?

“I was really worried about playing 18. ... Ne8,” said Kramnik. “I didn’t like it at all but I thought it was the only way to continue.” “He wanted to surprise me,” said Gelfand. “With any normal move the position is equal.”

19. Ned2?

“I spent almost all my remaining time analyzing 19. Neg5! but I didn’t see 19. ... h6 20. Bg6!!, ” admitted Gelfand, who was concentrating on trying to make 20. Nxe6 work.—“but after 20. ... Bxd5! I didn’t find anything,” “I don’t understand 20. Bg6,” was Gelfand’s first response when shown the winning idea, but then he realized that 20. ... hxg5 21. Nxe5 hxg5 22. Qxe6+ Kh8 23. Qh3+ Kg8 24. Qh7+ Kh8 25. Qh8+ Ke7 26. Qg6! would give White a winning attack. Then came another surprise for the players ...; “I thought that 19. Neg5! h6 (I thought I could just play 19. ... g6 but 20. Nxf7 wins.) 20. Qh5 was not a problem at all,” said Kramnik, when shown the alternative win missed by Gelfand at the post game press conference. “Then if 20. ... hxg5 21. Nxe5 Nf6 22. Qxe7+ Kh8 23. Nxe6,” added a visibly disappointed Gelfand. “It’s really strange—I don’t know what I was missing,” confessed
Kramnik. “It was some kind of blackout.” After Gelfand’s passive choice, Black’s problems are over.


Three rounds later, Alexander Grischuk, admitted ly in time trouble, then had transposed straight into a losing pawn ending.

Benko would not be happy
GM Alexander Grischuk (FIDE 2764, RUS)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
London Candidates (10), 03.27.2013
(see diagram next column)

The game appeared headed for a boring draw from early on, but now came Grischuk’s brain fade ...

29. g4

Not bad at all, but played for all the wrong reasons. “The reason I went for the pawn ending next move is that I was calculating the line 29. f4 gxf4 30. Kf3 and now if 30. ... Nd4+ I have 31. Bxd4 cxd4 32. Kxe4 Ke7 33. Ke4 c5 34. g4 Ke6 35. h4 and White is in time to hold the draw,” explained Grischuk.

29. ... Nd4 30. Bxd4?

“A nice present,” said Kramnik. “I just made a trap and Sacha fell into it. 30. Ke3! should be quite a simple draw.” In fact after 30. ... Nxb3 31. e6! Black is the player who must be careful, e.g. 31. ... Ke7 31. ... fx6? 32. Bg7 Ke7 33. Bxh6 Kf6 34. f4 with some winning chances for White.) 32. exf7 Kxf7 (32. ... c6?! 33.
Anand on London

World Champion Viswanathan Anand was in the comfortable position of being able to sit back in Chennai and watch his potential challengers knock themselves out. Here he tells Ian Rogers his impressions of the Candidates tournament.

“The tournament was great fun—I enjoyed every minute as a spectator.

“I attribute the [many surprises] to the enormous tension there. I think that all the participants were disturbed by it. There are some positions that from the outside look 100 percent clear but not from the inside and it is that one percent doubt that kills you sometimes.

“I thought that some sort of tiebreak could come into it but who could [expect such a finish]? For Magnus and Vladdy both to lose their last round while watching each other was very, very hard to predict—it was really weird. Qualifying is always going to be disappointing [for someone]—I don’t think there is one scenario where someone doesn’t qualify and thinks OK, this was a good scenario.

“For Magnus [luck] is part of his style—to say luck when someone does it 100 times does not seem adequate any more. I will obviously have to keep going back to [the Candidates games] to get some pointers for the match.

“I had more or less written Kramnik off after the first half so I was very surprised that he replaced Aronian as Magnus’ biggest threat and in fact even took the lead.

“I don’t feel Kramnik was lucky. Grischuk made a heavy blunder but Radjabov fell into a very clever trap.

“Against Gelfand [where Kramnik was on the edge of defeat—IR] it is funny that both knight moves seem to crash through. I know the feeling quite well—in the post-mortem these people show you some computer variation. If it didn’t occur to you then it didn’t occur to you. I usually just say that the computer is probably right—I have good odds on that.

“Kramnik’s win over Aronian I would not call luck at all—it was a complex and tough game which took a lot of energy and then mistakes will happen.

“Kramnik could have played on [against Ivanchuk in the first cycle] but it is a tough call either way. He had the possibility to lose it and go minus one and then to come back would be much harder.

“By the time Ivanchuk lost his fifth game on time, you felt that he was going to decide things. But having him beat both winners?! I always had the feeling that you could never rule Ivanchuk out of any single game, and I know that through painful lifetime [experience] myself.”

And how will Anand prepare for the match against GM Magnus Carlsen?

“Six months of hard work, pretty much. I play St. Petersburg, then Norway then Tal Memorial and after that I have to do some training.”
Bg7) 33. Be5 c6 34. Bc7 again offers chances only for White. “In time trouble I would not even have bothered to calculate this pawn endgame,” added Kramnik, “because one wrong thing and you are lost. The b3-pawn is not so important.”

30. ... cxd4 31. Ke2

“I am too late for 31. f4 gxf4 32. Kf3 because of 32. ... d3,” said Grischuk.


“The first classical game I have ever won with the Berlin Defense endgame,” admitted Kramnik.

Then it was Aronian’s turn to hand over half a point to the former world champion.

What’s good for the goose
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2809, ARM)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
London Candidates (12), 03.29.2013

The ‘wrong’ a-pawn means that Black has no winning chances at all, but incredibly, Aronian manages to lose ...

47. Kc6 Ke7 48. Kxb5

48. h6 gxh6 49. gxh6 Kf6 50. h7 Bxh7 51. Kxb5, followed by putting the white king on a1, was the simplest way to play—but given the tournament situation, perhaps Aronian was seeking to keep the winning chances alive.

48. ... Ke6 49. Kxa4 Kf5 50. g6?

“It is embarrassing to lose a dead drawn game like this,” admitted Aronian. “We are both tired,” said Kramnik, who showed the line he expected—50. h6 g6 51. Kb5 Kxg5 52. a4 Kxh6 53. a5 (53. c4 is simpler.) 53. ... g5 54. a6 g5 55. a7 Bd5 56. c4 Ba8 57. c5 when both players queen and a draw is inevitable.

50. ... Kg5 51. Kb5 Kxh5 52. a4 Kxg6 53. a5

“If 53. c4 Kf6 54. a5 Ke7 55. a6 I have 55. ... Bh7! putting the bishop on an important diagonal,” said Kramnik, who continued the variation with 56. a7 Be4 57. c5 Kd7 when Black wins.

So some might say that Kramnik’s luck simply ran out in the final round against Ivanchuk, but perhaps his earlier first half game against the Ukrainian was the true guide to both the best and worst of Kramnik—and the ultimate reason why the former world champion fell just short.

Catalan (E01)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
GM Vassily Ivanchuk (FIDE 2757, UKR)
London Candidates (6), 03.21.2013

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Bd6

A trendy line, although Ivan Sokolov is the only top grandmaster to make it a regular part of his repertoire.

6. Bg2 Nbd7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Qc2 c6 9. Nc3 dxc4

The only consistent choice; should White play 10. e4 undisturbed the bishop will find itself misplaced on d6.

10. Rfd1

A subtle choice of rook in a position where White had only used the queen’s rook for choice.

10. ... Qc7 11. Ng5 Be7 12. a4!

Kramnik was tempted by 12. Bf4 with the idea 12. ... e5!? 13. dx5 Nxe5 14. Rd5!! but rejected it because of the simple response 12. ... Qd8 and if 13. e4 Nh5!

12. ... e5

Ivanchuk had been burning time over his last few moves and was already an hour behind Kramnik on the clock.

13. a5!

Kramnik could find nothing for White after 13. d5 Ne5!


Now Black wins easily. Aronian could not even explain what he had missed—“In this game I could not calculate a single variation,” he said. “But I will have to deal with it.”

56. Kb6 Ke5 57. Kc7 g5 58. Kb8 Be4 59. Kc7 g4 60. a7 g3 61. c5 Ba8 62. Kb8 Bc6, White resigned.

Black had many reasonable alternatives, such as 17. ... Nb5 but Ivanchuk feared if he returned the c-pawn for nothing he would be slightly worse in just the sort of position Kramnik enjoys. So
Some argue that times have changed so much that the problems which beset the Candidates tournament format in the Fischer era can never recur but, with different players in a different cycle, the risk remains.

21. ... Kg7!

A less brave player than Ivanchuk would, given his time trouble, have tried to defend his risky text move was the only way to force Kramnik’s hand. Now, however, Kramnik is provoked into launching a powerful attack.


Kramnik: “This sacrifice looks terribly dangerous for Black.”


“I also looked at 21. Ra5! but couldn’t break down 21. ... Qd6,” said Kramnik.

22. Bxc6!

22. ... Bxc6!

More outstanding defense.

23. Ra5+ Kg6

White can force an immediate draw with 24. Qxh6+ Kxh6 25. Qh3+ since running away with 25. ... Ke5 is too risky after 26. Rd1! Nd5 27. e4!

24. ... Rd8 25. Qd4

“I also considered 25. Rc5!? but after 25. ... Rad8 26. Qc2 Qd7! it looks like it must be winning but I couldn’t see how to create a threat,” said Kramnik.

25. ... Rag8!

Kramnik was hoping for 25. ... h5? which allows 26. Nh4+ Kg7 27. Rg5+! Kf8 28. Qxf6 and the attack crashes through.

26. Rc5 Qd7!

More outstanding defense. “I was just trying to find only moves that don’t lose,” said Ivanchuk. “I was [just] trying not to blunder.”

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### FIDE Candidates Tournament, London 2013

**FINAL RANKING**

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You can find all details of this tournament on http://london2013.fide.com/
“It is ten times harder now than it was in 1953—
computers have changed everything. They prepared for
just one or two hours before a game, we are preparing almost
non-stop. Also in 1953 there were more or less only
two openings played—the Nimzo-Indian and the King’s Indian.
Now the players are much more flexible. We have
to play up to seven hours, whereas in 1953
I had the feeling that some of the draws were prearranged.”

—VLADIMIR KRAMNIK
(COMPARING THE 28 ROUNDS OF ZURICH 1953 WITH
THE 14 ROUNDS OF LONDON 2013)

“Everyone says I am a great specialist in this
Berlin [Ruy Lopez] endgame but in fact this
is my first classical victory in this line!”

—VLADIMIR KRAMNIK
(AFTER BEATING ALEXANDER GRISCHUK)

“I prefer to lose today than all my previous games because
at least there is [now] an intrigue in the tournament.
So it might be an historic loss, rather than all
the upsetting losses from the previous rounds.
Today was the best moment to lose one more!”

—TEIMOUR RADJABOV
(AFTER LOSING A MARATHON BATTLE TO MAGNUS CARLSEN
IN THE PENULTIMATE ROUND)

“The tournament turned out to be remarkable,
but I’m not sure it was the best tournament in history.”

—GARRY KASPAROV

27. Qf4! h5!

28. Nh4+

“There must be something,”
said Kramnik, “but I didn’t see
it. I looked at 28. e4 Nh4 29.
Ne7+ but after 29. ... Kg7! I
couldn’t make it work. Also 28.
e4 Re8 29. f3 Re5! looked OK
for Black. I even looked at
positional play with 28. f3 Rd8
29. Kg2 but it is difficult to
believe—I am still a rook down
and if I miss something I have
to resign.”

28. ... Kg7 29. Nh5+ Kg6

Ivanchuk rejected 29. ... Kf8
30. Qb8+ Nc8 because of 31.
Qb4 Ne7 32. Qb8+ and now,
since 32. ... Qe8 33. Qd6 is
awkward for Black, he thought
he would have to repeat moves
with 32. ... Nc8 in any case.

29. Kg2 but it is difficult to

30. Qh6+

“Maybe this is a positional
draw—like a study by
Kasparian,” joked Ivanchuk.

30. ... Kg7 31. Nh5+Nf5+

“Maybe this is a positional
draw—like a study by
Kasparian,” joked Ivanchuk.

30. ... Kg7 31. Nh5+Nf5+, Draw agreed.

When it came to the crunch,
Kramnik was unwilling to risk
playing on, even against an
opponent who had already lost
two games on time and was to
lose three more in the same
fashion. Who dares wins, as
the saying goes, and Kramnik’s
judgement and character were
inclined not to dare.

Read much more about the tournament
at the official event website,
www.fide.com/. There are
additional reports by Ian Rogers on
Chess Life Online, March archives.

As we go to press, the world
championship match is scheduled
for November 6-26, 2013, in Chennai,
India. FIDE has issued a press release
about the chosen location here:
www.fide.com/component/content/ article/1-fide-news/7045-world-
html.

Check Chess Life Online for updates!
Bigger, Better, and Bughouse Too:

SUPERNATIONALS V BREAKS THE RECORD FOR THE LARGEST RATED TOURNAMENT IN HISTORY WITH 5,335 PARTICIPANTS.
UPERNATIONALS V, BOASTING 5,335 ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS, OFFICIALLY ENTERED THE RECORD BOOKS AS THE LARGEST RATED OVER-THE-BOARD CHESS TOURNAMENT IN HISTORY. SO IT SEEMED ONLY FITTING THAT THE GLITTERY GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, HOLDER OF ITS OWN “LARGEST-EVER” RECORD, SHOULD HOST THE EVENT, WHICH BEGS THE OBVIOUS QUESTION: IS BIGGER ALWAYS BETTER?


Running concurrently with the SuperNationals was the Show Choir Nationals, adding extra unexpected flair to the proceedings. Throughout the tournament, hotel staff rolled carts bearing sparkly dresses and satiny tuxedos past the playing halls, leading to distracting (and somewhat disturbing) mental images juxtaposing glee and chess: imagine tournament directors breakdancing down the aisles brandishing results slips or organizers bursting into song during announcements!

It turned out such wild visualizations may have future possibilities. During Jennifer Shahade’s entertaining talk on popularizing chess, one public-relations-savvy audience member suggested top players enter the hall to a theme song à la Rocky. Could nicknames, costumes, and “handlers” be far behind?

Tournament vendors capitalized upon the lure of bigger and better, boasting what was billed as the “Largest USCF Sales Chess Shop Ever!” The shop sprawled through Ryman Exhibit Hall, booth after booth enticing visitors into believing that just a look wouldn’t hurt. Once sucked in, justifying the expense of a book (or two or three) was merely the next step down the slippery slope of chess memorabilia overload.

A wide array of stimulating side events, geared toward players and non-players alike, rounded out the myriad offerings. Within the space of four days, non-participants could feast upon multiple instructional seminars and meetings, enjoy a screening of Brooklyn Castle, attend several book signings, learn about college chess programs, and play in the Parents & Friends Tournament. For the participants, bug-house, blitz, a simultaneous exhibition, and game analysis from the folks at chesskid.com kept chess at the forefront, but provided a much-needed respite from the main tournament.

In the Spotlight—Chess and Education
While SuperNationals V’s overall theme lacked the flash-and-dazzle of sequins and show tunes, it felt slightly more substantial, too: chess as a mechanism for educational success.

The tournament’s commemorative book-let set the tone early, beginning with a congratulatory letter from Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, in which he stated, “Your preparation for a competition such as this demonstrates the type of commitment, discipline, and hard work that will serve you well in your continued education and your career.”

He added, “To the young people in attendance I say it is cool to be smart.”

Robert McLellan, USCF Marketing
Director and the executive producer of the widely-acclaimed movie, Brooklyn Castle, echoed it’s cool-to-be-smart in an article that revisited former scholastic chess champions, including 2004 co-champion Danny Rensch, 1996 champ Greg Shahade, and 2001 champ Hikaru Nakamura (see sidebar). During his opening ceremony speech, McClellan continued to highlight the important connections between chess and educational success, but he also reminded players not to become overwhelmed. “Play to your very best,” he emphasized, “and then don’t stress about it.” He advised parents to “take away the best parts of your time together,” a variation on his “stay cool, don’t stress” message.

Chess and education connection are already linked in many parents’ minds, along with the conviction that chess positively impacts other aspects of their childrens’ lives. Joanne Lim, whose 14-year-old twin sons, Matthew and Michael, are both expert-level players, thinks this silent game has actually improved her sons’ verbal abilities. “Michael, in particular, had been a quiet child,” she said, “and chess has helped with his articulation skills and confidence. I was most impressed when he explained to his first adult opponent at the World Open, his first ‘real’ tournament, how he [his opponent] could have improved his game.”

Jennifer Christianson, Castle Chess camp director and chess mom, offered an example of how chess helped her sons in school. “Both of my boys were invited to take the SAT in the seventh grade through the Duke TIP program,” she said. “A parent of another child at our school said to me, ‘I really doubt that my son can sit perfectly still and quiet at a desk and focus for four hours.’ And I said, ‘My son does that for fun on the weekends!’ Chess is the perfect preparation for standardized testing. Intense focus combined with impeccable time management is key to success for both.” (The Duke TIP program identifies academically gifted children in the South.)

Although it’s traditional for Scholar Chessplayer Award winners to be announced during the high school spring nationals, this year’s presentations felt especially appropriate given the tournament’s strong educational message. Harold Winston, U.S. Chess Trust Chairman, and FM Sunil Weeramantry, the Trust’s Scholastic Vice President, presented the 2013 awards before Sunday morning’s round. Miles Hinson and Kevin Mo, both from Pennsylvania, Anna Matlin from New Jersey, Benjamin Tong from California, and Thomas Ulrich from Wisconsin each received scholarships in the amount of $1,500. To qualify for the scholarships, the winning students had to demonstrate high academics, sportsmanship, and naturally, strong chess skills.

The University of Texas at Dallas awarded scholarships to each of the three main section winners (Atulya Shetty in the K-12, Akshat Chandra in the K-9, and David Peng in the K-6). This covers complete cost of tuition and mandatory fees for eight semesters of enrollment.

The Champions’ Circle

Competition was fierce in the battles for the titles; within the championship sections, all but K-1 ended with clear winners, and none of the championship winners finished with less than 6½ points. K-12 Champion, Atulya Shetty from Michigan, handled his turn in the spotlight gracefully when describing his crucial last round win over Luke Harmon-Vellotti. “Luke is a very strong player, so going into the final round, I had my work cut out for me,” he said. “Fortunately, things
worked out in my favor,” he added, underscoring what was surely a nail-biter of a game. Shetty began the final round down a half-point to Luke’s perfect 6-0, putting him in a tough, must-win position for the championship.

Slav Defense (D15)
FM Luke Harmon-Vellotti (2433)
FM Atulya Shetty (2446)
2013 SuperNationals (7), 04.07.2013
Notes by Shetty

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6

Even though the Slav can become quite drawish depending on what White plays, I wanted to stick to what I knew best. Trying something new and falling into an opening trap was the last thing I wanted in this situation.

3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 a6 5. c5

This is the main line but I was still quite happy to see it on the board. First of all, it dispelled my small fear that Luke would play the Exchange variation in which I would have a difficult time playing for a win. It is also a line that I feel gives Black chances to play actively.

5. ... Bf5 6. Bf4 Nbd7 7. e3 g6

This line is not very common but has been played before by GM Gata Kamsky with success. 7. ... e6 is the main line.

8. Be2 Bg7 9. h3 Be4 10. 0-0

The most challenging line is 10. Nh4 e5 11. Bg3 (11. dxe5 Nh5 12. Nf3 Bxf3 13. Bxf3 Nxf4 14. exf4 Nxc5 Black has no problems and a game between GM Evgeny Alekseev-Kamsky ended in a draw.) 11. ... exd4 12. exd4 0-0 13. f3 Bf5 14. Nxf5 gxf5 At first glance, this position looks just worse for Black because of the doubled f-pawns. However, Black will be able to get very active pieces and the position is quite unclear. Kamsky won a complex game against GM Shakhrisiar Mamedyarov from this position. This type of double-edged play would have been perfect for my tournament situation.

10. ... Bxf3 11. Bxf3 0-0 12. b4 Ne8

This move has two ideas. The first is to

A Bug(house) Tale

In December 2004, a legendary partnership was formed. At that year’s Grade Championship, Georgians Ryan Christianson and Jeremy Paul teamed up for bughouse for the very first time.

Nine years later, in SuperNationals V, Jeremy and Ryan partnered for their very last time in a national scholastic event. Since that first tournament, Ryan and Jeremy have never played with anyone else, racking up an impressive five national championships and multiple top five finishes. But soon Ryan will leave the world of scholastic tournaments behind to begin college in the fall. And so, in homage to Ryan’s final nationals, Jeremy popped into SuperNationals for one last bughouse hit-and-run even though he had an overlapping soccer commitment.

The boys first met at the Pace chess camp in Atlanta and soon began seeing each other at local tournaments. Like most kids, they’d play bughouse between rounds. “We became enthralled with the activity at some of the kid chess camps over the summers and we started to play against the coaches, some of whom were the best bughouse players in the world, like Richard Francisco and Kazim Gulamali,” says Jeremy. “We started very young and progressed fast, surpassing many peers and even elders at the game. We started to recognize our talent when we began to place highly in the national bughouse tournaments. We never made a big deal out of it, though. It is really just something fun for us to do whenever we get the chance to play with our coaches and friends.”

The boys have jokingly nicknamed themselves the “Bryan Brothers” of chess. (The Bryan brothers are identical twins who specialize in doubles tennis. They routinely beat much higher-rated singles players at major doubles tournaments, proving that doubles tennis is different from singles.) Like the Bryan brothers, Ryan and Jeremy have learned there’s power in teamwork. This year, for example, they took down K-12 individual champion, Atulya Shetty, and his partner, Michael Bowersock, in the final round.

Jennifer Christianson, president of the popular Castle Chess camp and Ryan’s very dedicated chess mom, noted how the boys’ unusually tenacious partnership helped develop their winning style: “They rarely exchange a single word when they play—they communicate seemingly by telepathy. In general Ryan is the attacker and plays the white pieces. Jeremy is a very talented defender, so he plays black and feeds Ryan material for his attack. However, I’ve seen a few games here and there where the game is going better on Jeremy’s board, and the two of them will shift focus without exchanging so much as a glance. It’s a very special—and symbiotic—relationship.”

Jeremy says he will probably hang up his bughouse hat next year because it wouldn’t be the same without Ryan. Hopefully, he’ll change his mind, as it’s a safe bet many others would love to partner with this talented defender.
K-9 Champion Akshat Chandra

K-9 Champion Akshat Chandra, 13, discovered chess four years ago when his family moved from the United States to India. Missing his preferred American sports—football and basketball—Akshat turned to chess to fill the void. He was immediately captivated by, as he writes, “the complexity and limitless potential of chess.”

Shortly thereafter, Akshat began competing in FIDE-rated tournaments and soon decided he was going all the way to a GM title. Thus began his quest, which he chronicles in his blog, http://QuestToGM.com. So far, he’s off to an impressive start: Beginning with a rating of 1548 in 2010, he sprinted up the ratings ladder; by January of this year, he reached 2297 and was awarded the FIDE master title.

Akshat’s family returned to the United States in March, moving to New Jersey, where Akshat is a ninth grader at JFK Memorial High School in Iselin. He was in the United States for only three weeks before heading to SuperNationals V, one of his first USCF tournaments. From the beginning, the SuperNationals experience was slightly unsettling for someone used to European and Asian tournaments.

“I had a few challenges in the tournament,” he says. “The time control was new to me. I didn’t have much experience playing with ‘delay’ time control, and was more used to 30-second ‘increments.’ I found the round schedule was strenuous. Since each game was easily 3½ to 4 hours, the back-to-back seven rounds were exhausting.”

Akshat adapted to the challenges and by round seven, he was on board one playing for the title. His win left him energized: “I cherished the victory because it was [one of] my first official USCF tournament[s], and the first SuperNationals. I had not realized how big this tournament was till I reached the venue. Lifting the trophy was a very special moment in my life. This time I had gone all the way.”

Meanwhile, Akshat’s parents, Tarun and Aparna, proudly purchased the board and set on which Akshat had played his final round. Tournament Director Enrique Huerta added another keepsake when he removed the SuperNational pin from his lapel as a gift for Akshat. Akshat wore the pin during the awards ceremony.

In addition to chess, Akshat enjoys writing and has won prizes for his essays. But, his parents say, he feels he must concentrate on chess to reach his goal. His parents support his decision. “We believe he has the focus and perseverance to eventually reach the GM title,” they write. But, as is so often the case, financial considerations come into play. They’re hoping his new national title will bring forth a sponsor or two.

Akshat has nothing but praise for his first foray into USCF tournaments. “I’ve played big tournaments across Europe and Asia. But SuperNationals V was by far the biggest,” he says. “It was incredibly well-organized. I hope USCF considers bidding to host the World Youth in the near future for it definitely has the energy and deep expertise to organize a big world event.”

break open the center with ... e7-e5. The other plan is to reroute the knight to e6 via c7 which can pressure either d4 or c5 in the future.


After this trade I felt my position was quite comfortable if not slightly better. White’s bishop is blocked in by Black’s pawns and the e3-e4 break does not come quickly enough.

17. ... f5 18. a4 Nc7 19. Qb3 Qe7 20. Rc1

20. ... Ne6

I was not too afraid of b4-b5 because while it does open the queenside, White’s attack comes much slower than Black’s. 20. ... Rf7 seems like a useful move for Black that will still contain White’s pawn break. However, this is not the case. 21. b5 axb5 22. axb5 Nxb5 (22. ... Ne6 will be similar to the game except that Black’s move ... Rf7 is wasted.) 23. Bxd5! cxd5 24. Qxb5 and White is slightly better.

21. b5 axb5 22. axb5 Ng5 23. Be2 f4 24. exf4

Here I was feeling quite confident with my position. I thought the position had opened in my favor and it is still hard for White to attack my queenside.

25. bxc6 bxc6 26. Qg3 Raf8 27. B3d Qf6 28. Rc1 Ne6 29. Rc1 Kg7 30. Qe3 Rf7 31. f3

31. ... Rh4?!

I was hoping for a kingside attack with ... Nf4 and ... Qg5 but this plan is not very realistic. White will be able to defend and Black is just wasting time. During the
Team shirts abound at the SuperNationals and, based on these photos, appears to correlate with team success!

Game I didn’t want to trade queens with 31. ... Qd4! because I thought there would be fewer winning chances but this endgame is just much better for Black. With 32. Rf1 Kf6 Black will soon play ... Ra7-Ra5 and the c5-pawn is very hard to defend.

32. Rf1 Nd4

I decided to abandon my original plan, realizing that it would not give me much play. After 32. ... Nf4 33. Bf1 Qg5 34. Kh2 Black has nothing.

33. Bf1 Rf4 34. Qe5?

Here Luke just missed a simple tactic that allows me to win a pawn.

34. ... Rxf3 35. Qxf6+ R3xf6 36. Rb1 Re6 37. Red1 Ne2+ 38. Bxe2 Rxe2

At this point I was quite confident that I was winning. Black’s rooks will dominate the second rank and if White tries to trade a pair of rooks the c5-pawn will be too weak.

39. Rb6

No better is 39. Re1 Rc2 40. Rbc1 Rff2 41. Rxc2 Rxc2 42. Re7+ Kh6.

39. ... Rff2 40. Rxc6 Rxf2+ 41. Kh1 Rh2+ 42. Kg1 Rg2+ 43. Kf1 Rc2 44. Kg1 Rxh3 45. Rxd5 Ra3 46. Rd1 h5

The move 46. ... Ra5 makes things a little trickier for Black. An example is 47. Rc7+ Kh6 48. c6 Ra6 49. Rb7 Raxc6 50. Rdd7.

47. Kh1 Kh6 48. Rc8 Kg5 49. Rc6

Black will mate soon after 49. Kg1+ Kh4 50. Rxc6 Kh3.
49. ... Rh3+ 50. Kg1 Rg3+ 51. Kh1 Kh4 52. Rcd6 g5

52. ... Kh3 53. R6d2 Rxd2 54. Rxd2 Rc3 55. Kg2 draws for White because Black has no way of defending the g6-pawn.

53. R6d2 Rxd2 54. Rxd2 Rc3 55. Rh2+ Also losing is 55. Rd5 g4 56. Re5 Kg3. 55. ... Kg4 56. Rg2+ Kf5 57. Rf2+ Kg6 58. Kg2 Rxc5 59. Ra2 h4 60. Kh3 Kh5 61. Ra4 g4+ 62. Kg2 Rc2+ 63. Kh1 h3 64. Ra8 Kh4 65. Ra1 Re2 66. Rb1 Re4 67. Rc1 g3 68. Rg1 Kg4 69. Ra1 Rf4 70. Rb1 g2+ 71. Kh2 Rf1 72. Rxf1

This is the final trick. Black reaches an easily winning endgame after 72. Rb4+ Kf5 73. Rb5+ Ke6 74. Rb6+ Kd5 75. Rb5+ Kc6 76. Rg5 Rh1+ 77. Kg3 g1=Q+. 72. ... gxf1=B, White resigned.

Once I had finished the game, I thought that I had tied for first. A few minutes later, though, I found out that the other players with 5½/6 had all drawn and I was the clear winner! I also found out that my team had come in second place in its first national event. “Our coach, Mr. Long, was very supportive and team members were always there encouraging each other,” Shetty said. “Everyone played their best chess.” On Saturday night, the team took a chess break to bond over basketball, cheering their beloved Michigan Wolverines to victory in the Final Four playoffs.

New York’s Edward R. Murrow High School grabbed bragging rights to the K-12 Team Championship. The incredibly strong team, led by captain Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, entered the tournament confident about their winning chances. At the awards ceremony, they sauntered onstage carrying a pre-prepared sign touting themselves as Best in the USA. For further dramatic effect, coach Eliot Weiss flung himself onto the floor to pose for photos. The New York Daily News picked up the story of the team’s win, cheekily describing Ostrovskiy as being known for “his encyclopedic knowledge of opening maneuvers and the appropriate level of chess swagger.” Ostrovskiy tied for second place (third on tiebreaks), finishing with six points. Even though New York boasted the largest contingent with well over 900 attendees, the much-maligned state next door made its own splash. In his first USCF national scholastic tournament, Akshat Chandra of New Jersey won the K-9 section with 6½ points. Chandra may be a new face to the U.S. chess scene, but he’s no stranger to chess. He began playing in tournaments in 2010, earning his FM title this year while living in India. He moved to the United States in March and swooped down on SuperNationals three weeks after arriving. “Winning the SuperNationals’ K-9 title was an unbelievable feeling. I felt as if I’d conquered the world,” said Chandra.

Complementing Chandra’s win was another first: a plucky team from New Jersey’s Newark Academy took the K-9 crown, becoming the first New Jersey school to win a spring nationals. Newark Academy has no formal chess team or coach—only a teacher-sponsored after-school club—so the kids decided to form their own team with a little help from parents, teachers, and friends. “We worked hard together as a team to make it happen,” said Matthew Lim. “That makes winning the K-9 championship truly memorable.” Teammate Jeremy Glassman agreed, “It was the best experience of my life. We practiced together, supported each other throughout, and never gave up.” Matthew’s twin brother, Michael, added, “This is the third year that we played in this section and this time it just came together.”

David Peng of Illinois won the K-6 title with 6½ points. Already... Continued on page 40
K-12 Champion

Atulya Shetty

K-12 Champion Atulya Shetty, 17, loves chess because it never gets boring. “The more you know, the more there is to know,” he says. “You are never done studying as there is always something new.” He learned chess when he was four years old after watching his preschool teachers play. The teachers, noting his interest, taught him and a few other students the rules of the game; soon the preschoolers were constantly challenging each other. Atulya hasn’t stopped playing since.

Atulya’s no stranger to chess titles. In 2002, he won the first grade section in the National K-12 Grade Championships; since then, his trophy collection has steadily increased. Recently, Atulya became the youngest Michigan Open champion in the state’s history, winning back-to-back titles in 2011 and 2012. In 2012, he won the prestigious Denker Tournament of High School Champions, earning a scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas.

Atulya, who studies with GM Gregory Kaidanov, is a five-time All America team member. He’s played in one U.S. Junior Closed and two U.S. Cadet Championships. He’s also represented the United States in World Youth Chess Championships in Batumi, Republic of Georgia (2006), Vung Tau, Vietnam (2008) and Halkidiki, Greece (2010). Although he qualified for the 2012 championship in Maribor, Slovenia, he did not participate.

Echoing many other players’ concerns about how to pay for chess tournaments, especially at the international level, Atulya has given fundraising simultaneous exhibitions (simuls) before each trip to the World Youth Chess Championships. Atulya also uses chess as a mechanism for helping others: he’s given simuls to raise money for Japanese tsunami victims and for the Detroit Institute of the Arts. Atulya’s simul for the Detroit Institute of the Arts, held in 2010, was his biggest to date. There he played 46 members of the Detroit City Chess Club, resulting in 45 wins and one draw.

Atulya has long admired World Champion GM Viswanathan Anand, in part because Anand hails from Chennai, India, where Atulya’s mother, Sujata, grew up and where his grandparents still live. When Atulya was six years old, he even spent his own money to buy one of Anand’s books as a birthday gift for his father. On his last trip to India, Atulya finally had the opportunity to meet Anand at the airport. “This was a few years ago, so he [Atulya] was a little shy about talking to a world champion,” says Atulya’s father, Sharat. “Many people had congregated around Anand, and Atulya was struck by how gracious Anand was with every person who came around to talk to him.”

In addition to chess, Atulya, who’s finishing 11th grade at Ann Arbor Huron High School, is a percussionist in the school’s symphony band, marching band and drumline. He also practices karate and loves playing sports of all kinds, particularly team sports such as soccer, basketball, and baseball.

This summer, Atulya plans to participate in tournaments that will help him reach his immediate goal of achieving his international master norms. Eventually, he’d like to become a grandmaster.
The educational benefits of chess have been documented in studies around the world. We know chess helps kids do better in school. But does it help kids do better in life? Recently USCF decided to reach out to many of our past national scholastic chess champions to see what they are doing today. We set the cut off at 2005 before figuring our most recent champs were most likely still in school: 2011 K-12 Champ Eric Rosen, for one, is at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Robert Hess (2009) is at Yale, while Alec Getz (2010) is on his full-ride at University of Texas at Austin.

So how about those earlier champions? We were pleased to see many have continued with chess on a professional level. 2004 co-champion Danny Rensch is director of professional relations and co-owner of the phenomenally successful websites Chess.com and ChessKid.com. 1996 champ Greg Shahade is the founder of the U.S. Chess League. And 2001 champ Hikaru Nakamura is now three-time U.S. national chess champion and one of the top-ranked players in the world.

Others went down different roads. Graduates of many of the top universities in the nation, doctors and research pharmacists, attorneys and investment bankers were among the many respondents. While space didn’t allow for them all, here are a few of the many “chess success” stories...

1976 champion Richard Kaner went to Brown University majoring in chemistry and did his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania with Professor Alan MacDiarmid who shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in chemistry for the discovery of conducting polymers. He carried out postdoctoral work at University of California (UC) Berkeley, then joined UC Los Angeles as an assistant professor in 1987, earned tenure in 1991, was promoted to full professor in 1993 and became a distinguished professor of both chemistry and materials science and engineering in 2012.

"Since I've spent so much time being a professor and carrying out research, I haven't had much time to play chess," says Professor Kaner. "A dozen years ago I called the U.S. Chess Federation to see why I never received a life master certificate and found out that I had played 293 games as a master since winning the National High School Championship. I then played in the Santa Monica City Championship, tied for first place and received my life master title." Professor Kaner says he still loves the game and hopes to come back for the Senior Open after he turns 60, assuming that life then slows down just a bit. 1976 junior high champion and 1979 high school champion, James Rizzitano has had a 30+ year IT career working as a software developer, database administrator and manager. He is currently director of database solutions at BJ’s Wholesale Club, Inc. managing a team of database administrators for the 200-club chain (BJ’s is the third largest wholesale club in the United States). "I utilize the skills I developed playing and studying chess as a teenager on a daily basis," said Rizzitano. "One of the main challenges of my job is to resolve unexpected technical issues which do not have an obvious solution and these issues are usually extremely time sensitive. One of the fundamental challenges of chess is this: Can you find the correct move in a position you have never seen before with the clock ticking? This is the type of challenge I face every day managing a team of technical professionals."

Awarded his international master title in 1985, Rizzitano has written five chess books for Gambit Publications, the most recent being "Play the Najdorf Sicilian" (2010). "In 1989 I stopped playing chess for almost 15 years and I started playing again in 2004. I am still active (currently rated 2424—peak rating was 2585 in 1985)."

1982 co-champion David Glueck received degrees in chemistry from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. in organometallic chemistry from the University of California-Berkeley, in 1990. After working as a National Sciences Foundation-NATO postdoctoral fellow at the inorganic chemistry lab, University of Oxford, he joined the faculty at Dartmouth College in 1992, and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1998, then to professor in 2004. Also sharing that he hasn’t had much time to play chess for 20 years now, Dr. Glueck credits the game with teaching him “patience and focus,” skills that were critical to his success in academia and in life.

One of Dr. Glueck’s 1982 co-champions was National Master Simon Yelsky who has also had a distinguished career. After earning his degree in electrical engineering from Columbia University, and an MBA from New York University, Mr. Yelsky went on to senior IT positions in several New York corporations. Today, he is vice president of a knowledge services company but his proudest “chess” achievement he says is as a father. His son Max won the 2002 national grade three championship and is now an expert player and a student at Johns Hopkins University.

In 1984 he took the National Junior High crown. In 1985 he won the National High School Championship and then repeated the feat in 1986 when he also won the Denker tournament. He went on to Harvard where he captained the Crimson’s 1990 Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championship winning team. Today, IM Dan Edelman is the head of risk management at one of the world’s largest hedge funds and write on risk management and on chess. “I am still very much involved in the chess scene..."
thanks to my children Nathan (age 11) and daughter Sadie (age 8) who have played in numerous tournaments. Sadie is doing phenomenally well, USCF rating over 1300, and just represented the U.S. in the World Youth Championship in Maribor, Slovenia.”

1993 National K-9 co-champion Jacob Chudnovsky is a Ph.D. biologist doing cancer research at the Whitehead Institute at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “I still play chess occasionally, still at the same level of around 2370-2400 where I was at the end of high school 17 years ago, since I didn’t study chess much once I started college,” Dr. Chudnovsky says. “Chess gave me a lot of important skills that help in work and life: discipline and intellectual rigor, diligence, thinking ahead, and creativity (not just knowing the rules, but knowing when to break them), just to name a few.”

1999 National High School Champion Patrick Hummel graduated first in his class at CalTech with a B.S. in applied and computational mathematics, then went on to earn a B.S. in economics, and an M.S. in chemistry. “Chess was still a big part of my life when I was an undergraduate. I founded a chess club when I started as an undergraduate at Caltech, and played in several U.S. Amateur Team chess championships on the Caltech team, which won the national team championship twice and the regional team championship three times in my four years at Caltech.” His time for chess has been somewhat limited since then. Mr. Hummel began graduate studies at Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2006, and completed his Ph.D. in economics in 2010. A research scientist in the microeconomics and social systems group at Yahoo! Research for two years, Dr. Hummel is now a research scientist at Google.

2002 National Junior High School K-9 Co-Champion Reed Sorensen is currently working as an epidemiologist and data analyst for the Washington State Department of Health. With a master of public health degree in epidemiology from the University of Michigan, he will soon be applying for Ph.D. programs in environmental health science. “To say that chess has influenced my life is definitely an understatement,” said Mr. Sorensen. “I didn’t fully realize until later that the mental habits I developed for chess were useful for other things too. It’s one thing to know that patience and structured thinking are useful skills, but it’s another thing entirely to ingrain these skills as personality traits during the most formative period in your life.”

~ Robert McLellan
Continued from page 36  a fixture in the scholastic youth circle, Peng represented the United States in 2011’s World Youth Championship’s U-8 Open section and qualified for the 2012 team. He entered round seven with a perfect 6-0 score, ceding a draw to second place finisher Advait Patel of West Virginia. “I think the tournament is extremely difficult because everyone is underrated and very strong. I consider myself very lucky to win that many games and not to lose the last round,” said Peng.

Other individual winners were K-8 champion Siddharth Banik and K-5 champion Rayan Taghizadeh, both from California, and K-3 champion Aydin Turgut of Illinois. Drew Justice of Georgia and Chingunn Bayaraa of California shared the K-1 championship, each with perfect 7-0 scores, with Bayaraa taking first place on tiebreaks. Top team trophies went to Pennsylvania’s Julia R. Masterman (K-8), California’s Mission San Jose Elementary (K-6) and Gomes Elementary (K-5), and teams from New York’s P.S. 41 (K-3), and Dalton (K-1 and tied for first in K-3).

Pre-Tournament Events

No scholastic tournament worth the price of admission would be complete without blitz and bughouse. Of course, SuperNationals V offered up its own super-sized versions of these popular events. 68 teams battled for the K-12 crown. When the dust settled, two teams—Ryan Christianson and Jeremy Paul, and David Inglis and Michael Omari—tied for first. Team Christianson-Paul took first place on tiebreaks, nailing down their fifth and final national bughouse championship. In the K-9 section, the undefeated team of Alan Sung and Jalen Wang finished number one out of 64 teams. And in K-6, Hoyos siblings, Carlos and Jennifer, came out on top in a field of 65 teams.

In the blitz tournaments, an impressive 929 players spread out over four sections. The competition for the K-12 championship ended in a three-way tie among Bryan Hu (AZ), Michael Brown (CA), and Sean Vibbert (IN). Joshua Sheng (CA) took the K-9 crown, Bryce Tiglon (WA) won K-6, and in K-3, Christopher Shen (OH) emerged victorious.

Special guest GM Alexandra Kosteniuk proved a formidable adversary in her 37-player simultaneous exhibition. Looking calm and focused as she moved from board to board, she defeated 36 determined players and drew one without missing a beat, adding her own touch of glamour and regal graciousness to the event. “It was most wonderful for me to be at such a huge chess scholastic tournament,” said Kosteniuk. “It proves that chess is still one of the most popular games in the world.”

Lectures and Supporting Programs

Brooklyn Castle is the chess film-of-the-moment, a far-reachinggrabber of a movie that’s earned critical and popular acclaim. Saturday night’s screening demonstrated why this documentary has wended its way into the mainstream. It’s hard not to get caught up in the unfolding drama of a chess program struggling for funding against the triumphs and tears of these maturing players. After the showing, Robert McEllan and IM Dmitry Schneider led an informative discussion about using chess to promote educational excellence.

For those interested in improving their games, some of the best and brightest chess stars were on hand to help. GM Alexander Strupinsky and GM Alexander Onischuk each lectured in a mini-series labeled “Learning From the Greats.” Strupinsky’s topic was studying classic games; Onischuk spoke about Paul Morphy. IM Larry Evans offered two different sessions: one on basic strategies and tactics, and one on advanced strategies. IM Danny Rensch spoke about what it takes to win a national championship. During his talk, he touched upon the question of playing up and its effect on children’s psyche. Against popular convention, he advised against playing up as a regular practice, contending that it should be employed judiciously—perhaps only in a local venue—because winning helps keep children motivated and from becoming discouraged. Picking up unaware on this thread, chess mom Lisa Alexander of New York validated Rensch’s reasoning when she mentioned why, in part, her two boys, August and Ethan, enjoy chess tournaments: “They love the trophies and the pats on the back.”

WIM Alexey Root’s popular lecture, “Thinking with Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14,” included lesson plans designed to help children link chess to skills such as classifying and pattern recognition. “At least 58 people came to my presentation,” said Dr. Root, “because that many filled out prize slips to try to win one of the 10 copies of [my book] People, Places, Checkmates: Teaching Social Studies with Chess.” Jay Stallings generously provided 10 copies of his book, Fried Liver & Burning Pants, to round out the door prizes.

WGM Jennifer Shahade was another energetic presence, somehow seeming to be everywhere at once. She and videographer Daniel Meiron roamed the halls videotaping and interviewing players, parents, and coaches for the U.S. Chess Scoop and Chess Life Online. In between interviews, Shahade graciously autographed copies of her books, including Play Like a Girl!, and posed for photos with her fans. She also delivered an extremely fun and accessible talk, treating her audience to an entertaining look at the many ways chess is moving into the mainstream. Shahade interspersed her commentary with lots of lively video clips and photos demonstrating chess’ burgeoning popularity. She told Chess Life, “I could truly feel the heightened excitement for chess in America at SuperNationals V. For the largest tournament of all time, it was surprisingly unchaotic, a credit to the organization. It was a lot of fun creating videos for the USCF YouTube channel, and even getting a bit of yoga in.”

And that’s a wrap!

Chief Tournament Director Franc Guadalupe oversaw this massive event with his customary good-natured, unflappable cool, keeping drama to a minimum and making sure the rounds moved along smoothly. Floor TD Fun Fong summed up the tournament director’s experience by likening it to his “day job” as an emergency room physician: “It’s a lot like emergency medicine. Most of the work is routine and only occasionally does one have a significant, unexpected incident that one must respond to, and occasionally make a ruling.”

At the awards ceremonies, several players who’d participated in four of the five SuperNationals were acknowledged for their achievements. Jay Stallings elaborated further about these dedicated players: “Kudos to the three kids who, according to my research, played in four SuperNationals: Andrew Freix (VA), Sam Kennedy (CA) and Douglas Selby (IN). Coincidentally, Sam and Douglas played an entertaining game in this SuperNationals. Sam mated Douglas with a king and knight only—Sam forced Douglas to trap his king on h1 with his h-pawn.”

Kennedy, who plans to study mechanical engineering at Cal State Northridge, has played chess since he was four. Stallings was his first teacher; these days, Kennedy volunteers with Stallings’ non-profit California Youth Chess League, which brings chess to San Clarita Valley elementary school students. Kennedy shared his thoughts about his long scholastic journey: “Playing in four SuperNationals has been an amazing experience. Knowing that you’re competing with other chess players from around the [country] made it fun and worthwhile. You could feel all the excitement in the atmosphere.” He continued, “Chess has been a major part of my life for 13 years. Chess motivated me to keep trying and to never give up as there are innumerable ways to get better at what you do. I plan to play chess throughout my life and to continue to teach others how to play.”

Another four-time participant, Andrew Freix, began playing chess at six years
old after watching the movie, *Searching for Bobby Fischer*. As the credits rolled, he announced he wanted to play in a chess tournament. It was only a matter of time before local tournaments led to national events. “I was blown away as a kindergartner at [his first] SuperNationals. I’d never seen so many kids playing chess in one place. When I finished my games, I would just go into the skittles room and play more chess.” Freix admits to preferring years with separate spring events because it allowed him to play in all three nationals. But he retains a fondness for the larger event: “Even though SuperNationals prevented me from playing in three different nationals, I still loved it. There were usually more players, and the Gaylord Opryland Resort is incredible. One time I got lost in it because it’s so big.” Freix plans to continue playing chess while studying at the University of South Carolina’s Honors College.

Just by sheer numbers, SuperNationals was a great success. Stallings noted, “The multitude of excited young chess players and the parents who are willing to dig deep to support them during this recession speaks to the power of chess!” And sometimes success was less definable but no less significant. Take, for example, the Lovejoy High School team from Lucas, a tiny town near Dallas. Team members, who earn letterman jackets upon meeting very challenging criteria, arrived at SuperNationals fresh from a strong state championship showing. Afterwards, coach and club president Tricia Dobson admitted, “SuperNationals was the most difficult and challenging chess tournament my guys have ever attended. It put the ‘T’ in TOUGH! It kicked our butts!” Despite their disappointing results, Dobson had only positive thoughts: “It was a fantastic experience. The guys got a lot of great chess training.” As she told one player, “It’s a process, not just the product.”

In the end, some of the best moments were the ones that disproved the stereotype of quiet, brainiac chess players. Noisy, unabashed glee frequently pierced the veil of serious chess focus: younger players happily raced up and down the Gaylord’s wide carpeted hallways; older players brazenly trash-talked through frenetic blitz and bughouse games. It was a welcome reminder that even during this tough, competitive event, these were still kids—just kids who happened to be incredibly good at playing chess.

The K-12 team champions, Edward R. Murrow High School from Brooklyn, New York.

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**At A Glance**

**SuperNationals V**

**Date:** April 5-7, 2013  
**Location:** Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee  
**5,335 players.**  
**Top Finishers:**

**K-6 Championship**, 1st, 6½: David Peng; 2nd-5th, 6: Advait Patel, Truman Hoang, Thomas Knoff, Sahil Sinha.  

**Top Team Finishers:**

**K-12 Championship**, 1st, 20½: Edward R. Murrow High School (NY); 2nd, 19½: Huron High School (MI); 3rd, 19: Catalina Foothills High School (AZ).  
**K-9 Championship**, 1st, 18: Newark Academy (NJ); 2nd-3rd, 17½: Kennedy Middle School (CA), Stuyvesant High School (NY).  
**K-6 Championship**, 1st, 16½: Mission San Jose Elementary (CA); 2nd, 16: Bull Run Elementary (VA); 3rd-5th, 15½: I.S. 318 (NY), Dalton (NY), University School of Nashville (TN).  

**Organizer:** Patricia K. Smith  
**Overall Chief:** Francisco (Fran) Guadalupe  
**Chief Tournament Directors:** Enrique Huerta, Robert Tanner, Jonathan Shacter.  
See full results here: uschess.org/tournaments/2013/snv/?page=RESULTS
The second World Champion Emanuel Lasker was known for playing not only his opponent’s men but also his psyche. The winner of this month’s award, Lewis Jenkins, successfully applied Lasker’s methods to his real-life tournament situation. Mr. Jenkins also includes an interesting treatise below examining the role of multiple threats in chess as well as in some other games (and, I guess, in some life situations).

Writes Mr. Jenkins (my future comments are in italics):

I’ve always read Chess Life from cover to cover, though I have not played in a tournament for over 20 years.

Analyzing tic-tac-toe when I was a boy, I realized the key to winning that simple game is the double threat. I noticed the multiple-threat idea worked in chess, too (as well as in football and basketball—in fact, in any game where position matters). If your opponent cannot find a move that stops all of your threats, or cannot find a move that threatens something more important, you will achieve or capture at least one of your objectives. It may be enough to win. If not, you keep going.

In sports, the “pieces” have minds and moves of their own and often do things you may not expect, but the idea still works. It works for each “piece” as it plays against the others in its area of operation and the winner is the one whose “pieces” are aware of this idea and get things right more often. In the 1940 NFL Championship game, the Chicago Bears used multiple threats to beat a good Washington Redskins team 72 to zero. The key to their success was a closely-guarded secret for over 20 years even though other football teams immediately started to design offensive plays with double, triple and even quadruple threats. (To find the whole story, google “football” plus “Clark Shaughnessy” or “Heinz Guderian”).

In chess the threats and features of a position range from the obvious to the subtle, and any differences in playing strength lie largely in the ability to see what is there to see. No one sees it all, not even the world champs or the computers. What a great game.

The example I am submitting includes examples of multiple threats, but it also has a multiple choice: I deliberately gave my opponent the choice to accept a gambit or not. But I’ll let the game tell that story.

My last-round opponent had buzzed through six straight opponents with six straight wins. His nearest competitor, my friend Paul Dietz, was a point behind. Naturally Paul wanted me to play, at all cost, for a win.

What I remembered was that former world chess champion Emanuel Lasker used select openings or moves that might not be best, but which made his opponents uncomfortable for some reason. So I decided to try doing that for the first time in my career. Fortunately I was playing the white pieces.

Scotch Gambit (C44)
Lewis Jenkins
Robert Martin
1973 Summit Co Champ

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. c3

4. ... d5

He declines, and this is the correct way to do it. As per my Lasker hunch, I expected this; he only needs a draw.

5. exd5 Qxd5 6. cxd4 Bg4

Also good, and equalizing, is 6. ... Bb4+ (or 6. ... Nf6) 7. Nc3 Nf6 8. Be2 Ne4 (Ljubomir Ljubojevic-Lajos Portisch, 1975).

7. Be2

This protects the knight, allows castling, and shields both queen and king. Tactically, 7. ... Bxf3 8. Bxf3 Qxd4 fails to 9. Bxc6+ because Black’s queen is now undefended but attacked.


7. ... 0-0-0

While this move is okay, it leads to more complex positions than 7. ... Bb4+, switching to simpler and well-analyzed-to-equality lines noted above.

8. Nc3 Qa5

Again threatening the d4-pawn, but 8. ... Bb4 is better, pinning knight to king. Then 9. 0-0 Bxc3 10. bxc3 protects the d4-pawn, so maybe he wanted to keep his king’s bishop on the board, and keep my queen’s pawn isolated.

Encyclopedia of Chess Openings prefers 8. ... Qd7.

9. Be3 Nf6 10. 0-0

Great opening guru Igor Zaitsev played here 10. h3 and only after 10 ... Bh5, 11. 0-0—to be able, in a proper moment, to cut off Black’s light-square bishop with g2-g4 (Igor Zaitsev-Vladimir Baikov, 1972).

10. ... h6
He prevents Ng5 and the threat of a castle fork on f7, but Black does not have time for prophylaxis. He must develop his pieces to good places like ... Bb4 and ... Nd5. I think ... h6 is almost a losing move. Black must exchange minor pieces to expose the weakness of the d4-pawn. White must avoid exchanges and use that pawn as a support post or possibly as an assault weapon if Black does not blockade it.

I’d add 10. ... Bc5 to the list of candidate moves.

11. a3
Preventing ... Bb4 (as well as 11. ... Bc5—L.A.) and preparing b2-b4.

11. ... Nd5
I think this is a good move. It blocks the d4-pawn and threatens to win the minor exchange on e3, which would also eliminate one of White’s attackers (but f2xe3 would then protect the d4-pawn and expose the f7-pawn to White’s rook).

12. Rc1 Be7 13. b4

13. ... Nxc3
I had also considered ... Qxa3 and ... Nxc3!. On the latter, I had not decided yet whether to exchange queens. If 13. ... Qxa3, I got as far as 14. Nxd5 Rxh5 15. b5 and was working out where the knight could go and what I would do about it. An inventory of the position shows that the a3- queen is vulnerable to a rook attack from Ra1 (and then to a7 once the knight moves).

After 13. ... Nxc3 both the “normal” 14. fxe3 and the subtle 14. Qb3 favor White— the latter a good example of a double threat.

14. Rxc3 Qh5 15. Rxc6
Also very powerful is 15. h3.

15. ... bxc6 16. Qa4 Bd6
Of course the Exchange sacrifice is obvious, but I don’t think Black considered this threat when he chose 13. ... Nxc3.

17. ... Bc5 16. Qa4 Bd6
Black threatens either mate on h2 after ... Bxf3, or the win of a piece.

17. Ba6+
I’d prefer 17. h3, but 17. Ba6+ is also fine.

17. ... Kb8
17. ... Kb8 is better, but Rob said he didn’t see White’s 21st move and was therefore reluctant to move his king into the center where there is 17. ... Kd7 18. Ne5+ Bxe5 19. dxex5 Qxe5 20. Bc5! (making the king’s escape difficult) followed by 21. Bb7. Black may get away but I was willing to try this line.

I agree. In fact, White is much better here.

18. Ne5
Halting the mate threat.

18. ... Bxe5
18. ... Bxe5 provides a more stubborn—but hardly sufficient—defense.

19. dxe5 Qxe5
This pawn was cutting the black queen off from the defense, but it is now too late. Incidentally, 19. ... Bc8 fails to 20. Be2, winning either the king or the queen.

20. Bxa7+
This sacrifice prepares a powerful discovered check, aka, double-attack.

20. ... Kxa7 21. Bb5+

21. ... Kb7

22. Qa6+
The true target here is not a pawn, but the king.

22. ... Ka8

23. Bxc6, Black resigned.

As Paul lost, I took second place on tiebreaks!

Mr. Jenkins made a good opening choice, cleverly taking into account his opponent’s tournament situation. Starting with a gambit (which was wisely declined) Mr. Jenkins continued to play, and play well, as a true master-gambiteer (13. b4!!, 15. Rxc6), demonstrated imagination, good calculation, and good judgment—and won deservedly.
WE CONTINUE OUR PROGRESS REPORT on the seven-man database that we looked at in the April issue. Modern works eliminate cooks by checking with a computer before the works are ever published. Below is a study I have constructed based on the game Eljanov-Arutinian from the 2007 European Championship. I have added a prelude that hides the stalemate idea.

Pal Benko

1. Nb3
Interesting is that 1. a4? b4! wins, but 1. ... bxa4? 2. Nc4 draws.
1. ... Bd5 2. Nc1
Awful is 2. Kd2?, allowing 2. ... Bxb3 winning.
2. ... Kb6 3. Kd2 Ka5 4. Kc3 Bc4 5. a3 Ka4 6. Kb2
It is Zugzwang so the player who is to move only has bad moves.

Such possibilities rarely present themselves in real games, and even then it is unusual to notice them. A study’s purpose is not only aesthetics, but to teach practical values.

Frequently, the method of saving a faulty study is to simply replace one piece, as we’ll see in my correction to this next example.

B. Sakharov, Shakhmaty v SSSR 1954

(see diagram top of next column)
1. Nf3 Kf5
If 1. ... Bf6, then 2. Bc8 mate.
2. Nxh4+
Much worse is 2. Bc8+? Kf4.
2. ... Kg4 3. Nf5 Kxf5

P. Larsen
Tidskrift för Schack, 1897
version P. Michelet, 2005


(B-K) The idea is nice but after 2. ... Ke5! 3. d6 h2 4. d7 h1=Q 5. d8=Q Qxb1+ Black wins.

P. Benko correction
Let’s move the a2-bishop to g8. Then:
1. d5+ Kd6 2. Bh7 Kxd5
2. ... Ke5 3. d6! is now good enough for a draw.
3. Bf5 draws as we have already seen.

P. Benko correction
Let’s place the f7-pawn on h7. Now, after 1. Nf3 Bf6, 2. Bc8+ also wins since there is no immediate mate. The rest after 1. ... Kf5 we have seen earlier.

Naturally, it is not always possible to correct faulty studies with one bold change—often skillful manipulation combined with hard labor is needed.

In a time without computers, the author may have judged the position as a draw. In my improvement below I have managed to improve the aesthetics.

L. Nyevevzkey version by P. Benko
(see diagram top of next page)
1. b5 f3 2. Bc5 Be1 3. b6

If the intention is to enrich the theme,
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: pbenco@uschess.org

WHITE TO PLAY AND DRAW

it is sometimes inevitable that a piece must be added to create the improvement and correction.

P. Benko
after Pogosyan E. 1977

BLACK TO PLAY AND WHITE WINS

1. c6 Rf1
Losing on the spot is 1. ... Kxe8 2. c7 Kd7 3. e6+.

2. Nd6!
White only draws after 2. c7? Rc1 3. Kb7 Kf7!.

2. ... exd6 3. exd6 Rc1 4. Kb7 Ke8 5. Kc7 Rd1 6. e4 Rd2 7. e5 etc. wins.

The original study lacked the e3-pawn, but then after 1. c6 Rf1 2. c7 Rc1 3. Kb7 Kf7! Black could draw.

The next study is a kindred spirit to the previous one.

T. Kok 1941

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN?


No better is 7. ... Rh8 8. Nb5 c6 (or 8. ... c5 9. Kb7) 9. Nc7 wins.


The original work has been not only corrected, but enriched as well with two “switch-back” motifs (Nd6-e8+ then Ne8-Nd6 and the king starting and returned to c2).

Finally, let’s examine a new study that was sent in by a reader.

Eddie Wickoff NM, 2012

BLACK TO PLAY AND WHITE DRAWS

The intended solution given is:

1. ... Qxg5
Also bad is 1. ... Qxe6? 2. Qg7+! Nxg7 3. Bd4+ Ka2 4. Bb3+ Kb3 5. Bc5 mate.


Shortly after sending in the study the author indicated that the computer did find another solution: 1. ... h1=Q 2. Rxe6 Nxe3+ 3. Qxe3 Qb1+ 4. Kc2 Qc2+ 5. Ke3 Qd3+ 6. Kd4 Qxe3+ 7. dxe3 g1=Q that also draws. He asked for my help. This work presents original ideas with an unusual start so I found it deserves attention. I tried to improve it and made it a win with a further idea that the author accepted; see the “Bafflers.”

ENDGAME LAB / INSTRUCTION
BACK IN 2000 DAVID WOOLF, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF development for the Emory Eye Center, attended the original Castle Chess Camp run by Dr. Robert Ferguson in Bradford, Pennsylvania. David loved it, and decided to re-create the experience in Atlanta. Thus was born the Castle Chess Camp at Emory University, with David as president of the sponsoring organization, Emory Chess Association, and camp director.

The culmination of the camp is a tournament open to campers, staff, and outside players. It drew 141 players in its first year. Two years later the number of attendees surpassed 200, and it drew more than 200 players every year through 2007.

Following the 2007 camp David Woolf decided that he could no longer devote the significant amount of time necessary to running it and informed everyone connected to it that the camp would cease to be. A group of us who had been assisting with the camp decided that it and its tournament were important to Atlanta, and we formed a new organization, Castle Chess Inc., to continue the tradition. We ran the camp in 2008 and have done so every year since.

For the “lucky” 13th year that there has been a Castle Camp in Atlanta we are raising the tournament prize fund to $12,000, all of it fully guaranteed. This payout is the most guaranteed money of any tournament in the Southeast.

So who is likely to win the Castle Chess Grand Prix tournament? Well, to start with, you’re probably going to have to be a grandmaster to do it. Only Life Master David Vest, who tied for first in 2003, IM Jonathan Schroer, who won in 2004, and IM/WGM Anna Zatonskih, who tied for first in 2005 were non-grandmaster champions. The most successful, by far, has been GM Julio Becerra. Playing almost every year, he has twice been first alone, and four times he has tied for the top prize. Other past winners are GMs Varuzhan Akobian, Yury Shulman, Alejandro Ramirez, Ildar Ibragimov, Greg Serper, and Babakuli Annakov.

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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 May 8 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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<td>14 IM Andranik Matikozyan CA</td>
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<td>15 IM Jay Richard Bonin NY</td>
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IM Daniel Naroditsky is appearing much more adult these days than when he appeared on our February 2008 cover.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS

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ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by May 8, 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.

### 2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

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### CHECK OUT USCF’S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

#### 2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

**2ND PLACE** $500 • **3RD** $300 • **4TH THRU 10TH PLACE** $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25

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. These new to USCF Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength:

- **Class A:** 1600-1799 (strong); 1st-place winner receives a certificate.
- **Class B:** 1399 and below (beginner level); 1st-place winner receives a trophy.
- **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); 1st-place prize merchandise credit of $30.
- **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). 1st-place winner receives $130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas.

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

#### 2013 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

**2ND PLACE** $500 • **3RD** $300 • **4TH THRU 10TH PLACE** $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25

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.

- **2ND PLACE** $500 • **3RD** $300 • **4TH THRU 10TH PLACE** $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $5.
- **WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY** 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 $10. 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 past office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.
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"Your website was integral to our team’s winning."
- Mike Hosford, Coach Alcott Elementary 2008 Washington State Grades 4-6 Champions

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Works on Windows and Macintosh computers (requires internet access)

To learn more, call 650-284-5062 877-378-4319 (US toll-free)
email info@ChessMagnetSchool.com

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LETTER OF INTENT

A Promise For Tomorrow

In future support of the work of the U.S. Chess Trust, I want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of services by the U.S. Chess Trust.

Therefore,

☐ I have made provision ☐ I will make provision

to support the U.S. Chess Trust by:

☐ making a bequest or endowment provision in my Will
☐ creating a charitable remainder or lead trust naming the U.S. Chess Trust as a beneficiary.
☐ establishing an endowment or special fund at the U.S. Chess Trust.
☐ directing the trustees or directors of my foundation to continue beyond my lifetime making an annual gift to the U.S. Chess Trust.
☐ Making an outright gift to the U.S. Chess Trust during my lifetime in the sum of $__________.

This Letter of Intent represents my commitment to the work of the U.S. Chess Trust. It does not represent a legal obligation and may be changed by me at any time.

Whatever the amount of your gift, when you leave a legacy for the future of the U.S. Chess Trust, you are an important part of the Promise for Tomorrow.

Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information and email Barbara DeMaro at bduscf@aol.com (845-527-1167)

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor. Write or send an email to Barbara DeMaro, bduscf@aol.com for this amount. Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax-deductible. A 501(c)(3) organization. BD:08/03

U.S. Chess Trust

www.uschess.org
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USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

114th annual (2013) U.S. Open  July 27-August 4 • Madison, Wisconsin
2013 Women’s U.S. Open  July 31-August 4 • Madison, Wisconsin
2013 U.S. Blind Chess Championship  August 9-10 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2013 U.S. Class Championship  September 27-29 or 28-29 • Houston, Texas

FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)

2013 U.S. Cadet  July 20-23 • Rockville, Maryland
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
2017 K-12 Grade Championship  December 8-10 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 11-13 • Nashville, Tennessee
2018 K-12 Grade Championship  December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida
2019 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 10-12 • Nashville, Tennessee
2019 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2020 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 8-10 • Nashville, Tennessee
2020 K-12 Grade Championship  December 11-13 • Orlando, Florida

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.

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. 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

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $255 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.
Under 2300: $600. Top Candidate Master (or higher title) Under 2100: $400-225-125, U2100 $200. NH Champion to top scoring NH resident. U1950: $180-120-80, U1500 $120, U1000 $80, U500 $50. All: EF $55 if recd by 6/12, $55 at site, GMs free. Special EF $55 discount to players 18 and over who are USCF 1200 or Over. Entry: 9AM-12NS. Phone: 6/14 and 8/30-9:30 a.m. Sat. 6/15. Players entering Sat receive 1/2 pt. bye for Rd 1. Rds: 7 PM. Sun 3-8:30 pm. U.S. Chess Life for Kids (see website for details).

USCF Membership Rates (P and Regular) (U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

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Effective with TLA's submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control rating increment or time delay if even is zero (0d).

SUBLIMATIONS: E-mail your tla to: tla@uschess.org (Jean Dubois). For tla deadline scheduling, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 pg. 50 and 51 or check www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo. Payment can be done online through the TD/Affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. 

Socal Class Championship

USCF and Schachtopf USA (Socals) are sponsoring a USCF National Event. 4 or 5 SS (depends on # of players). U.S. Holiday Inn Executive Hotel, 3313 Campbells Run Road (near airport), Pittsburgh, PA 15227, (412) 880-6400. Free shuttle to/from airport. EF: Free; Reg: Sat., Aug. 24; $200. Tournaments + Championships + corrections! www.uschess.org/tournaments/2013/womens. Phone: 800-903-8723. Cell phones are not allowed. Games in progress, you could be disqualified. All: Contact Richard Varchetto, richard521@suddenlink.net. Phone: (h) 304-636-4034, (c) 304-210-3412.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix


TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 300

Includes traditional one game per day schedule (9 days), also 5-day slow time control option, and 4-day option requiring only 3 nights hotel stay for most players. 95S, 40/2, 25/1 (4 day option, Rdts. 2-6, 6-10/90). Madison Marriott at Hammons Field, 1010 Convention Center Blvd., 65201. Free Parking. HR: $99 single/quad, $888.745-2032, reserve by July 12 or rate may increase. $500 in prizes based on paid 500 entries, else proportional.

$250 for USCF National event. 4 SS or 4 RR (depends on # of players), G/135. Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport, 1910 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX 77071. www.marriott.com/hoteis/travel/tahu/ohobby-airport-marriott/. Free parking $97 HR $143-220, Group Code: CHESS. Sections. Rated players may play up to one class only. MASTER (up to 2000), FIDE Rated, 1400-1499, 1000-1099, 600-699, 200-299, 100-129, 0-99. All: Contact Richard Varchetto, richard521@suddenlink.net. Phone: (h) 304-636-4034, (c) 304-210-3412. Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix AUG. 9-10, PENNSYLVANIA

2013 U.S. Blind Chess Championship USCF & U.S. Chess Association (USCA) are sponsoring the U.S. National Event. 4 SS (or 5 SS depending on # of players). U.S. Holiday Inn Express Hotel, 3313 Campbells Run Road (near airport), Pittsburgh, PA 15227, (412) 880-6400. Free shuttle to/from airport. EF: Free; Reg: Sat., Aug. 24; $200. Tournaments + Championships + corrections! All: players must be classified as Legally Blind and bring proof of blindness. Sponsored by a current partner of the USCF for a 3rd year. You can join the USCF at the event! HR: $99; code: Contact Richard Varchetto, richard521@suddenlink.net. Phone: (h) 304-636-4034, (c) 304-210-3412.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)


Info: BayAreaChess.com/social. E: ask@BayAreaChess.com. T: 408.765.5151. NC, W.

A Heritage Event! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

JUNE 14-16, NEW MEXICO TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Tennis at the U.S. Open U.S. Open Tennis Tournament

13rd New Hampshire Open

65-S, Rd. 140-100, 65/10 darts. Rdts. 2-7 10-150, 6D/60 darts. Comfort Inn, exit 4 (Queen City Bridge) off I-93, Manchester, NH 03109-6300. $200, 3rd of 3 games. Open: $400-225-125, U2100 $200. NM Champion to top scoring NH resident. U1950: $180-120-80, U1500 $120, U1000 $80, U500 $50. All: EF $55 if recd by 6/12, $55 at site, GMs free. Special EF $55 discount to players 18 and over who are USCF 1200 or Over. Entry: 9AM-12NS. Phone: 6/14 and 8/30-9:30 a.m. Sat. 6/15. Players entering Sat receive 1/2 pt. bye for Rd 1. Rds: 7 PM. Sun 3-8:30 pm. U.S. Chess Life for Kids (see website for details).

USCF Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

JUNE 14-16 OR 18-26, CALIFORNIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)

Meetings 16th Annual Golf Tournament for the U.S. Open Chess Play-
June 2013 | Chess Life

Tournament Life / June

Annual Meeting Sun. at 9:00 a.m. NHCA memb. req. for rated NH residents: $8 adult, $6 junior 12 & under; Bye: 1-4 with entry, limit 2. Unrated may play in any sect. but can't win 1st except in Open. In Open: $800-$800 in advance, $850 afterward or at site. TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, OHIO
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, FLORIDA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (NEW YORK)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (NEW YORK)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, GEORGIA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21 OR 22-23, FLORIDA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21 OR 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

Marshall Masters.

Masters) ing over 50% in any MCC Open or U2300 event since the prior month's point.net. Cks. payable to NHCA. NS. W.

Club Members.

Top section based on 175 entries (U1300 count as 1/2 entries) B) U2200: $675-350-175; U2300: $550-$300-150; U2500 $250-$125-60. U2000 $150. Unrated may win place prizes only. EF: $55 if received and paid by 6/15, $65 afterward or at site. 3-day schedule: Reg. Fri. 6:00-7:00pm, Rds. Fri. 7:30pm, Sat. 1:30 & 7:30, Sun. 9:30 & 3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg. Sat. 8:30am, Rds. Sat. 10:00-1:30-7:30, Sun. 9:30 & 3:30. Entry fees:

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, OHIO
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, FLORIDA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21 OR 22-23, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (NEW YORK)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21 OR 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (NEW YORK)

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21 OR 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (NEW YORK)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 19-21, 21-23 OR 22-23, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

Marshall Masters.

Masters) ing over 50% in any MCC Open or U2300 event since the prior month's point.net. Cks. payable to NHCA. NS. W.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 22, ALABAMA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6
Monterey Open
455, TC: G/75 d5.
Montgomery Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Glenn Ave., Columbus, OH 43212. Inquires: (614) 486-6850 or (614) 228-8111. Entry forms available at our website: www.centralchessclub.com.

JUNE 27, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
Marshall CC 7/26-27 HIGHLIGHTS


TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)
DC International
65, 40/120 G/25 d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. EF $45, membership fee free from deduction from prize. $550 guaranteed.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 27-29, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Marshall $500 FIDE BILZ (BLZ)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
2013 DCC Fide Open W
5S, 5/90 with 30 sec. inc. Dallas Chess Club, 200 S. Cottonwood Dr. #C, Richardson, TX 75080. Two sections: Open and Reserve. Section: Open $325 mailed by 6/18, $327 online by 6/23, $350 at tmt. USA players FIDE rated 2200/up: $50, GMs, IMs, WGMs free; $150 deducted from prize (no deduction from minimum $50). Prize limits apply. No residence requirements.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 29-30, TEXAS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Dallas City Championship

5S, 90/110, SD/30, d10, clear win or 1st on tiebreak $100 reward.

All ratings paid

July 19-21 or 20-21, 2013 Westchin North Chicago Hotel
$20,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND!

5 rounds, Westchin North Shore Hotel, 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling IL 60090. Free parking.

In 8 sections; no unrateds in Master or Expert. No residence requirements. An Illinois Chess Tour event. JUNE 23-29, OKLAHOMA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20
6th Oklahoma Open


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 29-30, TEXAS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Dallas Chess Club, see address above. www.chessaction.com. Invitations: GoAtChess.us. Use @ symbol instead of period.

San Antonio City Championship

To play for the top 5, U800, U600, Unrated. No residence requirements.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 29-30, TEXAS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

LACC - June Open

(Sponsored by Harold C. Valery, Inc.) 6SS, Rds. 1-2 G/90 d5, Rds. 3-5 G/120 d5. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. EF $45, membership fee free from deduction from prize. $550 guaranteed.


All: No smoking. Bring clocks, sets, boards if possible-none supplied. JGP.

Hotel rates: $105-105-105-105, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by July 5 or rate may increase.

Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 4842, Pelham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Questions: Director@Chess.U, chesstour.com, 347-201-2269.

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

June 2013  |  Chess Life

2000/Unr:
Hyatt Regency Crystal City (see World Open). Prize $1200
2000-1000, $800-600, top U1200 $400. All 3 prizes for same
player. No entries. Free analysis of your game by GM Sam Palatnik 7/3; for GM lectures.
ate 9 am 7/5 & 7/6.

NOTE NEW OPEN TIME CONTROL AND TWO WEEKEND SCHEDULE. 9SS.

Tourney: (Under 1400/unrated): $400-200- 100. $50 Postmarked by 28 June, $55 at site.

www.chesstour.org under Weekend Events.

An American Classic!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

July 5-7, 4-7, 5-7 OR June 29-July 7:

SCCF Pacific Southwest Open

7/5-3/4 by 5/5 2-day: 2,000-1,200, 1,000-600.

Players: USCF rating list not a factor, so those with rating

Grand Prix Prizes:
7/7-1/5 by 7-8, 800-700-600-500, top U1000 $105, middle

Entry fee for Open through Under 1400: Online at chessat.com by 5/28, $35 by 5/25, $30 by 5/22, 25% to

Dr. Nelida Diaz, 225 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Prize: $10,000-$5,000, $1,500-$500 of first place for

day: 9/16 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, 7-8, 10-11 am. Reserve list now online. World Open! Email: info@metrochessa.com. Website. Online entry: www.metrochessoa.com Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 251212, Los Angeles, CA 90025-1125. Serve by 7/1.

7/5-7, 6/7-7, $1000-$700-$500-$300-$100, top U900 $100.

3) Unrated

Trophies PLUS Grand Prix Points: 30 (ENHANCED)

1-Day Open World Wide

FOR FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

July 5-7 OR 6-7, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

Trophies PLUS Grand Prix Points: 10

2013 Sacramento Chess Open

SSS. Rating: Full-K: Site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2224 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95829. SOUTHERN

Open: 90, SD/60, Chronos use setting CH-P6, FIDE rated.

US players not FIDE rated 2200 or over.

7/5-7, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sun 10 am - 6:00 pm. 4/30-$250-$150-$50, top U1000 $150. All prizes for same

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

7/5-7, 4-7, 5-7 OR June 29-July 7: $95-95-105-115, 703-418-1234, ask for chess rate, may sell out

USCF Pacific Southwest Open!

JULY 6, 2013

Saint Louis Premier & Amateur

2013 BRADLEY OPEN

5 rounds, Sheraton Hotel (visible at Bradley Airport entrance),

Under 1400/Unr:

Premier: (Under 2000): $$750-300-200-100,

2 of the 3-day schedule: $40. EF: $40, Master/Expert 1st Place 350

JULY 6, 2013

Saint Louis, Missouri.

JULY 6, 2013

7/5-7, 6/7-7, $1000-$700-$500-$300-$100, top U900 $100.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

Saint Louis Premier & Amateur

SSS. Rating: Full-K: Site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2224 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95829. SOUTHERN

JULY 6-7, WISCONSIN

Special rules: Bring set, board, clock, if possible- none supplied.

In 2 sections.

1 Day: $323, 2-day $322, 7-day $330, 2-weekend $322.

7/5-7, 6/7-7, $850-550-350-250, top U1500 $250, U1300 $200, no unrated may win over $150. EF: $40,

7/7-1/5 by 7-8, 800-700-600-500, top U1000 $105, middle

Special rules:

4) Balance

1300-1000-750-500-250, top U1200 $250, U1000 $150, no unrated may win over $150. EF: $40,

7/5-7, 6/7-7, $900-600-300-150, top U1300 $150, U1100 $100, no unrated may win over $150. EF: $40,

7/5-7, 6/7-7, $800-500-250, top U1000 $100, U800 $60, top U600 $40. All prizes for same

USCF Pacific Southwest Open!

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

Postal Chess Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63110. Free entries for GMs and IMs.

$25, $20 for annual members who are registered by 7/7. PP: $75 entry fee, includes $500 FIDE rated

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

July 5-7 OR 6-7, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

Trophies PLUS Grand Prix Points: 6

Saint Louis Premier & Amateur

SSS. Rating: Full-K: Site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2224 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95829. SOUTHERN

Open:

Reg.

7/5-3/4 by 5/5 2-day: 2,000-1,200, 1,000-600.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

World Open 7–Minute Championship (BLZ)

2013 Bradley Open

July 19-21 or 20-21, Windsor Locks CT

$8,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES

7 rounds, Shelton Hotel (Visible at Bradley Airport entrance),

Windsor Locks, CT. Free parking & airport shuttle. Choice of 3-day or 2-day.

Room rates $95 single or twin. In 5 sections (lower EF in U1210):

Open Section: Prizes $1000-500-300, top Under 2130 $300-150. 5 Grand Prix Prizes (enhanced).


Unrated limit $150 in U1210, $300 U1000, $500 U8100.

鸡肉 Life for June

Trophies PLUS Grand Prix Points: 30 (ENHANCED)

Atlantic World Open

5 rounds, Atlantic City Beach Boardwalk (see World Open). Prize $6,000
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43rd annual CONTINENTAL OPEN

Aug 8-11, 9-11 or 10-11 - $30,000 projected prizes, $24,000 minimum!

6 rounds, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, Sturbridge MA - big summer vacation spot

43rd Annual Continental Open

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3:45 PM. All schedules: Half paint bye ok all, 2 Open must commit before 2, otherwise no. 4:00 PM. Under 1500: $1200-600-300-200, top U1300 ($400) 5:00 PM. Under 1200: $1800-1200-600-300, top U1100 ($400) 5:30 PM. Under 1000: $2500-1500-900-600, top U900 ($400) 6:00 PM. Under 800: $3500-2500-1500-900, top U700 ($400) 6:30 PM. Under 600: $4900-3500-2500-1500, top U500 ($400) 7:00 PM. Under 400: $6900-5000-3500-2500, top U300 ($400) 7:30 PM. Under 200: $9800-7500-5000-4000, top U100 ($200) 8:00 PM. Under 100: $13,000-10,000-7500-6000, top U50 ($200) 8:30 PM. Under 50: $17,000-14,000-10,000-7500, top U20 ($200) 9:00 PM. Under 15: $22,000-18,000-15,000-12,000, top U10 ($200) 9:30 PM. Under 10: $27,000-24,000-20,000-18,000, top U5 ($200) 10:00 PM. Under 5: $35,000-30,000-25,000-22,000, top U2 ($200) 10:30 PM. Under 1: $48,000-45,000-40,000-37,000, top U1 ($200)
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 5 (ENHANCED)

3. TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet Junior Grand Prix! Award. There will be NEW TROPHIES plus GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

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Unrated
$300-150-100, trophy to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated.

5SS, G/15+10 incr. Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD
Washington International Rapid (QC)
AUG. 10, MARYLAND
shallchessclub.org.
Limit 2 byes, request entry. FIDE rated. FIDE ratings used for pairings and

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, INDIANA
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, INDIANA
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, INDIANA
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
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 funds than you pay out in prizes.

The affiliation fee is just $40. 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 joandubois@uschess.org. We’ll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess.
guaranteed. In 7 sections: Master: Open to US players rated at least 2000 USCF or FIDE and all FIDE rated players. $480-2000, $600-1000, $800-600, $1000-800, $1200-600, $1400-400, clear or tiebreak first bonus $200, FIDE Under 2400/Unr $1600-800. Minimum prize $700 to first 5 foreign GMs to enter who play all 9 rounds (no byes). $200 to first 5 foreign IMs to enter who play all 9 rounds (no byes). GMs in B norms permitted, FIDE rated. Expert (2000-2199): $2000-1000, $1500-700, $1200-500, $1000-400, $800-300, $600-200, $500-100. Class C (1400-1599): $1500-700, $1200-500, $1000-400, $800-300, $600-200, $500-100. Class D (1200-1399): $1200-500, $1000-400, $800-300, $600-200, $500-100. Class A through E players may play up one class. Prize limits: Unrated (1-3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over $200 in E, $400 D, $600 C, $900 B, $1200 A. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). Avis, 800-331-1222, check-in by 2:30p. 6/day, with or without guest room. Parking Free to IMs, WGMs: $30 at chessaction.com by 10/8, $40 online at chessaction.com by 10/9, $70 at site (no checks, credit cards OK; $150 at site). Special USCF dues: see Chess Life or chess.com. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Regional

Alabama

JUNE 22, Montgomery Open See Grand Prix.

JULY 20, Evangel Grand Prix See Grand Prix.

JULY 26-28 OR 27-28, 21st annual Southern Open (FL) See Grand Prix.

Arizona

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! Tuesday Night Open

For 4 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUNDS TIMES: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/120, SD/60, 35 moves in 2 hours before round 1. $1500 for 44 players. Special Chess rate valet parking $10/day, with or without guest room. Courtyard Marriott, Fremont, CA 94538.

California, Northern

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! See Grand Prix.

California, Southern

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Summer Sunshine Sat Night Marathon 555$s/44, 7000 + 490 - 30; 18000 690/df 6; 13794 A Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Sched: Sat 6:30p. Prize: EF $330, after it. Higher b. 2 sec 1000; $1800. Info: BayAreaChess.com/weekly. NS. NC.

JUNE 22, Chess4Less Bay Area Quads See Grand Prix.

JUNE 22, Chess4Less Bay Area Quads See Grand Prix.

JUNE 29, Chess4Less SuperSwiss (4SSxG/60) See Grand Prix.

JULY 14, Cupertino Quads See Grand Prix.

JULY 14, Cupertino Quads See Grand Prix.

JULY 26-28 OR 27-28, 18th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA) See Grand Prix.

JULY 27, Chess4Less Bay Area Quads See Grand Prix.

JULY 27, Chess4Less Bay Area Quads See Grand Prix.

AUG. 4, Fremont Quads See Grand Prix.

AUG. 11, Cupertino Quads See Grand Prix.

18th annual PACIFIC COAST OPEN

July 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21, 2013 - $25,000 projected prizes, $20,000 minimum

6 rounds, Sheraton Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit), 26 miles west of Burbank. Free parking.

Hotel rates: $95-95, 818-707-1220, reserve by 7/3 or rate may increase.

Open Section 3-day & 4-day 40/110, SD/30, d10. Other sections 3-day & 4-day 30/90, SD/1, d5 (no 4-day U1200). 2-day option all sections, rds 1-3 G/45, d5, then merges with others.

Prizes $25,000 based on 230 paid entries; min. guarantee $20,000 (80% each prize). Re-entries, U1200 sections count as half entries. 7 sections:

Open: $3000-1500-700-400, clear or tiebreak win $100 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr $1400-700. FIDE rated, 150 GCPF (enhanced).


Under 1900: $1500-700-400.

Under 1700: $1200-500-300.

Under 1500: $1000-400-200, top Under 1300 (no unr) $400.

Adult U1200 (born 1995/before): $500-300-200-100, top 3 sections entry fee: $135 at chessaction.com by 7/16, $140 phoned by 7/16 (408-896-2038), 4-day $139, 3-day $138, 2-day $137 mailed by 7/9, $150 at site (no checks, credit cards OK) or online until 2 hrs before game.

Under 1200 sections entry fee: $65 at chessaction.com by 7/16, $70 phoned by 7/16, $80 at site, or online until 2 hours before game. Special USCF dues: see Chess Life or chess.com. USCF membership required. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

SCCF membership ($18, jr $10) required for rated So. Calif. residents.

4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6:30 pm, rds Thu 7 am, Fri 6 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 11 am & 4:30 pm.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 noon & 6 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 11 am & 4:30 pm.

2-day schedule: Reg Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10 am, 12:45 pm, 3:15 pm & 6 pm; Sun 11 am & 4:30 pm.

Half-point byes OK all (limit 2); Open must commit before round 2, other sections before round 4.

All: Bring set, board, clock if possible. JGP. Re-entry (no Open) $70.

Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 4842, Peihn NY 10803. $15 charge for refunds. Questions: chesstour.com, director@chess.us, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).
California, Southern

The Los Angeles Chess Club

Beverly Hills Chess Club
Join the elite group of chess enthusiasts! Curriculum based instruction from ages 3 up to adult. In the Beverly Hills Chess Club, Simultaneous, Open & Scholastic tournaments, Camps, Adult events, Member-only events and more...
Beverly Hills, CA 90211. In the Beverly Hills Plaza (Corner of Lapeer Dr. & Beverly) 310/274-7873, email us at info@bhchessclub.com, website www.bhchessclub.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JUNE 18 & 19, 2013, Santa Monica, CA. LACC - Sat & Sun 6/15 & 16, 9-12a-2p, 6-6:30 pm. LACC - Sat & Sun 6/22, 9-12a-2p, 6-6:30 pm. Ridge, CA. 500SS, G/30 d5. 1639A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035.

JUNE 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, LACC - Saturday 6/15
355, G/355. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA 90025, 2nd Fl. Rds.: 12-1, 2, 4 a.m. Prizes: 1/2 collections. Parking: Free on streets & basement.

JUNE 1, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - LACC - Every Sunday Chess 4 Juniors.
5 separate events: 3 Sections: <1000, >1000, >2000. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd & Butler, LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks West of 405, EF: $30 (LACC memb), siblings 1/2, Free new LACC memb. Reg: 11-12 pm. Rds.: 12-1, 2, 4, 6 a.m. Parking: Free on streets & basement.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - LACC - Every Sunday Chess 4 Juniors.
5 separate events: 3 Sections: <1000, >1000, >2000. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd & Butler, LA, 90025, 2nd fl. Rds.: 12-1, 2, 4, 6 a.m. Parking: Free on streets & basement.

JUNE 14-16 or 15-16, SeCoal Class Championship
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 15, SoCal Kids Class Championship

JUNE 23, 2013 California 50th Scholastic-K-12 Championship
4 Sections: 4-5, 6-8, 9-12, Open. 5 blocks West of 405, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd & Butler, LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks West of 405. EF: $35 (S$25 LACC memb, siblings 1/2, Free new LACC memb). Reg: 12-1 pm. Rds.: 1pm & asap. Prizes: Top 6 (top 3 each section) are medals; each player receives a prize! Parking: Free on streets & basement. Free Pizza & juices. Info: (310) 795-5710 or www.LAClub.com or Mick@LAClub.com.

JUNE 29, 2013, Joshua Tree Summer Open

JUNE 29, LACC - June Blitz Open (6/5) (BLZ)

JUNE 29-30, LACC - June Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 5-7 OR 6-7, SCFF Pacific Southwest Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 6, SCFFPSD Scholastics

JULY 18-21, 21-24 OR 20-21, 18th annual Pacific Coast Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 31-3 OR 2-1, 30th Annual Southern California Open
See Grand Prix.

Colorado

AUG. 31-1, September Open
1 pm. See Grand Prix.

Connecticut

JULY 7-3, 4-7, 5-7-1 OR JUNE 29-JULY 7, 41st Annual World Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 18th Annual Bradley Open
See Grand Prix.

Aug. 2-4 OR 3-4, 12th annual Manhattan Open (NY)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 8-11, 9-11 OR 10-11, 43rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18 NOT JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, 19th Annual Northeast Open
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix
JULY 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship
555, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA 90025, 2nd Fl. Rds.: 12-1, 2, 4 pm. Parking: Free on streets & basement.

AUG. 15-17, 4th annual LACC - Saturday 6/16
355, G/355. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA 90025, 2nd Fl. Rds.: 12-1, 2, 4, 6 pm. Parking: Free on streets & basement.

AUG. 23-25 OR 24-25, 45th annual Atlantic Open
See Grand Prix.

Oct. 9, 11, 14 OR 12-14, 4th annual Connecticut Chess Tournament
See Grand Prix.

District of Columbia

AUG. 31-7 OR 29-31, 18th annual SCFF Scholastics
See Grand Prix.

Florida

Chess Magnet School Grand Prix
Newark Chess Club
5 SS, G/75. USCF-rated game every Thursday 7-10 pm. 345 School Bell Rd., Bear, DE 19711. For a full year of weekly games $22 for in-state players, $35 out-of-state. www.newarkchessclub.com, newarkchess@gmail.com.

AUG. 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Connecticut.

See previous issue for TLAs appearing June 1-14
Illinois
North Shore Chess Center
a friendly environment to learn and play chess USCF-rated tournaments every week. Grandmaster lectures and simul monthly, team events, and scholastic camps. Private and group lessons available onsite and at your location. Contact us at 847-423-8626 or sevan@nachess.org. Visit our website at www.nachess.org/events for our full schedule of events. Located at 5550 W. Touhy Ave, Suite A, Glendale, IL 60077 across the street from the Village Crossing Shopping Center.

Renaisance Knights
Illinois’s premier provider of chess tournament, summer camps, enrichment classes, and our Chess in the Classroom Program where we make chess part of the school day. Our monthly Tournament Life program for kids & adults is now in its 8th year & held at the beautiful Cramee Plaza in Northbrook. Contact us at 773.844.0701 or reknights@aol.com. Visit our website at www.rknights.org for our schedule of events and to find out more about our programs.

JUNE 16, 90th Knights Quest
Cramee Plaza Hotel, 2875 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL. USCF Rated Sections: Open (K-12 & Adults), U1400 (K-12 & Adults), U1600 (K-12, Adults, U1600) & U1600 (K-6, Adults). Awards: Top 6 U1000 & U1600 Sections; Top 5 U1600 Open Sections. Players in U1600 receive participation award. Time Control: Game 30 (25 +5) Rds. U1000 & U1600 Sections Game 45 (40/40) Rds. U1400 Open & Sections. Reg.: $1.10-11:30 am. Rds.: 1 at 12:30 pm, rest ASAP EF: $30 early, $35 after Monday before, $45 after Friday before. $5 discount to siblings and team members when registering together. Online Registration: www.rknights.org. Mail-in Reg.: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL, 60065. Info: www.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

JUNE 22, Warriors Open & Reserve
G/60, d5, 3R-SS. Lincoln-West Way HS, 21701 S. Gougard Rd., New Lenox, IL. 60452. 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 stevencraigmiller@comcast.net with questions.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JUNE 7-9, The Greatest 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, $1950-2000-1500-1000-700, 1051-1700 - $400-300-200, 1100-1450 - $400-300-200, Biggest Upset - $200, U1000: Overall - $1500-1200-1000-700, Top 1551-1700 - $400-300-200, 1100-1450 - $400-300-200, Biggest Upset - $200, U1400: Overall: $1500-1200-1000-700, 1130-1300 - $400-300-200, 1500 and below - $400-200-100; Biggest Upset - $200; Billy Colias Memorial Invitational Sectionals: U2200 (FIDE rated): 80-sec. Fri 4:30pm, Sat-Sun 10am and 3:30pm. Classic Sections: 6R-SS Game F1 – 30 sec. Fri 5:30pm, Sat-Sun 10am and 3:30pm, 6R-SS Game 6R – 30 sec. Fri 1pm and 3:30pm, Sat-Sun 10am and 3:30pm each day. On-site reg: Rds. 11:30am Fri or 5:30pm-Sat. Limit 2 byes. Last rd. byes must commit prior to start of Rd 1. Side Events: Grandmaster Simul (RamFri), Blitz (8:30pm Sat). FREE raffle prizes before round 6 with free entry, free room and free airfare to 2014 tournament. Site: Hilti Regency O’Hare, 5300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, IL 60018. HR: $95/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 postalized or online by 4/1/81; $89 online or postalized by 4/6/15; $129 thereafter. Re-entry: $50, $25 to play up 1 section only; Credit Cards onsite OK. No checks onsite. Entry limits to: North American Chess Association (payable to), 4957 Oaklyn St, Suite 111, Skokie, IL 60077. Register online at www.uschess.org. Other info: Boards, sets, and clocks provided. None for skittles. 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 Grunden.

JULY 13, Warriors Open & Reserve
G/60, d5, 3R-SS. Lincoln-West Way HS, 21701 S. Gougard 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 stevencraigmiller@comcast.net with questions.

JULY 14, 91st Knights Quest
Cramee Plaza Hotel, 2875 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL. USCF Rated Sections: Open (K-12 & Adults), U1400 (K-12 & Adults), U1600 (K-12 & Adults, U1600) & U1600 (K-6 & Adults). Awards: Top 6 U1000 & U1600 Sections, Top 5 U1600 Open Sections. Players in U1600 receive participation award. Time Control: Game 30 (25 +5) Rds. U1000 & U1600 Sections Game 45 (40/40) Rds. U1400 Open & Sections. Reg.: 11:00-11:30 am. Rds.: 1 at 12:30 pm, rest ASAP EF: $30 early, $35 after Monday before, $45 after Friday before. $5 discount to siblings and team members when registering together. Online Registration: www.rknights.org; Mail-in Reg.: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL, 60065. Info: www.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

JULY 20-21, 66th annual Chicago Class
See Grand Prix.

JULY 23-24 OR 25-26, 2013 Castle Chess Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

JULY 23-24 OR 25-26, 2013 Houston Open (TX)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 26-28 OR 27-28, 21st annual Southern Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 26-28 OR 27-28, 21st annual Southern Open
See Grand Prix.

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

AUG. 3, Warriors Open & Reserve
G/60, d5, 3R-SS. Lincoln-West Way HS, 21701 S. Gougard 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 stevencraigmiller@comcast.net with questions.

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

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, 8th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
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): KO; 4-5, 6-8, 9-12. Prizes (Boys and Girls each): Grades 9-12: Int-Webster University Scholarship-2nd thru 4th: $150-100-75 value in chess prizes; Grades 4-5 & 6-8: 1st-Brad Mini-2nd thru 4th: $150-100-75 value in chess prizes; Grades K-3: 1st thru 4th:$250-150-75 value in chess prizes. Rounds and Time Control: G/45 d/6 + 5 sec delay; Sat-Sun 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm each day. On-site reg: 9:30-
Indiana

Orange Crush Chess Club Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)
Donatos Pizza, 286 W. US 31 S. USCF rated. Reg.: 6-25 pm. Starts at 6:30 pm. Type: 3 RR Quad, G/4, D/5, BLZ, $125-$75-$25. Entry fee: $10.00, plus $5.00 for each non-USCF player.

Mississippi

AUG. 9-10-11 OR 10-11, 43rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix.

Kansans Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! The Second Saturday of the Month
4005, 4/01 Rd., 10th Ave., Independence, KS. 11-12:45AM, Rd. 1, 11:45AM $30-$20-$10 lst $200, 5:00; $75 Class B, C, C, E & below $20, 10 class: $250-$150-$100-$70; Class X, A, B, C, D, E, U, V; minimum 35 players required for all events except Blitz. None for Skittles. Site: Kansas Chess Magnet School (National Institutes of Health), Bethesda, MD. Every 1st Sat at 7:30 pm. Info: Shall We Play Chess Chess Magnet School, 1215 TEA ave., Suite 112, Overland Park, KS 66202. Info: Call at 913-279-2823 or email akakar pov@att.net. 3 entrances in a classregar for that class prize to be awarded.

Maryland

Maryland Chess Association Open & scholastic tournaments in Maryland listed at www.michess.com.

Michigan

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 22-23, 2013 Michigan Bottom Half Class tournaments are semi-annual club dues) or $1 per game played. Site: Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Minnesota

Minnesota Chess Society Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 19-20-21, 2013 Minneapolis Bottom Half Class tournaments are semi-annual club dues) or $1 per game played. Site: Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mississippi

JUNE 15, Pearl Open
RCS, P. O. Box 568, Pearl, MS 39282. Info: 601-420-2244, $79, $50 without. Prize: 85% of entry fee to cash prizes. Total prize fund: $1000.

Missouri

JUNE 10, 2013 St. Louis Open
CIT, P. O. Box 4563, St. Louis, MO 63166. info: jefferson@chess.com. None. 1st Rd at noon, other rounds ASAP. (You have some time to get something to eat) EF: $1.00 per 100 rating points (e.g. a player rated 1463 would pay $14 EF) Contact: Matthew Gurley (589)-537-1060, mgurley@gmail.com.

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Connecticut.

Massachusetts

JUNE 19, Wachusett Chess Club Blitz Championship (BLZ)
7SS, G/9, d/c. M. McNaughton, 407 Beech St., Fitchburg, MA 01420. EF: $15 or $10 (semi-class event), see Wachusett CC details. Entry Fee: $65-$75. 1st at 7:30 p.m. Byes: 1-5, limit two. Prize: chess books, magazines, imported wooden boards, medals, etc. Info: George McNaughton, 176 Oak Hill Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420, mrlingo@msn.com, 978-345-5011. Website: www.wachusettchess.org. Online quick ratings as of June 19 will be used.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 24, 2013 Houston Open (TX)
Rd. 1st Rd. at noon, subsequent rounds ASAP (you will have some time to get something to eat) EF: $1 per 100 rating points (e.g. a player rated 1463 would pay $14 EF) Contact: Matthew Gurley (589)-537-1060, mgurley@gmail.com.

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Connecticut.

JUNE 19, Wachusett Chess Club Blitz Championship (BLZ)
7SS, G/9, d/c. M. McNaughton, 407 Beech St., Fitchburg, MA 01420. EF: $15 or $10 (semi-class event), see Wachusett CC details. Entry Fee: $65-$75. 1st at 7:30 p.m. Byes: 1-5, limit two. Prize: chess books, magazines, imported wooden boards, medals, etc. Info: George McNaughton, 176 Oak Hill Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420, mrlingo@msn.com, 978-345-5011. Website: www.wachusettchess.org. Online quick ratings as of June 19 will be used.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! JUNE 24, 2013 Houston Open (TX)
Rd. 1st Rd. at noon, subsequent rounds ASAP (you will have some time to get something to eat) EF: $1 per 100 rating points (e.g. a player rated 1463 would pay $14 EF) Contact: Matthew Gurley (589)-537-1060, mgurley@gmail.com.

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Connecticut.
Missouri
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JUNE 29, 2013 Kansas City Open
45S, 6/5 d5, Nail Road. Baptist Church, 4505 S. Nail Road., Independent,
E. MO 64151.
Reg: 8:45 AM.
Rds: 9, 12, 15, 18.
USCF & MCA required.
USCF Email: J-magnet@chessmagnetschool.com
Phone: 816-731-9698.

June 15, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07401. 3 Rds. 9:45-10:45 AM.
Prizes $50 to first in each section. EF: $25.
Reg: 10:45-11:45 AM. EN: Diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net.
ICA provides lunch.

June 15, King’s Chess Club Quads
Morning quads and afternoon quads, G/30, Kindergarten-undergrade
(scholastic, youth, and young adult members) (ages 5-7).
Enrollment: 4/30.
Reg: 10:00-11:00 AM.
LateRegs: 12:00-1:00 PM.
EF: $25.
Enrollment: 4/30.
Reg: 10:00-11:00 AM.
LateRegs: 12:00-1:00 PM.
EF: $25.

June 16, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, G/40 d5. 5SS. All Saints Church, 16 All Saints Rd., Princeton.
Prizes $50 to first in each section.
EF: $25.
Reg: 10:00-11:00 AM.
LateREGs: 1:00-2:00 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Saint Louis Premier & Amateur
See Grand Prix.

July 19-20, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 28-29, 31st Annual Chess Open
See Grand Prix.

New Jersey
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JUNE 1-2, John Barto Memorial Open
JUNE 22, 7th Annual Camden Chess Classic
JUNE 29, 3rd Annual Jersey City Chess Open
JULY 3-4, 5th Annual Westfield Chess Open
JULY 6, 3rd Annual过于New Jersey Chess Invitational
JULY 13, 3rd Annual Jersey City Chess Tournament
JULY 16, 4th Annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
JULY 20, 11th Annual New Jersey Chess Open
JULY 22, 4th Annual Jersey City Chess Open
JULY 28, 5th Annual New Jersey Chess Open
JULY 29, 5th Annual Jersey City Chess Tournament
JULY 30, 6th Annual New Jersey Chess Open
JULY 31, 12th Annual New Jersey Chess Open

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, Chess Mates Wednesday G/90
4-55, 6/5 d5. 1 game per week. Prized $70 to EF:
Reg: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prize cash ($100, $50, $25) for members only.
USCF & MCA required.

JUNE 15, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

JUNE 15, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.

July 6, Chess Mates Saturday Swiss
4-SS, 6-55 d5. EF: $25.
Reg: 11:30-12:30 PM.
LateReg: 1:30-2:30 PM.
EF: $25.
New Mexico

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!


JUNE 20, Marshall Masters! See Grand Prix.


JUNE 18, Marshall! See Grand Prix.

JUNE 15-16 OR 16-17, Marshall Grand Prix! See Grand Prix.


JUNE 14, Marshall! See Grand Prix.


JUNE 12-13 OR 12-14, Marshall Saturday G/45! See Grand Prix.


JUNE 6-7, Marshall Saturday G/15! See Grand Prix.

JUNE 5-6, Marshall Sunday G/15! See Grand Prix.

JUNE 4-5, Marshall Saturday G/15! See Grand Prix.


JUNE 1, Marshall Sunday G/15! See Grand Prix.

FOR FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue.

See previous issue for TLAs appearing June 1-14
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**JULY 20, Syracuse-Minoa Junior Open**

- **Rds:** 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5
- **Site:** 932 Main St., Minoa, NY. (913) 885-9090.
- **Contact:** James Geddes, CCM, 301-873-8542.
- **Entry Fee:** $120, members $60.
- **Prize Money:** 1st Class A - Unr.
- **Tourney Details:** 9-9:45 a.m. Informal, 10-10:45 a.m. 9-10 a.m. 10-10:45 a.m. 11-11:45 a.m. 12-12:45-1-5 pm; 2-Way Reid, 3-Games Plus. Both qualified by Rd 1. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**Chess Magnet School Grand Prix!**

**JULY 6, Marshall Saturday U2000!**

- **Rds:** 6:30-7:30-8:30-9:30-10:30-11:30
- **Site:** Marshall Chess Club, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.
- **Contact:** James Geddes, CCM, 301-873-8542.
- **Entry Fee:** $25 until 6/10 then $30 at site. Visa-MC-AMEX accepted at site
- **Prize Money:** 1st in Class A,B,C,D/under...
- **Tourney Details:** 9-9:45 a.m., 10-10:45 a.m. 11-11:45 a.m. 12-12:45-1-5 pm; 2-Way Reid, 3-Games Plus. Both qualified by Rd 1. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**Chess Magnet School Grand Prix!**

**JULY 22, Avila! Marshall FIDE Mondays!!**

- **Rds:** 6-7:30-9
- **Site:** Marshall Chess Club, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.
- **Contact:** James Geddes, CCM, 301-873-8542.
- **Entry Fee:** $25 (ind $7 Campbell fee) Information/E-mail: Kevin Hyde, hyde@ioa.com. 
- **Tourney Details:** 6-7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30. One bye available. Register online at chessearth.com or mail entry fee to Robert Chenault, 932 Main St. Minoa, NY 13118. Contact: Bob Chenault, 937-461-6283.

**Chess Magnet School Grand Prix!**

**JULY 29-30, 2nd annual World Open Women's Championship (VA)**

- **Rds:** 9-10 a.m., 11-12
- **Site:** Marshall Chess Club, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.
- **Contact:** James Geddes, CCM, 301-873-8542.
- **Entry Fee:** $100 (B/C/D/under...
- **Tourney Details:** 9-9:45 a.m., 10-10:45 a.m. 11-11:45 a.m. 12-12:45-1-5 pm; 2-Way Reid, 3-Games Plus. Both qualified by Rd 1. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**Chess Magnet School Grand Prix!**

**JULY 9, 4th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)**

- **Rds:** 9-10 a.m., 11-12
- **Site:** Marshall Chess Club, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.
- **Contact:** James Geddes, CCM, 301-873-8542.
- **Entry Fee:** $100 (B/C/D/under...
- **Tourney Details:** 9-9:45 a.m., 10-10:45 a.m. 11-11:45 a.m. 12-12:45-1-5 pm; 2-Way Reid, 3-Games Plus. Both qualified by Rd 1. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**Chess Magnet School Grand Prix!**

**JULY 13, Orchard Lake Campground Open**

- **Rds:** 9-10 a.m., 11-12
- **Site:** Orchard Lake Campground, 3115 Orchard Lake Rd., Inkster, MI 48140.
- **Contact:** James Geddes, CCM, 301-873-8542.
- **Entry Fee:** $25
- **Tourney Details:** 9-9:45 a.m., 10-10:45 a.m. 11-11:45 a.m. 12-12:45-1-5 pm; 2-Way Reid, 3-Games Plus. Both qualified by Rd 1. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**Chess Magnet School Grand Prix!**

**JULY 23-25, 4th annual Atlantic Open (DC)**

- **Rds:** 9-10 a.m., 11-12
- **Site:** The University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, Mulford Library Basement Cafe, 3000 Arlington Ave., Toledo, OH 43614.
- **Contact:** Tom Carley, 419-530-4250.
- **Entry Fee:** $20
- **Tourney Details:** 9-9:45 a.m., 10-10:45 a.m. 11-11:45 a.m. 12-12:45-1-5 pm; 2-Way Reid, 3-Games Plus. Both qualified by Rd 1. www.marshallchessclub.org.
“Top U1600” - $15, Top U1000 - $15, more based on pd. See Grand Prix.

Russ Miller. TD: H. G. Pitre. All registrants are presumed to have read detailed TA at www.nwchess.com and agree to those terms. HOTEL: Booster: (3) - 5SS events, G/7 d3. Jasper Park Pavillion, 4960 Vera Cruz Rd. (BLZ)

JUNE 15-16, Newport June Open Playing site: Central Lincoln Pk, 229 N. Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97366. 4 Rd, Swiss. Prize fund: $20,000. 2 Sections: Open Section - $10,000, Reserve $5,000. Entry Fee: if mailed by May 31, $60; Premier: $55. Reserve: $40. Booster: $30. No in-person registration. Prize Fund: Based on 52 players. 70% of each prize is guaranteed. Open: $205, $175, $125; Premier: $175, $125, $100. Reserve: $125, $80, $50. Sat: Round 12:30 pm. Sun: Round 2 pm. Rd: Round 3 2:30pm. HOTEL: Knight Inn, 1823 N. Coast Hwy, Newport, OR. Organizers/Sponsors: K. G. Pitre, Bill Barrese, Central Coast Chess Club of Newport, OR

Every Monday - LVCA 7 & 9 pm Blitz Events Open/U1200 (BLZ) if 12 or more. Ph: 484-866-3045, Bruce. Info: srdiamondd@yahoo.com. EF: $10. Prizes: $30 for 3-0 score, else $25 for 1st. G/7;d3 Event Rd. 1: 1pm, 3pm, 5pm;

South Carolina


Tennessee

JUNE 19-21 OR 20-21, 2013 Houston Open (TX) See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 13, Cinco Tornado I Play Chess, Therefore I Am Monthly Circuits: T/Lsa 4 SS, 5-6 pm, $15; 7-8 pm, $30. T/Lsa, $15. Site: 605 North Blvd., Fort Worth, OH 45240 (green building next to Speedway). EF: $20 until 30 at site. Visa-MC-AMEX accepted at site. Based on 35 entries. Open: $200-$100, 1st in Class A,B,C,D,under/each $100. Reg.: 9-9:30. Rds.: 10 am, 1:30 pm, 6:30 pm. One bye available. Register online at chessheart.com or mail entry fee to Robert Chmiel, 631 Smy ley Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45240. Contact: Robert at 513-884-7727.

AUG. 9-11 OR 10-11, Cleveland Open See Grand Prix.

For the purpose of this list, the term “Grand Prix” (GP) is defined as the top events in the U.S. for players in the Open Rating Category. This list also includes other major events of note such as the National Scholastic Championship, the U.S. Chess School Championship and foreign events of note. For the purpose of this list, all Sectional tournaments are considered as part of GP because Sectional events are used for the rating of the players.

Oregon

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 27-28, 44th Sussex County Open Open: $50; 1st section, $25. Prize fund: $200. Entry Fee: $15 for 1st section, $10 for 2nd section. Rds.: 9-9:30, 10-10:30, 11-11:30. Registration on-site 8:45am-9:00am. One half point bye available and may be requested through round 2. Info: joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com, 484-948-5692. Visit Online at http://mindseyepress.webs.com/apps/webstore/.

Pennsylvania

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 13, 1-3, Annual Chess & Picnic (3 events) Emmanuel PA. (BLZ)

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 69th Ohio Chess Congress See Grand Prix.

SEPT. 20-22 OR 21-22, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, 8th annual Indianapolis Open (IN) See Grand Prix.

Virginia

See Grand Prix.
Tourism and Events

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JUNE 29-30, World Open Under 13 Championship
5SS, G/60. Entry fee $30 online by 6/27, $35 mailed by 6/18, $40 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 6/27, $50 at site.

JUNE 29-30, World Open Warmup
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Water magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 1-2, World Open Under 2300
5SS, G/90. Entry fee $50 online by 6/18, $55 mailed by 6/23, $60 phoned by 5 PM CDT at 406-896-2038 by 6/24, $70 at site.

JULY 10-11:15-1-2:15-3:30-4:45.
Rounds:
1-2:00. Entry reserve. Ends due by 6/5. Maximum 4 entries per player. Half point bye requests must be made prior to start of tournament. Only previous bye requests and priority in sections will be accepted. See Grand Prix.

JULY 13-20, World Open Women's Championship
5SS, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington (see World Open for location, rates). Open to all women players. In 2 sections. Open, 3-0 score, else bronze; 2-0 score, else silver; bronze to 1st.

JULY 13-20, World Open Warmup
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 13-27, 70th Annual West Virginia State Chess Championship

JULY 13-27, 70th Annual West Virginia State Chess Championship

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JULY 13-27, 70th Annual West Virginia State Chess Championship

JULY 17-27, 2013 West Virginia Action Chess
5SS, G/60. Entry fee $20 online by 6/27, $25 mailed by 6/18, $30 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 6/27, $35 at site.

JULY 19-21 or 20-21, 6th annual Chicago Chess IL (See Grand Prix)

JULY 19-21 or 20-21, 6th annual Chicago Chess IL (See Grand Prix)

JULY 24, Harris Pavilion Open Air Chess
See Grand Prix.

JULY 24-30, No Limit 250-00. Tournament Country Club, 229 S. Mason St., Appleton, WI 54914.

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JULY 24-30, No Limit 250-00. Tournament Country Club, 229 S. Mason St., Appleton, WI 54914.
Solution to White to play and draw: 1. g6! fxg6 2. f5 gxf5 3. Kg1 Kg5! 4. Kf1 seize the opportunity and draws (4. ... Kg4 5. Kg2). But White loses after 1. Kg2 Kg4 and 2. ... Kd4.


**Problem II.** 28. Rxd3 cxd3 29. Qh6 and 30. Bf6 followed by Qg7 mate.


**Problem IV.** Getting out of check: After 1. ... Qa5+ 2. Nc3 Bxc3+ 3. bxc3 Qxb5 White's d-pawn is tough to uphold. **Problem V.** Interference: With 1. ... Bd4+, White is forced to give the Exchange back, 2. Rxd4 cxd4, leaving Black a pawn ahead. **Problem VI.** Pin: Black wins a bishop by 1. ... Qf4+.

**PAGE 45 / BENKO’S BAFFERS**

one of the things I love most about chess is that in any single game, something sublime and magnificent may happen. It doesn’t matter whether the game is played by grandmasters or class-D players. Chess is chess. Every position and every game has the potential to teach us something new and show us something that we have never seen before.

That was certainly true of the game that led to “my best move.” It took place in the first round of the 1992 Columbus (Ohio) Invitational Championship, a 10-man round robin tournament that was eventually won by Charles Diebert. My opponent was John Hayes, who was an expert at the time but would earn his national master title the following year. John was well-known for his unusual opening repertoire, and this game didn’t disappoint.

I was playing white, and by the third move I was already out of my book:

1. d4 Nc6 2. e4 d5 3. e5 f6

Not only that, Hayes developed his king on the sixth move:

4. Bb5 Bf5 5. Ne2 e6 6. Nf4 Kf7!? However, there was a method to his madness. I feel certain that he was trying to bait me into trying to “refute” his opening and playing over-aggressively. But there was one thing that John was perhaps not counting on. Like him, I love original, non-standard positions where both players are thrown on their own resources. So I was perfectly happy in the messy position that resulted. Although I made some mistakes, I did finally get an advantage, and we reached the following position on my 20th move.

(see diagram top of next column)

This was the position where I found the most unusual winning move of my chess career. (To be precise, I found it about three moves earlier, and had been setting up this position.) As you can see, Black’s queen is trapped. But it seems as if that doesn’t matter, because it will take White so many moves to bring another attacker over to the kingside: Bd2, Qe2, Rf1 or Rg1, and Rf3 or Rg3. In that amount of time it will be easy for Black to free his queen by means of moves like … Rhf8 and/or … Ng6. I imagine that John was probably feeling rather confident here.

But it took just one move to change that:

20. a4!!

An innocent pawn push all the way over on the far side of the board strikes a mortal blow to Black’s kingside! The threat is 21. Ra3, winning Black’s queen. The whole idea is paradoxical. From the earliest stages of our chess careers we are taught not to push our a-pawns and not to develop our rooks on a3. And yet here it is the one and only way for White to force a win.

John played the best defense:

20. ... Ng6 21. Ra3! Nxf4 22. Rxf3 Nxf3

Superficially, he has gotten the better of the exchange, getting two rooks for his queen. But unfortunately, he now has another piece trapped on h3—his knight—and it is doomed after 23. Qf3.

Here John’s resistance finally weakened. He played 23. ... Rxh3?, and now I decided to win his king instead of his knight. The game concluded ...

24. Qf6+ Kg8 25. g6 Rh7 26. gxh7+ I missed a mate-in-four here starting with 26. Qd8+, but it doesn’t matter.

26. ... Kxh7 27. Qf7+ Kh8 28. Qxh5+, Black resigned.

Many years later, when I first analyzed this game on a computer, I was disappointed to find that the computer instantly spots 20. a4, the move I had considered to be such an original, creative concept. But that’s because the human mind is so cluttered with lessons and rules about how we “should” play. The computer has no such prejudices. So the moral of this story is that sometimes the only way to win is to forget everything that you know.

Do you have a suggestion for who you would like to see write about their Best Move? Let us know at letters@uschess.org. Future issues will feature GM Alexander Shabalov and GM Yury Shutman.
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Editor’s Letter: An Adventure We Share Together

I hope you’ve been enjoying the “Faces Across the Board” department that we introduced last summer. Each month we write about three class-level players who have an achievement of note in the chess world, be it a successful tournament result or devising an interesting chess promotion. This month’s Faces includes a profile of Jeff Roland of Idaho. Something he is quoted as saying struck a chord with me: “What interests me most about chess is meeting people. Each game is kind of an adventure we share together.” If you are a USCF member, then I suspect you feel much the same about chess. No matter how much you may be deeply involved in studying the intricacies of the latest Benoni novelty or trying to understand the Philidor position, ultimately you are interested in being part of the chess community, and you share in the ups-and-downs of Hikaru Nakamura’s results on the international stage, the players in your state’s championship, and maybe even local beginning scholastic players.

Of late, this shared adventure seems to include too many of our former top players’ obituaries appearing in these pages. Bobby Fischer in 2007, GM Larry Evans in 2010, and now GM Robert Byrne. Frank Niro, a former executive director of the USCF and now currently the interim president of the Chess Journalists of America (incidentally, Jeff Roland is the interim vice-president) paints a nuanced portrait of Byrne beginning on page 18. Byrne’s adventure in chess has been a shared one over the decades with readers of Chess Review, Chess Life and Review, and Chess Life. Even casual players were likely aware of Byrne due to his weekly New York Times chess column that ran from 1972 until it ended in 2006, the same year that his Chess Life column “The 65th Square” ended.

Chess Life continues to make the people who play chess our editorial focus, so our shared adventure will include many more celebrations and sad obituaries. Help us on the celebratory side by putting your face in Chess Life by writing to faces@uschess.org. Here’s to your chess life. -Daniel Lucas, Editor

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CHESLIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: JULY

The Fun Begins in Madison!

Look for coverage of the 2013 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, the Denker Tournament of High School champions and a new event, the National Girls’ Invitational Tournament in Madison, Wisconsin (photo, below). All three events span July 27-30 and kick off the festivities at the US Open (July 27-August 4). Expect many of our young talents to also play the main event- each player from a state that enters a participant in all three tournaments will receive free entry to the U.S. Open.

The U.S. Open also features a host of side events and key USCF meetings. Follow CLO for all the latest news and share your own experiences on twitter.com/uschess & facebook.com/uschess.

WORLD OPEN IN THE CAPITAL: Celebrate the World Open’s (July 3-7) new location in Arlington, Virginia, just a few miles from District of Columbia. Our coverage will include reportage by Jamaal Abdul-Alim and U.S. Chess Scoop videos, which you can find on CLO or our YouTube channel at YouTube.com/USChessFederation.

SILMAN ON APPS: Renowned author & International Master Jeremy Silman writes his first article for CLO, an overview of popular chess apps. “I own 1,500 apps on different subjects that I study carefully for ease of use, status in regard to competitors & cutting-edge technology.”

CLOSE-UP ON COMPUTER CHESS: Dr. WIM Alexey Root interviews Alex Lipschultz, producer of the movie, Computer Chess as the film begins its American theatrical release from July through August.

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

Frank Niro
Our cover story author is a former president of the U.S. Chess Trust and a chess journalist for four decades. He has served as editor of Chess Horizons and Northwest Chess. Presently he splits his time between Boise, Idaho, and Ithaca, New York, where he teaches strategic planning to health administration students at Cornell University.

Christen McCurdy
The Chessplayers with Disabilities author is a freelance journalist based in Portland, Oregon. She has written for The Oregonian, The Portland Mercury, Nerve, and The Lund Report, an online publication on health and healthcare policy.

Jorge Barrera
Our All-Girls photo essay writer/photographer has been teaching chess in schools for ten years. Starting at the Berkeley Chess School in California, he now lives in Chicago and teaches as part of the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation.

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CASTLING IN CHESS960: ANOTHER APPEAL FOR SIMPLICITY

Chess960 is a noble, but flawed attempt to force players to start thinking from the very first move of the game. The biggest problem with Chess960 are the bizarre castling rules. For anyone not familiar with Chess960, consider the following, which is just one bizarre aspect of “castling.” Depending on the opening setup, when castling, the king can move anywhere from five squares to zero squares to minus one squares (yes, the king can actually move in the opposite direction than it normally would). It would be difficult to teach this maneuver to anyone not familiar with standard chess. A variant called Chess480 seeks to simplify these castling rules, but in doing so creates some of its own issues.

I propose a variant which achieves the goal of eliminating memorization of openings while avoiding the failings of both Chess960 and Chess480. This variant, which I have dubbed Chess18, has a randomized opening setup just like its “predecessors.” The difference is that the rooks and the king start on the same squares that they do now so that castling remains exactly the same as it is now—problem solved!

An additional benefit of Chess18 is that it avoids the situation in Chess960 where with some opening setups White can attack an undefended black pawn with her first move.

When Bobby Fischer met with former FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to propose the switch to Chess960, Ilyumzhinov advocated “step-by-step” changes mindful of the heritage of chess. Well, here is such a step.

When Bobby Fischer met with former FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to propose the switch to Chess960, Ilyumzhinov advocated “step-by-step” changes mindful of the heritage of chess. Well, here is such a step.

David Couture
via e-mail

Chess Life asked Damian Nash, a two-time Utah state champion who ran small Chess960 tournaments at the U.S. Opens in 2010 and 2011, and also conducted small break-out sessions on the topic, to reply:

David Couture hits the nail on the head. Bizarre castling rules are a serious problem with Chess960 (Fischer Random). His solution is novel: Leave the rooks and king on the same squares as classical chess, thereby keeping familiar rules intact. Chess18 is a logical first step toward the evolution of the world’s greatest game, expanding opening books by a factor of 18. Another interesting alternative is “Moab Random,” a form of pre-chess that replaces castling (already a bizarre move in classical chess) with the much simpler ‘evacuation’ of the king to any empty back-rank square.

Kudos to Mr. Couture and other game theoretists who attempt to wrestle chess out of the grip of the brilliantly obsessive memorizers at the top, who hold Ph.D. equivalents in opening theory. Consistent with Bobby Fischer’s hope for the future of the game, Chess18 could help return chess to the vastly larger audience of brilliant tacticians and strategists worldwide; at least for a little while, until opening jargon catches up. In classical chess, opening experience usually trumps raw talent. But in ChessX, as X increases, natural ability and sound strategy will yield progressively better results.

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

At the end of her game with Anna Ushenina (“Eagle Hunting in Kazakhstan,” May 2013 Chess Life), IM Irina Krush poses the question, “Why did Black resign, instead of trying 41. ... Qf7?” Perhaps Ms. Ushenina saw the mate in 3: 42. Qxg8+! Qxg8 43. Nxf6+ Kh8 44. Rgx8 mate.

Chuck Bass
North Highlands, California

Thank you Mr. Bass; we should have listed this at the end of the article. ~Ed.

Reminder: 2013 USCF Executive Board Election

If you are a registered USCF voter who received a ballot for the executive board election, your ballot must be returned no later than 3 p.m. on July 23rd, 2013. Ballots received after that will not be counted. Full instructions are included with your ballot.

CORRECTIONS

In the April 2013 issue’s “Yearbook” the U.S. Masters was inadvertently omitted. Here is the full item:

U.S. MASTERS (AKA MID-WEST MASTERS PRIOR TO 1990)


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 by Kopec and Terrie.
The STRONGEST tournament ever held on American soil.

Meet the field at www.uschesschamps.com

This event has been rescheduled:
September 9 – 15
$170,000 in Prizes
COOK COUNTY, IL – Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart announced the winners of the chess tournament that took place May 15 between 10 Cook County jail detainees and 10 Russian inmates through a secure Internet line at Cook County Jail’s Division 11. There were two rounds played by each player on each team. The first round results included 3½ matches won by Cook County detainees and 6½ matches won by the Russian inmates. After the second round was complete the Russian inmates won 8 matches and Cook County detainees won 2, for a final score of 14½ to 5½ in favor of Russia.

The event began with an international press conference at 9 a.m. with Sheriff Dart and Dr. Mikhail Korenman, who heads the Cook County Jail’s chess program, describing the program and the historic tournament. Russian officials participated in the press conference through Skype.

“Today’s successful competition is a tribute to Dr. Korenman for his vision, our correctional officers for their steadfast support of the program and of course to the competitors on both sides for their sportsmanship today and their commitment to utilizing the lessons of chess as a valuable rehabilitation tool,” said Sheriff Dart. “We will continue with our chess program to accommodate the hundreds of detainees interested in learning the game and improving their skills. We congratulate the Russian team on their victory and look forward to a rematch.”

Sheriff Dart launched the jail’s chess program in April 2012, using standard chess boards and pieces with the goal of instilling in detainees the importance of patience, diligence and critical thought—skills that are the foundation of the game of chess and of life.

In December 2012, the program was expanded to permit detainees to participate in online chess tournaments using secure laptops that allowed them to play against anonymous players from around the world, including players in Singapore, Croatia and Canada.

Dr. Korenman meets with participating detainees two hours a day, three days a week to give group lessons and to coordinate matches. To date, approximately 600 Cook County Jail detainees have participated in the jail’s chess program.

This event between Cook County and Russia was the idea of Sheriff Dart, Dr. Korenman and former World Champion Anatoly Karpov.

After the match, Karpov himself identified one of the Cook County detainees as the most distinguished competitor of both sides, having won both of his games—including one in just three moves.

While some of the participants in the Cook County Jail chess program had previous experience with chess, most of them began recently as novices—including several of today’s competitors. All participants made it to the Russia competition by winning internal Cook County Jail tournaments.

Dr. Korenman, a FIDE-certified international chess organizer, is a principal of the Russian School of Mathematics in Naperville. His extensive background in chess includes founding the Karpov School of Chess in Lindsborg, Kansas, which was the first chess school in the United States.

Dr. Korenman also initiated the Chess for Peace Program which is designed to promote peace throughout the world by bringing secondary students from different countries together to learn how to play chess and establish lasting friendships.
Tennis with Bobby Fischer

Many of our top players play tennis to keep in shape or just for fun during their downtime, as did Bobby Fischer. On occasion, it is interesting to see how non-chess players view our world, as in a short chapter from this book that recently crossed our desk.

The following is a chapter excerpt from the book THE WIMBLEDON FINAL THAT NEVER WAS by Sidney Wood ($15.95, New Chapter Press, www.NewChapterMedia.com) that tells an interesting tale of chess master Bobby Fischer and his tennis encounter with Wood, the charismatic 1931 Wimbledon champion.

FOR THOSE WHO MAY RECALL and have wondered about the unfathomable antics of the super-cerebral Bobby Fischer, king of kings of the chessboard, my experience of an afternoon with Bobby should be either enlightening or further puzzling.

As an average “patzer” chess player (the term is familiar to other patzers), I was a consumer of The New York Times chess column, written by my friend the late Al Horowitz, a former national champion. A week prior to Fischer’s 1972 trip to Iceland for his world championship match with Russia’s Boris Spassky, Al phoned me to ask if, of all things, I would play some tennis with Bobby. Of course I said yes.

The next day, all in whites, Bobby came by my hobby-born, rooftop Town Tennis Club on Sutton Place with Rosser Reeves, a generous contributor to chess causes and the 1966 retired head of the big-three Ted Bates ad agency. Also accompanying Bobby was a medium-young, medium blond lady whose name failed to register, perhaps because Bobby kept asking her to tell it to him again; indications were that Bobby did not live by chess alone.

I had heard that Bobby rarely ventured more than an arm’s length from a chessboard, and to my surprise, he hit the tennis ball vehemently and with good coordination. He was only mildly overweight and not at all tired from the workout. When I asked him what he would like to drink he asked for an orange juice, milk and a beer—all at the same time. We sat around for awhile and I cautiously volunteered the idea that Bobby might want to meet Mark McCormack, with whom I had put together a 600-outlet Arnold Palmer Cleaning Center franchise.

I had been warned that Bobby was suspicious of everybody except his mother, and my overtire was proffered in low key. Even so, though a breakfast meeting was set up with Mark who flew in from Cleveland, Bobby could not bring himself to attend.

The Fischer-Spassky match was receiving tremendous front page publicity because it had become blown up as a contest between U.S. brainpower and Russia’s. The championship was to be decided by the first winner of 12 of the 23 game points won (one point for a win, a half point for a draw). When I pointed out to Bobby that he would easily be the most famous person in the world for 23 days, he tilted his head a little and with a pixie-like grin asked me how did I know it wouldn’t be 12 days—as many as it would take for him to win without losing or drawing a game! On the basis of that afternoon’s enjoyable association, there was no hint of the unpredictable side to Bobby’s makeup, and I would have rated him as self-assured but not abrasively so, engagingly friendly, humorous and as well-adjusted as his stratospheric IQ would permit.

Note: this anecdote is the only chess item in this book.

Write to faces@uschess.org to be considered for inclusion in this column.
USCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BILL HALL RESIGNS

On Thursday, May 9, 2013 the USCF executive board accepted a letter of resignation from Executive Director Bill Hall. Bill is leaving the organization for personal reasons, and we wish him every success in his future endeavors.

Bill served as executive director for over eight years managing the USCF through a temporary relocation during construction of a new headquarters facility, then helped the USCF successfully navigate turbulent waters, and positioned the organization for future growth.

The USCF executive board passed a resolution on May 10, 2013 expressing its appreciation for Bill Hall’s honorable, skillful, and diligent service to the USCF as its executive director from 2005-2013.

The USCF will began an immediate search for an executive director. The deadline for applications, as listed in the job description on our website, was June 30. See the announcement at www.uschess.org/content/view/12117/706/.

USCF WELCOMES INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FRANCISCO GUADALUPE

Francisco (Franc) Guadalupe, our FIDE Zonal President will serve as the USCF interim executive director. Franc is also an international arbiter and international organizer. He served on active duty with Adjutant General Corps in the U.S. Army for over 23 years, retiring with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four.

After his initial training and a tour in Korea, he served as personnel officer in numerous assignments, including Fort Eustis, Virginia, the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 8th Infantry Division in Germany, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, and the Theater Army Support Group in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Franc was the distinguished graduate of his military personnel officer course and the advanced administrative warrant officer course. He received many military service awards and decorations, including the army achievement medal, the army commendation medal, three meritorious service medals and the legion of merit.

Franc has experience as a chess player, chess dad, coach, organizer and director. He learned chess while in college in Puerto Rico. He organized, directed and played in a few small USCF-rated tournaments while in his first tour in Germany but military duties and a growing family did not leave much time for chess. After he retired from the service, he taught chess to his two youngest sons, Francisco II and Thomas.

A few years later, they became very interested in the game, and Franc’s interest was also renewed! He started a scholastic chess program in Brevard County, Florida where, with the help of others, he organized and directed county-wide events. Before the first tournament, there were only two USCF-rated scholastic players in Brevard.

Two years later, the county had over 300 scholastic rated players! During that period, Franc also started and coached the chess team of Sea Park Elementary School, leading them to several Brevard County Championships. In recognition of his efforts in promoting scholastic chess, he received two Brevard county school district awards and the organizers of the Space Coast Open instituted the “Franc Guadalupe Award” given to the best performing scholastic player at their annual event.

Thomas eventually quit chess in pursuit of other activities. Francisco II, however, progressed very rapidly, winning several state championships in Florida and Texas while also winning three national grade championships. He participated in two Denker Tournament of High School Champions and attended University of Texas at Dallas where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and was a member of their chess team.

Although he still plays online, Franc took a break from over-the-board chess several years ago. According to him, he was paying more attention to Francisco’s games than his own, so he decided to concentrate on organizing and directing events. Franc has been the chief tournament director (TD) of many national scholastic championships, including the last two SuperNationals. He has also been the chief TD of two U.S. Opens, was the assistant arbiter at the 2006 and 2010 U.S. Championships and the chief arbiter at the recently concluded 2013 U.S. Championship.

Franc has also organized three U.S. Class, three U.S. Junior and two U.S. Senior Opens, as well as two National Youth Actions. As zonal president, he has represented the U.S. at the last two FIDE Congresses, in Krakow, Poland and Istanbul, Turkey. In 2009, on behalf of the USCF, he traveled to Belize, Central America to train their tournament directors. That same year, he was selected as the USCF tournament director of the year. Franc has served with the USCF tournament director certification committee and the scholastic committee.

The Guadalupes reside in a suburb of Houston with three of their six children. Franc’s wife Bonnie also served in the Army, for 12 years, and their son Jonathan served in Afghanistan as an army combat medic. Their youngest son, Thomas, has passed all the required examinations and will soon become a fire fighter while Francisco II will start his master’s degree program in the fall. Franc’s eldest daughter, Julissa, also resides in the Houston area and has helped with the last two SuperNationals.
Welcome to the Spring 2013 board meeting. We are happy to be in St. Louis once again coinciding with the exciting conclusions to the U.S. Championships. The USCF is delighted that the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis continues to sponsor and hold our premier championship events. This is the fifth consecutive year that the nation’s top players have come to Missouri to compete in the national championships. Recently, in recognition of just how important the St. Louis chess scene has become to our chess activities, the U.S. Congress paid tribute to St. Louis’ efforts by naming it as the nation’s chess capital.

With all of the fantastic talent in the U.S. Championships, it is notable that the youngest-ever competitor played this year, 12-year-old FM Sam Sevian. But he’s not the only young player garnering notice: Congratulations to Awonder Liang, who at the tender age of nine became the youngest master in U.S. history during the Midwest Open Chess Festival in March by the slim margin of only 10 days (nine years, 11 months, and 24 days versus nine years, 11 months, and 14 days). The previous title holder was none other than Sam Sevian himself.

Anupama Rajendra, age 12, continued her roll, making history this year by winning the Under 20 section at the All-Girls Nationals in Chicago. You may recall that last year Anupama became the youngest girl to win the event when she was 11. The All-Girls Nationals broke attendance records again this year as 283 girls competed for the title in the Windy City (see Chess Life’s photo essay from this event beginning on page 26).

I’d like to take a minute to recognize our top talents and acknowledge their standing on the world stage. As of the May 2013 FIDE rating list (Top 100 list), U.S. players include:

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Hikaru Nakamura</td>
<td>2775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#18</td>
<td>Gata Kamsky</td>
<td>2741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#70</td>
<td>Timur Gareev</td>
<td>2674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#78</td>
<td>Alex Onischuk</td>
<td>2666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the FIDE Top 100 Women’s list at #28 is Irina Krush 2470 and #31 Anna Zatonskii 2466. The Top 100 Junior’s list includes #11 Ray Robson 2620, #40 Conrad Holt 2513, #54 Darwin Yang 2485, and #55 Steven Zierk 2485. Alena Kats is #90 on the Top 100 Girl’s list at 2144.

We are looking forward as the USCF comes off of the record-breaking SuperNationals tournament. With 5,335 participants, our SuperNationals was the largest rated chess tournament in history. Thank you to Pat Smith, USCF’s Chief Operation Officer and Director of National Events, and the USCF staff for their hard work in so successfully producing this historic event. With the SuperNationals as a backdrop it is easy to understand why USCF again had membership growth during the first quarter. Going into the summer season we will need to mind the cash flow since our revenues are seasonal, and the summer months are usually our slow months.

Speaking of the summer months, I hope to see you at the U.S. Open in Madison, Wisconsin from July 27-August 4. I will of course be playing in the U.S. Open and hope to manage to take only one bye since I also will be participating in committee meetings, the annual delegates meeting and executive board meetings. I am looking forward to productive discussions with executive board members, USCF staff and others who join us in Madison.

In the coming year, the board will be seeking to keep the organization on track financially, while at the same time working to grow organized chess in America.

THE USCF MISSION

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.
An Absolute History
“The players may be weaker, but the chess is better.”

By FM ALEX DUNNE, USCF CORRESPONDENCE CHESS DIRECTOR

THE ABSOLUTE CHAMPIONSHIP of the United States Chess Federation 1976-2010 is a book about correspondence chess, but it is more than that. This is a collection of the best games of most of the best correspondence players the United States has produced. Does that mean anything to the non-correspondence player? Maybe. Cecil Purdy once said that in correspondence chess the players may be weaker but the chess is better. It was to preserve those better games that I decided to write this book.

I was fortunate that I had been writing about these champions for 30-plus years in “The Check Is in the Mail” (in Chess Life until 2006 and now on uschess.org) and also knew many of them. Playing over those 2000+ games in search of the best of the best was exciting enough. There were some truly spectacular games; gems of attack and defense. There were endgames that could easily be made into studies. And opening theory evolved before my eyes as I progressed through the 30+ Absolute years. I included all the games that I thought were outstanding and of historical importance or that I thought illustrated a particular player’s style. Most of the 305 games are analyzed, and most of them are instructive, hard-fought games with a decisive result. The following game is a sample of what the reader can expect.

**Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation (B81)**

Daniel Fleetwood (2359)
Stephen Barbre (2419)
1993 Absolute


The Keres Attack has been quite successful in Absolute play, scoring +5 -1 =7.

6. ... Be7

The most common response to the Keres in the Absolutes has been 6. ... h6 7. h4 as in Horwitz-Concha 2008 Absolute. This is also the most common response now as in Smeets-Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2010, which continued 6. ... h6 7. h4 Nc6 8. Rg1 d5 9. exd5. Barbre’s 6. ... Be7 is rarely seen at the grandmaster level.

7. g5 Nfd7 8. h4 Nc6 9. Be3 0-0 10. Qd2

Sax-Ehlvest, Reggio Emilia 1988, saw 10. Qh5 d5 11. 0-0-0 with an edge to White.

10. ... a6 11. 0-0-0 Nxd4 12. Qxd4 b5 13. Rg1 Rb8 14. h5 b4 15. Ne2 e5 16. Qd2 Nc5 17. f3 Be6 18. Kb1

Up to this point, theory. Handel-Anderson, SSKK-50, 1988, saw 18. ... Qc7 19. b3?! which slows down Black’s attack but leaves permanent damage. Hellers-Martens, Amsterdam 1990, saw the saner 18. ... Qc7 19. Nc1 with about even chances.

18. ... f5?! Barbre is too ambitious and he pays the price. This attacking move weakens his kingside and center.

19. gxf6 e.p. Rfx6 20. Nc1 Qe8

Of course 20. ... Rfx6 is met with 21. Bxc5! dxc5 22. Rxf7+ and Black is folding.


And Black is left with unsolvable problems.

23. ... Rd8 24. Qe3 a5 25. Nxe5 Rxd1+ 26. Rxd1 Rf6 27. f4 Kh8 28. f5 Bh7 29. Ng6+ Bxg6 30. hxg6 h6 31. Qf4 Qf8 32. Qc7 Rd6

Black cannot allow Rd7.

33. Rxd6 Bxd6 34. Qxa5 Qb8 35. Qa6 Bf8 36. Qd3 Be7 37. Qd5 Qd8 38. Qxd8+ Bxd8 39. Bc4

The black king is in an iron cage. White wins with a passed pawn on the a- and e-file.

39. ... h5 40. e5 h4 41. a4, Black resigned.

The history of U.S. Correspondence chess is rich but largely unknown or at least not emphasized. Older over-the-board players of course know the names of Donald and Robert Byrne, Hans Berliner, James Sherwin, Robert Steinmeyer, and, Bobby Fischer. What they seldom know, however, is that these great players started out in correspondence play. In The Absolute Correspondence Championship of the United States Chess Federation 1976-2010 you will have the chance to meet the ones who made their correspondence chess play a career. This book is their story.

Read FM Alex Dunne’s monthly correspondence chess column “The Check Is in the Mail” on Chess Life Online at uschess.org.
U.S. Open Side Events
May register online except for the Bughouse which is on-site only.

27 JULY
U.S. Open Bughouse. G/5. Entry fee $20 per team. 80% of entry fees in cash prizes. Registration ends at 7:00 p.m., first round begins at 7:30 p.m.

27-28 JULY
U.S. Open Weekend Swiss. G/5-SS, G/60 d5. $1,000 guaranteed prizes. $200-500, U2200/Unr $160, U1800 $140, U1600 $120, U1400 $100, U1200 $80, Unr $50. Entry fee $40, Unr free if paying USCF dues. On-Site Registration 10:00-11:30 AM 7/27, Rds: Sat 12-3, Sun 10-12:30-3.

28 JULY
U.S. Open Scholastic. Open to K-12 [2013-2014 school year] 4-5SS, G/30 d5, in four sections: Junior High - High School Champ. (K-12); Junior High - High School U1200 (K-12); Elementary Champ. (K-6); Elementary U1000 (K-6): EF: $25 online if by 7/14; $35 after; $27 if postmarked by 7/14; $37 after (do not mail after 7/21); $30 phone-in by 7/14, $40 by 7/26 at 5 p.m. CDT. Reg.: 9-11:30 a.m. Rds.: 12-130-3-4-5. Trophies to Top 3 in each section. The above sections may be split in multiple sections if the entries warrant it. (Unrated MUST play in the Championship sections.). Trophies may be added if the section(s) split. See www.uschess.org/tournaments/2013/scholastic for venue info, updates and corrections.

29, 30, 31 JULY; 1, 2 AUGUST
U.S. Open Quads. G/30 d5. Entry fee $20. Registration 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Rds. 12-130-3-00. $50 to first in each quad.

31 JULY
U.S. Open G/15 Championship (QC). G/5-SS, G/15 d5. Quick rated, higher of regular or quick rating. Entry fee $40. Registration 9am-11:30am. Rds: noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00. 80% of entries as returned as cash prizes. First 30%, second 15%, U2100 12%, U1800 10%, U1500/Unr 8%, U1200 5%.

3 AUGUST
U.S. Open Blitz Championship (BLZ). Trophies Plus GPP: 15. 7-SS (double round, 14 games), 1 section, G/5 d0. Blitz rated, higher of regular or Blitz rating. Entry fee $40, free to Unrated if paying USCF dues. Registration 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., first round begins at noon. $2000 guaranteed prizes $400-200-150, Expert $200-100, U2000 $200-100, U1800 $180-90, U1600/Unr $140-70, U1400 $100, U1200 $70. The July 2013 Rating Supplement will be used.

SEE USCHESS.ORG/TOURNAMENTS/2013/USOPEN/ FOR U.S. OPEN VENUE INFO, UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS.

Schedule for 2013 U.S. Open Workshops & Committee Meetings

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<th>9AM</th>
<th>10AM</th>
<th>11AM</th>
<th>NOON</th>
<th>1PM</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY Jul 31</td>
<td>Forum Committee</td>
<td>Forum Workshop</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>Women's Chess</td>
<td>States</td>
<td>TDCC</td>
<td>TDCC Problem Solving</td>
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<td>Denker H.S.&amp; Barber K-8</td>
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<td>THURSDAY Aug 1</td>
<td>Executive Board CLOSED</td>
<td>Executive Board OPEN</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>Chess in Education</td>
<td>USCF Legal</td>
<td>Ratings</td>
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<td>FIDE Trainers Seminar</td>
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<td>FRIDAY Aug 2</td>
<td>Bylaws/GTF</td>
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<td>FIDE Trainers Seminar</td>
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<td>SATURDAY Aug 3</td>
<td>Delegates Meeting</td>
<td>AWARDS LUNCHEON</td>
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<td>SUNDAY Aug 4</td>
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SATURDAY, July 27, Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Invitational Tournament Opening Ceremony, 3PM

FRIDAY, August 2, Executive Board Reception 5:30PM

USCF Awards Luncheon, Saturday, August 3, 2013 in Monona at NOON

SUNDAY, August 4 Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 3pm and Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6pm

**Schedule Subject to Change - Check www.uschess.org for updates**
IT’S BEEN MORE THAN 15 YEARS SINCE mankind was humbled by our new computer overlords. We’re still waiting to learn from them.

It should have happened by now. When it became clear that programs were getting strong, we hoped that machines would eventually be able to teach us new strategies, new ways to win.

But when we see a game played by the rock stars of today’s computer chess, it often looks baffling:

Silicone bafflement
Rybka
Houdini
TCEC match 2011

Black played 10. ... Bg4
and then 11. h3 Bf5.

Okay, so this must mean Black wanted to provoke h2-h3, right? Otherwise Black would have played 10. ... Bf5.


White went on to win in 66 moves, so maybe Black’s bishop moves hurt him. But at many points along the way, White’s moves were also strange. Some of them didn’t seem to have anything to do with the one that came before. Or the one that came after.

This is puzzling because Rybka and Houdini can give material odds to grandmasters. Why can’t their moves make sense to us?

After all, there are two fundamental principles that have guided human players since we figured out how to castle:

1) Every move you make should have a purpose.
2) Your moves should form a plan.

That is, they should be consistent and fit together into a cohesive whole—even if the whole is misguided. “A bad plan is better than no plan” is a mantra attributed to Emanuel Lasker, Frank Marshall and many others.

Inconsistency must be avoided at all costs, according to this conventional wisdom. It recalls the putdown by the great physicist Wolfgang Pauli. He ripped into a colleague’s inconsistent thinking by saying, “It’s not only not right, it’s not even wrong.”

I was terrified of being inconsistent even before I played in my first tournament game. I remember going through Fred Reinfeld’s collection of Nimzowitsch games, one of those wonderful, cheap Dover Publications paperbacks, titled Hypermodern Chess. I got to this diagram:

Looking up “vacillate”
Carl Schlechter
Aron Nimzovich
Carlsbad 1907

“He Who Vacillates is Lost” read the headline on the game. That sent me to the dictionary. (You see, in those days there were these big books called “dictionaries” that you opened up when you didn’t know what a word meant.)

Reinfeld said White had three plans:
(a) He could open up the center with dxe5.
Or (b), he could close the center with d4-d5 and then advance his queenside pawns.
Or (c) he could prepare for f2-f4, perhaps with Kh2 and Ng1-e2.

But White played 16. d5 Bd7 17. Kh2. Reinfeld said “He vacillates!”—because he started with (b) and then headed to (c).

I didn’t know what to make of that because if f2-f4 is such a dubious idea, why did Black take extraordinary steps to stop it? He played 17. ... Nh8!? and then 18. Ng1 d5.

Now, it seemed to me, White should exploit the holes that Black created on the kingside with Ne2-g3. For example, 19. Ne2 Ng6 20. Ng3 Nh4 21. Bd1 and Bg4 to trade off the bishop that protects Black’s holes.


It seemed to me that White lost because he opened up the kingside, where Black was strong, when he should have switched to the queenside. That’s not vacillation. That’s just logic.

But maybe vacillation is the way to go. Computers like the inconsistent 24. c4, for example.

The End of Strategy
What if a learning curve is really a bell curve?

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

GM ANDY SOLTIS

14 July 2013 | Chess Life
Kotov

Alexander Kotov, who was born 100 years ago next month, is best known today for a book, *Think Like a Grandmaster*. Few recall that he also received a top Soviet award for inventing a rocket launcher during World War II or wrote a well-received stage play about Alexander Alekhine. Or that he had even records with Tigran Petrosian and Vasily Smyslov, over the course of 25 games. In this month’s quiz, based on Kotov’s games, you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. Usually this will mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. Solutions are on page 71.

The growing strength of machines is overthrowing another traditional view. According to this: You learn tactics first. You rely on strategy later. The Swiss system encourages this. Once you can beat other novices tactically, you will be paired with stronger opponents. They won’t fall for your pins and skewers. You lose to them because they can plan and you can’t. But if you can learn strategy, your rating will start to rise again. It literally becomes a learning curve. The best players in the world are the best at both tactics and at evolving five- and ten-move plans of iron consistency.

That’s a popular view. The trouble is it isn’t true.

Take the case of Anatoly Karpov. He was a kind of anti-strategist, someone who was able to take advantage of masters who believed in master plans.

Anti-strategy
GM Anatoly Karpov
GM Lev Polugayevsky
Candidates match 1974

(see diagram top of next column)

White might be tempted to play Nxe6 here. But he chose 17. Nf5—and then after 17... Bd8, replied 18. Nd4?! He invites Black to repeat the position with 18... Be7.

Thanks to White’s loss of time, Black is already a bit better, as 18... Bc4 followed by a trade of bishops and ... Nc4 would show.

Instead, Black tried to repeat the position, 18... Ng6 19. Rf1 Ne5. White replied 20. Bf4 Qc5 21. Nxe6? and was worse in the endgame after 21... Qxg1+ 22. Rgx1 Rxe6.

Yet he won the game and match. Afterwards Lev Polugayevsky complained “that his defeat did not seem to be logical,” Vladimir Tukmakov wrote in his recently published memoirs.

Polugayevsky believed in the logic espoused by another world champion, Mikhail Botvinnik: “According to this approach, a masterpiece would have a strategic plan that starts in the opening and triumphs in the deep endgame,” Tukmakov said.

But Karpov found that the most successful moves did not fit in—in fact, they often contradicted—the most likely plan. So he didn’t try to be consistent. Each Karpov move had a purpose, but not necessarily a plan.

Other players felt uncomfortable choosing inconsistent moves. “The 12th world champion never had such doubts,” Tukmakov said.

So let me propose a radical idea. Having a plan is good—up to the point. It helps amateurs find their next move. That’s why even a bad plan is better than none.

But the relationship between planning and ratings is not a steadily rising ratings curve. It’s a bell curve.

If you keep improving at some point, perhaps around 2200 to 2400—you are strong enough to rely more on calculation and less on strategy.

In other words, the players at each end of the bell curve—where there is no grand strategizing—are novices and elite grandmasters (GMs): Novices don’t know how to plan and super-GMs know they can’t rely on plans.

So as computers inevitably get better and better, we may see a time when planning—as we know it—disappears from elite chess. It will be the end of strategy. 🌩️
IN 1933, AFTER MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK had won the USSR Chess Championship, a match was arranged between the Soviet champ and Salo Flohr, a potential challenger to then world chess champion Alexander Alekhine. The first six games were played in Moscow and the final six in Leningrad. Although Botvinnik lost the Moscow half of the match, he evened the score once he got to Leningrad. In the ninth game, Botvinnik (White) got into a tactical melee against the Czech defensive wizard and managed to score a neat point. A Panov Variation of the Caro-Kann, the contest began:

```
14. Qh4 Par Score 6
```

A drastic solution, but Flohr couldn’t find anything better. Both 14. … Bd6 and 14. … Qxb6, inflicting two sets of doubled pawns, but giving up on trying to take advantage of Black’s uncastled king. Accept 4 points part credit for 14. Qxd3, recovering the gambit pawn, but allowing Black to set up a blockade with 14. … Bd6. The merit of the text is that it keeps queens on the board, while operating with a threat, 15. Ne5 (1 bonus point).

```
15. Qh5 Par Score 4
```

White infiltrates on the light squares. The threat is now 16. Qxf7 and 17. Re8 mate (1 bonus point).

```
16. Qx7 Par Score 6
```

The queen has broken into Black’s camp and threatens to take at f6 and h8 (1 bonus point).

```
17. Qxh7 Par Score 4
```

This saves the attacked queen, while confiscating a pawn and threatening another at d3.

```
18. Qh4 Par Score 6
```

Accept only 2 points part credit for 14. Qxb6+, inflicting two sets of doubled pawns, but giving up on trying to take advantage of Black’s uncastled king. Accept 4 points part credit for 14. Qxd3, recovering the gambit pawn, but allowing Black to set up a blockade with 14. … Bd6. The merit of the text is that it keeps queens on the board, while operating with a threat, 15. Ne5 (1 bonus point).

```
19. Qh6 Par Score 6
```

Not yet! White retains the queen and doesn’t go in for 19. Qxd3 Bxh2+ (2 points part credit).
**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.

**July Exercise:** After playing through a worthwhile game, print it out in a large font. Cut out each of the moves separately, making sure to eliminate move numbers and any of Black’s dot, dot, dots, so that moves stand alone. Mix the cut-out moves together. Then, picking out the notations, one by one, try placing them on a blank score sheet, with each move positioned by correct number and column. True, the exercise may not say if we’re good at jigsaw puzzles. But it can be fun, and it may tell us if we have nothing better to do with our time.

---

23. **Qxe5**

24. **...**

24. **Rxe5**

Botvinnik tries to eliminate the g4-pawn, leaving himself with two connected passers on the kingside. Less convincing is 25. Rd1 Kd7 26. Ne4 (2 points part credit) because of 26. ... Rac8 followed by Rc2.

25. **Rf1**

25. **...**

This is played to connect the rooks and maybe bring the king to d6.**

26. **f3**

With this advance White continues the plan begun with his previous move.

26. **...**

So Black tries to stir confusion. A normal move like 26. ... Kd6 fails against 27. Re3, threatening 28. fxg4 Bxg4 29. Rxd3. And if 27. ... gxh3, then 28. Rxf3 is a winning pin.**

27. **fxg4**

**Deduct 2 points** for 27. ... Nxb5, answered by 27. ... gxh3 28. Rxf3 d2 29. Nc3 Bc2.

27. **...**

28. **h3**

The threat is 28. ... Rxf1+ 29. Kxf1 d2 (1 bonus point).**

28. **...**

Flohr pushes the knight from d1, inviting complications.**

29. **Ne4**

**Deduct 3 points** for 29. Rxf1 bxc3 30. Rf1 (30. Rxa8 d2) 30. ... d2 31. hxg4 c2 32. Ree1 Rf8! and Black wins. Accept only 2 points part credit for 29. hxg4 Rxf1+ 30. Kxf1 bxc3 31. bxc3 Re8, when White’s pawns are messed up and it’s not at all clear if he’s still winning.

29. **...**

Or 29. ... Be2 30. Rxf8 Rxf8 31. d6 Rf1+ 32. Kh2 Rf1, threatening 33. d2, 34. ... Rh1+ and 35. ... d1=Q(+). But White’s d-pawn proves more formidable: 33. Re7+ Kc6 34. d7 Kc7 35. Nc5, queening shortly (2 bonus points).**

30. **Kxf1**

30. **...**

31. **Ke1**

The king takes over coverage of the d-pawn.

31. **...**

32. **g4**

As before, the bishop is short of squares.

32. **...**

Flohr tries to avoid 32. ... Bxe4 33. Rxe4, which is just a lost rook-and-pawn ending.**

33. **Re6**

If 33. ... Be8, or 33. ... Bh7, then 34. Nf6+; if 33. ... Bf7, then 34. Rf6 Ke7 35. d6+ Ke8 36. Ng5 is Zugzwang (36. ... Bxa2 37. d7+). So ...

33. **...**

Black resigned ♦

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**TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:**

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<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
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<td>2400+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81-94</td>
<td>2200-2399</td>
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<td>66-80</td>
<td>2000-2199</td>
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<td>1200-1399</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-05</td>
<td>under 1200</td>
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“In mid-career Robert Byrne performed the Herculean labor of switching from queen pawn to king pawn. This is like a Ford driver taking up a race car. And it vaulted him to the world candidates’ level.”

—DR. ANTHONY SAIDY
RANDMASTER ROBERT E. BYRNE, arguably one of the top ten U.S. chess players of all time, died at his home in Ossining, New York on April 12, 2013 of Parkinson’s disease. Byrne was U.S. Open champion in 1960, 1963 and 1966 and won the U.S. Closed Championship in 1972. He played on nine U.S. Olympiad teams, winning seven medals, and competed in the World Championship Candidates cycle in 1973. Perhaps best known for his 34-year tenure as The New York Times chess columnist, from 1972 to 2006, he was the older brother of Donald Byrne, loser of the well known “game of the century” in 1956 to 13-year-old Bobby Fischer.

Born Robert Eugene Byrne in Brooklyn, New York, on April 20, 1928, he grew up in New York City and graduated from Yale University in 1952. Both Robert and Donald learned chess before age eight and were students of the celebrated chess teacher John W. Collins. They, along with Bobby Fischer, Bill Lombardy, Raymond Weinstein, Sal Matera and Lewis Cohen, were the subjects of Mr. Collins’ 1975 memoir, My Seven Chess Prodigies.

Byrne worked professionally as a professor of philosophy at Indiana University and was very much a part-time player early in his career. Nevertheless, he earned the international master title by virtue of his outstanding performance at the 1952 Chess Olympiad in Helsinki, Finland, the same year he graduated from Yale. Playing on board three behind Sammy Reshevsky and Larry Evans, he scored eight wins, two losses and five draws to earn an individual bronze medal. He played in nine Olympiads, the last in Buenos Aires 1978, picking up two individual medals (one silver and a bronze) and five team medals (a gold, two silver and two bronze). He played first board for the gold medal winning U.S. team at Haifa 1976.

In his final column for The New York Times, published November 12, 2006, Byrne declared his win in Helsinki over David Bronstein as one of the best and most exciting of his career. Bronstein had just tied in his world championship match with Mikhail Botvinnik and, despite the loss in this game, was awarded the gold medal for his performance on board three in Helsinki.

Queen’s Gambit Accepted (D24)
GM David Bronstein
Robert Byrne
Helsinki Olympiad (2), August 21, 1952
Soviet Union versus United States
Notes by GM Robert Byrne


Bronstein’s 4. Nc3 introduced a sharp gambit, in which Black has trouble even if he refuses it. If 4. ... e6 5. e4 Be7 6. Bxc4, White has the superior pawn center without being obliged to pay anything for it.

4. ... a6 5. e4 b5 6. e5 Nd5 7. a4 Nxc3 8. bxc3

Bb7 9. e6 f6

After 9. ... f6, the white knight was denied the invasion squares at e5 and g5. About this point, Paul Keres, first board on the Soviet team, got up from his game with Samuel Reshevsky and intercepted me as I was pacing the floor while Bronstein pondered his move. Keres admonished me “for playing anything that gives White such powerful attacking chances against such a genius of attack as Bronstein.” I made no reply because I was unwilling to admit that I had not anticipated my opponent’s gambit and was just struggling to do my best.

10. g3

This move 10. g3 was tried out repeatedly after this battle and is still the subject of debate. At first I thought Bronstein’s fianchetto was the right way to go. But I later learned that my old friend Al Horowitz, a star on Olympiad teams in the 1930s and
10. ... Qd5 11. Bg2 Qxe6+ 12. Be3

After 12. Be3, it was necessary to get my queen off the semi-open e-file as soon as possible, but 12. ... Qc8 13. d5, threatening to open the game before I had finished my development, was dangerous.

12. ... c6 13. 0-0 Qc8 14. Re1 Kf7 15. axb5

White's 15. axb5 was wrong because it opened the a-file before he was ready to exploit it. He should have considered 15. h4 with the idea of 16. Kh2 and 17. Bh3. I am not sure I could have defended against an incursion on e6.


Byrne was U.S. Open co-champion in Chicago 1963 and again in Seattle 1966, where he was an undefeated 13-2 against 11 wins. GM Pal Benko was the co-champion. He and GM William Lombardy had identical 11-2 scores in 1963, finishing a half point ahead of GMs Svetozar Gligoric and Benko. Byrne won his personal encounter versus the Yugoslav grandmaster in round eight, an under-appreciated game displaying both his strategic and tactical abilities.

King's Indian Defense, Fianchetto Variation (E65)
IM Robert Byrne
GM Svetozar Gligoric
U.S. Open (8), August 19, 1963
Chicago, Illinois


If 35. ... Rxc5, then 36. Ra8 would have won for my opponent. But 35. ... Re5 virtually finished the struggle. If 36. Qxc6, then 36. Qxc6 37. Rxc6 Kf7 38. Rc8 Ke6 39. c6 Kd6 40. Kg2 Rc5 wins. So, hoping against hope, he played 36. Qh3.

36. Qh3 Rxc5 37. Ra8 Rf5 38. Qf1 Qh7 39. Rd8 Rd5 40. Re8 Qd7 41. Ra8 Rd3 42. Qe1 Rd5, White resigned.

Robert Byrne won the 1960 U.S. Open Championship in St. Louis with a score of 10-2, finishing a half point ahead of Arthur Bisguier and Paul Poschel. After his only loss to Dr. Anthony Saidy in round six, he sealed the victory with consecutive wins in rounds nine through 11 over Raymond Weinstein, Bisguier and Larry Evans.

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B97)
GM Robert Byrne
GM Larry Evans
U.S. Championship (11), New York, NY
December 30, 1965


Byrne earned his grandmaster title in Buenos Aires in 1964. A key victory from the tournament was his win over Miguel Najdorf with the black pieces against the classical King's Indian.

King’s Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E93)
GM Miguel Najdorf
IM Robert Byrne
Buenos Aires, Argentina 1964


(see next game, top of next column)

Byrne also defeated eventual winner Bobby Fischer a few rounds earlier in the same tournament. Byrne had reportedly prepared the above line in the Najdorf Poison Pawn for Fischer. However, he drew the black pieces against Fischer, so he decided to try it against Evans instead.

French Defense, Tarrasch Variation (C04)
GM Robert Fischer
GM Robert Byrne
U.S. Championship (8), New York, NY
December 23, 1965


Byrne was undefeated at the U.S. Open in Seattle 1966. He compiled a score of 13-2 with 11 wins and draws against Bisguier, Saidy, Canadian GM Duncan Suttles and co-champion Benko. Benko had one loss and drew with Suttles in addition to Byrne.

Fischer was the dominant player in the U.S. throughout the late sixties and early seventies and Byrne, who was 15 years older, remained in Bobby's shadow throughout this period. Byrne attended the 1972 World Championship match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky in Reykjavik as a correspondent for *Chess Life & Review* and co-authored a book about the match entitled, *Both Sides of the Chessboard*.

I met GM Byrne, and his wife Maria, at Donald Byrne's induction into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 2002. Byrne struck me as a very serious guy and a deliberate thinker, but he was certainly willing to share a story or two about his chess experiences when asked. He told me stories about Donald Byrne and the chess Olympiads in Havana 1966 and Haifa 1976. And he remarked that while in Reykjavik he was one of Fischer's late-night tennis opponents. He explained that Bobby would warm up by hitting balls back and forth for 20 to 30 minutes or more until Byrne started to work up a sweat. Just before Byrne could say he was ready to call it a night, Bobby shouted, "OK, let's play." Then he would volley for serve and begin keeping score. It was a pattern he followed each time they played. (see more about Fischer's tennis on page 9. –Ed.)

Rumor has it that Byrne's favorite tennis sparring partner over the years was Yasser Seirawan.

Robert and Donald faced each other in serious competition 14 times. Donald held the edge 9-5, and most people who knew both of them felt that Donald possessed the most talent at an early age. Robert, the elder brother, won the first two of their formal encounters and Donald dominated after that. Donald attained the international master title before passing away at the age of 45 in 1976.

Robert Byrne possessed a dry sense of humor, often missed by the casual observer. During one of the early New York Opens, Byrne reached a Philidor position in a rook and pawn ending a pawn down against a master who was 30 years his junior. After making his move, Byrne got up from the board and quietly walked over to greet his friend Paul Albert. After a long think, his opponent came over and softly said, "I think the game is a draw, isn't it?" Byrne replied with a twinkle in his eye, "Against a grandmaster it is." Then, as the player politely shook his hand and...
**FIRST PLACE PLAYOFF (February, 1973)**

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A critical win came against Reshevsky when it appeared that Sammy had the game in hand but an oversight in time pressure allowed Byrne a winning queen sacrifice.

King’s Indian Defense,
Classical Variation (E92)
GM Samuel Reshevsky
GM Robert Byrne
1972 U.S. Championship Playoff, Chicago, Illinois
February 1973

14. Bxe5 Qxe5

**Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation (B81)**
GM Robert Byrne
IM Guillermo Estévez Morales
Leningrad Interzonal (6), June 9, 1973
Notes courtesy of Alex Yermolinsky

Byrne went on to finish third at the Leningrad Interzonal, just a point behind Viktor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov, qualifying for the Candidates match against Spassky. It was a surprising result to observers throughout the chess world who knew Byrne mostly as a 45-year-old journalist. And in the U.S., commencement of the next world championship cycle was under the radar for most players as well as the media, still fixated on Fischer’s 1972 triumph over Spassky.

Byrne’s score of plus-8 in Leningrad was high enough to be an outright winner in most Interzonal tournaments and thwarted Bent Larsen’s attempt to get another shot at Fischer after his embarrassing 6-0 defeat in 1971. Larsen was a qualifier from the previous three Interzonals and a favorite to advance once again, especially after his +5 start through 11 rounds.

Byrne’s only loss was to Korchnoi. Among those who finished behind Byrne was former World Champion Mikhail Tal who entered the event undefeated in 84 straight games. Robert Byrne achieved a peak FIDE rating of 2605 immediately after the Leningrad Interzonal, making him one of the top 15 rated players in the world at the time.

Regarding his opening preparation, GM Bill Lombardy noted that “Robert was an exceptional player, ever more dangerous with a well prepared theoretical variation.” And as he did in the d4 lines, Byrne trotted out many new ideas in the e4 openings, most notably on the white side of the Sicilian Defense.

A schoolboy from Leningrad at the time was future Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky who emigrated to the U.S. in 1990. He was able to witness all of the games of the tournament from the auditorium. Yermo was kind enough to annotate the following win by Robert Byrne from that historic event for Chess Life readers.

**Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation (B81)***

14. Qxe5!!

Totally brilliant. White seeks to increase his initiative after a queen exchange—an idea not recognized by many a Sicilian expert back in the day. Not the obvious 14. fxe5 Nd5 15. Bxd5 exd5 16. 0-0-0 Be6 where Black is quite solid.

39. ... Qxg2+ 40. Kxg2 Bxe5+, White resigned.
14. ... Qb4?


15. a3 Qd6


16. Bxb7 Rb8 17. Bxa6 Bc6 18. 0-0

More precise, or perhaps, just greedier would be to play 18. Rh2 when 18. ...

Rxb2 loses straightaway to 19. Nb5.

18. ... Qd8

Still, after 18. ... Rxb2 19. Nb5 Qxe5 20. fxe5 Bxb5 21. exf6 gxf6 22. Bxb2 there won’t be much resistance left in Black’s position.


What a demolition! This game went near unnoticed back then, but some 30 years later Alexei Shirov and Viktor Bologan started scoring heavily with white in that h3 line, taking advantage of the ideas first discovered by Robert Byrne.

Byrne defeated Larsen in their heads up encounter, disappointing young Yermolinsky as well as thousands of other European schoolboys.

King's Indian Defense, Sämisch Variation (E81)
GM Bent Larsen
GM Robert Byrne
Leningrad Interzonal (15), June 23, 1973

Byrne in Chess Life

For 11 years, GM Robert Byrne served as a Chess Life columnist with “The 65th Square.” Here is his final column, which reached the Chess Life office in February, 2006.

THE 65TH SQUARE

By Grandmaster Robert Byrne

Structure Versus Dynamics

The opposition between these two factors of the game is colorful and arises fairly often. So, it is important to be familiar with it. One way it occurs is in the Maroczy bind, which was enthusiastically promoted by the Hungarian grandmaster Geza Maroczy.

Structure is expressed by the pawns which can hold their formation for a number of moves; Dynamics is expressed sometimes by the pieces and sometimes by mobile pawns. Usually, pawn structure is most vulnerable in the early part of the game. It takes time to protect, but once dug in like cement, it can powerfully hamper the opponent’s freedom of action.

The encounter between the grandmasters Etienne Bacrot of France and Sergei Tiviakov of the Netherlands is an example of the bind working and winning. You may wonder then what advantage it offers Black to suffer through it. One of the most important is that it prevents White from mounting attacks against the king.

Sicilian Defense, Maroczy Bind (B37)

GM Etienne Bacrot
GM Sergei Tiviakov
Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED, 2006

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6 5. c4

In the Sicilian Defense, the Maroczy bind arises after 5. c4. The positional idea is that the pawns at c4 and e4 give White a grip in the center that inhibits Black from countering with ... d5. The formation can also come from the English Opening.

5. ... Nf6 6. Nc3 d6 7. Nc2

(See diagram top of next column)

After 7. Nc2, Black can no longer exchange his knight at c6 for White’s at d4 and thus must play in a slightly cramped situation.

7. ... Bg7 8. Be2 Nd7 9. Bd2 Nc5 10. 0-0 0-0
11. b4

This move initiates a gambit Black can accept with 11. ... Bxc3 12. Bxc3 Nxe4, but after 13. Bb2, practice has shown that White gets more than enough attacking power for Black’s extra pawn. I don’t know of one example where Black has survived.

11. ... Ne6 12. Rc1 Ned4

After 12. ... Ned4 13. Nxd4 Nxd4, Bacrot could have avoided a second exchange of minor pieces with 14. Bd3, but he correctly judged that 14. Be3 Nxe2+ 15. Qxe2 would give him chances against the black queenside pawns because his knight was well placed and his bishop could support it.

16. Nd5

White’s knight is strong, but Tiviakov was afraid to take it off because after 16. ... Bxd5 17. exd5, White could attack on the semi-open e-file and still work against the enemy queenside pawns.

16. ... Qd7 17. Rfd1 b6 18. b5 f5

This is an attempt to obtain some play on the f-file, but that’s a difficult plan to carry out.

26. Qxe6 Bxe6 27. Re1 Bc8 28. a5

Bacrot played directly for 28. a5 and after 28. ... bxa5 29. Bxa5, he had a powerful passed b-pawn.

28. ... bxa5 29. Bxa5 Kf7 30. Bb6

In the long run there was no recourse against that, so Tiviakov gave up a rook for a knight to mess up the position.

30. ... Rxe6 31. bxc6 a4 32. Rxd4 a3 33. Bd4 Bxd4 34. Rxd4 Be6

35. Rxc6

But Bacrot clarified everything with his returning rook for bishop with 35. Rd5. Tiviakov could not take him up on the Greek gift without giving him a queen.


39. Bxc4, Tiviakov did not want for 40. Rxe7+ Kxc6 41. Rh7 Bc2 42. f3, but gave up the hopeless endgame.

Byrne’s fine run ended here as he went on to lose his 1974 match to Spassky who, in turn, lost to Karpov, who then secured the title when Fischer refused to defend his title. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Candidates’ Match 1974

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Byrne competed in the next world championship cycle and was eliminated at the Biel Interzonal in 1976 by a mere half point. Larsen recovered to win the top spot ahead of Tigran Petrosian and Lajos Portisch. All three advanced to the Candidates matches.

Byrne’s final success before cutting back to focus on his column was at the 1976 Chess Olympiad in Haifa. The Soviet Union boycotted the event and the U.S. team did not let the opportunity pass as they won the gold medal ahead of the Netherlands and England. Byrne anchored the team that included Lubomir Kavalek, Larry Evans, James Tarjan, William Lombardy and Kim Commons. His teammate Kavalek said of Byrne, “He was a great asset to U.S. Olympiad teams: poised and composed all the time, he brought stability and confidence to the team.” His final record in Chess Olympiads is remarkable: 116 games, 51 wins, only 12 losses and 53 draws. He was one of the early inductees into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame and was recognized by Chess Journalists of America with their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

Fortunately, Robert Byrne left dozens of sparkling games beyond those presented in this short tribute plus 34 years of insightful chess columns for our instruction and enjoyment. For those who knew him best, he left memories of a thoughtful, deliberate, patient and respectful friend and competitor who brought creativity and integrity to everything he did.
A Decade of Success!

The 2013 All-Girls National Championships in Chicago draws big stars, garners more attention, and continues to flourish.

Photos & text by Jorge Barrera

Anticipation! Nervousness! Excitement!
In its 10th year, the young players attending the All-Girls National Championships on April 26-28, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois had the same emotions as in many previous tournaments, but this time there were special reasons to look forward to this great Chicago event. For starters, the championship has gotten better with age: there are more participants, more awareness, and more fun surprises every year.

This year’s tournament stands out for being action packed and eventful from the moment it started. Before round one, Rahm Emanuel, mayor of the city of Chicago and former White House Chief of Staff for Barack Obama, transformed the tournament hall more into a rock-and-roll arena than a chess venue when he stopped by to witness the event. Amidst the flashes of photographers, the mayor met with players of all ages and asked them about their experiences preparing for the tournament. He was introduced to USC President Ruth Haring and also to members of the I.S. 318 school in New York, who were recently made famous by the documentary Brooklyn Castle that explores the effect of chess in schools. Emanuel clearly exhibited surprise and growing interest as the young players from around the country enthusiastically explained the importance and joy of chess in their lives.

With a record 282 girls battling it out in seven sections, the tournament began with even larger crowds and even more anxious parents. Among the discussions between attendees was the interest in the all-new Under 20 section. It was truly a positive change to see how in the space of one year, more girls joined the ranks of chess players, and the public’s awareness of the benefits of chess were more pronounced. The organizers of the event, The Kasparov Chess Foundation, along with the Renaissance Knights, a local organization that provides chess to schools throughout Chicago, made it possible for many of the girls to have a great experience. Volunteers from Bank of America helped out with the running of the tournament, and Hipsters for Sisters, a company which designs purses and donates to causes that help women overcome obstacles, provided chic prizes for some of the winners.

However, every participant had a chance to win something special. Before the last round, those girls who found a sticker under their queen won their choice from a collection of stuffed animals! Though not every child could win their section, it was details like this that made the experience and travel well worth it for many of the girls who had journeyed from as far away as California.

On the boards, the games were fiercer than ever, and perhaps the emergence of a chess star was seen as 12-year-old Anupama Rajendra, who last year won the Under 18 section, won the Under 20 section this time! This year’s Under 18 winner was Lilia Poteat, while Claudia Munoz won the Under 16 section with a perfect 6-0 score. Another perfect score came from Ashritha Eswaran, who won the Under 14 section and pushed her rating above 2000. Samritha Palakollu tied for first with Vivian Cao-Dao in the Under 12, Naomi Bashkansky won the Under 10 and finally the youngest section, Under 8, was won by Aksithi Eswaran, half a point ahead of four different girls.

Of course, the highlight of the tournament came on Sunday afternoon. In the last round, none other than Garry Kasparov came to watch the girls compete in their final game. He also held a public book signing where he was able to meet with many of the girls in person; he shook hands and asked personally engaging questions like, “How did you do?” and, “How many games did you win?” Some girls were truly ecstatic to meet the former world champion as he signed their books, chessboards, and pictures. Undoubtedly, these mementos of the experience, with Kasparov’s personalized greeting, will stay with them and help fuel their memories and love of chess throughout their lives. During the closing ceremony, Kasparov’s words inspired everyone in the room, and he kindly stayed to hand out the trophies to the top players in each section, as well as pose for photographs.

In just one year, it is thoroughly apparent that many positive changes have occurred for the All-Girls National Chess Championships, and therefore, for chess-playing girls in general. There are more players, more enthusiasm, and more people working together to create a great experience for the young players, who made the tenth championship a resounding success. We can only hope that such a level of dedication will lead to even better opportunities for these girls, and that chess continues to be recognized as a medium for success. Photos follow on next three pages.
Opposite page: Rujuta Durwas and friend excitedly show their books as they wait for the arrival of former World Champion Garry Kasparov.

This page: Sarah Ascherman of New York poses in front of her board for her first game in the Under 16 section.
Top: Learning new strategies for the final match. Bottom left: Chicago’s Mayor Rahm Emanuel greets Grace Clopton before the start of the tournament. Middle right: The tournament hall at the Swissotel packed with suspense! Bottom right: Camiah McNeal of Illinois examines her game post-mortem from the Under 20 section.
Top: Anupama Rajendra of Wisconsin holds her trophy for winning the Under 20 section, pictured with (l-r) David Heiser of Renaissance Chess, former World Champion Garry Kasparov, USCF President Ruth Haring, FIDE Senior Trainer and KCF President Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Middle: Garry Kasparov hands Sophia Rascoff, from Seattle Country Day School, her newly signed book. Bottom Left: A bit of lightheartedness helps Melinda Burgin prepare for her last game. Bottom Right: Oh no, a blunder!
DOMINGO SANTOYO WAS BORN WITHOUT ARMS AND without a hip socket in his right hip. As a kid, he loved sports—describing himself as a “very competitive person”—but his parents were reluctant to let him play.

“My parents, they were very protective and didn’t want me to do contact sports,” he said, though by high school he was playing soccer and serving as the captain of his school’s swim team. Before that, though, starting in seventh grade, Santoyo found another way to fulfill his drive to compete: he learned to play chess and started to enter local chess tournaments in Texas. Before long, he asked his parents to hire a private tutor so he could improve.

Santoyo played tournaments throughout Texas and his younger brothers developed an interest in the game, and as a teenager traveled across the country and to Mexico and Canada to compete in tournaments.

Now 20 and a student at University of Texas-Brownsville studying physics, Santoyo said he hasn’t played chess competitively for the past few years, but he does attend tournaments to watch, and he works as a private chess tutor for three younger students—one in sixth, one in eighth and one in ninth grade.

Santoyo tried using prosthetic arms for a brief period when he was younger. They weren’t “cool and robotic” like recently-prototyped prosthetic arms that connect to nerves in the shoulder (but still aren’t broadly available), he said. He wasn’t able to grab or hold things with the hooks, and the pull on his shoulders hurt.

“I just said Mom, if this is just for aesthetics, I don’t need this,” Santoyo said. “I do everything with my feet.”

That includes chess. When he played in tournaments, he asked to use a higher chair so he could move the pieces with his feet; he’s also set chessboards up on the floor to play.

“Usually, [tournaments] are very accessible,” he said. “Locally, when I go out of town, or for nationals, I would just talk to the tournament director. I’ve never had a problem with that.”

According to the U.S. Census 2008 American Community Survey, 54 million people in the United States—or 19 percent of the civilian, non-institutionalized population—describe themselves as having a disability of some kind. Of those, 3.3 million use wheelchairs and another 10 million use a walking aid such as a cane, crutches or a walker to get around. Just under 2 million report a visual impairment, and one million have a hearing impairment.

Of those, the number who play chess is difficult to ascertain: in terms of tournament play, for instance, U.S. Chess Federation registration questionnaires don’t ask about disabilities other than blindness. Looking beyond the U.S., in October 2011 the World Chess Federation sponsored the 1st World Chess Games for Disabled People in Germany, and 80 people participated. The FIDE website notes plans for a second all-disabled tournament this October 21-29 in Dresden, Germany.

By nature, the mind-game chess is of course a more accessible sport than most. In addition, the game is flexible enough that people who aren’t able to engage with it in one way—for instance, those who can’t make it to many tournaments, or just don’t like the speed and competitive nature of tournament play—have a number of other entry points available to them: clubs, online forums and mobile apps, correspondence chess (by e-mail, postcard, or—going further back—audio cassette and ham radio).

“For me, chess is a sport. Since I am physically disabled I can’t play real sports, but chess has a lot of the competitive aspects
“For me, chess is a sport. Since I am physically disabled I can’t play real sports, but chess has a lot of the competitive aspects that a real sport would have.”

MICHAEL AIGNER
that a real sport, or a mainstream sport, would have,” said Michael Aigner, a USCF life master who’s also coached two World Youth champions (Daniel Naroditsky and Steven Zierk), two champions of domestic tournaments and the serially successful Saratoga High School chess team.

Aigner was born with shortened arms and legs and uses a wheelchair to get around. He loves watching baseball, football and basketball and unlike many serious tournament players, Aigner didn’t develop a serious interest in chess until college, when he joined the chess club at the University of California at Davis. (See sidebar, “Aigner Over the board.”)

Aigner was active in tournaments in northern California and Nevada, but a recent illness has limited his ability to participate in tournament play. However, he still plays online—which he started doing in the mid-1990s—and administers an online chess club.

Like Aigner and Santoyo, Ginny Alverson grew up loving sports—she’d listen to baseball games on a transistor radio during family road trips as a kid, and worked for many years in sports broadcasting—but was born blind, so the sport she took up was chess.

“Mom and Dad encouraged me to do things. That isn’t always true for kids with disabilities, especially blind kids,” Alverson said. Alverson’s father taught her to play when she was about eight years old, and started a chess club while attending Sullivan Central High School in Blountville, Tennessee, in the mid-1970s.

She didn’t start playing in tournaments until the mid-1980s, when she learned that there were tournaments for blind people and started participating in the U.S. Blind Championships.

The U.S. Blind Chess Championships draw about 10 people per year, though Alverson said numbers were higher in the mid-1980s when the Finley, Ohio, Lions Club sponsored the event—despite the fact that Finley, Ohio is a little tougher to get to than other places.

Participants had to fly into Toledo or Detroit and then find a way to get to Finley, and Alverson said her father—who traveled with her to numerous blind and sighted chess tournaments when he was still alive—often drove people to and from the airport so they could participate in the tournament.

“My dad did an awful lot for those chess players. Sometimes I think my dad was unappreciated. He helped out quite a bit, went to the tournaments as often as he could,” Alverson said.

Now that he’s gone, she relies on public transportation to get to tournaments. Now the U.S. Blind Championship takes place in Pittsburgh, and Alverson travels there on Amtrak trains with her guide dog, a chocolate Labrador retriever named Elijah, and stays with an aunt and uncle who live in the city.

She used to fly to tournaments, but has developed a distaste for air travel, partly due to increased Transportation Security Administration restrictions and partly due to problems with the airlines themselves, which have left her high and dry on a couple of occasions.

Once, traveling with a prior guide dog, she checked the bag that contained his food, and as luck would have it, that bag ended up at the wrong airport. Airline staff apologized and found the dog another bag of food, but Alverson was none too pleased.

“Now when I go to tournaments the first thing I do is see if Amtrak’s going. I will not deal with the hassles,” Alverson said.
Apart from the accessibility issues associated with travel, the costs associated with travel and registration may be a barrier to participation: census figures say just 46 percent of people with disabilities are employed, and those who do work earn less on average than nondisabled people.

Alverson thinks a similar sponsorship deal could increase the number of participants, though budging the employment numbers—is critical as well. Joan DuBois, who coordinates the blind tournaments, concurs. She also attributes the decreased registration numbers—“We are happy to get eight to 10 people”—on the increased cost of travel.

Alverson also continues to play in sighted chess tournaments, though she knows one blind player who quit chess altogether because of a bad experience with a sighted tournament, and she has had occasional difficulty as well—generally with “inexperienced” tournament directors who haven’t often dealt with blind players.

“When I play in sighted tournaments, it’s a bit of a challenge because tournament directors for some reason seem to think they don’t need to give information verbally,” Alverson said. Generally, though, she hasn’t had trouble getting the accommodation she needs to play in sighted tournaments, including allowing Elijah to come in to the tournaments and watch.

Aigner said in his experience playing tournaments in northern California and Nevada, he has rarely seen other disabled players competing.

“In tournaments, I can remember two times I played a person with an obvious disability. That is out of 1,500 games approximately,” said Michael Aigner. “There are very few disabled players out here in California. I suspect there are more disabled players playing on the Internet. Of course there’s no way for me to know it unless they put it in their notes somewhere, so in general, I wouldn’t even notice it.”

He suggests technological modifications could make tournament play more accessible to more people.

“It would be nice to see a few more disabled people in the game. I guess maybe this will be the future,” he said. “I imagine there’s going to be a closer relationship between online play, computer play and tournaments. For example, maybe sometime down the road instead of setting up a board, you and your opponent use a tablet or an iPad-type device and somehow play a game like that. I’m sure there would be concerns about cheating, computer cheating. There’s some open questions about whether that’s feasible or not, but that would certainly make things feasible for a lot of disabled people. They could certainly use their tablets and that’d make everything a lot easier, certainly a lot easier than setting up the physical board and making you reach across the physical board and move them.”

Ata-Alp Süren, who’s 18 and just graduated from high school in Mission Viejo in southern California, uses a wheelchair to get around and said he sees other physically disabled players with some frequency. Most impressive to him was a game he witnessed at a tournament in Philadelphia this spring, where one player was apparently quadriplegic.

“He had to tell his opponent the moves, and his opponent would move for him, which was quite astonishing,” Süren said.

Süren—who was born in Turkey and started playing competitive chess at a club in Dusseldorf after his family moved to Germany—said the only accommodation he generally asks for in tournaments is that he be able to press the clock and move the chess pieces with different hands, something every opponent he’s had has agreed to.

“If further problems come out, I would ask a director to help out, but I’ve never had a problem,” Süren said.

Rob Jones is a USCF senior tournament director (TD) in Denton, Texas who has seen a problem, but one that ultimately was successfully handled by the player himself: “I saw a blind person play at a Texas event. His opponent ran out of time, and did not, as a good sportsman should, inform him of this. I asked the chief TD if I should tell the blind person. The chief said no. After the game, won by the blind person, I was told that he knew his opponent was out of time, and on what move that occurred. How he knew, I have no idea, since the special buzzer on his clock did not work.”

Paul Gomez was born with a neuromuscular disorder that slowly atrophies the muscles. Until age 13, he was able to walk and function fairly normally, but after a bad case of pneumonia he has needed a respirator to help him breathe and a wheelchair to help him get around. He learned to play chess when he was six and played casually for most of his life, but during the past few years he’s begun to study the game more seriously.

He’s not able to make it to many tournaments or to the chess club in Syracuse, New York, where he lives, and Gomez said he’s

“If you have a lifelong disability, you're busy planning. That planning ahead is a lot like chess.”

~JERRY PATTEE

The only accommodation Ata-Alp Süren generally asks for in tournaments is that he be able to press the clock and move the chess pieces with different hands.
Aigner Over the Board


Chess Life invited Michael Aigner to annotate one of his favorite games. This is what he sent:

Dutch Defense, Leningrad System (A87)
GM Alex Yermolinsky (2601)
Michael Aigner (2306)
Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills (2), 07.21.2006
Notes by Aigner

1. Nf3 f5 2. b4!?
   While rare on move two, the b2-b4-concept is hardly new.
2. ... Nf6 3. Bb2 g6 4. g3 Bg7 5. Bg2 0-0 6. c4 d6 7. d4
   Transposing into a known position.
7. ... Ne4
   A fight for the center ensues after 7. ... e5 8. dxe5 Ng4 9. c5 Nxе5 10. Qb3+ Kh8 11. 0-0.
8. Nbд2
9. Qxd2 e6
   The time for ... c7-c5 has passed since White controls the dark squares.
   White has more space, but Black has no weaknesses yet.
14. ... a6 15. a4 axb5 16. axb5 Ne4
   The knight belongs in the center, but here it should encounter trouble. See my next note.
17. Nxd2 Qf7 18. e3?
   White’s advantage increases after 18. Nxe4 fxe4 19. Rf1 d5 20. f3!
18. ... Nxd2 19. Qxd2 c6 20. Qb4 d5
   The stonewall pawn structure never earns style points, but proves hard to crack.
21. Ra1 g5!?
22. bxc6
   White could lock the kingside with a timely f2-f4.
22. ... Bxc6 23. cxd5 Bxd5
   Black eagerly trades his bad bishop.
   Due to the weaker pawn structure, Black must seize the initiative, lest he become a casualty of grandmaster technique.
26. ... f4!
   The only move, even if your online moniker is not fpawn.
27. exf4 gxf4 28. Bc1 fxg3 29. hxg3
   Black seems content after 29. fxg3 Re8 30. Bf4 Re4.
29. Re8 30. Bf4?
   This move loses a tempo. White’s position is increasingly difficult for a human to defend, especially in Zeitnot.
30. ... Re4
31. Be3 h5!
   Black further probes the kingside.
32. Kg2 h4 33. f3 Re7
   The computer suggests 33. ... h3+ 34. Kf2 Re7 35. Rh1 Qh5 with dynamic equality.
34. gxh4 Qe6
   A sharper move 34. ... Bf6 35. Rh1 Qe6 36. Bg5 Rg7 leaves White hanging on the precipice.
35. Bf2 Bh6 36. f4?
   White makes an awful choice in time pressure. Better was 36. Bg3 Qе2+ 37. Kh3 Qe6+ 38. Kh2 Rg7 39. Rg1 Bf4 40. Bxf4 Rg1 41. Kxg1 Qe1+ 42. Kg2 Qe2+ 43. Kh3 Qe6+ 44. Kg3 Qe1+ with a perpetual.
36. ... Qе4+ 37. Kh3
   No better is 37. Qf3 Rg7+ 38. Bg3 Bxf4.
37. ... Rg7 38. Bg3 Bxf4, White resigned.
better than everyone he personally knows when it comes to playing chess.

Playing online, he said, has enabled him to meet people from all over the world and “instantly have something in common.”

“It is a way for people with disabilities to be competitive on an equal playing field. It crosses so many cultures and socioeconomic classes. I’ve always been interested in physics in the universe and chess is like its own little universe,” Gomez said.

When he does play tournaments, Gomez needs someone to move the pieces, as he no longer has use of his hands, and to keep track of his moves. All the tournaments he’s attended have been in wheelchair-accessible spaces, but some of the smaller ones have had to make last-minute adjustments to accommodate him.

Because he’s had limited access to tournaments, he doesn’t have an over-the-board rating for in-person play, though he does have one for correspondence tournaments.

“I would like specifically for the United States Chess Federation to offer a way for people such as myself to earn a rating online that would count as an over the board rating,” Gomez said. “I would also enjoy more correspondence tournaments to use the Web. Other than that I am fairly satisfied with the current status of the chess world.”

Gomez describes himself as a “very competitive person” when it comes to chess and other hobbies, including trivia: “I like to show that although I am disabled I am mentally sharp.”

While almost everyone interviewed for this story described themselves as competitive people, the drive to compete wasn’t shared universally.

“I don’t, basically, like to play chess,” said Jerry Pattee, a semiretired telecommunications worker in Portland, Oregon, who has cerebral palsy and uses crutches to walk.

While he has never been inclined to join a club or enter tournament play, Pattee likes studying games and moves, and teaching chess to other people.

Right now, he’s working with two students from Pacific University who are enrolled in a course called “Writings in Disability” that requires them to talk to a person with a disability over the course of several interviews, and write about that person’s life. Through the course of those conversations, he’s gotten the two students—who’ve teamed up to follow him—interested in chess. Watching the two play each other is more fun than participating in a game himself, and teaching others aspects of the game is less stressful for him than playing it.

Pattee wonders if stereotyping—particularly of people with intellectual disabilities—has kept parents and teachers from even attempting to teach some disabled children how to play. He describes a longtime friend of his with severe learning disabilities, including attention deficit disorder, who’s struggled with substance abuse and legal problems most of his adult life, bouncing in and out of corrections facilities and shelters.

“His reading level is seventh or eighth grade, maybe,” Pattee said, but has street smarts that make him a formidable chess opponent. “If he even sees where I’m looking, he has me.”

Nicholas Brennan, who plays on the chess team at Atlantic City High School and uses a wheelchair because of a bone disorder he was born with, said he thinks of himself as “somewhat competitive” but not to the point where he gets mad if he loses or gets overly invested in winning.

“It’s not warring, it’s the opposite of war,” Brennan said. He likes the strategic aspect of chess instead. “You have to think ahead—and even thinking ahead isn’t enough sometimes.”

Pattee is also more interested in the strategic than the competitive aspects of chess, and he sees a direct parallel between playing the game and living with a disability. He explains that even standing up and walking across the room to get something he needs—let alone taking a trip out into the community—is, for him, a multi-step process, that requires him to think several steps ahead.

“If you have a lifelong disability, you’re busy planning,” Pattee said. “That planning ahead is a lot like chess.”

“[Playing online] is a way for people with disabilities to be competitive on an equal playing field. It crosses so many cultures and socioeconomic classes. I’ve always been interested in physics in the universe and chess is like its own little universe.”

~PAUL GOMEZ

The U.S. Blind Championship is being held August 9-10 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact Rick Varchetto, richard521@suddenlink.net. TLA is on page 52 of this issue.
FedPrep

Hall-of-famer GM John Fedorowicz recounts his history preparing himself and others for big games and events to help show you how to get ready for your next tournament.

By GM JOHN FEDOROWICZ

THIS IS GOING TO BE AN UNUSUAL CHESS ARTICLE. Originally it was going to be about preparation at the 2012 World Youth. I’ll show some examples from that tournament, but I thought it might be a good idea to expand the article. I figured it would be interesting to show some of my best, weird and worst preparation stories. We have to break it up in two parts: Pre-computer and computer. The “pre” part was full of notebooks, the twice-yearly Chess Informants, the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings (which included all openings in five books with no written explanations but lots of weird symbols!), various opening books (you had to choose wisely so the parents wouldn’t go broke) and discussing ideas with friends. It was good to have strong friends!

Let me start by going back in time to one of my first big tournaments. I was very lucky to get into the Hastings 1977/78 premier section for the simple reason that I was overrated. (I had just won a Bill Goichberg-run futurity with 7½ out of 9 and reached a FIDE rating of 2440.) One of the players had visa problems so the organizers needed a highly-rated replacement. Playing with the likes of GMs Tigran Petrosian, Vlastimil Hort, Gyula Sax, Evgeny Sveshnikov, James Tarjan, Roman Dzindzichashvili, and Leonid Shamkovich was frightening but fun.

One of my best experiences was against former World Champion Petrosian. I had the white pieces so my plan was all-out attack. My fellow Americans Jonathan Tisdall and Tarjan helped me prepare. GM Tarjan was familiar with Tigran’s openings. I remember Jim saying something along the lines of, “He plays the French and Caro-Kann unless he thinks you’re an idiot, then he’ll play Sicilian.” Still, my idea was to attack at all costs. What chance would I have in a grinding game?
**Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation (B81)**

John P. Fedorowicz (FIDE 2440, USA)

GM Tigran V. Petrosian (FIDE 2645, RUS)

*Hastings 1977/78 (10), 1977*

1. e4 c5

Petrosian seldom played the Sicilian, but I was happy to see it. His main defenses were the Caro-Kann and French. I was most concerned about the French.


The straight up Scheveningen move order was seldom seen due to the Keres Attack.

6. g4! a6 7. g5 Nfd7 8. Be3 b5 9. a3 Bb7 10. Qg4!

This was a novelty that now-GM Jon Tisdall showed me. I don’t know how effective it is now, but back then it had big surprise value.

10. ... Nc6 11. 0-0-0 Nce5 12. Qh6 Nf7 13. f4 Nc6 14. Rg1?

Very safe getting the Rh1 away from the ... Bb7. The continuation 14. Nxc6 Bxc6 15. Bxd7+ Kxd7 16. Be3 exf4 17. Bxf4 Be7 18. Qh6 is very good for White as well.

14. ... Qc7 15. f5 Nc5 16. fxe6 fxe6 17. Bxb5

A typical Sicilian sacrifice with Black’s king in the center.

17. ... axb5 18. Nxb5 Nd8 19. Rgf1!

With ideas of Rxf8+.


A nice combo leading to a winning game.


I learned an important lesson from this. The attack won a small amount of material, but White shouldn’t trade queens. With queens on it’s obvious that Black’s king is a problem. Without queens Black has one thing less to worry about.

28. Qd3!

28. ... Kxc6 29. Nd4+ Kd7 30. h4 d5 31. h5 e5 32. Nb3 Rd3 33. Bd2 Rh3 34. h6 Rg8 35. Kb1

Not so effective is 35. Rg1 when Black’s next move is 35. ... Rxf6.

35. ... Ke6 36. Re1 Bxd5 37. Nd4+ Kd7 38. h7, Draw agreed.

And in mutual time pressure the former world champion offered a draw.

Game 2 of the Hastings prep stories didn’t turn out quite as well. I was a big fan of Sveshnikov and his variation of the Sicilian. What a tribute to him it would be to play his opening. With confidence I trotted it out against the strong English IM Jon Mestel.

**Sicilian Defense, Sveshnikov Variation (B33)**

IM A. Jonathan Mestel (FIDE 2420, ENG)

*Hastings 1977/78 (3), 1977*


This was a novelty that now-GM Jon Mestel.

12. f4 Nbd7 13. Rc1

Very safe getting the Rh1 away from the ... Bb7. The continuation 14. Nxc6


7. Nd5!?

I was well prepared for most variations and all sacrifice lines, but not this. Lately this line is seen from time to time. It’s a relief from the played out 7. Bg5.

7. ... Nxd5 8. exd5 Ne7 9. c4 Nf5 10. Bd3 a6??

Oops! How embarrassing. Well my mom said I would gain important experience. 10. ... Be7 11. 0-0 0-0 is a much better thing to do.

11. Qa4

12. Kf2

Very safe. I was well prepared for this.

12. ... a5

13. Nc3

This is the position we were aiming for. GM Sveshnikov walked by and winked at me!

7. Nd5?

I was well prepared for most variations and all sacrifice lines, but not this. Lately this line is seen from time to time. It’s a relief from the played out 7. Bg5.

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12. Kf2

Very safe. I was well prepared for this.

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11. Qa4

12. Kf2

Very safe. I was well prepared for this.

12. ... a5

13. Nc3

This is the position we were aiming for. GM Sveshnikov walked by and winked at me!
13. ... Rad8 14. g4!

This space-gaining move leads to an unstoppable initiative.

14. ... Nc5

14. ... g6 15. g5 Nh5 16. f5 is better than the game, but still no fun.


At this point White has used only four minutes.

16. ... exf4 17. b4!

Winning a piece and the game.

17. ... Ncxe4

No better is 17. ... Ne6 18. Nd5!.


Forcing trades.


Black resigned here. If Black continues 27. ... Qd7 28. Re1 finishes the job.

The second game from the match was a similar story, but in a tougher situation. Lematschko had the black pieces in the last game, needing a win to force overtime. Her previous games with black were Bogo Indians which are drawish at best. Once again based on Nana’s predictability, I decided the best chance would be a Benoni.

Modern Benoni, Classical Variation (A77)
WGM Nana Alexandria (FIDE 2355, GEO)
WGM Tatjana Lematschko (FIDE 2255, SUI)
Candidates (Women), Alicante (10), 1983

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 d6

The Modern Benoni is a very aggressive try vs 1. d4, but it is antipositional.

6. Nc3 g6 7. Nd2Bg7 8. e4 0-0 9. Be2 Nb7 10. 0-0 Re8 11. a4

The move 11. Na4? is what Black wants; White violates the rule of cramped positions: don’t trade pieces. White needs the Nd2 for any advantage. Black has counterplay after 11. ... Ne5 12. Nxe5 Rxe5.

11. ... Ne5

The alternative continuation 11. ... a6 12. Ra3 Rb8 13. a5 Qc7 14. h3 b5 15. axb6 e.p. Rxb6 16. Qc2 Ne5 17. f4 Ned7 18. Kh1 and White was seen in Tigran Petrosian-Miguel Quinteros when White was in control, mentioned below.

12. Ra3!? At this point White has used only four minutes.

At Lone Pine 1976, I asked GM Petrosian after he defeated Argentinean GM Miguel Quinteros, “What does this move do?” He smiled at me and replied, “nothing.” This type of move was typical of Petrosian: The rook hangs out on a3 ready to defend the kingside at a moment’s notice.

12. ... g5

Anchoring the ... e5-knight against White’s f2-f4.

13. Re1


(see diagram top of next column)

Black is very close to winning, but nerves kicked in. The game was drawn in 70 moves and we lost the match 5½-4½.

Next let’s look at my coaching on the men’s side as I helped GM Joel Benjamin in the 1987 world championship cycle.

1987 Interzonal
GM Joel Benjamin had qualified for the 1987 Interzonal in Szirak Hungary. At the time I was based in Barcelona, Spain, so Joel and GM Michael Wilder visited for some serious pre-tournament study. I have to say that we did a very good job. In strong events the openings become the real focus. This tournament had 18 players, so it was a lot of work. A good general approach is to play for an advantage with white and to play for equality with black. This method of opening study was favored by Bobby Fischer. I got to carry 50 pounds of books!

We worked on openings, played training games, got some ideas from the opponents’ games and did some work on rook endings. We discussed player styles and matchups. That’s why we decided to play “the snake” versus super-Hungarian GM Lajos Portisch. The thinking was that something weird and new-fangled could send the veteran grandmaster into a different type of thinking.

Modern Benoni (A60)
GM Lajos Portisch
GM Joel Benjamin
Szirak, 12.29.1987

1. d4

It’s not so easy to confuse a world-class grandmaster, but Joel had fun trying!

1. ... Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 Bd6

This is “the snake,” a strange type of Benoni.


7. d6!? A risky attempt at refutation. Black is cramped, but the d6-pawn is vulnerable.

7. ... d6 8. Nc4 a6 9. a4 Nbd7 10. Bg5 0-0 11. e4?

11. ... e3 leaves White with a persistent slight edge.

11. ... a6 12. Bd3

(see diagram top of next column)

12. ... Rb8
12. ... Nxe4?? the pin trick loses material
Ng6 17. Bg3 b5 18. axb5 axb5 19. f3 c4 20.
Ne2 Nh5 17. Bg3 b5 21. Bf2 Bb6 22. g3 Ne5 23. Kg2 b4
24. Re1 Rc8 25. Ng1 Nf6 26. Rc1 Bc5 27. Nf1
Bxf2 28. Kxf2 Qb6+ 29. Kg2 Ra8
Black is in good shape here, but Joel went on to lose an exciting game.

Youth coaching
In 1998 the USCF called and asked me to coach the Pan American Youth Championship in Florianópolis, Brazil. I figured after coaching strong players like Gata Kamsky, Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, Walter Browne, and Nick de Firmian this could be fun. It would be my first of many youth events. By then, everyone had a laptop and ChessBase. It made preparation a lot easier in some ways, but tougher in other ways. If you had games in a database or online, your opponents can cook something up specially prepared for you.

This is why it has become so important to have sound openings. Sometimes studying one good line versus a suspicious opening can bring great results. Here in a game from the World Youth Chess Championship, 2010 Coach Armen Ambartsoumian helps Steven Zierk to an important win. Black's forces are uncoordinated.

17. ... f5
An ugly, forced, move, but a bishop retreat loses material. 17. ... Bd7 18. Nxd7 wins; 17. ... Bf5 18. g4!
It’s very surprising that this position hasn’t been seen too much in practice. 8. ... d5 9. a3 Bxc3+ 10. Nxc3 Ne4 11. Qc2 Qa5+ 12. Ndx2 13. Bxd2 Qb6 14. Bf5 bxc5 15. ... Nc5 and bottling Black up gives White a big lead in development.

**5. ... Nf3 d6 6. e4 0-0 7. a3 Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 Qe7 9. Bb3 e5 10. h3 d6**


**6. Be7**

These positions can get tricky for Black: 8. ... b5?! 9. a4! b4 10. Na2 a5 11. c3 bxc3 12. Bxc3 and Black’s queenside is blown out while White has a big lead in development.

**9. Kh1 Nbd7 10. f4 0-0 11. Nh3?!**


**11. ... Nc5 12. e5 dxe5 13. fxe5 Nfd7 14. Bg5! Qd8**

White gets a winning position after 14. Be7, which I find to be a tough variation for White to deal with.

**5. ... Qc7 6. Bd2 Nf6 7. 0-0 0-0**

**7. Bg5?!**

Jonathan Tisdall felt that playing 1. d4 is best for learning tactical play. But a draw would be normal.

**8. ... a5!**

A few years ago at a chess camp one of the kids referred to me as “that openings guy.” Getting out of the opening in one piece—is a real chore. Even “super grandmasters” can be in trouble before move 15. Working on the openings that fits one’s style is a must, but trying new positions is best for learning and improving.

**10. ... a4 11. Bxa4 bxa4**

Not respecting Black’s active play. 25. Rf1. White is about to be in trouble: 25. ... Ne3! 26. Rf2 Rxc8 27. Nb4.

**27. ... Bb7 28. Re1 Nxe2!**

This simple combination ends the game.


And Black’s mass of pawns won.

**16. Be1 Kg7 17. Qd2 Rh8 18. f4 Black has a long tough defensive task ahead.**

**16. Ne5**

The f5-knight is too tough to deal with.


**9. Kh1 Nbd7 10. f4 0-0 11. Nh3?!**


**11. ... Nc5 12. e5 dxe5 13. fxe5 Nfd7 14. Bg5! Qd8**

White gets a winning position after 14. Be7, which I find to be a tough variation for White to deal with.

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When I was a young player I was a tactical player who only used 1. e4. GM Jonathan Tisdall felt that playing 1. d4 with the resulting positional-play aspects to be very important. I have to agree; a chessic version of a “switch hitter” so to speak. (see our cover story for an example of this by one of our great players. ~Ed.) Most time consuming, but worth it. Practicing on the Internet is a stress-free way to improve one’s game. Play and analyze, know your rook endings and most importantly, have fun and enjoy! 🎒
LETTER OF INTENT

A Promise For Tomorrow

In future support of the work of the U.S. Chess Trust, I want to provide for future
generations and to ensure the continuity of services by the U.S. Chess Trust.

Therefore,

☐ I have made provision ☐ I will make provision
to support the U.S. Chess Trust by:

☐ making a bequest or endowment provision in my Will
☐ creating a charitable remainder or lead trust naming
  the U.S. Chess Trust as a beneficiary.
☐ establishing an endowment or special fund at the
  U.S. Chess Trust.
☐ directing the trustees or directors of my foundation
to continue beyond my lifetime making an annual
gift to the U.S. Chess Trust.
☐ Making an outright gift to the U.S. Chess Trust during
  my lifetime in the sum of $__________.

This Letter of Intent represents my commitment to the work of the U.S. Chess Trust.
It does not represent a legal obligation and may be changed by me at any time.

Whatever the amount of your gift, when you leave a legacy for the future of the
U.S. Chess Trust, you are an important part of the Promise for Tomorrow.

Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information
and email Barbara DeMaro at bduscf@aol.com (845-527-1167)

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor.
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AS A RULE, I ONLY USE WELL-annotated games by the submitting players themselves. What a player thought during, and after, the game is as important to me and to readers as are the actual moves. And while this month’s column has been submitted to me not by the player but by his teacher, we can clearly discern the player’s thoughts from the teacher’s words. Writes Kevin Swanger’s master-rated teacher, Leonard Dickerson (my further comments are in italics):

I have taught chess for decades, and your articles are one of the main features that I read monthly because it gives me some insight into what lower-rated players think. A 12-year-old student of mine, Kevin Swanger, recently played a decent game in a 60-minute club Swiss that I think your readership will enjoy. While he didn’t make any spectacular moves against his much higher-rated opponent, he did demonstrate the art of making decent, simple moves while searching out vulnerabilities.

Just a month prior to this January tournament, we had been concentrating on recognizing threats and avoiding one-move blunders. I emphasized to him that if he can remain alert enough to avoid the one-move blunder, then he can play a competitive game against anyone under, say, 1000. My chess tutorial attempts to focus the player on threats: “What is he directly attacking or planning to threaten?” After this you systematically step through this progression when considering your threats provided by his move:

- Are there any checks available?
- Are there any chesmen that I can presently capture?
- Are there any unprotected enemy men or badly-placed pieces on awkward squares?
- What direct attack can I now make?
- What threat can I set up to complete on my following move(s)?

Applying this methodology, he not only beat his higher-rated opponent but simultaneously provided stiff competition to another higher-rated opponent. You see, he was playing both higher-rated opponents at the same time! (He missed playing his first opponent the previous week and so would forfeit that game if he didn’t simultaneously play it now.)

Kevin states that when both of his opponents made a move on his time, he would respond to Mr. Bynum’s move first since Mr. Bynum was consuming so much time while thinking. Kevin says that things went “according to plan!” So I guess we can credit him with a time-management tidbit.

English Opening (A25)

Kipp Bynum (1342)  Kevin Swanger (724)
Steve Higgs Memorial 2013

This game shows the value of simply making threats and allowing your opponent to err in defense.

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 Nc6 4. g3 Bc5 5. Bg2 0-0
6. Nge2 d6 7. 0-0 Be6 8. d3

6. Nge2 d6 7. 0-0 Be6 8. d3

White has erected the Botvinnik variation of the English opening. Because he has a very stable center and a grip on the white squares, he will soon be trying to expand with f2-f4 to pursue a kingside attack.

8. ... h6

This is certainly OK, but a little better would be an immediate ... a7-a5 because it would forestall any plans that White might have of expanding on the queenside, as well as ensuring that the black-squared bishop couldn’t be swapped off by Na4.

9. a3 a5

10. Kh1

This is premature. Best was Be3 or even the preparatory h2-h3. Still, Black would have an even game.

10. ... Ng4

Kevin alertly pounces on his first opportunity to attack.

11. h3?

White should admit that he made a mistake and return his king to g1.

After 11. Kg1 f5?! Black is much better, with a strong attack. Relatively better is 11. Qe1, with only a small edge for Black. And, of course, 11. h3 is a terrible blunder—giving away an Exchange and a pawn.


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13. ... Qd7

Again Kevin finds a target that he can immediately attack (and Fritz 11 awards him a 3.4 advantage).

Black’s 13. ... Qd7 is okay, but I’d prefer 13. ... f5, opening a file for Black’s rooks.

14. Qf1 Bd4

This retreat to d4 is admittedly weak because it allows the powerful bishop to be traded off. However, Kevin’s rationale was that if White traded it, then an endgame would be nearer with White having fewer pieces with which to counterattack. Good logic! Kevin—who was keenly aware that Bynum was using excessive time—quickly made his moves so that his opponent would not have much opportunity to think on his time.

Making concessions—like trading off your good bishop—could be the right decision only if you have a large material advantage, usually at least a full piece. When you have a winning game, play the position, not the clock. Don’t try to out-blitz your time-short opponent!

15. Kh2

15. ... Bxc3

This is unnecessary but consistent with his plan of bringing about an endgame.

16. bxc3 f5

Trying to open up the position to get to White’s king.

Here I concur.

17. Qf3 fxe4 18. Qxe4

(see diagram top of next column)

18. ... Rf2

Very well played!

19. Re1?

Best was 19. Kg1, breaking the pin on the bishop and challenging the rook.

Correct. Perhaps the simplest—but not easy to accept—line for Black would have been 19. Kg1 Qg8 20. Be1 Rxe2+, sacrificing an Exchange for a pawn but achieving a winning position with two extra pawns, and a safer king.

19. ... Bxh3 20. Rg1

20. ... Raf8

Fritz 11 considers 20. ... Qg4 to be much stronger because it would win a piece by force even if White swapped the queens. However, Black’s move is certainly acceptable from a novice player as it shows that he recognizes the value of bringing all his pieces into play and keeping everything protected.

I agree—but let Kevin appreciate Fritz’s wisdom, too. When, seeing a good move, Kevin starts looking for a better one, his rating will “move upstairs” very quickly!

21. Kh1??


For a human—even a grandmaster—it’s enough to see that 23. ... Qf5 wins quite easily.

21. ... Bxg2+ 22. Rfxg2 Qh3+

(see diagram top of next column)

23. Kg1 Rf1 mate.

“According to plan,” quipped Kevin!

Of course, White lost this game because he followed his tenth-move inaccuracy (10. Kh1) and his opponent’s threatening 10. ... Ng4 with an outright blunder, 11. h3, giving away an equivalent of three pawns.

But his underrated (not for long, I guess) opponent deserves full credit for the aggressive, and correct, 10. ... Ng4, and for his quite strong (strong enough) play afterwards.

And I find Leonard’s suggestions on how to play against those under-1000 very much on target. In fact, any blunder-prone player can benefit from using his mental regimen!

Registered USCF voters in good membership standing received executive board election ballots by June 20. Make sure to return these ballots by July 23 to be counted! Election information, including candidate statements, can be found in the April, May, and June issues of Chess Life.

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 Chess Life 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 DECISION TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM THE MIDDLEGAME TO THE ENDGAME IS A DECISIVE CHOICE IN MOST CASES. IT MAY BE DONE TO ESCAPE FROM AN INFERIOR POSITION OR TO PRESERVE AN ADVANTAGE. WHAT FOLLOWS ARE EXAMPLES FROM THE CANDIDATES’ TOURNAMENT HELD IN LATE MARCH (AND COVERED IN LAST MONTH’S ISSUE OF CHESS LIFE). LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT HOW TOP PLAYERS MAKE THE BEST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN THEM, INCLUDING TIMES WHEN THERE ARE OPPOSITE-COLOR BISHOPS (BUT WHERE EXTRA PAWNS AND SOMETIMES EVEN AN EXTRA PIECE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO WIN).

ACTIVE COUNTERPLAY
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2872, NOR)
FIDE Candidates, 2013

A surprise. A better transition chance to the endgame was 25. Qd4 (but not 25. Qxc7? because of 25. ... Rc8!), but the win is still not assured.

25. ... Nd5! 26. Nxd5 Bxd5 27. Qxc7

The first point is that after 27. Rxd5 Qe1+ 28. Kg2 Qxe2+ 29. Qf2 Rxe5, all is equal. The other is:

27. ... Qc4! 28. a3

All of the following draws, just like in the actual game. Another likely line is 28. Qd6 Qxe2 (28. ... Bb7) 29. Qxd5 (29. Rxd5 Qe1+ 30. Kg2 Qe2+. 31. Kh3 Qxf3 is equal) 29. ... Rxe5 30. Qd3+ Qxd3 31. Rxd3 Re2.


TWO PAWNS DOWN
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2809, ARM)
FIDE Candidates, 2013

The question is whether White could win after 41. d8=Q+ Bxd8 42. Bxd8 b1=Q, so he further refined his plan with an intended knight capture. But there lurks a surprise!

41. ... f6!

Black sacrifices another pawn so as to achieve opposite-color bishops, ensuring a draw.


(see diagram next page)
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

61. Kf7

This is the only possibility of creating some winning chances.

61. ... b1=Q 62. Bxb1 Kxd7 63. Ba2 Kd6!

The only way to draw is to maneuver the king behind the passed pawns. 63. ... Kd8 would lose after 64. Bc4 (but not 64. Kg6 Ke8 65. g5 Kf8 66. Kh6 Bxg5+ and Black draws with ease) 64. ... Kd7 65. Bb3! Kd8 66. Ba4 wins.

64. Kg6 Ke5 65. Kh5 Be7 66. g5 Kf4 67. h4 Kg3 68. Bc4 Bf8! 69. Be2 Bg7 70. Bc4 Bf8 71. g6 Kf4 72. Ba2 Bg7, Draw agreed

Black found the “only” moves to draw from the last diagram.

The wrong-corner bishop
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2809, ARM)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2810, RUS)
FIDE Candidates, 2013

The position is complicated. White is attacking for the sacrificed piece.

21. ... Rac8?! 

Rather than undertaking further defensive roles (though 21. ... Qf4! 22. Rh5 Ng8! seems to be working), he starts trades that lead to a slightly superior endgame.


28. Rxe6

White has two pawns and an active rook for his piece, giving him drawing chances. Interesting is 28. b4!?

28. ... Bd3 29. h4 a5

Again, interesting is 29. ... b4!?

30. c6?

A premature advance as there are no real reinforcements. Either 30. Re3 or 30. Rd6 were better.

30. ... Rf1+

Simpler and better was 30. ... Rc8!

31. Kh2 Rc1 32. Re3! Bb1 33. Rc3 Rxc3 34. bxc3

The bishop ending means relief for White.

34. ... Kg8 35. c7 Bf5 36. Kg3 Kf7 37. Kf4 Bc8

There is nothing better.

38. Kg5 Bd7 39. h5 Be6 40. g3 a4 41. g4

41. ... Kf8!

Thus 41. ... Ke7 42. Kg6! Bxg4 43. Kxg7 Kd7 44. h6 Bf5 45. Kf6 Bb1 46. Ke5 Kc7 47. Kd4 followed by c4 draws by exploiting the opportunity of the wrong-corner-color bishop.

42. Kf4 Ke7 43. g5 Kd7 44. Ke5 Kg8 45. c8=Q+ Kxc8 46. Kd6

Again the thematic 46. Kf5 Bb3 47. Kg6 Bc4 48. h6 gxh6 49. gxh6 Kd7 50. Kf6 Bc2 51. Ke5 followed by Kd4 and c4 could have assured the draw.

46. ... Kd8 47. Kc6 Ke7 48. Kxb6 Ke6 49. Kxa4 Kf5 50. g6?

A miscalculation! 50. h6! g6 draws after 51. Kb5 Kxg5 52. a4 Kxh6 53. a5 Bb5+ 54. ... g5 should draw also) 54. c4 since the black king cannot get back in time.

50. ... Kg5 51. Kb5 Kxh5 52. a4 Kxg6 53. a5 Kf6 54. a6

Neither does 54. c4 help since after 54. ... Ke5 55. a6 Kd4 56. c5 Bc4+ 57. Kb6 Bxa6 Black wins.

54. ... Bd5 55. c4 Ba8 56. Kb6 Ke5 57. Kc7 g5 58. Kb8 Be4 59. Kc7 g4 60. a7 g3 61. c5 Ba8 62. Kc8 Be6, White resigned.

There is much to be regretted about missed draws, even more so when you are fighting for a chance to play the world champion.

Return your USCF ballot by July 23 for the 2013 executive board election!
WISCONSIN IS HONORED TO HOST THE 2013 U.S. Open. On behalf of all Wisconsin players, I invite you to participate in the 114th U.S. Open at the Madison Marriott West Hotel in Middleton, Wisconsin, July 27 to August 4.

In 1939, the USCF was founded by prominent chess players from Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin when the National Chess Federation merged with the American Chess Federation (which was a successor of the Western Chess Association). Wisconsin’s rich chess history includes hosting the 1935 and 1953 U.S. Opens, the 1990 World Youth, 2002 National Junior High Championship and the 2006 National High School Championship. Wisconsinites Arpad Elo (charter member of USCF and creator of worldwide rating systems), Fred Cramer (USCF vice president and president), Marshall Rohland (USCF secretary and president), Pearle Mann (first woman national tournament director and first woman FIDE arbiter) and IM Bill Martz (co-champion of the 1982 U.S. Open and played in two U.S. championships) have made significant contributions to both the USCF and chess in general. Wisconsin’s new generation of chess talent will be led by USCF’s youngest master and 2011 World Under 8 Champion, FM Awonder Liang. The U.S. Open offers three schedules. The first is the 9-day option beginning July 27 with one game each night at 7:00. Or, the 6-day choice starting on Tuesday, July 30. Finally, the 4-day schedule starts August 1. All sections merge Friday night in round seven with play concluding Sunday.

There are a host of daily side events starting with: the U.S. Open Bughouse, the U.S. Open Weekend Swiss, U.S. Open Scholastic, weekday U.S. Open Quads, U.S. Open G/15 Championship, the 2013 Women’s U.S. Open, and U.S. Open Blitz Championship. And for those more athletically inclined, the 16th Annual Golf Tournament and the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament are planned.

Follow the nation’s top juniors in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions and the inaugural National Girls’ Invitational Tournament. They’ll start with an opening ceremony Saturday afternoon.

Madison and south-central Wisconsin are rich in cultural, educational and natural sites. You may visit the state capital, State Street (a mile long pedestrian mall), relax on the terrace of University of Wisconsin’s Memorial Union while you enjoy a Babcock Hall ice cream treat just yards away from cooling Lake Mendota. Visit the Vilas Zoo (free), Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin studio and home or the Circus World Museum (world’s largest collection of circus memorabilia). Or plan a day trip to the ‘The Frozen Tundra’ of Lambeau Field to watch a Green Bay Packers’ practice.

Adjacent to the Marriott is Middleton’s Greenway Station, an “open-air shopping center designed as a pedestrian-friendly environment. With its attention to architectural details and landscaping, the upscale, open-air lifestyle center includes strolling walkways, extensive gardens, a spacious courtyard and a 60-foot clock tower.” It includes over 20 shops and 16 restaurants all within a 10-minute walk of the Marriott.

If you’re staying at the Marriott and elect to fly into the Dane County Regional Airport, the Marriott will pick you up at the airport at no charge. Just call them from the tarmac! If you elect to fly into Milwaukee or Chicago, bus service travels regularly from those airports to Madison.

We are confident that you will enjoy a fantastic chess experience here in Madison at the 2013 U.S. Open Championship! And don’t forget to bring home a block of one of Wisconsin’s world-famous cheeses.
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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 June 5 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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GM MIKHEIL KEKELIDZE (above, at the 2010 Chicago Open) continues to lead the 2013 Trophies Plus Grand Prix race, thanks to his success at events at New York's venerable Marshall Chess Club.

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**2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS**

ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by June 5, 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 projects and activities since 2006, and has provided the free program that teaches 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.

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- **LIGHTNING MATCH**
  - Two players with two or six-game option.
  - ENTRY FEE: $5.

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  - Four-player, double round-robe format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place winner receives a certificate.
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Please check event(s) selected.

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

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

114th annual (2013) U.S. Open  July 27-August 4, July 30-August 4, or August 1-4  • Madison, Wisconsin
2013 Women's U.S. Open         July 31-August 4  • Madison, Wisconsin
2013 U.S. Blind Chess Championship  August 9-10  • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2013 U.S. Class Championship     September 27-29 or 28-29  • Houston, Texas
54th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship  October 12-14  • Fort Eustis, Virginia

FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)

2013 U.S. Cadet  July 20-23  • Rockville, Maryland
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 Super Nationals VI  May 12-14  • Nashville, Tennessee
2017 K-12 Grade Championship  December 8-10  • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 11-13  • Nashville, Tennessee
2018 K-12 Grade Championship  December 14-16  • Orlando, Florida
2019 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 10-12  • Nashville, Tennessee
2019 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15  • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2020 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 8-10  • Nashville, Tennessee
2020 K-12 Grade Championship  December 11-13  • Orlando, Florida

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.

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. Game/15 Championship
2013 U.S. Masters Championship

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

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2013:

2014 U.S. Junior Open
2014 U.S. Senior Open

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in obtaining additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the listed chess federation. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typographical of non-contents-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TUs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control rating increment or time delay even if zero is delay (0d).

SUBMISSIONS: E-mail your tula to tla@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tula deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 CI pg. 50 and 1 check www.uschess.org/gtalkin. Payment can be done online through the T/D Affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Cranston, RI 02921.

CONTINENTAL CHESS SCHEDULE
Visit www.chesstour.com for late news, Events in red
of HS Champions
(see separate TLA for the
presentations)

7/3-7: World Open, Arlington VA* see June issue
7/8-21: Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills CA*
7/9-21: Chicago Class, Wheeling IL
7/19-21: Bradley Open, Windsor Locks CT*
7/26-28: Southern Open, Orlando FL*
7/28-29: Manhattan Open, New York NY*
8/1-9: Cleveland Open, Cleveland OH*
8/9-11: Continental Open, Sturbridge MA*
8/16-18: Northeast Open, Stanford CT*
8/16-18: Indianapolis Open, Indianapolis IN*
8/16-18: Central California Open
8/19-21: Continental Open, Arlington VA *
8/21-10: New England Scholastic Open
8/27-28: Midwest Chess, Wheeling IL*
8/28-30: Eastern Continental, Avic C A
8/29-31: North American Open, Las Vegas NV*
9/1-10: Los Angeles Open, Agoura Hills CA*
9/10-12: Midwest Classic, Wheeling IL*
9/10-12: Eastern Open, Stamford CT*
9/11-13: Boardwalk Open, Gallupway Township NJ*
9/11-13: Kalamazoo Open, Mason MI*
9/15-17: Hartford Open, Windsor Locks CT
9/17-20: National Classic Chess, Philadelphia PA*
9/18-20: North Carolina Open, Raleigh NC*
9/18-20: Boston Chess Congress, Boston MA*
9/17-20: Georgia Open, Savannah GA*
9/17-20: Liberty Bell Open, Philadelphia PA*
9/22-26: Foxwoods Open, Mashantucket CT*
9/24-25: New England Open, Sturbridge MA*
9/24-26: Eastern Continental, Avic C A
9/24-16: Eastern Classic Championships, Sturbridge MA*
9/24-16: Mid-America Open, Saint Louis MO*
For later events, see chesscourier.com.


Includes traditional one game per day schedule (9 days), 5½-day slow time control option, and 4-day option requiring only 3 nights hotel stay for most players. 9SS, 40/2, SD/1 (4 day option), 6-6, 6/5, 90/4. Maximum hotel stays limited at each. A section tournament with Class prizes. Top US player not otherwise qualified qualifies for 2014 US Open. Three sections: 40/2, SD/1, 2 Class Top Third (or higher) Under 1500: $100. Top Category (or higher) Under 1700: $500. (This Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control rating increment or time delay even if zero is delay (0d).)

2013 U.S. Class Championships $111, 200-SS-300-200-100-75-50-30-20-10-5-3, 70% Guaranteed. Junior entries in Class C and all, Class E, and Unrated section count as 2.5 Master Division; both sectionals; 6, 7, 8, 9. Others, 2 (6-2 Day Option, R1, 1, 1, 0, 0); Free entry for GMs. Free entry for IMs, deducted from winnings. September Rating Supplement used. Houston 2013, Southport House at Highway A90, 930 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX 77007, www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/housl-houston-bay-area-marriott/. Free parking $567 HR 713-365-7797; Group Code: CHESS. B Sections. Players may play up one class only: Open (2000+), FA: D: 200-150-120-100-70-50-30-20-15-10-7-5, 70% Guaranteed. Members: listed on the USCF Yearbook. Free entry for U1400 and below. 75% of 50 points added. Registration by 8/31 by phone, 800-903-8723.

Top places $8000-4000-2000-1500-1000-700-500-400, clear win-
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  

18th Annual Pacific Coast Open  

July 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21, ILLINOIS  

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

8th Annual Chicago Class  

6SS. Western Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 Northwistle Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north, from Northlake Dr. to Lake Cook Rd. US-45 south). Free parking. $20,000 guaranteed prize fund. 

Trophies Plus Grand Prize Points: 120 (ENHANCED)

13th Annual PACIFIC COAST OPEN  

July 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21, 2013 - $25,000 projected prizes, $20,000 minimum  

6 rounds at luxurious Sheraton Hotel, Agoura Hills CA, 12 miles from Malibu  

www.uschess.org  

53
20th Annual SOUTHERN OPEN
July 26-28 or 27-28, Wyndham Orlando Resort
$16,000 projected prizes, $12,000 minimum!

5 round Swiss, choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule. Prizes $16,000 based on 200 paid entries (re-entries & $50 off entries count half), with 75% of each prize minimum guaranteed. In 5 sections:

Open: Prizes $2000-1000-500-300, clear/tiebreak $1000 bonus, top U2300/Unr $400. FIDE rated, top 80.�

Under 2100: $1400-700-400-200, top U1900 (unr) $500

Under 1800: $1400-700-400-200, top U1600 (unr) $500

Under 1500: $1200-600-300-200, top U1300 (unr) $400

Under 1200: $600-300-200-100, top 3

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: Best male/female 2-player "team" (average U2200) combined score among all sections: $400-200.

Unrated prize limits: $150 in U1200, $300 in U1500, or $500 in U1800.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chesstour.com.
if check mailed by 7/24, $140 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online
NYSCA members.

Section EF: phoned to 406-896-2038 (no questions) by 7/31, 3-day $123, 2-day $122
rds 1-2 G/45+30” incr) U1300 & U1100 G/120 d5 (2-day option, rds 1-
2 G/60 d5). Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. $$$
limit U2000 $900, U1700 $600, U1400 $300; balance goes to next player(s)

12th annual Manhattan Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15
U.S. Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)
7½ (double round, 4½ = 1st, 3½ = 2nd, 3 = 3rd, 2½ = 4th, 2 = 5th, 1½ = 6th, 1 =
7th, $0 = 8th, $10 = 9th, $20 = 10th). Entry fee: $40, Unr free if paying USCF dues.
On-site Registration: 10:00 AM, first round begins at 1:00 PM. $100 guaran-
ted prizes: $540-210-100-50, Expert 200-100, U2000-1000-50, U1800-90,
U1600-1100/Unr $140-70, U1400-100, U1200-80. July the 2013 Rat-
ing Supplement will be used. See 11th annual U.S. Open for venue details.

Chess Aug. 2013 LONDON

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15
AUG. 3-4, LAGUNA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6
120th annual Manhattan Open
Rds. 11:15, 2:45, 6. U1900: $600-300-200, U1700 $500-300, U1500 $400-250,
U1200 $200-100, U1000 $100-50, U800 $50-25, U600-1250, U500-250,
U400-150, U300-100, U250-75. Additional prizes to clear 1st place, if no 5 in section (to add score prize)
Championship: $300, U2000 $200, U1800 $150, U1600 $110, U1400 $80,
U1200 $60, U1000 $40, U800 $20, U600 $10, U500 $5. Unrated may not win over $100 in U1000, $220 in U1200, or $450 in U1500. Sets and boards provided. Clocks provided in the Championship & U2000 sections. Optional, pairings can be texted to your phone. Free Sunday morning continental breakfast for all players and guests. Entry fee: $55 by 7/9, $60 by 7/13, $65 on site, and $70 only after 7/15. Additional rule: No 75-day; all games are G/100 d5.

Western North Carolina August FIDE

5SS, 40/90, 5SS, 40/90, 3SS, 40/90. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st & Main Sts., Mineola.

No checks at site, or online. On-site entries accepted by 7/24.

Under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammates pairings avoided but possible. Unrated may enter any sec-

3-day Open 40/110, SD/30, d10, 3-day sections other sections 30/90, SD/1, d5. 2-day option in all sections, rds 1-2 G/90, d5, then merges with 3-4. Special room rates $185 single or twin; must reserve by July 12.
Open Section: Prizes $1400-700-400, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus, top Under 2450/Unr-500. 80 GP (enhanced). FIDE rated.
U2300 Section: $1200-600-300-200, top Under 2150 $500-250.
U1700 Section: $1000-500-300-200, top Under 1500 $400-200.
U1400 Section: $800-400-200, top Under 1200 $300-150, trophies for first 3, top U1200, U1000, U800. Unrated.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $600-300.
Unlimited prize limit $300 in U1400, $600 U1700, or $900 U2000.

FOR FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue.

www.uschess.org 55
19th annual NORTHEAST OPEN
NEW DATES! August 16-18 or 17-18, Stamford, CT
$8,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND

- 5 rounds, $94 room rates, free parking, downtown location, trains from NYC run frequently.
- In 4 sections:
  - Open Section: Prizes $1000-$500-$300-$200, top $2250 $600-$300.
  - GPP: 50 (enhanced)
  - Under 2050 Section: $800-$400-$200-$100, top $1850 $500-$300-$100.
  - Under 1650 Section: $700-$400-$250-$150, top $1450 $400-$200.
  - Under 1250 Section: $300-$150-$100, trophy for first 3, top $1000, $800, Unrated.
  - Unrated prize limit: $150 in U1250, $400 in U1650.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstour.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 17, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 5 (ENHANCED)

Seacoast Open
Holiday Inn Portsmouth, 300 Woodbury Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03601. In 3 Sections, 9-9:45. Under 1259 & under.
U1000: $250, $125, $60. Under 900 is free.
Open: $750, $375, $180. Under 900 is free.
G/30 d5. Advance registration is 7-7:30 pm on site.
319-688-3337.
www.chessmagnet.com or box 381, Crossville, TN 38557.
INFO: Alex Relyea, 906-228-8126, rjjjr@chartermi.net.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 18, 19, 20, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 3 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 17, 18, 19, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

9th Iowa Open Championship
Marshall HV Open (OC)
Open: $750, $375, $180. Under 900 is free.
G/30 d5. Advance registration is 7-7:30 pm on site.
www.chessmagnet.com or box 381, Crossville, TN 38557.
INFO: Alex Relyea, 906-228-8126, rjjjr@chartermi.net.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 17, 18, 19, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

21st Battle of the States
Open: $750, $375, $180. Under 900 is free.
G/30 d5. Advance registration is 7-7:30 pm on site.
319-688-3337.
www.chessmagnet.com or box 381, Crossville, TN 38557.
INFO: Alex Relyea, 906-228-8126, rjjjr@chartermi.net.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 17, 18, 19, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 3 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 17, 18, 19, 2013

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

8th INDIANAPOLIS OPEN
Aug 16-18 or 17-18, 2013

$16,000 projected prizes, $12,000 minimum

5 rounds, Crownne Plaza Indianapolis Airport. Special $89 room rates, free parking, free airport shuttle. Choice of 3-day or 2-day. In 5 sections (lower EF in U1200). Prizes $16,000 based on 200 entries (re-entry & U1200 Section count half), $12,000 minimum guaranteed.

Open Section: Prizes $2000-1000-500-200, clear/tiebreak win $100, top U 2300/Unr $700-400. 80 Grand Prix Points (enhanced).
U2100 Section: $1400-700-400-200, top Under 1950 $500-250.
U1800 Section: $1400-700-400-200, top Under 1650 $500-250.
U1500 Section: $1200-600-300-200, top Under 1350 $400-200.
U1200 Section: $600-300-200-100, plaque to first 3, top Under 900, Under 700, Unrated (U900, U700 & Unrated are not separate drtvns).
Unrated limit $150 in U1200, $300 U1500, or $500 U1800.

For FULL details: see “Grand Prize” in this issue.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!

Aug. 30-Sept. 2, FLORIDA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50
2013 Arnold Denker Florida State Championship
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 200 North Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118. Free entry for all roommates, fees $100 higher if not. self internet only $5 call 866-536-8477 or 386-254-6200 or on-line
http://tiram.com/qb/TIR/Arnold%20Denker%202013. in 4 Sections: 65s, 120+125, EF: $89 U2000 Entry fee $60 All entries received by 8/21/2013 or at site. Free entry GM,WGM,IM,WIM ($90 deducted from prize if otherwise unrated. Fees $5 more at site. Prizes based on entries. Blitz Championship G/5 d0 Sunday 8/11, 2013, EF: $30. Prizes 250, 175, 100. Unrated prizes: Prize to 1st, 2nd.
Free Entry Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Aug. 30-231, MISSOURI
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20
2013 Louisiana State Championship

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!

Aug. 30-31, LOUISIANA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15
2013 Louisiana State Championship
FITE: $2,525 Unconditionally Guaranteed!! $600-$400-$200. U2000 $1750-$1250-$750. U1700 $1400-$800-$300. Special USCF dues: see TLA. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually if otherwise unrated. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 am & 6 pm, Sun 10 am & 3:30 pm. Bring set and board, $5 possible- none supplied. Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 4842, Pelham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). JGP.
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 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!

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!!

An Weikel Tournament

31st Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western States Open

Entry Fee $147 or less – 40/2 – G/1 – d5

- Rooms $25/$59 While they last!

Thursday October 17th
- FREE Lecture by IM John Donaldson
- GM Alexander Ivanov Simul - $20
- Blitz Tourney - $20

For more info: www.renochess.org

See previous issue for TLAs appearing July 1-14

by 8/24, $25 at site; $5 discount if also entering State Championship. LCA mem. req’d. OSA. Prizes: $410 b/30, 50% Gtd. (one section) Open: by 8/24, $25 at site; $5 discount if also entering State Championship. LCA A State Championship Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

LA 70115, cb20234@yahoo.com, (504) 895-4133 (evenings), (504) 615-6730 (day of tourney), NS, NC.

A Heritage Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!

AUG. 31-SEPT. 2, OHIO TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 40

36th Annual Southern California Open 6-5, 40/2, 1/2 d/1 (2-day schedule rds 1-3 6/6/6, then merger), Town & Country Hotel. 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED) 35th Annual Southern California Open 6-5, 40/2, 1/2 d/1 (2-day schedule rds 1-3 6/6/6, then merger), Town & Country Hotel. 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108.

3-Day Sat 10 3:30; Sun 11 4:45; Mon 3:30 Sat 8/31 8:30-

3rd Annual Oregon Open — $3400 Guaranteed

1st $2,400-1,600-

2013 CalChess State Championship (Labor Day) $33, 30/10, 1/2 b/1 (5-day opt rounds 1-3 10-15 mins) @ SFO Airport Hyatt Regency, 3331 Bayshore Blvd, Burlingame, CA 94010. Prizes: $12,000 $200 pd entries (excl free & unr entries, 75% guar). 6 Sections: Master (FIDE) rated $7000-1000-550-300-250, U2500 $500-300-200-100. EF: $20,000-400-200-100; B $800-400-200-150; D $600-350-200-150. www.progresswithchess.org.

www.pdxchess.org. Extra (optional) for Chess Horizons subscription, WMCA O.K., NH residents: $26,000 (b/275) $16,750 Guaranteed

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!!

A Weikel Tournament

150 Grand PrixPts. • October 18-20, 2013 • F.I.D.E. Rated

$26,000 (b/275) $16,750 Guaranteed

Entry Fee $147 or less – 40/2 – G/1 – d5 - Rooms $25/$59 While they last!

Thursday October 17th - FREE Lecture by IM John Donaldson - GM Alexander Ivanov Simul - $20 - Blitz Tourney - $20

For more info: www.renochess.org

NO TOURNAMENTS IN YOUR AREA?

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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!
3-day $93, 2-day $92 if check mailed by 9/11, $100 at site or online until 9/18, $95 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 9/18 (entry only, no questions), avoided but possible.

SD/1 d5. With 3 day and 2 day schedules.

Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

$150-120-60 at chessaction.com by 10/8, $50 until 6 pm 10/9 or at site.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

60th Annual Alabama State Chess Championship

Chess Magnet School Junior & Senior Grand Prix & State Championship Event!

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

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TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 5 (ENHANCED)

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
valet parking only, with a special chess rate of $30/day. Many parking lots
play separate 2-day schedule only, 11/30-12/1, G/50 d5. At the upscale,
U1250 play for both U1250 and U1000 prizes; receive larger if winning
600-500-400-400-300-300, top Under 1000 (no unr) $1000-500, no unrated
Open Section, Dec 26-30:

Alumni trophies
6SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/50 d5). Trophy sections
44th annual National Chess Congress
rd. 2, others before rd 3.

Matt Weibel Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JULY 13, Birmingham Classic
4SS, TC; G/70 d5. Advance to 4SS 11/16 Cahaba Valley Rd., Birmingham,
AL 35242. Open (PF: $150) $250-150-125-100-75-50. Reserve
G/30 d5. 1639A S. Main St., Suite 104, Birmingham, AL 35242. Info:

Top 2 sections based on rating:
1. Under 2200: $3000-1500-700-400-200, clear win or 1st on
6. Under 700: $600-300.
7. Under 500: $300-150.
8. Under 300: $150.
10. Under 100: $50.
13. Under 0: $2.5.
14. All other: $1.

A State Championship Event! A State Chess Championship Event!
JULY 11-13 OR 12-13, 2013 CalChess State Championship (Labor Day)
Day 1, 2 pm & 4 pm;
Day 2, 2 pm & 4 pm;
Day 3, 2 pm.
Register: See Grand Prize.

A State Championship Event! A State Chess Championship Event!
JULY 22, Bay Area Elite 4SS, G4/SS 4SS, G4/SS Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JULY 13, Birmingham Classic
4SS, TC; G/70 d5. Advance to 4SS 11/16 Cahaba Valley Rd., Birmingham,
AL 35242. Open (PF: $150) $250-150-125-100-75-50. Reserve
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A National Classic! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
JULY 13, Birmingham Classic
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7. Under 500: $300-150.
8. Under 300: $150.
10. Under 100: $50.
13. Under 0: $2.5.
14. All other: $1.
2013 BRADLEY OPEN
July 19-21 or 20-21, Windsor Locks CT
$8,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES

5 rounds, Sheraton Hotel (visible at Bradley Airport entrance), Windsor Locks, CT. Free parking & airport shuttle. Choice of 3-day or 2-day. Room rates $95 single or twin. In 5 sections (lower EF in U1210):

**Open Section:** Prizes $1000-500-300, top Under 2310 $130-350. 50 Grand Prix Points (enhanced).

- **U2110 Section:** $800-400-200, top Under 1910 $350-150.
- **U1810 Section:** $800-400-200, top Under 1610 $300-150.
- **U1510 Section:** $700-400-200, top Under 1310 $200-100.
- **U1210 Section:** $250-125-75, trophy to first 3 top 1, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated. Unrated limit $150 in U1210, $300 U1510, or $500 U1810.

**FOR FULL DETAILS:** see “Grand Prix” in this issue.
Sections: Open (K-12 & Adults), U1400 (K-12 & Adults), U1000 (K-8) & U600 (K-8), Awards: Top 6 U600 & U1000 Sections, Top 5 U1200 & 0 Sections, Players in U600 receive participation award. Time Control: Game 30 (G/25 d4) 4 Rounds U600 & U1000 Sections Game 45 (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & 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.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

SEP. 15, 39th 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 U1200 & Open Sections. Players in U600 receive participation award. Time Control: Time Control: Game 30 (G/25 d4) 4 Rounds U600 & U1000 Sections Game 45 (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & 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.rknights.org. Mail-in Reg.: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065. Info: www.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

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

AUG. 3, Warriors Open & Reserve

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

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, 8th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 17, Southern Illinois Summer Open
3SS, Time control: 30/70, then 40/60, no sudden death. EF: $15.00 Prize fund: $300, b/24. 1st $70, 2nd $30, Classes A, B, C, D $15 per $5 each. Salem Community Center, 416 Oglesby St., Salem, IL 62881. Reg.: 8:00-9:15. Rounds: 9-9, 1:00-5:00. Entries: Jim Davies, 7358 Shaftesbury, St. Louis, MO 63130, 314-721-4976, jandavides@icobglobal.net.

AUG. 28, 39th 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 U1200 & Open Sections. Players in U600 receive participation award. Time Control: Time Control: Game 30 (G/25 d4) 4 Rounds U600 & U1000 Sections Game 45 (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & 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.rknights.org. Mail-in Reg.: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065. Info: www.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

AUG. 24-25, 59th Iowa Open Championship (IA)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31, Labor Day Scholastic Tournament
DoubleTree Hotel, 1909 Spring Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60523, (630) 472-6020. 325 Discount EF USPS by 8/25, $25 Discounted EF online until 8/30, $5, $30 at door by Saturday 11:30 am, $35 after that. Rds.: 11-1-2-3-4, 25/G, Open to under 18 years of age, 2 sections:

U200, U700, 10 individual trophies per section (team trophies not available). Participation award to each player. Bring sets-boards-clocks, none provided. All rules, regulations, and procedures may be superseded by announcements/postings at the site. Ent: Tim Just, 37165 Willow, Geneva, IL 60130. Info only (472) 249-7564 before 6 PM. E-mail for info only (carry, e-mail entries not available): registration@chessforlife.com. Checks payable to Chess for Life, LLC, info and PayPal discounted encouraged entries before 8PM 3-10-13. Chess for Life, 3S, NC, W.

SEP. 15, 39th 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 U1200 & Open Sections. Players in U600 receive participation award. Time Control: Time Control: Game 30 (G/25 d4) 4 Rounds U600 & U1000 Sections Game 45 (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & 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.rknights.org. Mail-in Reg.: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065. Info: www.rknights.org, 773-844-0701.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 22nd annual Midwest Classic Championships
See Grand Prix.


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

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, 6th annual Indianapolis Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 24-25, 95th Iowa Open Championship (IA)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31, 7th Ohio Chess Congress (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 20-22 OR 21-22, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY)
See Grand Prix.
43rd annual CONTINENTAL OPEN
Aug 8-11, 9-11 or 10-11 - $30,000 projected prizes, $24,000 minimum!
6 rounds, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, Sturbridge MA - great summer vacation spot

6 rounds, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, 366 Main St (Rt 20 west), Sturbridge MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90). Free parking.
Experience 1790-1840 America at Old Sturbridge Village (www.osv.org), swim in Cedar Lake, visit shops & galleries.
Open Section 3-day & 4-day 40/110, SD/30, d10, other sections 3-day & 4-day 30/90, SD/1, d5. No 4-day U1300. 2-day option in all sections, rds 1-3 G/45, d5, then merges with others.
Prizes $30,000 based on 250 paid entries (re-entries & U1300 Section count half); min. $24,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed.
In 5 sections:
Closed: $8000-1500-900-600-400, clear or tiebreak win $2000 bonus, top U2350/Urn $1000-500. FIDE rated, 150 Grand Prix Points (enhanced).
Open 1900: $2000-1000-700-500-300, top Under 1750 (no urn) $800-400.
Top 4 sections entry fee: $148 online at chessaction.com by 8/6, $155 at 406-896-2038 by 8/6, 4-day $154, 3-day $153, 2-day $152 mailed by 7/31, $150 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. Re-entry (no Open) $80.
Under 1300 Section entry fee: all $60 less than above.
Special 1 year USCF dues with Chess Life: See Chess Life or chess.com. USCF membership required.
Advance entry fee $3 less to MACA members; may join/renew at masschess.org.
4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6:30 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 6, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.
3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 6, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.
2-day schedule: Reg. Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12:45, 3:15, 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.
Half point byes OK all rds (limit 2); Open must commit before rd 2, other sections before rd 4.
AUG. 10-11, Southern Nevada Qualifier 2013 at the City of the World Art Gallery, 1229 Casino Center, Las Vegas, NV 89104, 5 of 5 Swiss. Registration: 9:00-10:15 a.m. Time control: Rd. 1 and 2. Fees: $34.50 Rd. 1, $49.50 Rd. 2. Rounds: 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Prize Fund: $250 at site. First 6 qualify to the final 12 at the end of round 10.

OCT. 11-13 OR 12-13, 10 annual Los Angeles Open (CA)
See Grand Prix.


New Hampshire

JULY 19-20 OR 21-22, 18th Annual Bradley Open (CT) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 8-9, 11 OR 10-11, 43 annual Continental Club Championship (MA) See Grand Prix.

AUG. 17, Seacoast Open See Grand Prix.

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 49th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT) See Connecticut.

New Jersey

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

See Grand Prix.

Mississippi

JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 2013 Houston Open (TX)

AUG. 3, 2013 Game/45 Championship
SSS, G/40 d5. International Chess Hall of Fame, 220 Lynn Ray Rd., Petal, MS 39465. Reg.: Ban-Pam. Rds.: 9-15, 11/00, lunch, 1/15, 3:00 and 4:30. There is an Open section with prizes going to the top two players in the Open and to the top two players: U1400. Prizes based on 90% of entry fees! Prizes: 1st 600, 2nd $300, 3rd ($50 and older) $10 if received by July 12, 2013. Online entry fees: Adults $30, Students ($12 and older) $10. Online entry fees: Adults $30, Students ($12 and older) $10. MCA membership required for adults $5 annual fee. No smoking and no pets. Contact: Ralph McNaughton, 607-276-7676 or email at ralphmcnaughton@comcast.net. For pre-entry mail your entry fee made out to the Mississippi Chess Association, USCF number, USCF Entry fees and date and birth to Ralph McNaughton, 407 Beele, St., Pearl, MS 39208.

Missouri

JULY 12-14, Kansas Open (KS)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 19-21 OR 20-21, 2013 Houston Open (TX) See Grand Prix.

JULY 20, Kansas City Classic Closed

MO: 10. August, August Action 5/5S, G/25 d43. Quickly rated only).
Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4557 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Free entries for GMs and IMs. Entry fees: $30 for annual members at the club if registered by 8/9.
Rd: 12-14-5. Rds. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 3:10, 3:30. Each player will start with 25 minutes and have a 2 second delay of the half point of time if declared before Round 2. Rd.: 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30. Bogard Upper-Gate.
Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes.
Rd: 12-14-5. Rds. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 3:10, 3:30. Each player will start with 25 minutes and have a 2 second delay of the half point of time if declared before Round 2. Rd.: 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30. Bogard Upper-Gate.
Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes.
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Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes.
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Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes.
Rd: 12-14-5. Rds. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 3:10, 3:30. Each player will start with 25 minutes and have a 2 second delay of the half point of time if declared before Round 2. Rd.: 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30. Bogard Upper-Gate.
Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes.
Rd: 12-14-5. Rds. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 3:10, 3:30. Each player will start with 25 minutes and have a 2 second delay of the half point of time if declared before Round 2. Rd.: 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30. Bogard Upper-Gate.
July 27, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads

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

AUG. 11, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/40 d5. Entry fee: $50. Prize: $100 to first in each quad. Entry fee: $20, $15 members. Reg.: 10:00-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:20, 11:30 a.m., 12:40 p.m. Info Diana: 201-797-0331, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net.ICA provides lunch.

AUG. 12, Chess Mates Sunday Quads

Aug. 18, Westfield Octos

Aug. 23-25 OR 24-25, 45th annual Atlantic Open (DC) See Grand Prix.

Aug. 24, Central Jersey Chess Tournament
655, All Saints Church, 16 All Saints Rd., Princeton, Open, U1200/G 60, U900, U600/G 65, Novice/(unranked). Trophies: 1st-3rd, 1st school team/club/team. Session $30 at chessby.us by 8/14 8:45 a.m. site. Reg. ends 8/19.

Aug. 24, Chess Mates Summer Swiss

Aug. 25, Chess Mates Sunday Quads
3-RR. G/25 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prize: $25 to first in each quad. Entry fee: $20, $15 members. Reg.: 10:00-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:20, 11:30 a.m., 12:40 p.m. Info: Lessons with GM Yudasin 2:30-7:30 p.m. on August 18, 19, 23, 26. Chess mates@chessmatesnj.com, 722-499-0118.

Aug. 26, Vikings Chess Tourney
Community Center, 233 Main St., Hackettstown, NJ. 3-RR, G/60 d5. 150 Quads in 6 sections. $15 entry fee. 1st prize 1st prize $55. To first on site. Kids 2012: K-12, 3-6, G/45 $45, 100 online entry fee only for 1st. Awards to all. Info: Ken 938-515-8621, acn@gojoes.com. Westfield Y. 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prize: $25. Entry fee: $20, $15 members. Reg.: 1:30-2:00 p.m. Rds.: 2:15-4:05-5:55 p.m. Info: Please present identification on entering the building. John Moldovan: westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 732-548-8432 or 848-219-1358, westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com and www.westfieldchessclub.com.

Aug. 27, Chess Mates Sunday Quads

Aug. 31, 31st Chess Mates Junior Grand Prix
2 or 3 only. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Entry fee: $25. Prize: $50 per quad. Reg.: 9:10 a.m. Rds.: 9:30am-1:30pm-3:30pm. NJ State Chess Federation, no dues magazine Subscription per year, OSA. Contact email: hambles@chessmatesnj.com, NC, W. C.

Aug. 31, Chess Mates Monday Quads


Nov 1-3 OR 2-3, 22nd annual Boardwalk Open See Grand Prix.

Nov 29-DECEMBER 1 OR NOVEMBER 30-DEC. 4, 44th annual National Chess Congress (PA) See Grand Prix.

New York
July 11 & 18, 6th Long Island CG G24
GOLD AFFILIATES

Cajun Chess
7230 Chadbourne Drive
New Orleans, LA 70126
504-208-9698
cajunchess@yahoo.com

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

Continental Chess Association
PO Box 289, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.
845-496-9658
chestour@outlook.com

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

GOLD AFFILIATES

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
rwi@njchess.org
www.njchess.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
4657 Oakdell 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
jrhjoughtaling@att.net

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

Silver Knights Chess
2932 Old Lee Hwy Ste 920
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.org
www.TriStateChess.org

Village Chess @ Zinc
c/o Michael Proper & 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 AFFILIATES

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2225 Sixth Avenue
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Village Chess @ Zinc
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New York, NY 10012
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info@chess-shop.com
www.chess-shop.com

GOLD 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 Affiliate status has been conferred 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 Affiliate status 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 Affiliate. 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 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 Affiliate 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.
2013 CLEVELAND OPEN
August 9-11 or 10-11, Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel
$16,000 guaranteed prizes
5 round Swiss in 6 sections, you play only those in your section. Choice of 3- or 2-day schedule, both merge after round 2. $84 room rates plus $3 facility charge, free parking, free airport shuttle!

Open Section: Prizes $2000-1000-500-300, clear/tiebreak win a $100 bonus, top U2300/Unr $800-400. FIDE rated, 120 GPP (enhanced).
Under 2100 Section: $1400-700-350-175, top U1900 (no unr) $500.
Under 1800 Section: $1400-700-350-175, top U1600 (no unr) $500.
Under 1500 Section: $1200-600-300-200, top U1100 (no unr) $400.

Adult Under 1200 Section: $300-200-100, trophies.
Junior Under 1200 Section: $300-200-100, trophies.

Unrated prize limits: U1200 $150, U1500 $300, U1800 $500.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: Best male/female 2-player “team” (average under 2200) combined score among all sections: $400-200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chessstour.com.
Ohio

JULY 12, DCC Friday Nite Quick 2013 (OH) 455, 45/24. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/90/30/1:10/30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 ($8 DCC mbr). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net/. 937-461-6283.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Open


JULY 19, DCC Friday Nite Quick 2013 (OH) 455, 45/24. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/90/30/1:10/30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 ($8 DCC mbr). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net/. 937-461-6283.

JULY 20, Heat Wave PAWN STORM XVII See Grand Prix.

JULY 25, DCC Friday Nite Quick 2013 (OH) 455, 45/24. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/90/30/1:10/30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 ($8 DCC mbr). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net/. 937-461-6283.

AUG. 9-11 OR 10-11, Cleveland Open See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Open

AUG. 10, Toledo August Swish Open 455, Rnd. 1-7/5 d5s, Rds.: 2-4/65/5s. The University of Toledo Health Science Campus, Mulford Library Basement Cafe, 3000 Arlington Ave, Toledo, OH 43614. Can split into 2 sections if enough players. EF: $20 by 8/5, 8/15 at site. Reg.: 1-10 a.m., 1, 4, 5, 7, 11 Prizes: $360 b/30, $100-50, 1st Class A,B,C,D/under $40, 1st U1600 $50. Ent: James Jagodzinski, 3013 Willowick Rd., Maumee, OH 43537. 419-367-9450.

AUG. 18-18 OR 17-18, 8th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)

See Grand Prix.


AUG. 31-31, 26th Ohio Chess Congress See Grand Prix.

Sept. 20-22 OR 21-22, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY)

See Grand Prix.

Oct. 11-13 OR 12-13, 1st Annual Wright Brothers Open See Grand Prix.

Oklahoma

JULY 12-14, Kansas Open (KS)

See Kansas.

JULY 19-20 OR 20-21, 2013 Houston Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

Oregon

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 2nd FIDE NAO See Grand Prix.

Pennsylvania

Every Friday - LCCA 7 & 9 pm Blitz Events Open/1200 (BLZ) BSS, G/20. St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, 140 So. Ott. St., Allentown, PA 18101. EF: Prizes: Open and U1200, Minimum 50% Returned. 1st-700, 2nd-500 and will ADD PRIZES if 11 or more players per section. FREE Coffee For All Entrants. REG.: Ends 6:30pm, Cash on site only. RDS: 7, 8, then ASAAP On Site: 848-446-3045 or bdvdio@lehighvalleychessclub.org. See Grand Prix.

Every Saturday – LCCA/QUADS/RBO U1200 Quads + 6d $73 (No Club J5), See Pinc in Japarisk (5/15 tba below) G/40-45 Quads. 4-6 Reg.: 1-1:45, Rds: 2 pm, then assap; Site: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 541 3rd Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018. 2 Sections: Open Section EF: $15, Prizes: $30 for 3-0 score, else $45 for 1st RBD. Sectional: Prizes: $30 for 1-3 score, else $25 for 1st 4d. 6th Event Rd 1: 6:15 pm or asap, Prizes: 1st of 1s-700, 2nd-300, more prizes if 12 or more. PH: 484-806-3065. Bruce, Info: sramondi@yahoo.com.

Maryland Chess Association (MD)

See Maryland.

North Penn Chess Club


A State Championship Event!


A State Championship Event!


A State Championship Event!

Texas

July 13-14, 2013 DCC Fide Open VII
See Grand Prix.

July 19-21, 2013, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY)
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JULY 20-21, Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

Church, 4700 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20011. Phone: 202-659-7440. Fax: 202-659-7441. Website: http://www.wchess.org. E-mail: info@wchess.org. No Smoking. Wheel Chair Accessible. USCF membership required (available onsite).

AUG. 24-25, 25th annual Atlantic Open (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 29-31, ennead Grand Prix (IL)
See Grand Prix.

Virginia

Maryland Chess Association (MD)
See Maryland.

Chess Club of Alexandria’s Friday Night
See Grand Prix.

Virginia Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 8-11, 9-11 OR 10-11, 43rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Connecticut.

AUG. 18-20 OR 19-20, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Connecticut.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 20-24, 2nd Annual Petersbush Homecoming Chess Tournament (NS)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 2-4 OR 3-4, 3rd Annual Potomac Open (MD)
See Grand Prix.

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

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 22-25 OR 24-25, 45th annual Atlantic Open (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 24, Harris Pavilion Open Air Chess
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 30, Friday Night Blitz at the Virginia Closed (BLZ)
This is an OPEN EVENT, not restricted to VA residents. Same tournament location as the VA Closed (see below). 4 or 5 OHSS, depending on number of players, G/45, SD/30 d5. Held 1/month. For dates go to: www.arlingtonchessclub.com. Additional information: Tom Crane at e-mail (info only): dm407_92@hotmail.com. www.arlingtonchessclub.com.

AUG. 25-31, 54th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships
See Grand Prix.

Virginia Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Opt. 2nd: 4 SS, 40/120, SD/60 d5, $500-300-175. Top C, D, U1200, Unr $100 each. Trophy to 1st, 2nd, Best 1000, 900, Under 900. Reserve: 655, 40/120, SD/60, $600-300-175. Trophy to top 2, 1st U500. Open to U1200, $125, Under 1250. $75, Under 1250. Top trophy to top 2, 1st U500. Advance Entries fee (Make check payable to Bchenic) Dennis J. Kosterman, 283 Selkirk Ct, Madison, WI 53711. O.B.’s: denni@dtkis.net or 608-770-3133. www.wchess.com.

AUG. 24-25, 59th Iowa Open Chess (IA)
See Grand Prix.

Wisconsin

North Shore Chess Center (IL)
Tournaments, simulcs, tours, and camps located in northern Illinois. Visit www.wchess.org/events for a full schedule of events.

AUG. 21-22 OR 21-20, 6th annual Chicago Classic (IL)
See Grand Prix.

July 27-28, 2013 U.S. Open Weekend Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 27-4 OR 30-4 OR 8-4, 114th annual U.S. Open
See Nationals.

July 28, 2013 U.S. Open Scholastic
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AUG. 28-29, 2013 DCC Fide Open VII
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 29-31, ennead Grand Prix (IL)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-SEPT. 2, 69th Ohio Chess Congress (OH)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-NOV. 30 - DEC. 1, 4th annual National Chess Congress (PA)
See Grand Prix.

West Virginia

AUG. 3, Kanawha Valley Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 10, 21st Annual Charleston Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 10, 21st Annual Charleston Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 10-11, 5th Annual Charleston Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 11, 2013 Charleston Cup
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 11-12, 2013 National Scholastic Scholastic Sectionals
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 15-19, 2013 First Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 15-19, 2013 First Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 15-21, 2013 First Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, 6th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 19-21, 2013 First Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 20-21 OR 20-21, 2nd annual Midwest Classic Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 26-29 OR 27-29, 23rd annual New American Open (NV)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 27-28, 2nd annual Midwest Classic Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 27-28, 2013 U.S. Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 29-31, 2013 DCC Fide Open VII
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-NOV. 30 - DEC. 1, 4th annual National Chess Congress (PA)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-30, 26th Annual Columbus Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

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See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-30, 26th Annual Columbus Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.
PAGE 15 / CHESS TO ENJOY

Problem I. Groningen 1946: 23. ... Qxg3+ 24. Kxg3 Qxg6+ and 25. ... Nxd2. Problem II. Moscow 1944: 34. Rg5! e.g. 34. ... Rg8 35. Bxh7+ Kh8 36. Rg5 and 37. Kg7
e7+ wins. e.g. 37. ... Kg8 38. Rg8+ Kg7 39. e4. Problem III. Saltsjöbaden 1952: Without the g-pawn this is a draw. But 48. Ke6 Re2+ 49. Kf5 and 50. Kg6 wins, e.g. 49. ... g5 50. Kf6 Re5 51. f7+ Kf8 52. Rb8+ Ke7 53. Re8+ wins, e.g. 42. ... Kf8 43. Qd8+ Kg7 44. e7.

Problem VI. Mating net: Black triumphs with 1. ... Rh+ 1. ... Kh1 d1=Q+ 2. Kh2 Qh5 mate.


Problem III. 1. Kg5 Qh6+ 2. Kg4 Qh1+ 2. Kxh1 d1=Q+ 3. Kh2 Qh5 mate.

Problem IV. Double threat: With 1. ... Bd3 Black wins a piece. Problem V. Mating net: Black ends it all by 1. ... Re8+ 2. Kf1 Qh3+ 3. Kg1 Re1 mate.

Problem I. Pin: Black wins the bishop with 1. ... Re6. Problem II. Discovery/fork: Black wins the queen with 1. ... fxg2+ 2. Kd2 Re2+.


Problem VI. Mating net: Black wins the queen with 1. ... Re8+ 2. Kf1 Qh3+ 3. Kg1 Re1 mate.
This game was played in June 1986 at the Baltic Republics Championship in the beautiful western Estonian seaside locale of Haapsalu. For most of the players this was a nice extended vacation (the traditional format for Soviet tournaments: 15 rounds, one game per day with rest days!), but I remember being in a fighting mood. I tied for first with my Latvian teammate Edvins Kengis and Russian master Alex Malevinsky with 11½ out of 15.

The following game found its way into countless tactics compilations and Max Dlugy even dedicated one of his art pieces to it! My opponent, the talented Estonian master Juri Vetemaa (who died tragically in 2003), had a rough night before the game and his facial expression the moment I unloaded the star move—well, that alone makes chess a game worth playing. This is one of the most memorable moments in my chess career.

Alekhone’s Defense, Four Pawns Attack (B03)
Juri Vetemaa (FIDE 2280, EST)
Alexander Shabalov (FIDE 2365, LAT)
Baltic Republics Championship, Haapsalu 1986

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. c4 Nb6 5. f4 dxe5 6. fxe5 c5!

I fell in love with this move the first time my then-coach GM Vladimir Bagirov showed it to me. I scored countless victories with its help (another memorable one was against Yury Lapshun in 2003 on my way to the U.S. title that year) and still consider it being a great way to meet the four-pawns attack in the Alekhine.

7. d5 e6 8. Nc3 exd5 9. cxd5 c4!

This sneaky move is the whole (and only) idea behind Black’s otherwise strategically-suspicious setup.

10. a3? Bc5

This move will stop White from castling kingside.

11. Nf3 0-0 12. Be2 Bf5

And this bishop will play a major role in the queenside attack that follows.


This critical position is about equal.

16. 0-0-0??! Rac8 17. h3?

Interestingly, the computer sees the danger and suggests all kinds of deflecting sacrifices such as 17. Bxh6, 17. g4 or 17. e6.

17. ... Na4!

Suddenly Black has an unstoppable attack. I vividly remember seeing the line that happened in the game at this point.

18. Nd4 Bxd4!

Too bad both 18. ... Bd3 or 18. ... Nxc3 also lead to big advantage for Black, otherwise it could have been a nice problem from this point on.

19. Qxd4 N6c5 20. Bxc4

Looks extremely dangerous for White, but he hopes to hold on after 20. ... Nxc3 21. bxc3 Qa4 22. Kb2. Well, now it comes:

20. ... Qb5!!

The move itself is not complicated. It is more about overcoming the mental block that the b5-square is out of Black’s reach and also realizing that the threats that Qb5 creates are deadly.

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Editor's Letter: From Searching to Editing

In August of 1993 I flew home from a business trip. My then wife met me at the airport but we didn’t go home—we drove straight to the movie theater to see the film Searching for Bobby Fischer, which had just opened that day. This was a time when chess was not an active part of my life. However, I remember reading a big chunk of Fred Waitzkin’s book of the same title when I came upon it on a “featured” table at the now-defunct Coliseum Books on 57th Street in New York City. The book captured my attention enough that I sat in a corner of the store and devoured big chunks of it, but I was just starting out my post-college life and had other things on my mind besides chess. So when I heard that a movie version had been made it was one of those films I waited for with rabid intensity. My enthusiasm was tempered with my knowledge of how Hollywood treated chess in the past—they often disappointed (just how do they manage to set up the board incorrectly seemingly 75% of the time?). Not this time. The movie was absorbing, compelling, enchanting. And not just for me—my wife who had zero interest in chess was just as taken in by it as I was, especially by the young lead Max Pomeranc and his expressive eyes.

This isn’t just a pleasant memory for me. Searching set me on a path that directly led to my current job with the USCF. Shortly after seeing the movie, I joined the Savannah Chess Club and on my next business trip to Cincinnati, Ohio I played my first USCF-rated game. I began a newsletter for the Savannah Chess Club which led to becoming editor of Georgia Chess which led to Chess Life. Now instead of just watching Ben Kingsley play Bruce Pandolfini I work with Pandolfini monthly to produce his “Solitaire Chess” column. We never know where inspiration for our life paths will come from, and certainly I wouldn’t have predicted that a movie would change my direction from a career in retail management to a much more satisfying career reporting chess.

This month we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the movie Searching for Bobby Fischer, beginning on page 38. Here’s to your chess life. -Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: AUGUST

World Cup Heads to Norway

Our top players head to Trømsø, Norway to compete at the World Cup, held from August 10 through September 4. The single-elimination format is one of the most exciting to follow so look for our reports as you root on Team USA. U.S. qualifiers include Hikaru Nakamura (photo, below), Gata Kamsky, Timur Gareev, Alexander Onischuk, Alejandro Ramirez, Conrad Holt, Larry Christiansen, Gregory Kaidanov and Alexander Shabalov.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH LABOR DAY MADNESS: Labor Day Weekend starts this year on the last day of August, and our traditional Chess Life Online (CLO) coverage includes dispatches from state championships and Grand Prix events all over the country. Featured events include the Florida State Championship, the NY State Championship, the Southern California Open and many more. We’re looking for new voices and perspectives so e-mail CLO editor Jen Shahade at jshahade@uschess.org with stories, games and photos.

MADISON MEMORIES: Look for continuing coverage and post-tournament dispatches from the U.S. Open in Madison, Wisconsin, with updates on committee meetings, side events, awards and the main event. Reportage will include pieces by Melinda J. Matthews, who wrote the popular recent CLO piece on yoga and chess.

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL: Find news and games on the 2nd Annual Washington International, held from August 6-11 in Rockville, Maryland. The Razuvaev Memorial Tournament, held concurrently, features four top women players, including reigning women’s champ IM Irina Krush and GM Alexandra Kosteniuk and four male grandmasters, including GMs Boris Gulko and Lev Alburt.

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CONTRIBUTORS

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DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM The First Moves contributor is the author of six books, including her latest Thinking with Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14 (Mongoose Press, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts; 2012). She also teaches college credit courses, available worldwide via The University of Texas at Dallas eLearning, about chess in education.

MIKE KLEIN Our cover story author is a chess teacher, writer and traveler. He is the winner of the Chess Journalist of the Year Award in 2012. Like his younger students, his favorite move is Ng5.

CHRISTINA SCHWEISS Merit Mates is penned by a devoted “chess mom” who is currently the chess teacher/coach for the Grace Academy home school cooperative in Virginia Beach. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association.
ON THE COVER  GM Gata Kamsky and IM Irina Krush on the roof of the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER

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Two Servings of Special K
By FM Mike Klein
GM Gata Kamsky reclaims his U.S. Champion’s title; IM Irina Krush successfully defends her Women’s Championship.

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Before & After: Compensation for Inferior Pawns
By Peter Kurzdorfer
A former Chess Life editor shows how he has handled a strategic idea—accepting inferior pawns in exchange for piece activity—as he rose up the ratings ranks from A-player to master.

38  Looking Back / Searching for Bobby Fischer
20 Years of Searching
Twenty years after its August, 1993 release, Searching for Bobby Fischer remains one of the best chess movies made. We look back and catch up with the principals.

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STILL ROOM FOR HUMAN ANALYSIS

There seems to be a hole in the solution to problem six in the January 2013 “Chess To Enjoy” column by GM Andy Soltis. After 2. Rd8! ...

... the solution calls for 2. ... Qxb5 3. Qd6 expecting Black to play 3. ... Re8 where White wins by 4. Qe7.

Instead of Black playing 3. ... Re8 he can play 3. ... Bf2+ and regardless of whether White takes the bishop or moves elsewhere Black has a draw by checking on the b1 to h7 diagonal.

If White takes the bishop and moves to e3 Black wins by checking on g5 and capturing on d8.

Wayne W. Porter
via e-mail

GM Soltis replies:

I know that computers like 3. ... Bf2+, but this was subjected to a ridiculous amount of analysis (human, I admit) at the time. So let me suggest 4. Kx2 Qf5+ 5. Kgl Qb1+ 6. Kg2 and then 6. ... Qe4+ 7. Kh3 Qf5+ 8. g4.

PRIZES GROWING IN THE SOUTHEAST

In the June issue of Chess Life’s “Knight’s Tour” department, Scott Parker writes about the continuing success of the Castle Chess Camp and tournament. I have heard nothing but good things about both the camp and tournament (which I myself played in a few years back). He makes a claim, however, that I must dispute. He says that the $12,000 guaranteed prize fund this year for the Castle tournament is the most guaranteed money for a tournament in the Southeast.

Last year the U.S. Masters/North Carolina Open (NCO), held together and in the same room, had a total guaranteed prize fund of $30,000. Even if you remove the U.S. Masters as a national tournament being held in the southeast, the North Carolina Open completely guaranteed its $13,000 prize fund and actually paid out over $13,500. These two tournaments will be held again this year over Labor Day weekend and will again guarantee $17,000 (Masters) and $13,000 (NCO).

Dr. Walter M. High
Organizer, U.S. Masters Chess Championship/North Carolina Open

CORRECTIONS

The June exercise in Bruce Pandolfini’s “Solitaire Chess” column was inadvertently a repeat from the May issue. Here is the correct exercise:

June Exercise:

In reviewing our tournament games, most of the time we play over the moves from the side we conducted during the actual contest. This is natural, since we want to place ourselves back where we were, on familiar ground, when decisions were made. But one perspective never reveals the whole story. To open other doors of perception, we should regularly examine games from two points of view: our own, but also our opponent’s. If we aim to play a two-way game, armed for attack and defense at the board, it makes sense to practice playing a two-way game before and afterward.

In the June “Endgame Lab,” and in the “Benko’s Bafflers” within the same column, composer Eddie Wyckoff’s name was misspelled. Also in the “Bafflers,” under Problem II, “I. Price” should have read “I. Prize.”

Chess Life regrets the errors.

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 by Kopec and Terrie. We regret that we cannot reply to all letters.
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On the weekend of May 31st and June 1st, 2013, over 100 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts participated in the first-ever Tidewater Council Cub Scout/Boy Scout Chess Tournament and Merit Badge/Belt Loop/Pin Intensive Workshop (whew!). Hosted at the Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, home of Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 364, Boy Scouts from 22 different troops and Cub Scouts from nine different packs began arriving at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 31st and trained non-stop through almost 10 p.m. to earn their awards. Boys rotated through a number of stations to earn their requirements, led by local chess volunteers from Hampton Roads chess club, Scout leaders and parents, and even one First Class Boy Scout who had already earned his chess merit badge and is a USCF-rated player. At one point during the night, the Boy Scouts took a break from their training to teach the Cub Scouts how to play to fulfill one of the requirements for the merit badge. Three certified chess merit badge counselors (Christina Schweiss, Robert Crandall, and Mark Orr) were on hand to oversee training and sign off on the boys’ requirements.

The next morning, almost 70 boys (about 55 Boy Scouts and about 15 Cub Scouts) returned to participate in an unrated chess tournament (Boy Scouts played five rounds and Cub Scouts four, Swiss System Game/40 d5). The tournament was run courtesy of Virginia Chess Federation (VCF). Both tournament directors (TDs) (Ernie Schlich, lead TD and Mike Hoffpauir, assistant TD) are national-level TDs. The scouts had learned notation the night before and worked hard to keep notation during their games (even Cub Scouts), as well as practicing using chess clocks provided by VCF and the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA), which also provided the boards and sets.
New Hampshire and Northern California

Family reunions at the National Open

Dr. Gordon Gribble, a professor of organic chemistry at Dartmouth, has recently helped develop a promising drug, now in human testing, to treat chronic kidney disease in diabetes patients. He and his brother Roger of San Jose, now retired from Intel, have been meeting at the National Open for a long time. "In early years, our mom would go to Vegas to see her boys in action, and she would buy a large bag of nickels and play the slots while Roger and I were playing chess," Gordon said.

Southern California

"Someday I’ll catch him."

Fourth-grader Gia of Palmdale has already won a college scholarship. At the National Open, she gained more than 100 rating points, coming back after a first-round loss to win five in a row in the Under-1600 section. Six of Gia’s seven siblings have won state championships. “My older brother Dante taught me how to play. He’s the CalChess Elementary champion,” she said. “Dante is better than me now, but I am better than he was two years ago. Someday I will catch him.”

Utah

Chess jackpot in Vegas

A mechanical engineering student at Salt Lake Community College, David and a friend made the National Open their comeback chess event after six years. “It is hard to get that kind of atmosphere and prize money ... The National Open is a great way to get all that without having to fly across the country. And I love the time controls.” David hit the chess jackpot at the Riviera by tying for second in the Under 1400 section, winning $750 and gaining more than 140 rating points.
Loving Chess, Loving Libraries

“Each of us who loves chess should be involved in sharing it with others.”

By DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM

EACH OF US WHO LOVES CHESS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN sharing it with others,” said Robert McLellan, the USCF Director of Marketing. Robert and I were discussing November 16, 2013, the upcoming International Games Day at your library. The website for information is ilovelibraries.org/gaming.

Even though November is months away, contact academic, public, or school librarians now to plan for chess to be at your local library (or libraries). Academic librarians work at college and university libraries. Public librarians work at public libraries. School librarians work at K-12 school libraries (which are sometimes called media centers). Libraries that are closed on Saturdays may participate as long as they register their games day event with American Library Association (ALA), identify their event as part of International Games Day in their marketing, and fill out an ALA evaluation survey afterward.

In 2012, chess was at few of the 1,281 libraries that registered with ALA for International Games Day. (Those 1,281 libraries welcomed 17,152 gaming participants.) At the University of North Texas (UNT), academic librarian Kristin Boyett told me that around 900 people attended UNT’s 2012 International Games Day. Yet chess was not represented, because chess players did not contact her. Anime was represented, however. Kristin said, “With the anime club, it was a happy accident. The president of the anime club was a student worker here [Willis Library at UNT]. The UNT chess club should contact me about Games Day 2013, not just to provide chess playing but to teach how to play chess.”

In contrast, chess was at every public library in Norfolk, Virginia. The ALA website includes a video from 2012 titled, “A city learns to play chess: Norfolk, VA ALA Game Day.” The video shows a variety of ages among Norfolk’s chess-teaching volunteers and chess-learning participants. In addition to asking adult chess players to volunteer, consider recruiting student volunteers too. Many high school students need volunteer hours to be part of organizations such as the National Honor Society.

At one branch of the Denton Public Library (DPL), chess was represented. In the summer of 2012, I contacted DPL librarian Juli Gonzalez on behalf of the Denton High School (DHS) chess club sponsored by DHS teacher Fred Mueller and coached by me. For 2012, International Games Day was on the first Saturday in November. Prior to November 3, DHS students signed up for a two-hour chess playing/chess teaching shifts to last until 5:00 p.m.

As DPL patrons arrived at 10:00 a.m. on November 3, they chose among video games, games donated by Ravensburger (Labyrinth), PopCap (Bookworm), and GameTable Online, games from Denton-area gaming organizations, and our DHS chess area.

After the 2012 International Games Day, Juli emailed me, “It was so great to see so many teens interested in sharing their love for chess with library customers during our International Games Day. I truly don’t know what a gaming event would have been without chess. Chess is very popular and appeals to such a wide array of people. Chess is a game that crosses so many borders; in fact, a member of the DHS chess club who doesn’t speak much English, was able to partake in chess games with people.”

UNT’s Kristin Boyett has a chess-specific wish list for 2013. She would like volunteering chess players to bring in chess sets and boards. Also, Kristin said, “As a chess gift, I would like a downloadable pamphlet ‘Five easy steps for playing chess’ so that the librarian can hand the pamphlet out with the chess board and not have to know how to play or have to answer questions. Cheater cards (with the rules of chess on them) would be nice too.”

To participate in International Games Day at your library on November 16, 2013, follow the ALA’s general advice to board game groups. Board game groups should ask if their local libraries are participating. If a library’s staff is not aware of International Games Day, refer them to ilovelibraries.org/gaming. Then volunteer to host a board game event. Participation in this one-day activity can lead to future board game events at the library as well. Board game groups with questions may contact Jenny Levine at jlevine@ala.org.
The U.S. Amateur Team playoff was held on March 23, over the Internet Chess Club (ICC). The four finalists were Princeton University from the East, NorCal House of Chess Kings and Queen from the West, The Illini Schmakelers from the North, and Cookie Monsters Crumble the Competition from the South. When the dust cleared, the West emerged as national champions, defeating Princeton University in the final match.

Above, left to right: WFM Uyanga Byambaa, IM Ricardo De Guzman, Bryon Doyle, Ronald Cusi, Ted Castro

IM DANIEL NARODITSKY WINS U.S. JUNIOR CLOSED

"It was quite grueling—especially being the favorite coming in, where the pressure is on and everyone expects you to win every game. I just tried to stay calm and tranquil in every moment."

The 2013 U.S. Junior Closed Championship is the top tournament event in the United States for players aged 20 and younger. It featured 10 of the country’s strongest up-and-coming chess players, and was held at the Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (for the fourth consecutive year) from June 13th through June 23rd. Naroditsky’s victory earns him a trip to the 2014 U.S. Championship. FMs Luke Harmon-Vellotti and Samuel Sevian tied for second at 6, a half-point behind Naroditsky. Find more details, photos and games from the U.S. Junior at uschesschamps.com/.

USCF Annual Report

The USCF Annual Report, officially called the Delegates’ Call, is now available on uschess.org in the “Governance” section. This PDF includes reports from the USCF executive director, president, VP of finance, and committee chairs among other governance items.

USCF Executive Board Election

By the time you receive this issue, the USCF executive board election will have been decided. To see your new executive board, go to uschess.org. They will also be listed on this page and the masthead page in the September issue.
Simply Straightforward

Educating without overwhelming the beginner-to-intermediate player

By GM JOEL BENJAMIN

The veteran master and chess author aims Simple Attacking Plans at the beginner-to-intermediate level as befits the title, which will not draw in advanced players, but won’t scare off the ones who most need to learn these lessons.

The games are deeply annotated with a stress on general explanation over tactical variations. There is a lot of explanation of opening strategy, supporting author Fred Wilson’s thesis that attacks usually develop organically from the previous play. A seasoned, successful instructor, Wilson knows how to provide useful, cogent advice like “in all double king pawn openings, when White plays an early d2-d4 Black should always trade pawns if White cannot recapture with a pawn” (p. 9). Wilson spells out several truisms of attack in the introduction and elucidates them in his game annotations. They may not be ground-breaking concepts but they are thoughtfully chosen and presented.

Simple Attacking Plans will be particularly attractive to teachers. The games cover a variety of themes and levels, with many short, concise affairs. Let’s look at a game played on the Internet Chess Club by Wilson’s friend (and occasional Chess Life book reviewer) Pete Tamburro:


You can’t ask for a better example of a rook lift, sacrifice, and basic mating pattern in one package. I have already used this game in a class (full disclosure) I taught with Fred’s daughter Rebecca.

There are chapters on the “Greek Gift” and attacking the fianchetto castled position, but most of the games are in chapters entitled “selected games.” I would have liked these games to be arranged more thematically. That might have raised this book to “great” status in my eyes.

Still, there are a great many lessons to be learned from this book. I was particularly impressed by an unfamiliar game where an obscure player crushes an iconic one:

Crushing Tartakower

H. Norman Hansen
Savielly Tartakower
Copenhagen, 1923


White’s attack soon crashed through. I’ll be adding this cautionary tale for pawn-grabbers to my teaching repertoire.

The original and well-chosen material is augmented by Wilson’s breezy and entertaining style which educates without overwhelming. The book is very neatly printed with ample diagrams. Simple Attacking Plans is a worthwhile purchase for students and teachers alike.

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GARRY KASPAROV HAD GOOD REASON to expect this would be a good year for him. After all, “2013” contains his lucky number.

Kasparov’s birthday is April 13. He was 13 when he beat out much older kids to win the Soviet junior championship. He became the 13th world champion by defeating Anatoly Karpov—and did it by a score of 13-11. He was 13 at the time of his first win. He clinched the FIDE championship title in the 13th round—on a 13th October.

Garry Kasparov had good reason to believe his choice of clothes shaped his fortune. When his wife Sally Landau accompanied him to the Malaga 1981 tournament, “I had to wash his sweaty shirt 20 times because it was his ‘lucky’ shirt,” she recalled.

Tal liked to say there is only one permanent title in chess, “former world champion.” He earned it at the age of 24 thanks, he said, to what happened at the end of this game.

Unlucky 13th round
GM Mikhail Botvinnik
GM Luděk Pachman
Moscow 1947

White played 17. Rgs??, apparently counting on 17. ... Na4 18. Qf5, in hopes of reaching a good endgame after a trade of queens. But he lost a piece after 17. ... Rxe1 (18. Qxe1 Bf4).

After he resigned Botvinnik told his opponent how he had developed a fear of 13. “I was quite surprised to hear that, for I had not expected the scientific brain of a future world champion to harbor such a superstition,” Luděk Pachman wrote.

On the other hand, GM Veselin Topalov has some reason to think 13 is lucky for him. He clinched the FIDE championship title in the 13th round—on a October 13—in 2005, for example.

While the rest of the world has such mundane lucky numbers as seven, world-class players go their own way. Vladimir Kramnik’s favorite number is 15.

He pointed out that his name, in his native Russian as well as in English, has 15 letters. He became world champion by winning a 15-game match from Kasparov. That ended Kasparov’s 15-year reign. Kramnik was succeeded, in turn by the 15th universally recognized world champion, Vishy Anand.

Great players aren’t ashamed of their talismans and lucky omens. When Viktor Korchnoi was asked if he was superstitious, he replied, “As much as anyone whose life depends on the moment. Pilots are superstitious, sportsmen.”

“But there are people who are more superstitious than me,” he added. “For example, Karpov.” He was referring to his longtime rival, Anatoly Karpov, who had his own habits—like not having his hair cut during a match.

One of the strangest superstitions among world champions was Wilhelm Steinitz’s belief that the color red was unlucky. This was a problem because in his era chessboards often had red and black squares.

Steinitz’s 1886 match against Johannes Zukertort, the first official world championship contest, moved from one U.S. city to another. When it arrived in St. Louis, there was a delay because the local organizers only had red-and-black boards. They eventually found a black-and-canary-colored board to suit him.

The great openings expert Ernst Grünfeld—creator of the defense that bears his name—could have topped that. He thought chickens were unlucky. During a free day during the great tournament of Baden Baden 1925 the players were relaxing in a garden when Grünfeld was horrified to see a few stray chickens approach the party. What’s wrong? he was asked. “Chickens, eggs, zeroes!” he replied.

That tournament was won by Alexander Alekhine, who had his own superstitions. He felt it was unlucky to be far from his pet.
cat, which he named “Chess.” “He took the cat all over the world,” Grandmaster Andre Lilienthal said in a 2008 interview. “Once the cat went missing and Alekhine was in a panic. The tournament was halted. It turned out that Chess was occupied with a lover and came back with a whole family. And everyone congratulated Alekhine, they shook his hand and celebrated.”

Alekhine’s other obsession was with the number 26. Why 26? Well, it’s a double 13. He liked to bet on it when playing roulette. (So does GM Vassily Ivanchuk today.)

Another world class player of Alekhine’s era, Salo Flohr, recalled how he, Alekhine and Gösta Stoltz, a Swedish master, were in Nice, France when the world champion convinced them to visit the famed casino in nearby Monte Carlo. “For us, young masters, every word of Alekhine was law,” Flohr said. At the casino Alekhine went for the roulette wheel, bet on 26, and was delighted when he won, he said.

Whenever the number came up in his life, Alekhine thought it was a good omen. He even arranged to marry his fourth and final wife on a March 26, in 1934. And when Alekhine won a game in just 26 moves, it seemed to verify his faith. His great 26-movers included the brilliancy prize game at New York 1927 against Frank Marshall, the first game of the 1929 World Championship match with Efim Bogolyubov and a crush of Savielly Tartakower at Kecskemét 1927. And there was this:

**Queen’s Gambit Declined, Classical Main Line (D67)**

*Alexander Alekhine  
Emanuel Lasker  
Zurich, 1934*


Black is drifting into a lost position without making a major error. How is that possible? The diplomatic Emanuel Lasker had an explanation after the game: “I forgot I was playing the world champion.”

18. ... Ned7 19. Rfd1 Rad8 20. Qg3 g6 21. Qg5!

White dominates the center and can pile on with Rd6 and Rcd1.

21. ... Kh8 22. Nd6 Kg7 23. e4 Ng8 24. Rd3

(see diagram top of next column)


Black tried the immediate 24. ... f6 but that allowed a different queen sacrifice, 25. Nf5+ Kh8 26. Qxf6! and Black resigned (26. ... hxg6 27. Rh3+). It was the first and only Emanuel Lasker loss to Alekhine in their seven games.

Flohr was playing at a table a short distance away. Alekhine approached his board and silently showed his fingers: Ten. Then, another ten. And then six. Flohr smiled.

But even superstitious champions know you can’t really change your luck. Vassily Ivanchuk realized that after he had a miserable start at Linares 1994. “I changed my clothes, even tried to sit at a different seat at dinner time. Nothing helped,” he told *Shakhmaty v Rossii* magazine.

But it didn’t change his faith in luck. “I’m superstitious,” he admitted, “like the majority of chessplayers.” 🐱
Wild Stuff

Do you have a must-win situation from the black side? Try the Latvian Gambit—but tread carefully.

By BRUCE PANDOLFINI

WITH THE LATVIAN GAMBIT, BLACK AIMS for sharp counterplay against the white center. But the weaknesses Black thereby accepts, such as the loose center and the exposing of the e8-h5 diagonal, can turn Black's game into a nightmare. And that's pretty much what happened in the encounter Owen Hindle versus John Littlewood, Hastings 1963/64. Black's extreme aggression backfires and his position soon falls apart.

Latvian Gambit (C40)
Owen Hindle
John Littlewood
Hastings 1963/64

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5

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. Nxe5 ** Par Score 5

This is the main move, opening a path for the queen to reach h5. Accept 4 points


3. ... Nc6

The white knight has to be induced to leave e5, though Black usually does it by 3. ... Qf6.**

4. Qh5+ ** Par Score 5

Also reasonable are 4. Nxc6 or 4. d4, and either merits full credit.

4. ... g6

This is forced, since 4. ... Ke7 gets mated: 5. Qf7+ Kd6 6. Nc4+ Kc5 7. Qd5+ etc. (1 bonus point).**

5. Nxe5 ** Par Score 5

Add 1 bonus point if you saw this in advance. Otherwise, you would have had to have selected 5. Nxc6, worth only 3 points part credit.

5. ... Nf6

Black picks up a tempo on the queen before deciding what to do about his rook.**

6. Qh4 ** Par Score 5

He must maintain the pin on the h-pawn. Accept full credit for 6. Qh3.

6. ... hxg6

Here we have a frisky Exchange sacrifice. Of course, Black could try 6. ... Rg8. He didn't.**

7. Qxh8 ** Par Score 5

What does Black have for his sacrificial efforts? He has a lead in development, more pawns in the center, and a white queen off in a remote corner of the board. If Black's king were safe, then all this might work. But his king is not safe, and that provides the basis for White's coming play. We should also mention that as a result of the present game, 7. ... fx e4 has been replaced by 7. ... Qe7, but even that has not provided Black with full compensation.**

8. d4! Par Score 6

White offers a pawn (and more) to bring his queen-bishop into the game. On 8. ... Nxd4, there follows 9. Bh6; and if 9. ... Nxc2+ 10. Kd1 Nxa1, then 11. Qxf8 mate (1 bonus point).**

8. ... Kf7

Black figures that ... Nxd4 can come next move. Meanwhile, he threatens 9. ... Bb4+, discovering on the queen (1 bonus point).**

9. Nc3 Par Score 6

White develops his knight and negates Black's threat. Deduct 2 points for coming up with 9. Bc4+, which is met by 9. ... d5.

9. ... Nxd4

Now he goes for it.**

10. Bg5 Par Score 5

Not to be outdone, White offers his own rook in the corner in return for the attack. You can also make a case (5 points part credit) for 10. Bc4+ d5 11. Bxd5+ Nxd5 12. Qxd4.

10. ... Nxc2+

11. Kd1 Par Score 5

No credit for 11. Ke2, blocking the bishop. The move 11. Kd2 is possible, but the king is less exposed on d1.

11. ... Nxa1

Maybe we should just call this an Exchange sacrifice, since it is not clear how the knight gets out of the a1-corner.**

12. Bc4+ Par Score 6

White brings a new attacker into the picture. Accept only 3 points part credit for 12. Nxe4.

12. ... d5

If the king moves, the f6-knight falls.**
**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.

**August Exercise**: Looking for material on a particular subject and can’t find what you’re looking for? That’s where the following good habit excels. As you come upon meaningful examples, especially those that illustrate themes you’d like to reinforce in your own practice, classify them. Then file them away, even to the extent of listing multiple motifs and cross-referencing through various databases. Doing this regularly will not only strengthen your hold over important examples worthy of inculcation. It should increase chances to find those needed notions at the very moment they seem most elusive.

---

13. **Nxd5**  **Par Score 5**

The f6-knight is threatened, whereas 13. Bxd5+ Be6 self-pins the bishop and threatens nothing.

13. **... b5**

Black hopes to distract the bishop. If 13. ... Bb6, then 14. Bxf6; and 13. ... Be7 allows White to break the pin by 14. Qxd8 Bxd8 15. Nfx6+ (1 bonus point). We can take this further: 15. ... Be6 16. Bxe6+ Kf5 17. Nxe4 Kf5 18. Bxd8 Rxd8+ 19. Nd2; and White will unpin his knight and shortly collect the enemy knight at a1.**

14. **Bxf6**  **Par Score 5**


14. **... Qd6**

Material is level and Black even has threats to the hanging white minor pieces. But none of this counts for much as it is White’s turn to move and his queen is ready to enter the fray against the exposed black monarch.**

15. **Qh7+**  **Par Score 6**

White wants to see where the king will go.

15. **... Ke6**

The try 15. ... Ke8 runs into 16. Bxb5+. If 16. ... c6, then 17. Bxc6+ Qxc6 18. Nc7+ Qxc7 19. Qxc7 Bd7 20. Re1 (2 bonus points); if 16. ... Bd7, then 17. Qxg6 is mate (2 bonus points).**

16. **Qg8+**  **Par Score 6**

16. **... Kd7**

If 16. ... Kf5, then 17. g4+ Kxg4 18. Qxg6+, and it’s mate in two moves (1 bonus point).**

17. **Bxb5+**  **Par Score 6**

This is played to keep the black king from running out to c6, though even if he does, White still wins. For example, if 17. Qf7+ (4 points part credit) 17. ... Kc6 18. Qe8+ Qd7 (the only move) 19. Bxb5+ Kxb5 20. Qxd7+ Bxd7 21. Nxc7+ etc.

17. **... c6**

18. **Qf7+**  **Par Score 6**

18. **... Be7**

This is a forced dumping of the bishop, which White takes with tempo on the queen.**

19. **Bxe7**  **Par Score 5**

19. **... Qe6**

If 19. ... Qxd5+, then 20. Qxd5+ and the c-pawn can’t retake the queen.**

20. **Qxe6+**  **Par Score 5**

There’s no more mating attack, so White swaps queens and wins by superior numbers. For instance, 20. ... Kxe6 21. Bxc6 Rb8 22. Ba3, followed by picking up the knight in the corner.

20. **... Black resigned 🅳**

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**TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:**

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<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
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<td>2400+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81-94</td>
<td>2200-2399</td>
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Two Servi
SPE

GM Gata Kamsky (right) and GM Alejandro Ramirez (left) fighting it out in one of the Armageddon games that gave Kamsky the championship.
Thinking about studying some chess today? Why not give endgames a try? One day, with the whole world watching, it may be worth $10,000 and a national title.

That’s the situation GM Gata Kamsky and GM Alejandro Ramirez found themselves in during a tense three-game playoff at the 2013 U.S. Championship in May. Having both finished the main event with 6½/9, they were forced into an extra day of play. Seated at the only chessboard in use at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, the pair had an array of eyes and lenses directed solely on them. Three GoPro cameras trained on the players tableside, while another was furtively stowed overhead. A two-person film crew jockeyed to catch nervous facial expressions, four arbiters stood at attention, and more than 20 spectators crammed the intimate playing room, watching live what thousands were viewing online.

GM Gata Kamsky
reclaims his U.S.
Champion’s title;
IM Irina Krush
successfully defends
her Women’s
Championship

By FM MIKE KLEIN
“... Bh3—wow! That’s not OK. After that I was just trying not to lose. It was not a pleasant moment.”

~KAMSKY

Non-silicon chess players watched timorously as Ramirez attempted to defend three perilous endgames against a man with five times as much U.S. Championship experience. All, that is, except one notable competitor. Not fretting over having to find several dozen “only moves” was IM Irina Krush. After thoroughly dominating the field, she won her fifth U.S. Women’s Championship with 8½/9 a day earlier, and thus avoided any of the emotional playoffs she weathered last year. Krush promptly set out on the day of the tiebreak for some pampering at a salon.

Kamsky and Ramirez entered the playoff with different momentum—Kamsky buffeted by the headwind of having drawn five games in a row after opening with four straight wins, while a tailwind of solid tactics and good fortune aided Ramirez, who scored four wins and two draws in the final six rounds to close the gap. Ramirez won in the final round to finally catch Kamsky, who had been all alone in first place since round three. The run also included a shock tactic in their round seven head-to-head encounter, without which Kamsky likely would have sailed through to the title without a fraction of the drama.

Head-to-head encounter
GM Gata Kamsky (2819)
GM Alejandro Ramirez (2623)
U.S. Championship, St. Louis, Missouri (7), 2013

27. ... exf4 28. Rxf4 g5!

The leadup to the tactic shows Ramirez had envisioned it well in advance. Otherwise, he may have chosen 28. ... g6.

29. Bxf7+?

The obvious move, but falling into the trap! “I thought for 15 minutes before 27. ... exf4 28. Rxf4 g5. I don’t know what he thinks I was looking at,” Ramirez said. 29. Rxf7? Rxd5 30. Raf6 and White is lucky to have a perpetual; 29. Ra8+ getting a pair of rooks off the board was key to maintaining the advantage 29. ... Rc8 (Black is just lost after 29. ... Kg7 30. Rxf7+ Kg6 31. Rxd7) 30. Bxf7+ Kg7 31. Rxc8 Bxc8 (No better is 31. ... gxf4 32. Rc7.) 32. Rf1 and with Kamsky’s technique, White should win since Black’s bishop is useless and he cannot immediately threaten the connected passed pawns.

29. ... Kg7 30. Rf1 Bh3!

... shades of Topalov-Shirov, 1998 and played almost instantly. “... Bh3—wow! That’s not OK,” Kamsky said after the game. “After that I was just trying not to lose. It was not a pleasant moment.” 30. ... Rbb2? doubling rooks first is a mistake due to 31. Bd5 Rgxg2?? (31. ... Be8 32. e5) 32. Rf7+ Kg8 33. Ra8+ and mates.

31. Ra7

Another way to draw is 31. gxh3 Rbb2 32. Rfa1, but allowing the rook battery and resulting perpetual symbolically is not fun.

31. ... Bxg2+ 32. Kg1 Bxf1 33. Bb3+ Kg6 34. Bxc2 Rb2 35. Ra6+ Kf7 36. Ra7+, Draw agreed.

“My position is crumbling but he missed this 30. ... Bh3 move,” Ramirez said. “I was just trying not to get crushed.” After the move, Kamsky could not hide his astonishment and visibly chastised himself for throwing away his advantage. “I’ve been in that situation before and you don’t even know what you’re doing with your facial expressions,” Ramirez said. “Drawing makes me feel like I should go buy some lottery tickets right now.”

He added that “playing Gata is an honor” —little did he know he would be honored three more times.

At the end of regulation, with both players knotted at 6½, the rules required twin rapid games, one with each color. Kamsky received white first. With the crowd slowly gathering, the first game was delayed slightly and the two players took turns sitting at the board, but never at the same time. When the standing player sat down, the seated player would get up and pace, then return to the board, whereupon his opponent would repeat the process. The seesaw was not a psychological tactic, nor was it unfriendly—there was seemingly too much nervousness to be so proximate before the battle began.

King’s Indian Defense (E60)
GM Gata Kamsky (2819)
GM Alejandro Ramirez (2623)
U.S. Championship, Tiebreak Game One, St. Louis, Missouri, 2013

1. d4

Kamsky decides not to repeat the Ruy Lopez of their round seven game.

1. ... Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. g3 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6

According to Ramirez, a plan with a quick ... e5 and ... d5 equalizes.

5. Bg2 Bg7 6. 0-0 0-0 7. c4 Qc7

Very committal—the queen could later be attacked by numerous pieces, but Ramirez decided that White’s defense of c4 would also be awkward.


White improves his worst-placed piece, at the expense of the black queen. 14. ... axb5? 15. cxb5 and White will have enormous pressure.

14. ... Qd7 15. Nc3 Bxg2 16. Kxg2 b5?

Black’s only real weakness was the b6-square, and this move allows Kamsky a positional tactic.

17. Bxf6 Bxf6 18. Nd5 Rac8

White nets a pawn after 18. ... Bg7 19. cxb5 axb5 20. Rc7.

19. cxb5

19. ... Qxb5

20. Nxf6+

According to GM Robert Hess, White should leave the knight in the center for a while. The bishop cannot move since Nxe7+ hangs everything. Still, in a rapid game, this looks exactly like the kind of position Kamsky converts nine times out of 10. Now Black has weaknesses all over.

20. ... exf6 21. e3 Rc6 22. Rxc6 Qxc6+ 23. Kg1 Rc8 24. Rd1 Qc2

Ramirez wisely chooses active defense. 24. ... Rd8 would have been even more miserable. Still, things are grim. “I get to be tortured forever now,” he said.

25. Qxc2 Rxc2 26. a4

26. Rxd6 Rxa2 27. Rxf6 Kg7 28. Rb6 h5 and Black can probably hold (Ramirez).

26. ... Rc6 27. Rd4 Kf8 28. Rb4 Ke7 29. Rb7+ Ke6 30. a5 Rc2

Perhaps a small inaccuracy, due to White’s next move. The move 31. Rb6 was not a threat, so Black should have taken this move to find a hiding place for his king. White’s plan is to get a passed a-pawn, put his rook on a8, and advance the pawn to a7. When this happens, Black’s king cannot allow a check on the eighth rank, nor can he hide on the seventh rank due to possible skewers.

31. g4!

Now if Black tries ... f5 at some point, to hide his king on f6, White can respond g5 and the black king is running out of squares fast.

31. ... h5

(Continued on page 24)
Ramirez takes action against that plan, even though he weakens more pawns. Had he played ... h5 earlier, his defensive task would not have been as difficult.

32. gxh5 gxh5 33. Kg2 f5 34. Rb6 Rb2 35. Kf3 Ke5 36. Rxa6 Rxb3 37. Ra8 Ra3 38. a6 f4

Black correctly tries to remove as many pawns as he can.

39. a7 Kf5

Hiding behind the f-pawn to prevent 40. Re8+ and 41. a8=Q (now we see why Ramirez had to build a shelter).

40. Ke2 fxe3 41. fxe3 h4 42. h3 Ra4

39. a7 Kf5

40. Re8+ Kf5 41. a8=Q; 45. Ra4 48. Kd5 Rb1+ 49. Kc6 Rc1+ 50. Kd5 Rc5+ 51. Ke4 Ra5

A perfect geometric motif—the black rook continues to pull double-duty, keeping an eye on the a-pawn and the king’s invasion.

52. Kf4 Kf6 53. Kg4 Ra4+ 54. Kh5 Kf5 55. e4+

One last trick.

55. ... Kf6

Neither capture works 55. ... Kxe4 56. Re8+ Kf5 57. a8=Q; 55. ... Rxe4 56. Rb8.

56. Kxe4 d5

56. ... Rxe4+ is also fine.

57. Kg3 dxe4

“The endgame is drawn even without Black’s e- and f-pawns,” Ramirez said.

Championship versus Real Life

As much as the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis provides near-perfect playing conditions, no chess player can ever compete in a vacuum. Personal lives, travel schedules, families, schooling—nearly every player at the year’s championships had something going on that made competing more difficult. The better they managed off the board, the better they played on the board.

GM Gata Kamsky had a Herculean travel schedule. He played the FIDE Grand Prix in Zug, Switzerland the last two weeks of April. “Zug” can mean “move” in German, and that’s what he did. By flying to St. Louis on May 1, he was able to attend the opening ceremony a day later, and played his first round on May 3. He admitted to being jet-lagged, but actually played better the first half of the event. After winning, he said, “I just want to get some sleep.” A few days later, and then he was back across the ocean to another FIDE Grand Prix in Greece, where he finished second. All told, Kamsky played 34 games in six weeks in three countries with two trans-Atlantic flights.

The crowded international schedule precluded GM Hikaru Nakamura’s participation altogether. “It’s a little bit sad because you always want to play in your national championship,” he said while calling in to the live broadcast. “But I’m going to be getting some valuable experience in the European Team Championship. The day of the Krush match, his game went late, and due to the time zone difference, Zatonskih was mostly on her own.

Yaacov Norowitz is Orthodox Jewish and could not write down his moves during the two Saturday games that fell on the Sabbath. Together with the organizers, they arranged a novel approach using stickers and many pages of blank diagrams. This could have led to time-pressure issues, but with the 30-second increment, Norowitz did not face undue pressure from the clock. He remained good-natured about his predicament. “It would have been heaven if I could eat the sushi,” Norowitz said.

GM Yury Shulman and WIM Viktorija Ni, the only married couple competing, could not get Ni’s mother to fly in to babysit their two-year-old son. The only solution was for Ni to fly to her—she boarded a plane to Latvia, spent a few days, returned to her home in Chicago, and then traveled to St. Louis. After the tournament, she had to fly back to Latvia to bring her son back home.

GM Timur Gareev had a 33-board blindfold exhibition only two days before the championship. Although he only ate fresh fruit during the 10-hour marathon, he never complained of being tired once the main event began.

The most common burden faced by players was their high school and college studies. One-third of the men’s field and one-half of the women’s field were still in school. The college students seemed to have it worse—they were in finals week while several high school players were homeschooled and had more flexible schedules. Several players said they took final exams online or e-mailed papers the morning before one of their rounds. “It has definitely interfered with our preparation,” GM Ray Robson said. He started miserably with ½/3 but then reverted to a paradoxical solution. Once his exams were finished, he refrained from any morning preparation in favor of playing tennis. He went 4-0 the first four rounds in which he played tennis in the morning, even though several times he was on the court for three hours. In round nine, Robson again played tennis, then drew Kamsky and narrowly missed a spot in the World Cup.

GM Larry Christiansen’s college days are long since passed. He faced the other end of the career spectrum—fatigue. Although he was nearly five times as old as the youngest player, FM Samuel Sevian, he still attacked like he was on his parents’ medical insurance. Christiansen said openly he worried about his stamina since there was only one rest day. After a fast start he stumbled in the second half, but still grabbed the final spot in the World Cup.

Next year even qualifying could be tougher for many—the U.S. now has 78 grandmasters. With a host of burgeoning collegiate programs giving scholarships to foreign players, several are transferring their FIDE affiliation. GM Alejandro Ramirez did it years ago. Gareev did it this year in time for the tournament. UMBC graduate GM Sergey Erenburg (ELO 2615) just switched as well. Webster University recruit GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez (2617) of Cuba said he plans to change after the required two-year waiting period, and there are others rumored to join him. There was even an effort this year to have world top-five GM Fabiano Caruana play, but he was ineligible since his affiliation is Italy and the tournament doubled as a zonal. ~M.K.
58. Kf4 Kg7 59. h4 Kh7 60. h5 Kg7 61. h6+ Kh7 62. Ke3 f5 63. Kf4 Ra6, Draw agreed.

... and there are no more tricks to try. A great defensive effort for Ramirez.

After that close shave, the players had 15 minutes to regroup for the second game. Kamsky mostly sat at the board, while Ramirez moved outside the ropes and chatted with supporters (he necessarily had a larger following since there were so many younger players represented in both championships). Ramirez returned, and after another round of musical chairs, they sat for the rematch. Ramirez played an early a4-system in the Ruy Lopez, mirroring the same opening Kamsky played against him in their classical time control game. "We’re old people, we need to start playing the Spanish before we die," the 24-year-old Ramirez said.

Once again Ramirez has an uphill climb for the draw. This time his task is more difficult—d3 is very weak and the black bishop is about to come alive.

30. ... Bf6

Less effective is 30. ... Kf7? 31. Nxe5+ dxe5 32. d6 Rd2 33. dxe7 Rxd3 34. Rc7 when White is not worse.

31. Rb8+

A random check which leads to passive defense, but Ramirez had a key decision here. He could have gone for activity, but he had to choose carefully. 31. Rd7? e4! 32. dxe4 Ra1+ 33. Kh2 fxe4 34. Ng1 (No better is 34. Nd2 e3! 35. fxe3 Be5+ 36. g3 Ra2) 34. ... Be5+ 35. Kh1 Rf1 is hopeless and pitiful for White; 31. g4! a great resource, countering Black’s intended pawn thrust with one of his own 31. ... e4 (Much worse is 31. ... fxe4?! 32. hxg4 and White controls e4) 32. dxe4 fxe4 33. g5 Bd4 34. g6! hxg6 35. Rb8+ Kf7 (Fatal is 35. ... Kh7?? 36. Ng5+ Kh6 37. Nf7+ Kh5 38. Rh8 mate) 36. Ng5+ and White is slightly better! (Ramirez).

31. ... Kf7 32. Rb7+ Ke8 33. Rb1

Unlike game one, Ramirez scrambles back for passive defense.

33. ... Kd7 34. Rd1 h5

Seemingly shutting down any g2-g4 plans for White.

35. g4!

It takes a bit of time for the computer to find the move. With Black finally gearing up for ... e5-e4, White offers a pawn to secure the square for his knight.

35. ... hxg4 36. hxg4 e4!

Determined to open the bishop while depriving the knight of e4. Kamsky avoids 36. ... fxg4 37. Nd2 when White is OK. The computer thinks Black has an advantage, but computers do not understand fortresses too well. 37. Nh2 would be fine also.

37. dxe4 fxg4 38. e5!!

You take my pawn. No you take mine. No, I insist!

38. ... gxf3

Possibly stronger was 38. ... dxe5 39. Nd2 Rc2

39. exf6 gxf6 40. Rc1

Black has more tricks than in game one, but his extra pawn is not very useful.

40. ... f5 41. Rc3 Ke7 42. Re3+

This looks safer than 42. Rxf3, when after 42. ... Rc2 43. Rxf5 Rc4, if Black can get his rook to e5, there could be issues.

42. ... Kf6 43. Re6+ Kg5 44. Rxd6 Rc2 45. Rc6 Kf4 46. Rh6

The continuation 46. Rxc5 Rc1+ 47. Kh2 Rf1 48. Rc7 Rxf2+ 49. Kg1 Rd2 50. Kf1 also draws, but the f3-pawn looks very intimidating, especially with the clock ticking down.

46. ... Kg5 47. Rh8 Rxc4 48. d6 Rd4 49. Rc8 Rxd6 50. Rxc5 Kg4 51. Rc4+ Kh3 52. Rc1 Rh6+

Here Ramirez took more than a minute of his dwindling time to play ...

53. Kh1

... when 53. Kf1 would lose on the spot to 53. ... Kh2. “By this point I was exhausted,” Ramirez said.

53. ... Rg2 54. Rc2

Kamsky shook his head, perhaps only seeing 54. Rf1? Kh4 and White is in Zugzwang. Too easy of a move to miss? Your reporter missed Rc2 at first also. Even the journalists were tired.

54. ... Rg7 55. Rc3 Kg4 56. Rc4+ f4 57. Rc8 Kf5 58. Rc3!

Allowing Kamsky’s king to invade, but Ramirez had the brilliant plan all worked out.
Kamsky said afterward he had almost an identical ending against Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 2011 World Cup, where his super-grandmaster opponent was not able to hold a book draw.

Upon the rook landing on g2, Kamsky broke his taciturn focus, looked up at Ramirez, grinned and laughed. Stalemate being a rare stranger to a championship-deciding game, Kamsky’s reflexive, uncensored reaction broke all the normal protocols as spectators and players alike broke the monastic silence with a hearty chuckle.

The levity lasted only a few seconds before arbiters stepped in and informed the players of the rules of the required Armageddon bidding match, a frequent guest in St. Louis in the past few years. When asked before the playoff if he had given any thought to a bid should the match last this far, Ramirez surprisingly said he had not, preferring to worry about the Armageddon game before I even think about it, then I’ll just conjure something up,” he had said that morning.

Kamsky had been down this road before, bidding against GM Yury Shulman for the 2010 crown. Back then, he outbid Shulman easily, but was “rewarded” with only 25 minutes to White on the board. Stalemate being a rare stranger to a championship-deciding game, Kamsky’s reflexive, uncensored reaction broke all the normal protocols as spectators and players alike broke the monastic silence with a hearty chuckle.

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Kamsky had been down this road before, bidding against GM Gata Kamsky (2819) for the 2010 crown. Back then, he outbid Shulman easily, but was “rewarded” with only 25 minutes to Shulman’s 60 (Kamsky, playing that endgame largely on increment, narrowly prevailed by using his draw odds). This year the winning bid would only yield 45 minutes to White (with a five-second increment). Much speculation among other players went into deciding the optimum game-theory bid. The sealed envelopes were mighty close. Ramirez decided on 19 minutes, 45 seconds. Chief International Arbiter Franc Guadalupe then unsealed Kamsky’s envelope—20 minutes even. Both players clearly wanted black, but Ramirez won the bid by a matter of seconds. He would play black with less time but with draw odds.

The ratio of time advantage—about 2.3:1—was almost exactly the same Kamsky used to win in 2010. Would a stalwart

King’s Indian Defense (E60)
GM Gata Kamsky (2819)
GM Alejandro Ramirez (2623)
U.S. Championship, Armageddon Game, 2013


The two reprised their opening from the first tiebreak game, but Kamsky wisely kept more pieces on the board to try to push his starting time advantage.

27. ... Qa5!

Trying to paralyze the white queen and knight. Again, Ramirez chooses active defense rather than tethering himself to the c5-knight, but Kamsky uses a lot of his extra time to find the right path.


(see diagram top of next column)

The last few moves were played in quick succession by Kamsky, who found this great maneuver to unpin his knight and keep it poised to invade via c6. Black’s knight is the only piece keeping his position together, stopping both Nc6 and Qxf7+, so Ramirez decided to reinforce it.

32. ... Qc7 33. a4 bxa4 34. bxa4 f5

Weakening, but Black wanted to relieve his knight of one of his duties.

35. Nc6 Nxc6 36. Qxc7 Rxc7 37. dxc6

Ramirez thought afterward that Black might be able to hold. A good try would be to get the bishop to e5, the king activated, and hold tight.

37. ... e5?

Natural but losing. Again Ramirez wants to be active, and hopes to get his pawn to e4, where the chain will complement his bishop and give him some much-needed space. Unfortunately there is a tactical refutation.

38. Bd5+ Kf8 39. g4

Black now loses material or has his pawns blockaded on the wrong color.

39. ... Ke7 40. gfx5 gx5 41. Rfx5 Kd6 42. Bf3 Ra7 43. Rg5 e4 44. Bxe4 Be5 45. Rg6+ Kc5 46. Bf3 Kb6

Black loses his bishop after 46. ... Rxa4 47. c7 Bxc7 48. Rc6+.

47. Rg5 Ra5 48. h4 Kc7 49. h5 Kd6 50. h6 Rxa4 51. Rxe5 Kxe5 52. c7, Black resigned.

“Kamsky gave me no chances in the playoff,” Ramirez said.

After playing near-perfect defense for the first two rapid games, the upstart
Ramirez finally slipped against the new top-ten world player. Kamsky’s unyielding pressure pocketed him his fourth title, and $30,000 to his opponent’s $20,000.

“It feels a little bit awkward—it almost felt like we were equals,” Kamsky said. “I was starting to get really nervous. It wasn’t clear until the last move. The way he played against me—it’s a different Ramirez than a year ago.” In the 2012 event, Ramirez’s first championship appearance, the duo played a regular time-control game in which Ramirez said he got “destroyed.” For Ramirez, who never expected to achieve even a second-place finish, is this tournament his best ever? “I would say it is one, two and three!” he said. When asked what he would do with his career-best winnings, Ramirez replied, “I already have a car but I might fix the one I have right now.”

“The money is always nice, but it is more important to me to win a game,” Kamsky said, not relishing that if he had won the Armageddon bid he might have won the title with eight straight draws. “I consider myself one of the strongest rapid players in the world. I didn’t feel like I deserved to win (the championship without winning a game).”

According to his fellow players, Kamsky’s midgame understanding and endgame technique made up for his lackluster openings. “He doesn’t have confidence in his openings,” GM Joel Benjamin said following their draw in round five. “I’m not worried about the opening, it’s what comes after.” GM Alex Onischuk concurred. “This is how Gata plays chess. Remember the [2012] Olympiad? If you look at his positions after move 25, any other decent GM would score maybe 50 percent. But Gata got like +6.”

Kamsky said he was pleased that he was being cheered on by 2012 winner GM Hikaru Nakamura, who did not defend his title as he was away competing in a super-tournament in Norway. Then Kamsky expressed a strange sentiment for a newly-crowned champion—“I already have a car but I might fix the one I have right now.”

The twin IMs did their part early on, both winning their first two games to enter the pivotal head-to-head meeting co-leading the event (WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, easily the best player without a championship title, also stood at 2/2). Although many chess fans eagerly await the continuation of their rivalry each year, Krush insisted that “I don’t have any special feelings going into these games.”

Zatonskih got white, but Krush won the preparation battle by playing the King’s Indian Defense unexpectedly, which Zatonskih admitted was not her focus. Krush also trotted it out against her in 2008, but has since played the black side of the Queen’s Gambit Accepted, Catalan, Fire and Benoni. “It’s actually pretty difficult to prepare for me because you don’t know what I’m going to do,” Krush said.

From the point of view of my preparation, this was a stunning (and not very pleasant) turn of events. A mainline King’s Indian? Anna had never played it before. I thought we were at least heading for 8. Be3, Fridman-Naiditsch, Grenke Chess Classic 2013. Now I had to face the possibility of making one inaccurate move and losing the entire right-hand part of the board. This made me a little anxious. But my unchanging goal for the tournament was to always hold on to my inner peace, and so even this didn’t unsettle me too much.

8. ... Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. Nd3

A line that I’d played for many years with white, but Anna does it a little differently.

10. ... f5 11. f3!? 11. Bd2 is what I used to play, but it allows 11. ... fxe4, a good equalizing try.

11. ... f4

Now that the bishop can’t come to g4, Black can safely advance with that pawn.

12. Bf5 h5 13. Rc1 g5

(see diagram next page)

14. Be1

This move was a big relief to me. White is mixing two lines (10. Nd3 and 10. Be3), both of which I’ve played with white. The bishop is supposedly heading to f2, but...
instead of going there in two moves (Be3-f2), he takes three. I’d be more worried about something direct like 14. c5.

14. ... Ng6 15. c5!

White gets back on the right track. I thought a little about taking this pawn, but not too seriously; any opening of the queenside should be good for White.

15. ... Qf6 16. Nb5 Rf7

I considered 16. ... a6 but was afraid of the typical piece sacrifice 17. cxd6 axb5 18. dxc7 Qd7 19. Qb3; the computer shows that type of position to be in White’s favor usually.

17. Qc2


17. ... a6 18. Na3

I got nervous after this move, as Nc4, cxd6 and Ba5 with an invasion on b6 is coming. If I lose the light squared bishop, I’ll probably lose the game. And I just couldn’t solve this problem in a good way. The continuation I played in the game—taking on f3 to free up the g4-square—seemed pretty artificial, but it’s the only thing I found. Now here’s a funny story: after this game my coach praised my play, saying I had played great. He mentioned how I should have considered capturing on d6 with the bishop (as you’ll see in the line below), but it didn’t seem like big criticism. But after the tournament, he wasn’t shy about expressing his real opinion of my bad play from me. I can tell you for sure, at this stage, the fine points of how to play the King’s Indian were not going to be nearly as useful to me as having confidence that I was playing well. Now that I think back to it, my coach was positive every day, giving me only mild feedback on what I could have done better. He is much harder on me at home. Now 18. cxd6 axb5 19. dxc7 is a much better version for Black, because ... Rf7 is more useful than Qc2.

18. ... g4

The move 18. ... Bf8! would have been in the spirit of the King’s Indian: 19. Nc4 (19. cxd6 Bxd6! 20. Nc5 Nf8) 19. ... g4 20. Ba5 (20. ... cxd6 Bxd6) 20. ... Nc6 21. Bg5 Nfd6 22. Nxd6 cxd6 The key is to recapture on d6 with the bishop, getting rid of this poor piece. I totally underappreciated this idea, thinking only that it’d make the c5-square too weak. Definitely my lack of King’s Indian experience became obvious in this decision.

19. Nc4 gxf3

The try. 19. ... Bf8! was not too late, as Anna had not played 19. cxd6.

20. Bxf3 Bg4

So my position is pretty dubious here. White has different ways to prove that, but my coach liked 21. Qe2! which would stop my regrouping with ... Nh7. Then White plays Bf2 and doubles on the c-file.

21. Qf2

This move didn’t look punishing enough.

21. ... Bf8 22. cxd6 cxd6

Still reluctant to play ... Bxd6. It’s funny how in the end I will be so eager to trade that bishop.

22. Kh1 Nh7 23. Bb4

This move was a red flag, and I immediately remembered some Korchnoi games.

24. ... Qf6

Running away from Qb6!

25. Rc2 Ng5 26. Rfc1 Rg7

(see diagram top of next column)

I was pretty pleased with this position. I’ve got a nice little army on the g-file, and the queenside has not been lost yet. I was not sure how White planned to make progress there.


(see second diagram next column)
was not at all sure I could win it.

41. b4

The continuation 41. Na8 Ba5 (41. ... Bb8 42. Ba7) 42. Bb6 would probably have been a better idea.

41. ... Ng6!

I thought for a long time here, and managed to come up with this slightly paradoxical move. Why retreat the active knight? Well, firstly it ties down the queen, and after an exchange on b6, I won’t be able to move away from the g5-square. On g6 the knight is very solid and makes my king much safer to the Qg5 incursion.

42. a4 Bxb6

Bye bye, dear bishop. You did well for a KID bishop.

43. Bxb6 Qc8

I missed the simple and deep finesse 43. ... Qd7!! which wins the game. Either White takes on b5, allowing ... Qxb5 and ... Qc2 or if she plays a4-a5, then back to c8 and the b4-pawn won’t have protection from Ba5 anymore.

44. axb5 axb5 45. Qf2

A key point behind. 41. ... Ng6 reveals itself in the following line: 45. Qg5 Qc3 46. Bf2 Qc4 and Black infiltrates on f1 without having to worry about the knight hanging.

45. ... Qc4 46. Ba5

White’s position is getting close to a breaking point, but what I have is not enough. I realized the ... Ng6 needs to contribute more. I envisioned putting it somewhere on g5, to make sacrifices on e4 possible.

46. ... Nf8 47. Qa7+

There is not much to move, and we are back down to a couple minutes, so I suppose this is logical.

47. ... Nd7 48. Qf2 Nf6 49. Qa7+ Kg6 50. Qg1+
... Ng4!

Suddenly this move presented itself. The knight had better plans for itself than I did.

51. fxg4

This was cooperative. After I played 50. ... Ng4, I noticed that 51. Ng2 still offered resistance. As I was trying to work it out, Anna took the knight.

51. ... Qxe4+ 52. Ng2 hxg4 53. Qf2 Qxd5 54. Qc2+ Kg7 55. Bc7 f3 56. Kg1

56. Ne3 f2+ 57. Nxd5 f1=Q mate.

56. ... Bxg2 57. Kf2 Qd4+ 58. Kg3 Qf4+ 59. Kf2 Qxh2 60. Qf5 Bh3+, White resigned.

A tough game which was only decided in the last few minutes. My opening choice had been risky, but the payoff was huge—the path to the Championship had been cleared of the biggest obstacle.

Krush knew the surprise opening worked. “When your opponent gives you a free tempo, that’s a pretty good feeling,” she said. “I don’t have a lot of experience in the main-line King’s Indian. You might need to know 20 or 25 moves out of the opening, but you also need experience as White. Today we were both uncomfortable. “At some point I’ve got five pieces on the g-file, and Hey! I’ve still got a rook on the queenside! That’s a good sign—when you haven’t even lost anything on the queenside. Then I got into a little better endgame. There was that domination theme. I think she had five pieces left and four couldn’t move.”

Krush’s support team used some tactics too. She revealed that her coach, GM Giorgi Kacheishvili, complimented her on the game afterward, only to renounce his praise after she won the tournament. He did not like the 19. ... gx3, 20. ... Bg4 plan at all. Krush said Kacheishvili did not want her to lose confidence in the middle of the event. She went on to stretch her lead by remaining perfect, winning in rounds four and five. Abrahamyan avoided losing, but a sprinkling of draws left her one point back going in to the only rest day. “They should really have a Fischer prize, that would give me more motivation!” Krush joked. Only the U.S. Championship offered a $64,000 bonus for a perfect score of nine wins in nine games—Kamsky’s 4-0 start this year was the closest anyone had come since the prize was first offered in 2009. No one else had even achieved 3-0 before this year; in 2007 GM Alex Shabalov won his first five en route to the title before the prize existed (thanks to his big lead that year, Shabalov also remains the last player to lose a game and still win the U.S. Championship).

After her round-five win over tournament newcomer WFM Sarah Chiang, Krush displayed an element of sportsmanship not usually found at a high-level event. The number one seed took time to give a pep talk to the bottom-seeded Chiang, who had now lost her first five games. “You have to use the rest day to reset yourself,” Krush said while an appreciative Chiang nodded in agreement. Krush then related her opponent blundered in time control. “I said, ‘You have to treat the rest of the tournament like it’s a whole new tournament,’” Chiang said—she went on to win 2 ½ out of her last four to avoid a last-place finish.

Krush’s perfection was derailed in round six when she drew WGM Sabina Foisor. She was black, and had a one-point lead, but still chastised herself for not complicating the game more. It was not hubris—she wanted to keep extending her lead, hopefully to put the tournament out of reach even before her final round.

In round seven, she faced a host of imbalances against WIM Viktorija Ni before her opponent blundered in time control. “I only allow one game per tournament to be like this,” Krush said upon moving to 6½/7. “Sometimes I play like an idiot in time pressure. And sometimes it all gels and I don’t know why. It’s hard not to clamp up a bit. I haven’t figured out how to avoid that.” She said that although it is clear who her main competition is, she does not find it easy playing the rest of the field. “Sometimes it’s harder for me to play the lower-rated people—the players that aren’t in the running to win the tournament. I have everything to lose. It makes me nervous. You know you need to win today. It’s part of the script.”

Krush’s final real hurdle came in round eight against Abrahamyan, who kept pace and remained one point back. Abrahamyan said that remaining in control of your own title destiny is vital. “It’s very important because (otherwise) you have to worry about your game and other games. It greatly increases your chances.”

(see game top of next column)
... Rg1 is coming, ending all hope for White.

On missing 44. Qd5, Krush said, “I think it would have cost me a few years of my life if I’d seen it.” Still the tournament was not over. Since Zatonskikh rebounded with 4½/5 after her round three loss, she lurked one point back and was the only one who could theoretically catch Krush going into the last round. “Clinching a tie for first doesn’t make me happy in any way,” Krush said after round eight.

Round nine never really offered any doubts. Krush won a pawn for no compensation against WGM Camilla Baginskaite, then traded down into a basic knight-and-pawn endgame. Out of nowhere, Baginskaite’s king got close to an infiltration, while on another board Zatonskikh was winning. Practically set in—Krush decided to end any heroes and offer the draw that she knew would be accepted (a perfect score was out of reach anyway, but she could have tied her 1998 score of 8½/9, WGM Anna Akhsharumova has the only perfect score in history with 9/9 in 1987). “I’m supposed to win this endgame but all of a sudden I allowed this counterplay,” Krush said. “I decided to offer the draw before things got out of hand.

After several years of flip-flopping titles, Krush successfully defended her crown for the first time, but not because of a substandard result from her main rival. Zatonskikh finished very respectably in second with 4½/9 (a half-point behind Krush) while on another board Zatonskikh, but she promised she will not sit on what she’s achieved and let people assume she won. “My plan is not to just turn around and face the next challenge,” she said. “I need to work out a regime. I don’t spend my time super-efficient. If it would have been easy for me, I would have done it. I’ve known this for a long time.” She added that she needs to improve her play in dynamic positions.

Krush has a penchant for dedicating his moves to his family. “My son is four years old today,” Krush said after his tiebreak victory. “This was a gift for him.” Twelve-year-old FM Samuel Sevian became the youngest-ever player to win in a U.S. Championship (scoring 4½/9 and earning an international master norm in the process), narrowly edging GM Ray Robson’s previous record. FM John Bryant, qualifier from the 2012 U.S. Open, played sparkling chess early on, going 2½/3 against GMs Yury Shulman, Kaidanov, and Robson. Though he sputtered home with only two draws in the final six games, his 3½/9 was still good enough for an international master norm (curiously his first, though he does have two grandmaster norms).

Krush now has one more title than Zatonskikh, but she promised she will not rest on her laurels. “My plan is not to just sit on what I’ve achieved and let people climb past me. I just don’t study enough. That’s a big part of the problem. I spend too much time making salads, too much time not studying chess. I need to work out a regime. I don’t spend my time super efficiently. If it would have been easy for me, I would have done it. I’ve known this for a long time.” She added that she needs to improve her play in dynamic positions.

Those kinds of things would get me over 2500, and I don’t mean 2501.”

Kamsky has a penchant for dedicating U.S. Championship titles to those that are close to him. The playoff extension gave him a chance to win on a special day. “My son is four years old today,” Kamsky said after his tiebreak victory. “This was a gift for him.” Does his son play chess yet? Yes. He watches his dad’s games on the site Chessbomb.com, which runs the Houdini chess engine and color-codes the quality of the moves. “Sometimes, he says, ‘How can you make all those red moves?’”

Going for broke
GM Ben Finegold (2572)
GM Alex Shabalov (2620)
U.S. Championship (9), St. Louis, Missouri, 2013

White just played 22. Ra1. He could have consolidated by trading off the pesky knight, but his normal-looking developing move is swiftly punished by ...

22. ... Ne2+! White resigned.

It is all over—White resigned in view of 23. Kh1 (23. Rxe2 Rxf+ 24. Kxf1 Rd1+ 25. Rxe1 mate) 23. ... Rxf2! (even better than 23. ... Ng3+ 24. Bxf2 Qx2! 25. Rb1 Qf4 26. Rg1 Rd1 or 26. ... Nh3 27. Qx3 Qf3+ 28. Rg2 Rd1 mate.

Without any losses, Onischuk quietly finished with 6½/9 and tied for third, along with second-seeded GM Timur Gareev, who recently transferred his FIDE affiliation to the U.S. The always-ebullient Gareev said his goal was to try to win every game. Being dogmatic meant he pushed too far in a few games, but he also produced some blistering attacks. Time will tell if he adopts a more measured approach to his next championship.

Five players also qualified for the 2013 World Cup in August in Norway. Kamsky was already in by rating, and Shabalov and GM Gregory Kaidanov punched their tickets at the 2012 Continental Championship. Joining them will be Ramirez, Onischuk, Gareev, GM Conrad Holt (who but for a final-round endgame swindle would have finished tied for third) and Christiansen.

For the women, the top three—Krush, Zatonskikh and Abrahamyan—qualified for the next Women’s World Championship in 2014 (the tournament takes place yearly but alternates between a one-on-one match in odd years and a 64-player knockout in even years).

IM-elect Yaacov Norowitz achieved his goal of an even score, while getting his first taste of elite round-robin. “In the first round, Larry (Christiansen) just killed me in one of my main openings and everyone just hopped on the train. He exposed the hole. I tried to make little adjustments but it’s tough.” Twelve-year-old FM Samuel Sevian became the youngest-ever player at a U.S. Championship (scoring 4½/9 and earning an international master norm in the process), narrowly edging GM Ray Robson’s previous record. FM John Bryant, qualifier from the 2012 U.S. Open, played sparkling chess early on, going 2½/3 against GMs Yury Shulman, Kaidanov, and Robson. Though he sputtered home with only two draws in the final six games, his 3½/9 was still good enough for an international master norm (curiously his first, though he does have two grandmaster norms).
Before & After

Compensation for Inferior Pawns

A former *Chess Life* editor shows how he has handled a strategic idea—accepting inferior pawns in exchange for piece activity—as he rose up the ratings ranks from A-player to master.

*By PETER KURZDORFER*

Playing a chess game as a class player, an expert, and a master are different experiences. As a competitor gains knowledge and experience, he becomes surer of himself; the ideas a master executes are better thought out and are backed up with a deeper understanding than in the old days.

To give an idea of the change that takes place in an improving tournament player’s thinking, I present a single strategic idea, developed in my games over the years: It sometimes happens that White will exchange a bishop for a knight on c6 in the Open Game, Black recapturing with the b-pawn, either deliberately or by force, thus accepting an inferior pawn structure in order to gain piece activity. This has been a favorite theme of mine, but I have not always been successful in implementing it.

In the following snapshots, which took place quite a while ago when most of my youthful energy was directed toward improving my play, I defended such positions, attempting to carry out the leitmotif as an A-class player, as an expert, and as a master.

**GOOD KNIGHT VERSUS BAD BISHOP**
The first one taught me a valuable lesson about the minor pieces. I had read about good knights and bad bishops before; *Pawn Power in Chess* by Hans Kmoch, along with many other middlegame tomes, and annotations to many grandmaster games all covered the subject. But getting on the wrong side of an endgame dominated by the opponent’s knight and trying to hold the position with the inferior piece was a real eye-opener. I was an over-the-board A-class player at the time, honing my skills through postal encounters like this one:
Giocco Piano (C50)
Curtis Hutchings Jr.
Peter Kurzdorfer
Correspondence, 1978


My funky variation has produced weak dark squares on the queenside along with a potentially bad bishop against a good knight.


18. ... Rxf6

This looks so natural there seems little point in commenting. But worthy of consideration is the odd-looking 18. ... gxf6!, since Black's pieces cooperate better this way. Black can fight for control of the e-file if his rooks are connected, and a good way to compensate for many pawn weaknesses in an endgame with pawns on both sides of the board is to have a bishop (provided it's not bad) against a knight.

19. Re1 g5


20. Nd3 Re6

Once again I can rid the board of the minor pieces with 20. ... Bxd3 21. cxd3, but the rook-and-pawn endgame is difficult for Black; those weak pawns on the e-fileloom large.


(see diagram top of next column)

25. ... Bd7

This cheapo has the tactical point that if White plays to win the c-pawn, he will get into some trouble after 26. Na6 Bc8 27. Nxc7?? Kf7 since the knight has nowhere to go. But the line is not forced; White can play 27. Nc5 followed by 28. Kf2, with play similar to the game.


These pawn moves do not help, but Black is hard-pressed to find any meaningful plan.

32. f4 h4 33. g3 hxg3 34. hxg3 Be6 35. a4 Bc8 36. a5 Bg4 37. a6 Bc6 38. Nb7+ Kd6 39. Kc5 Kd7 40. f5 d4 41. cxd4 Bxf5 42. Na5 Nc6 Bxa6

The blunder doesn't matter, since anything else meets with 44. b5, followed by Nxa7.

44. Nb8+, Black resigned.

NO COMPENSATION
A little later that year, still as an A-player, I showed that I had not learned a thing from the Hutchings debacle. This time, my opponent, the long-time Chess Life columnist and over-the-board and correspondence master, punished me pretty thoroughly for my lack of skill in deciding when to accept a shattered structure.

Closed Ruy Lopez,
Delayed Exchange Variation Deferred (C85)
Alex Dunne
Peter Kurzdorfer


Once again, an offbeat variation brings us to the situation where I have compromised pawns. I also have a slight cramp to deal with, and knew that Capablanca had a wonderful way of dealing with such situations; exchange some pieces. Therefore, I should play 11. ... Bxf5 12. Nxf5 Re8 13. Rd1 Nd7 14. Be3 Bf6 and be poised for the middlegame without too much of a disadvantage. Instead, my play regresses.


I have no idea why I didn’t at least keep the queens on the board; an endgame with weak pawns is harder to defend than a middlegame with those same problems.

15. Qxf6 gxf6 16. Rad1 Rad8 17. Rfe1 Rfe8

Centralizing with 18. ... Kg7, getting everybody involved, is probably a better try.

19. Rd4 d5?

With 19. ... f5, I at least attempt to trade one of the weak pawns, instead of making them deteriorate.


21. ... Rxd4?

Incredibly, there is still some fight in the Black game. On 21. ... Kg7 22. Kg3 Bf5 23. Rxd8 Rxd8 24. Ra4 Bxc2 25. Rxa6 Rd3+, the dark forces are somehow still alive, if not exactly robust.

22. Rxd4 Rb8 23. b3

My little guys are worse than in the previous gem, and I have very little piece counterplay to show for it.


A bishop versus a knight usually offers compensation for a poor structure when the peasants are on both sides of the board, but the situation is extreme here. Five isolated pawns against two healthy islands is a bit too much.

28. Kd2 Bf5 29. Ke3 Be6 30. Ne4 Bd5 31. g3 Kg7 32. Nxd6 Kg6 33. Kd4 Bf3 34. b4 Kh5 35. Ne4 Kg6 36. a4 Kf5 37. Nc5 Bc6 38. a5 Kg4 39. Nxa6 Kh3 40. Ke3 Kxh2 41. Kf2 Kh3 42. Nc7 Kg4 43. b5 Bh1 44. a6 Kf5 45. b6, Black resigned.

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BUILDING AN ADVANTAGE

I finally managed to handle the structure with some aplomb, this time against an expert-strength adversary, building up a strong position despite the weaknesses; I had been improving and now played at the expert level myself. But alas, fighting against a strong knight was still a mysterious process to me, and I dissipated my advantage and finally blundered the game away.

Ponziani Opening
(by transposition) (C44)
Rich Jackson
Peter Kurzdorfer
Rochester, New York, 1979


Much better is 14. Qa5!, when the doubled pawns are not allowed any mobility.

14. ... c5!

This little tactical device allows the forward pawn to march, albeit at the cost of handing White a monster knight.


This time my bishop is a good one, and it provides me with excellent chances for an advantage. Notice also that the white pawns are no healthier than my own peasants.

23. Ne6 Qd6?!

Such a simple developing move, making no threats, fails to take advantage of my opportunity to win a pawn; 23. ... Qa5! 24. Re2 Qxa2 asks White to prove he has something for the button. It is not immediately clear that he does.

24. Re2 Re8 25. Qd4 g6?!

I knew better than to move pawns in front of a beleaguered king. Except when I forgot. 25. ... Re7 is better.

26. f4 Kg7 27. f5 Re7 28. h4 gx5 29. Qh5+ Kg8 30. Qxf5

30. ... Rf7?

I do not need to get my pieces tied up in pins while my big guy gets shoved into a tight corner. Much better is the retreat 30. ... Kg7, not fearing the exchange of his wonderful knight for my less-than-powerful “good” bishop. Nothing terrible is going to happen in this line, since my king is adequately defended.

31. Qg4+ Kh8 32. h5 h6??

True, this rash pawn push loses, but so does 32. ... Qb8 33. Rf2 Qg8 34. Qf4 Qe8 35. h6! Qc8 36. Ng7.

12. ... e4?!

This speculative pawn sacrifice is aimed at opening lines for the black pieces; my opponent has to find a way to draw the fire out of them.

13. dxe4 Qd4+ 14. Qe3 Qc4 15. Qd3

After 15. b3 Qc5! 16. Qxc5 Bxc5+ 17. Kh1 Re8 the dark forces get the kind of piece activity required to compensate for the pawn.


This ill-advised sortie gives up the d-file unnecessarily. Stronger is 26. ... Rd7.

27. b3 Be6 28. Rd3 f6 29. gx6 gx6 30. Rd8+ Kh7

31. Kf3

My opponent can make use of his initiative to win a pawn with 31. Ra8 Bb4 32. Na4 a5 33. Ra7 c5 34. Rxc7 Rxc7 35. Bxc7 c4 36. bxc4 Bxc4 37. a3 Bxa3 38. Bxa5. However since White does not have a passed pawn and Black possessing the bishop pair indicates excellent drawing chances for the second player.

31. ... f5 32. Bg5 Re8 33. Rxe8 Kxe8 34. exf5 Bxf5 35. Ne4 Bd4 36. g4 Bg6 37. Bd2 Ke7 38. Kf4 Ke6 39. Be3 Kd5 40. Bd4

I have good development, an active position, and the bishop pair to compensate for my doubled, isolated pawns.

SURVIVING

In a tournament where I finished with a master performance rating, I once again took on those isolated and doubled pawns in a clash of experts. As in the last few games, my excellent piece play gave plenty of compensation in the opening. Then the fun started.

Closed Ruy Lopez,
Deferred Exchange Variation (C85)
Walter Trice
Peter Kurzdorfer
Worcester, Massachusetts, 1979


33. Qg6 Qe7 34. Qxh6+ Rh7 35. Qf4 Rxf5 36. Qb8+ Kh7 37. Nb8+ Qfb8 38. Qxf8 Bxd4+ 39. Rf2 Kg6 40. Qf7+ Kh6 41. Qf4+, Black resigned.
40. ... Bxe4

I head for a draw, happy to have shown my structural weaknesses were adequately compensated by my piece activity in this game. With the wild alternative 40. ... Kxd4!? 41. Nf6 Bb1 42. h4 c5 43. h5 Bxa2 44. Nxb7 Bxb3 45. Nf8 c4 46. Ne6+, White is winning on the kingside and Black is winning on the queenside. I'm certainly not going to be able to calculate who ultimately will prevail over the board with the clock ticking!

41. Be5 Bb1 42. a3 Bc2 43. b4 Kc4 44. Bxc7 c5 45. Ba5 cxb4 46. axb4 Kd5 47. Kg5 Ke6 48. h4, Draw agreed.

WORKING LIKE A CHARM

Once again everything went my way in the opening. I sported a master rating this time, while my adversary held a much higher one, well over 2300. Nevertheless, the position I obtained was all I could hope for against such a strong opponent; I had learned a lot about handling these types of positions from my earlier experiences.

Giulio Piano (C54)

A. Hanku
Peter Kurzdorfer
San Diego, California, 1982

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. e5 d5 7. Bb5 Ne4 8. cxd4 Bb4+ 9. Nbd2 0-0 10. 0-0 f6!? This attempt to grab the initiative with Black is bold but a bit risky. Simpler is 10. ... Bd7.

11. Bxc6


11. ... bxc6 12. Nxe4 dxe4

(see diagram top of next column)

13. Qb3+

A wilder line goes 13. Ng5!? Qd5 14. exf6 gxf6 15. Nxe4 Qxe4 16. Qb3+ Rf7 17. Qxb7 Qg7 18. f3 Qe2 19. Rf2 Qd1+ 20. Rf1 Qe2 and both sides have a draw by three-fold repetition.

13. ... Qd5??

There is no need for Mr. Hanku to suffer like he does after this move. To avoid his gruesome fate in this slugfest, though, he had to realize that my bishop pair and open lines are difficult to handle. With 14. Qxb4! exf3 15. Re1 Be6 16. exf6 Rf6 17. Re5 Qd6 18. Qf4 White should be able to cope, due in no small measure to the opposite-colored bishops.

14. ... cxd5 15. Bd2

No better is the alternative 15. Nd2 fxe5 16. dxe5 Bb6 17. Rd1 Bc5 when the white kingside is defenseless.

15. ... Rb8 16. Bxb4 Rxb4 17. Nd2

On 17. Ne1 Bb6 18. Nc2 Rxb2 19. Rfc1 fxe5 the black pieces control the board.

17. ... Rxb2 18. Rfd1 fxe5 19. dxe5 c5 20. f3 c4 21. fxe4 c3

22. Nb3


THE PERFECT VARIATION

I have always felt uncomfortable trying to hold back a vicious attack with a pawn in my pocket; therefore, defending the main lines of the King’s Gambit Accepted have not attracted me very much. I want to fight for the initiative and be the one who has a chance to launch an attack! As a consequence, the ideas behind the Modern Defense are made to order for my taste.

This setup sometimes involves the exchange of bishop for knight on c6 similar to the one we have been exploring, but the structural problems for Black are a little different; there are isolated a- and c-pawns on the queenside without the doubled c-pawn we have seen, while doubled f-pawns live on the kingside. Mostly, though, the black pieces have similar open lines available and therefore get a chance to shine.

King’s Gambit Accepted, Modern Defense (C36)

Hallldor Palsson
Peter Kurzdorfer
Buffalo, New York, 1986


With a healthy-looking center and a big four-on-two majority on the queenside, White’s game might seem imposing at first sight in this encounter with a young expert. But the black pieces are poised for action while the light forces on the queenside are somewhat sleepy. In addition, the f4-pawn exerts a cramping influence on the first player’s game.

12. Nc2 c5 13. d5 Re4 14. Qd3?

The expert is playing with his heart instead of his head; safer is 14. b3, setting up a strong pawn chain. However, safety is rarely the top priority in a King’s Gambit player!

14. ... Qe7 15. Nc3 Bxf3

16. Qxf3

It’s not that easy to defend the c-pawn: 16. Rfx3 Re1+ 17. Rf1 Ng4 18. Qh3 Rxf1+ 19. Kxf1 f5 20. Rd2 Qe5 21. Re1 Qd4 22. Re2 Qxc4 gets it just the same.
Re8, developing a new piece, is more practical.


AN EQUALIZING COMBINATION

A couple months after I defeated Senior Master Allan Savage on the black side of a King's Gambit, we met again, and he had an improvement in store for me. This did not scare me, however; I believed in this variation and equalized anyway, due in large part to one of my better-calculated combinations.

Nevertheless, the well-played opening followed by the saving combination was not enough; I also had to find my way through a tricky endgame where the compensation for my isolated pawns consisted of the activity of my rook and king along with my extra pawn. Unfortunately, in the midst of threading that needle, I lost my way.

King's Gambit Accepted, Modern Defense (C36)

SM Allan Savage
Peter Kurzdorfer
Penn State, Pennsylvania, 1987


The earlier game went 9. c4 Bg4 10. Nc3 Rc8 11. Kh1 Bb8 12. Bxc6 Rxc6, so it doesn’t fit my theme.

9. ... Bg4 10. Nc4 Be7 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. Qd3 Nd7?

I did not want to play 12. ... Nd5 because a later c2-c4 would not only oust the knight, but would also build up White's pawn center. However, the simpler 12. ... Nf5...

With a solid pawn to the good along with the usual active pieces and strong center, the win is a matter of technique.

30. Kf3 Nd2+!

The king and pawn ending provides the quickest and easiest win.


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I did not want to play 12. ... Nd5 because a later c2-c4 would not only oust the knight, but would also build up White's pawn center. However, the simpler 12. ...
following play is reasonable, though we each missed opportunities to grab the initiative.


More aggressive is 17. ... c4! 18. Na5 g4 19. Ne5 Nxe5 20. dxe5 Bc5+ 21. Kh1 f3!, when Black has all the chances.

18. Bc3


18. ... Bb7 19. Ne5 Nxe5 20. dxe5 Be7 21. Rad1 Bc6

22. e6!? The expert is not interested in an endgame after all; he still wants an attack, despite the absence of the ladies. My reply shows that I am game; the variations from here on out involve the question of whether this pawn is strong or weak. In reality, it is both, and the player who can show which trait will prevail gains the upper hand.

22. ... f5!? Also quite effective is 22. ... Rg6.

23. Be5


23. ... c4 24. Nd4 Bc5 25. Kf1 Be4 26. Re2 Ke7

27. Nb5??

My opponent finally loses track of the tactical details. With 27. Red2, he can still put up some pretty good resistance; the only way for Black to make progress is to win the e-pawn through the exchange of the dark-square bishop for the knight, leaving opposite-colored bishops. Instead, White’s inattention to the f3-square costs him the game.


**AN OPENING TRAP**

In the 1990s I took up the Classical Defense to the Ruy Lopez, which usually does not involve the doubled c-pawn positions we have been looking at except in the notes. My opponent in the following encounter decided to find out why.

Ruy Lopez, Classical Variation (C65)

Richard Benjamin
Peter Kurzdorfer
Eastern Open, 1990


This line is very ambitious; if it works, Black’s whole scheme has to be abandoned.

11. ... Ba6

12. Re1?? The trap isn’t so much that attempting to win material is unplayable for White; rather, it is that the light forces are prevented from obtaining any sort of advantage or even any realistic winning chances. There is a survival line available that winds up with a very drawish endgame: 12. c4 Bd4 13. Nxc6 Bxb2 14. Nxd8 Bxa1 15. Nd2 Bc3 16. Nc6 Bxd2 17. Bxd2 Nxe4 18. Ba5 Bxc4 19. Ra1 Re8 20. f3 Nf6 21. Bxc7. But this cannot be what the first player is looking for at the start of the game!

12. ... Nxe4!

My pieces are very rambunctious.


18. Nf2 The first player can maintain material equality for a while with 18. b3, but after 18. ... Bf1+ 19. Kh1 Bc8 20. Nf3 Nf2+ 21. Kg1 Bxf1 22. Kh1 Re8 23. Nbd2 Bc8 24. h3 Nf2+ 25. Kh2, Black wins a pawn and keeps the attack going with 25. ... Nxf3!!.


How ironic that Black now has the healthier pawn structure, along with an extra pawn and a bishop versus a knight.


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20 Years of Searching

Two decades after its August, 1993 release, Searching for Bobby Fischer remains one of the best, and most popular, chess movies made. We look back and catch up with the principals.

Searching at a Glance

Release date: August 11, 1993
Rating on IMDB.com: 7½/10 based on 17,947 users
Stars: Ben Kingsley as Bruce Pandolfini, Max Pomeranc as Josh Waitzkin, Joe Montegna as Fred Waitzkin, Laurence Fishbourne as Vinnie

Plot summary: Searching for Bobby Fischer was inspired by the life of chess prodigy Josh Waitzkin, as written by his father Fred Waitzkin. Josh is a "regular kid" who begins evincing signs of being a genius at chess. His father encourages this, hoping that it won't fundamentally change his son’s healthy outlook on life. But Josh is taken under the wing of cold-blooded chess instructor Bruce Pandolfini (! ~ed.), who ... emphasizes all of Fischer’s negative traits, especially his contempt for his opponents. Josh is in danger throughout the film of sacrificing his essential decency, but in a rousing conclusion, the boy is able to successfully blend ruthless competition with good sportsmanship.
~ Hal Erickson, Rovi

At the Oscars: Nominated for Best Cinematography, Conrad L. Hall

A Hollywood comment: “Something about watching a child and his ability to be honest and his desperation for honesty even in the midst of all the adults surrounding them—which is essentially what that movie is about—and the performance itself is so present and exists on its own even today.”
~ Jake Gyllenhaal on Backstage.com
Max Pomeranc (front, center), Director Steve Zaillian (next to Pomeranc), and Ben Kingsley receiving direction from Bruce Pandolfini. The older man in the blurry background is Conrad Hall, cinematographer for *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. Considered one of the great cinematographers, he was nominated for an Oscar for *Searching*. The photo shows Steve Zaillian giving Max confidence for a key scene with Ben Kingsley. Meanwhile, Pandolfini is setting it up. Pandolfini tells *Chess Life* about this previously unpublished photo: “The scene was shot in Toronto, though it’s supposed to be the Metropolitan Chess Club, which as [many know] was a synonym for the Manhattan Chess Club at Carnegie Hall.”

**BRUCE PANDOLFINI:**

[Filming *Searching*] was an educational experience. I learned that if you want to create a special film, it’s helpful to start with a special kid. That kid should be gifted in many ways, and he must be an individual who everyone can admire. He’d have to inspire his father, a brilliant literary artist, to write about their relationship in a perceptive and revealing one-of-a-kind book. That book should somehow come to the attention of a powerful Hollywood producer. The producer, having already had much success, should put aside box office concerns and aim for something greater. He’d want to attract an award-winning screenwriter to direct it with sensitivity and insight, a legendary cinematographer to shoot it in depth and dark poetry, and an ensemble cast of first-rate thespians to act it as only they can. Finally, if the film is going to shine forever, somebody would have to discover Max Pomeranc to star in it. Max’s irresistible presence would be the quintessential element, the cement that keeps it all in place. His glow and warmth and life would be needed to light the screen with intelligence and charm.
Fred Waitzkin's book is the basis for the movie. He told Chess Life, "Searching for Bobby Fischer is a book I am of course proud of but these days my interest is to promote my new novel, The Dream Merchant. I would love to get the news of the new book to my fans in the chess world." His website is www.FredWaitzkin.com.

Max Pomeranc's expressive face was a key factor in the success of the movie. He now is attending graduate school at Harvard to study public policy. Previously, he worked for a nonprofit called Share Our Strength, serving as campaign director for the New York City No Kid Hungry campaign. Prior, Pomeranc worked for former U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner. Pomeranc tells Chess Life, "I greatly enjoyed filming Searching for Bobby Fischer. Although I was only eight-years-old at the time, I remember it vividly. Twenty years later, I still run into people who say the film led them to pick up chess, which is always rewarding."

GM Robert Hess:  
"The movie itself had little to no impact on my chess. However, my mom apparently watched it during the 2001 SuperNationals, when I won first in the K-3 Championship. My mom told me that [she and my dad] didn't want to be anything like Waitzkin's parents, so in that sense, I guess I was influenced indirectly. I'd say that a very, very large [number] of people have seen the movie. I have non-chess friends who reference it when chess is brought up. People recognize the names Bobby Fischer and Josh Waitzkin."

Mike Nolan, USCF Computer Consultant:  
"I remember the movie coming out around the time of the U.S. Open in Philadelphia. A number of USCF delegates found a car and headed into downtown Philly to see a late-afternoon showing of it after the Delegates’ Meeting ended on Sunday."

"Looking at the monthly membership data archived I don't see any immediate bump in membership in August or September, but we did see a major uptrend starting in October of 1993 that lasted for several years. I don't know if it can be attributed to the movie though."

"A friend of mine was the head of the local movie theatre company. I had asked him about this movie a few months before it came out. He said his booker was initially excited about it, but a few weeks later told me that they scheduled it in
Looking Back / Searching For Bobby Fischer

JOSH WAITZKIN:
Josh’s dad reports, “Josh turns down all interviews with everyone, TV and print.” His website is www.joshwaitzkin.com/. Chess Life ran an interview with him by Bruce Pandolfini in the August 2007 issue. He earned the international master title, but not the grandmaster title. For five years straight Josh was the Tai Chi Chuan Push Hands Middleweight National Champion in both the Restricted Step and Moving Step divisions. In December of 2002, Josh won the bronze medal in the Push Hands World Championship in Taiwan. In early November of 2003, Josh won the gold medal in the Push Hands division of the World Kuoshu Championships in São Paolo, Brazil. In July of 2004, Josh competed in multiple weight divisions at the National Championships in Orlando, Florida. He won an unprecedented total of five national championship titles in the Middleweight, Light Heavyweight, and Heavyweight divisions. Josh’s competitive Tai Chi life came to a dramatic climax at the 7th Chung Hwa Cup International Tai Chi Chuan Championships in Taiwan on December 4-5 of 2004, where Josh worked through a brutal field and won the Middleweight World Championship title in Fixed Step Push Hands and became the Middleweight World Co-Champion in Moving Step Push Hands. He is the author of the book The Art of Learning.

the mid-August ‘death period’ because it was not expected to draw well, and implied that they came close to not releasing it at all.”

GLENN PETERSEN, EDITOR OF CHESS LIFE IN 1993:
“I agree with Mike’s recollections. I’m not sure the ensuing membership uptick can be attributed to the movie, but I do remember a marked increase in activity, especially with scholastic events. Also, it seems as though everyone and his brother decided to become chess instructors, giving group lessons, private lessons, teaching at schools, etc. So, more scholastic activity (not necessarily translating into USCF memberships), more chess teachers, more jobs for chess teachers and coaches—that might be attributed to the impact of the movie. Just about every tournament director running weekly or monthly events, added a scholastic section of some sort.”

POBO EFEKORO, FORMER I.S. 318 TEAM MEMBER
A member of the championship team featured in Brooklyn Castle, “Pobo” said the movie Searching for Bobby Fischer “definitely” influenced him when he saw it during a summer chess camp back in 2003 or 2004.

“I was young back then and I wanted to be just like the kid. I actually watched the movie before I joined the chess team. I wanted to be like him because the kid was tough on the board. He was resilient and managed to pick himself up after disappointing performances in chess games. That’s pretty much the ideal kid every young chess player wants to be. A kid full of fight.”

Bruce Pandolfini with Josh Waitzkin in Washington Square Park.

Jamaal Abdul-Alim contributed material for this article.
OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO HARRY Nelson Pillsbury won, with apparent ease, a number of games using the following setup. Playing White against the Queen’s Gambit Orthodox (1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6) Pillsbury developed his king’s bishop to d3, and his king’s knight, via f3, to e5—to be reinforced there by f2-f4. Then he’d bring his queen (or a rook, after castling) to h3, play (g2)-g3-g4-g5 to drive away the f6-knight, and checkmate on h7. True, this simple checkmate often could be stopped—but not the overall attack. In the meantime, the white queen’s knight was on c3 (or even d2), watching the e4-square and, together with the d3-bishop, stopping Black’s Nf6-e4.

The same simple, and quite effective, formula is often seen nowadays in Under-2200 sections, usually starting (after 1. d4 d5, or a delayed d7-d5) with f2-f4, first taking the e5-square under firm control, and only then N(g1)-f3-e5.

Like its older cousin, this Stonewall Attack must be taken seriously and countered in its earlier stages—otherwise it’ll be too late—as it was in our game of the month! Dennis Newhart, rated 1284, convincingly and apparently easily defeated an opponent almost 300 rating points above him. This game, and especially the opening, should be of practical interest for those playing or considering playing à la Pillsbury (or à la Newhart) as well as those who might face that juggernaut!

Writes Dennis (my further comments are in italics):

I like to play the Stonewall Opening as White; but usually the outcome is a loss based on the fact that Black penetrates a file on the queenside. This time I kept thinking that I must keep the pressure on Black at almost every move so that he does not launch a queenside attack on the b, c, or d file. I tried to point out crucial points where I thought I needed to control the game. Sometimes if I did not see a clear line, I recalled pointers from your book Rules of Thumb.

(see game top of next column)

Queen’s pawn opening (D00)

Dennis Newhart (1284)
Drew Zumpino (1562)

1. d4 Nf6 2. e3 e6 3. Bd3

- Get early control of the diagonal b1 to h7.

3. ... d5 4. f4

- Now the stonewall formation.

4. ... c5

- I’d prefer to build a counterwall: 4. ... Ne4, then ... f7-f5.

5. c3

- Room to retreat the bishop.

5. ... Nc6 6. Nf3

6. cxd4 7. exd4

- Again I prefer not to allow an open c-file for Black to attack.

I like 7. exd4, as it opens the e-file for White as well as somewhat empowering the c1-bishop. Note that after 6. ... cxd4? 7. exd4!, Black didn’t exchange the c5-pawn for White’s central d4-pawn, but for the inferior e3-pawn.

7. ... Bd6 8. Be3

- I did this to keep the queen bishop from getting trapped by Nd2 and to connect the rooks on the back rank.

I’d prefer 8. Ne5.

8. ... Qc7

- This forms a potential threat along this diagonal b8 to h2.

It would be much better for Black to move his f6-knight to e4 or even g4, and then play ... f7-f5 to neutralize White’s initiative.

9. Ne5

- Maybe somewhat early.

Not at all!

9. ... 0-0 10. Nd2 Nd7

- Probably going to open up the f-file after exchanging on e5 and then playing f7-f6.

Rather to close the game with 11. ... f7-f5. Still, it’ll clearly be in White’s favor: compare ... Nd7/ ... f5 / ... Nf6 / ... Ne4—four moves, versus the earlier available ... Ne4 and ... f5—two moves.

11. Ndf3

- I’d slightly prefer here 11. 0-0, and if 11. ... f6, then 12. Qh5; if 11. ... f5, 12. g4.

11. ... f6 12. Qc2

- Moment #1: I thought I could pick up two pawns for the knight and have an open attack with raking bishops if the sacrifice is accepted.

Yes, accepting the sacrifice favors White.

12. ... f5

- A surprise to me ... and it shuts down my attack. Nice move on his part.

13. Qe2

- I moved the queen to e2 to ultimately...
have access to h5 at some point and put pressure on h7.

Much stronger was 13. g4!, opening up Black’s position.

13. ... Ndxe5

Good strategy to open up the game. He decides to simplify to exchange all the knights off the board.

No, he had to play ... N-f6-e4, and only then capture on e5.

14. Nxe5 Nxe5

14. ... Bxe5 saves a tempo and gives Black better chances to hold.

15. fxe5

Stonewall remains intact.

15. ... Re7 16. 0-0

16. ... a6

Waste of time in an already dreadful situation.

17. g4

Moment #2: I must dispense with Black’s f-pawn to open up my attacking pieces with virtually no defense for my king. In the past when I played the Stonewall I played too conservatively at these points and I would ultimately lose my position and the game.

17. g4 is the great move (better late than never—see my note to 13. Qe2). And White’s king here is absolutely safe, while Black’s king is very vulnerable.

17. ... fxg4

17. ... g6 was a must.

18. Qxg4 Qd8 19. Qh5

19. ... Rxf1+

The game is over.

20. Rxf1 g6 21. Bxg6

Moment #3: it’s now or never—sacrifice the king’s bishop.

This thematic sacrifice wins easily.

21. ... hxg6 22. Qxg6+ Kh8

22. ... Qd6 23. Qh5+

23. Re7

Open-file rooks belong on the seventh rank—Rule of Thumb.


23. ... Qg8

I did not see the queen pin coming ... bad board vision.

Here is another Rule of Thumb: If you see a very strong, indeed winning, move, first do it in your mind, visualize the position and think hard for your opponent. If everything is okay, make your winning move.

24. Qxg8+ Kxg8 25. Rxh7

Now I am up two pawns but I wanted my queen for a mating net.

Fortunately for White, his position remains easily won.

25. ... b5 26. h4

Passed pawns must be pushed ... Rule of Thumb ...

26. ... Rb8

I was worried that ... b4 move was coming to open up a file.

Too little, too late. Extra material (big), but the march of the h-pawn easily prevails.

27. h5 Bb7

Black’s pieces are bottlenecked.

28. Bg5 Kh8

29. Bf6+

Accurate to the end—very good! 29. h6 Rg8 unnecessarily prolongs the game.

29. ... Kg8 30. h6, Black resigned.

PS: I am a senior member of the USCF, and so every win is a surprise for me.

I hope that this article will help Dennis to enjoy many such pleasant surprises/victories, including more in the Stonewall Attack!

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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!
Right and Wrong

Rook endgames when down a pawn or more at the Renova Grand Prix in Zug, Switzerland and FIDE Candidates matches

By GM PAL BENKO

IT IS AXIOMATIC: WHEN ONE SIDE IS down a pawn, rook endgames offer the best drawing chances. Still, it is not automatic—there must be an active rook or king in the fray. The weaker side must stay sharp; another error will likely prove fatal.

Let’s look at some examples, including one involving being down two pawns.

Protected passed pawn

GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2767, USA)
GM Gata Kamsky (FIDE 2741, USA)
FIDE Grand Prix Series, Zug, Switzerland, 2013

White has a protected, passed, extra pawn but the black rook is stifling it.

37. ... Rb2

Naturally, Black attacks the defenseless base-pawn, relegating the white rook to a defensive role.

38. Re3 f5

The setup 38. ... Kf5 39. Kg3 f6 is better.

39. Kg3 Kf6 40. f3 gxf3 41. Kxf3 Rd2 42. Kg3 Rc2 43. a5 Ra2 44. Rd3 Rxa5 45. Rd6+ Ke7 46. Rb6 Ra2 47. Rb4 Rd2 48. Kh4 Rg2 49. Rd4 Ke6 50. b4

(see diagram top of next column)

White is at a crossroads: how to defend the weak e6-pawn?

31. ... Ra1+?

This simply allows the white king to enter from stage right. Though it is true that after 31. ... Ke7, then 32. Rc1! may come, and the white rook gets into optimal position behind his passed pawn. No matter how odd it seems, 31. ... Ra3! appears to be the best chance because after 32. b4 Rb3! neither the white king nor the white pawns can easily advance.

32. Kg2 Ra2+ 33. Kf3 Ke7 34. h3 Rb2 35. Rc3 h6 36. h4 Kf6 37. Ke4

The king may now head over to support the passed pawn since both the b3 and g3 pawns are protected. So Black must obtain counterplay now.

37. ... g5 38. fxg5 hxg5 39. h5 Rh2 40. g4

Plausible, but hard to calculate before time control, was 40. b4 Rg5 41. b5.

40. ... Rg2 41. Kf3 Rb2 42. Kg3

Black is at a crossroads: how to defend the weak e6-pawn?

42. ... Kg7?

Making the win easier for White, but even after 42. ... Rb1 43. Kf2 Rb2+ (43. ... Ke5 44. Rh3!) 44. Ke1 Rg2 45. Rc4 Black can hardly save the position.

43. Rc7+ Kh6

Other king moves are equally hopeless as after 44. Rb7 the two passed pawns are far from each other.

44. Rb7 e5 45. Rb6+ Kh7 46. Rg6!

Now the connected passed pawns win.

46. ... Rxb3+ 47. Kf2 e4 48. Rxe5 Rf3+ 49. Kg2 Ra3 50. Rg6 Rb3 51. Re6 Kg7 52. Rxe4, Black resigned.
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

Book Draw

GM Teimour Radjabov (FIDE 2793, AZE)
GM Alexander Grischuk (FIDE 2764, RUS)
Candidates Tournament of the FIDE World Championship Cycle (12), 2013

The active black rook assures compensation for the lost pawn.


Grischuk does not trust the position that may arise after 54. ... Ra5 55. Rh6+ Ke7 56. Rxb5 Rxb5 57. Rh7+ Kf6, so he accepts being two pawns down instead.

55. Rh6+ Ke7 56. Rxb5

Possibly better is 56. Ke2!?

56. ... d4 57. Re5+ Kf6 58. Re4

More promising is 58. h5!

58. ... dxe3 59. Rxe3 Ra6 60. Re5 a6 61. bxa6 Rxa6 62. Rb5 Ra1 63. Rxb6+ Kf5 64. Rb5+ Kf6

A theoretically drawn position has been reached, but such positions can be lost. Now the black pieces are at their optimal defensive setup.

65. Kg4 Rg1+ 66. Kh5 Rh1 67. Ra5 Rh2 68. Ra8 Rh1 69. Rg8 Kf7 70. Rg4 Kf6 71. Rg8 Kf7 72. Rc8 Kf6 73. Rc5 Rh2 74. Rg5 Rh1 75. Kg4 Rg1+ 76. Kf3 Rf1+ 77. Kg3 Rg1+ 78. Kf2 Rh1 79. h5

Obviously, White cannot make progress. This pawn advance does not help.

79. ... Rh4 80. Kg3 Rh1 81. Ra5 Rg1+ 82. Kf2 Rh1 83. Kg2 Rh4 84. Kf3 Rh1 85. h6 Rxe6!, Draw agreed.

The end is most pretty, but the position was drawn against other methods too.

I have just recently recommended to FIDE that a victory should receive three points instead of one. Further, a player who stalemates his opponent should receive two points, while the stalemated player should get one point. So a stalemate would be worth ⅓ of a victory for the offensive side and ⅓ of a victory for the defensive side.

Missed Book Draw

GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2872, NOR)
GM Vassily Ivanchuk (FIDE 2757, UKR)
Candidates Tournament of the FIDE World Championship Cycle (12), 2013

A passed pawn often provides the best counter-chances.

70. ... Rxa4 71. Rh6?

The only way to achieve a draw is by trading the passed pawn for the central pawn. 71. c6! Ke6 72. Rb5! (threatening to win after 73. Rc5!) 72. ... Kd6 73. Rxe5! h4 74. Kb3 (74. Rh5 Kxc6 is also a book draw with the two side pawns) 74. ... Ra1 75. Kb2 could have led to a draw.

71. ... Ke4! 72. Rd6 Rd4 73. Ra6 Kd5 74. Rxa5 Rxc4+ 75. Kd3 Rxc5

From this point on it was only a question of technique for Black.

76. Ra4 Rc7 77. Rh4 Rh7 78. Ke3 Ke6 79. Ke4 Rh8 80. Ke3 Kf5 81. Ke2 Kg5 82. Re4 Re8 83. Ke3 h4 84. Ke2 h3 85. Kg2 h2 86. Kg2 h1=Q+ 87. Kxh1 Kf5 88. Re1 Rh8 89. Kh2 Kf4 90. Rf1+ Ke3, White resigned.

This loss almost cost Carlsen first place. 🗳

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Problem I:

Pal Benko

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

Problem II:

Benko and E. Janosi

Ajedrez de Estilo, 1987

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN
KNIGHT’S TOUR TRAVELS TO ITALY by JANIS NISII

SITUATED IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ASIAGO PLATEAU in the Italian region of Veneto, an hour northeast of Venice, Marostica is surrounded by a crenelated wall which joins the Upper and Lower Castles, built in the 14th century.

Every even-numbered year—on the second weekend of September—a chess game is re-enacted with human chess pieces. The celebration draws its inspiration from an ancient legend, which is said to date back in 1454, when Marostica belonged to the Republic of Venice.

Two noblemen fell in love with the beautiful Lionora, daughter of the Lord of Marostica. In accordance with the custom in that time, the two suitors challenged each other to a duel. The Lord, not wishing to make an enemy of either man or lose them in a duel, forbade the encounter. Instead, he decided that the two rivals should play a chess game and Lionora would take the winner as her husband.

The game would be played on the square in front of the Lower Castle with armed living persons carrying the ensigns of the white and black pieces and real horses, magnificently appareled, representing the knights. The Lord also organized a parade of armed man, infantrymen, knights, heralds, nobleman, falconers, standard bearers, musicians and dancers.

This event is repeated today just like it was performed the very first time, in a framework of 600 sumptuously costumed participants (with 20 decorated and performing horses), multi-colored banners, martial parades and exquisite elegance. The ceremonies end with victory fireworks and music.

The festival takes place in the magnificent Castle Square, known as the Marostica Chess Square, where pink and white marble slabs are imbedded in the center of the plaza, forming a gigantic chess board.

The re-enactment of this ancient story provides the public with an emotional spectacle for more than two hours. Every costume, piece of armor and accessory is an original or an exact reproduction of the ones used in the 15th century, making it a step back in time to discover ancient customs and traditions.

The legend didn’t pass on the moves of the original game, and the more frequently performed in the pageant is the Immortal Game, played by Adolf Anderssen against Lionel Kieseritzky (London, 1851); a showcase of classic 19th century chess with startling attacks and sacrifices; a perfect game to represent the brilliant bravery of the noble warrior. In this game Anderssen gets to checkmate his opponent despite sacrificing a bishop, both rooks and the queen. Selected for the 2012 edition was the possibly even more spectacular Bernhard Flessing against Carl Schlechter (Vienna, 1893), where the theme is again materialism leading to a lack of development which allows Black to win with an outstanding combination involving the sacrifice of all his pieces except the knight and the queen that, single-handedly, delivers mate while White still has almost all of his army on the board.

Know Before You Go

Official website: www.marosticasacchi.it/a_ENG_1_1.html
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The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of July 3 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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<td>8 GM Enrico Sevillano</td>
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<td>9 GM Varuzhan Akobian</td>
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<td>10 GM Alexander Shabalov</td>
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<td>11 GM Jaan Ehlvest</td>
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<td>14 GM Alexander Fishbein</td>
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<td>15 GM Conrad Holt</td>
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GM CONRAD HOLT took fifth place finish at the 2013 U.S. Championship (see page 18) and now heads to compete at the World Cup this month in Norway (see chessworldcup2013.com).

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!

2nd: $2,500 | 3rd: $1,000
4th: $900 | 5th: $800
6th: $700 | 7th: $600
8th: $500 | 9th: $300
10th: $200

Trophies Plus:

IT’S NOT JUST A TROPHY.
IT’S THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT.

Proud sponsor of USCF National Scholastic tournament awards since 1999.

Proud sponsor of the USCF 2007-2012 All-America Team.

315 W. 1st St., Templeton, Iowa 51463 | 800.397.9993 | www.trophiesplus.com
ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by July 10, 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.

### 2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

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### CHECK OUT USCF’S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

#### 2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

$800 FIRST PRIZE

(PLUS TITLE OF USCF’S GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members who reside in the United States or Canada. USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of entries allowed for the year for each player is ten.

#### 2013 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship

$800 FIRST PRIZE

(PLUS TITLE OF USCF’S ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25

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.

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

Name ___________________________ USCF ID# ___________________________

Address __________________________ City __________________________ State __ ZIP ______

Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________________________ Est. Rating ______

Credit card # (VISA, MC, Disc., AMEX) __________________________ Exp. date ______

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

#### Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)

**Two or Six-Game Options.** Entry Fee: $5.

- **WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY**
  - 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 tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate.
  - ENTRY FEE: $7.

- **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 past office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.
Tournament Life / August

USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

2013 U.S. Blind Chess Championship August 9-10 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2013 U.S. Masters Championship August 29-September 2 • Greensboro, North Carolina
2013 U.S. Class Championship September 27-29 or 28-29 • Houston, Texas
54th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship October 12-14 • Fort Eustis, Virginia

FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)

2013 U.S. Action Game/30 Championship October 26 • Santa Clara, California
2013 U.S. Game/60 Championship October 27 • Santa Clara, California
2013 K-12 Grade Championship December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship December 27-30 • Lubbock, Texas
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
2014 National Open—TBA
2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship—TBA
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
2015 National Open—TBA
2015 U.S. Game/10 Championship—TBA
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
2017 K-12 Grade Championship December 8-10 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship May 11-13 • Nashville, Tennessee
2018 K-12 Grade Championship December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida

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.

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. Game/15 Championship

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:
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/30 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/60 Championship
2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
2014 U.S. Junior Closed
2014 U.S. Masters Championship

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2013:
2014 U.S. Junior Open
2014 U.S. Senior Open

CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
A Junior Grand Prix event must have four or more rounds with a time control greater than 65 min. Please see: www.uschess.org/data page/JPG-Rules.php for complete Rules.

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/ chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.
The Tournament Announcements on the website are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the US Chess Federation nor any person or entity associated with this website guarantees the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in obtaining additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TUs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control rating increment or time delay if even delay is zero (e.g. 0).

SUBMISSIONS: E-mail your tla to: tla@uschess.org (Jon D buois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 CI, pg. 50 and 51 or check www.uschess.org/gt/foralin. Payment can be done online through the TDU/affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

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**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**AUG. 9 – 10, SYLVANIA**

2013 U.S. Blind Chess Championship

USCF & Braille Chess Association (USBCA) are sponsoring this USCF National event. 4 SS or 4 RR (depends on # of players), 4/3. Halliday Inn Express Hotel, 5311 Campbells Run Road (near airport), Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 788-8000. Free shuttle to/from airport. EP:

Free; Reg.: Onsite - Thurs. Aug. 8, Fri. Aug. 9, Sat. Aug. 10, Sun. Aug. 11, 8:00-9:00am, Tentative.

NOTE: All players must be classified as Legally Blind and bring proof. You must also be a current member of the USCF for $50. You can join at the USCF event: $59.95 fee for both events. 1. Register at USCF.org/cap/index.html, (800) 995-8934, and make payment online. 2. Pay $119 by Aug. 6th, $50 off for each additional person. 3. Park free. 4. No fees for kids 5 and under.

**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**AUG. 9 – 10, ALABAMA**

USCF TOURNAMENT: 50% (ENHANCED)

**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**AUG. 29-SEPT. 2, NORTH CAROLINA**

TOURNAMENTS PLUS GRAND POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

5-Day U.S. Masters Championship


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 10, ALABAMA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND POINTS: 6**

Chris Bond Memorial 9th Annual

TXCC, 6707 S. Magner UMC, 6800 Atlanta Hwy., Montgomery, AL 36117. OPEN (PF): $250, 125, $110, 100, 75, 60, 40, 30, 20, 10. Free parking. $100 guaranteed prize fund. In 4 sections: Open $1000-900-800-700, U2500 $600-500-400, $300; balance goes to next player(s) in line.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18 NOT JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, CONNECTICUT**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND POINTS: 5 (ENHANCED)**

19th Annual Northeast Open

**NOTE CORRECTIONS:** S5S, 30/40, SD/60 (2 option, 1-2 G/65); 800 guaranteed prize fund. In 4 sections: Open $1000-900-800-700, U2500 $600-500-400, $300; balance goes to next player(s) in line. No checks at site, credit cards OK. GM, IM, FM, NM $50 by 2/- prize-Reg. F 6-6:45p & Sa 9-9:15. Rnds: Sa 10-11:30, Su 9:30-10:30. Entry: $45 online only (no questions). 3-day $90, 2-day $80 if check if mailed by 8/7, $100 at site, or online until 2 hours before game. No mail entries. Entry: $49, 3-day $90, 2-day $80 or paid at site. U1200 Section EF: $40 less than above. No checks at site, credit cards OK. GMs free, $80 deducted from prize. Online $43 less to CSMA members. Re-entry $50 not available in Open. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise.

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**USCF Membership Rates (P) and Regular (R) (U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)**

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<th>Type</th>
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Premiership membership is available by printed copies of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online-only access to Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids; for a tournament a life announcement newsletter will be mailed to adults bimonthly and to scholastic members three times per year. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life for Kids, others listed above monthly ChessLife. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice. *Ages at expiration.
## 135th annual NY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Aug 30-Sep 2, Aug 31-Sep 2 or Sep 1-2, Albany**

America’s oldest annual event - $13,000 guaranteed

6 round Labor Day weekend Swiss in 5 sections; you play only those in your section. Choice of 4-day, 3-day or 2-day schedule (no 2-day Open Section), all merge and compute for prizes. $97 room rates, free parking, free airport shuttle.

### OPEN Section

- **Open Section:** Prizes $1500-700-500-300, state title and $100 bonus to top NY resident, top U2300/Unr $700, U2200/Unr $600.  FIGE, 80 GPP.
- **Under 2100:** $1000-$500-$300-$150, top Under 1900 $400.
- **Under 1800:** $1000-$500-$300-$150, top Under 1600 $400.
- **Under 1500:** $800-$400-$250-$100, top Under 1300 $300.
- **Under 1200:** $500-$250-$100-$50, plaque to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated.

Unrated prize limits: $150 in U1200, $300 U1100, $600 U1000.

### MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $500-300-200

### FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessout.com.

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**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, GEORGIA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

40th Annual Southern Congress

5-SS, North DeKalb Mall, 2050 Lawrence Highway, Space Near Ross, Decatur, GA 30033. $220-$150-$100-$60, Scholaristic. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult, Young Adult $30, Scholaristic $20. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, Fri 7 pm Sat 12 & 6 Sun 10-3.20pm. Byes: 3, limit must commit before rd 2. HR: $94.94, 400-764-0972, 203-358-8400; reserve by 2/day or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, 3055 General Lee Rd., Macon, GA 31204. ($50 discount if online entries posted instantly.)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18, SOUTH CAROLINA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

Columbia Open

- **April 28**: $250-$150-$100-$50. 4 SS, rd.1 G/45 d5, rd.2 G/60 d5, rd.3 G/75 d5, rd.4 G/90 d5. Grace Lutheran Church, 811 E. Clark Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN. EF $52 by 8/13, $53 at site. $210-$120, X, A, B, C, D, E/below, Univ each $120. Reentry allow after first 4 rounds. Check-in Sat 8am-10am. 3-day format: Reg ends Sat 9 am, Sat 10-3.20pm & Sun 9-3.20pm. Byes: 2/day, limit must commit before rd 2. HR: $94.94, 400-764-0972, 203-358-8400; reserve by 2/day or rate may increase.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 17, FLORIDA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

CFC Tournament at UU

- **4-SS, $25-$15-$10-$5, University Universtity Satellite, 1146 McCall Rd., Orlando 2012 EF $300, CFC edbr $25, Masters free (6+1 deducted from prize).**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 17, VIRGINIA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

AUG. 17-18, VIRGINIA

- **2-SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/90 d5). Crowne Plaza American Chess Promotions, 3055 General Lee Rd., Macon, GA 31204. ($50 discount if online entries posted instantly.)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 18-19, INDIANA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6 (ENHANCED)

8th annual headquarters

- **5-SS, 40/110, SD/30 6-20 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/90 d5). Crown Plaza Indianapolis Airport, 2501 S. High School Rd. (off I-465 & Airport Expwy), Indianapolis, IN 46239. Free parking, free airport shuttle, free wireless, indoor pool, game room, fitness center. $150,000 based on 200 paid entries, re-entries & re-entries vs. all opponents count half, $125 (75%) prize minimum guaranteed. In 5 sections:

  - Open: $2000-$1000-$500-$200, clear or tiebreak winner bonus $100, top Under 2300/Unr $700.-
  - Under 2300:
    - $1800-$900-$450-$225
    - $1600-$800-$400-$200
  - Under 1800: $1400-$700-$350-$175
  - Under 1500: $1200-$600-$300-$150
  - Under 1300 (no $100) $400-$200-$100
  - Under 1000 (no $100) $200-$100-$50

Unrated may not win over $150 in Under 2300, $100 Under 2000, or $50 Under 1800.

Top 4 sections EF: $150 online at chessout.com by 8/3, $14, $10, $8, $6 entry fee. Must be committed and paid before dinner entry shuts down at 8/8.

Under 1200 Section EF: All $50 less than USCF mem req.

Special 1 year USCF dues with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessout.com. Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholaristic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult, Young Adult $30, Scholaristic $20. Re-entry $60; not available in Open Section. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, Fri 7 pm Sat 12 & 6 Sun 10-3.20pm. Byes: 3, limit must commit before rd 2. HR: $94.94, 400-764-0972, 203-358-8400; reserve by 2/day or rate may increase.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 17, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

Seacoast Open

Holiday Inn Portsmouth, 300 Woodbury Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03984. In 3 Sections:

- **4-SS, G/60 $450, $350-$150-$100-$50. 2011 TORNADO EF $450, $350-$200-$100-$50. 2012 TORNADO EF $450, $350-$200-$100-$50.**


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 18-19, TENNESSEE**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 17, CAPE COD**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

**Friday Night IM Lecture & GM Simul:**

Alex Relyea relyea@operamail.com, Alex Relyea Chess, Box 4141, Roanoke, VA 24015.

**THE LARGEST FIDE RATED TOURNAMENT IN THE USA**

- **1-SS, 2013 DCC FIDE Open VIII**

2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1800).

- **4SS, GAME/65 d5, Open to 1899 & under .**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 18-19, TEXAS**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

2nd Animal Magnet Open

On Delphus Overlooks Lake Superior Over $2,500,000 in prizes + GM Alex Yermolinsky & IM Bartholomew are playing! The Suites Hotel, 2201 N. Pine St., Richardson, TX 75080.

**1-SS, 2013 DCC FIDE Open VIII**

- **4SS, GAME/65 d5, Open to 1899 & under .**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**AUG. 18-19, OHIO**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

State University, Student Union Bldg., 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID.

- **1-SS, 2013 DCC FIDE Open VIII**

2 Sections:

- **Open and Reserve (U1400).**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

- **AUG. 17-18, MICHIGAN**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 6

- **Seacoast Open**

Holiday Inn Portsmouth, 300 Woodbury Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03856. In 3 Sections:

- **4-SS, G/60 $500, $450-$150-$100-$50. 2011 TORNADO EF $500, $450-$200-$100-$50. 2012 TORNADO EF $500, $450-$200-$100-$50.**

Open and Reserve (U1400).

- **1-SS, 2013 DCC FIDE Open VIII**

2 Sections:

- **Open & Reserve**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
4th annual CONTINENTAL CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Oct 9-14, 11-14 or 12-14 - Columbus Day weekend - Hyatt Regency Crystal City, near DC
$400,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES - GM & IM NORMS POSSIBLE

Master, 10-9-14: SSS, 402, SD/30, d10. Other sections, 10-11-14 or 12-14: TSS, 402, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/85, d10).
Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington VA 22202. Free shuttle to Airport & Metro (contact hotel for schedule). Valet parking $6/day, guest room not required. Room rates $95-95-105-115, 703-418-1234, reserve by 9/25.

In 7 sections. You only play those in your section. Classes A-E may play up one class. Master: for US players rated 2000/over USCF or FIDE and all foreign FIDE rated players. Prizes $400-2000-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-300, clear/tebreak 1st $100 bonus.

Master entry fee: GMs free; $200 from prize, no deduction from minimum. IMs: $40-$50 online by 1/8/30, $30 by 6 pm 10/9 or 20% of site or $200 from deduction, no deduction from minimum. Foreign FIDE rated: $130 online by 10/8, $150 or online or at site by 6 pm 10/9; $100 deducted from prize. FIDE 2300/0: $280 online by 10/8, $300 online or at site by 6 pm 10/9; FIDE 2200-2299: $380 online by 10/8, $300 online or at site by 6 pm 10/9. FIDE 2100-2199: $380 online by 10/8, $300 online or at site by 6 pm 10/9. FIDE 2000-2099: $380 online by 10/8, $300 online or at site by 6 pm 10/9. FIDE 1900-1999: $380 online by 10/8, $300 online or at site by 6 pm 10/9. FIDE 1800-1899: $380 online by 10/8, $300 online or at site by 6 pm 10/9.

Entry fee S80 less to rated seniors 65/over in Master through Class C.
Re-entry (except Master) $100. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

6-day reg. ends Wed 6 pm, rds Wed, Wed 7, Thu 11:45 & 6, Fri 6, Sat 11:45 & 6, Sun 10:45 & 5, Mon 10 am.
4-day reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds Fri, Sat 11:45 & 6, Sun 10:45 & 5, Mon 10 & 3:30.
3-day reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds Sat 2, 6 & 10:45 & 5, Mon 10 & 3:30.
Byes: OK all limit (3 limit in last 4 rounds), must commit round before 3.

All: FIDE ratings used for Master, October USCF for others. Unofficial web rating will be used if configuration allows. Bring set, board, clock if possible– none supplied. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 4842, Pelham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Special USCF dues: see Chess Life TL or chesstour.com.

Entries are posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).
A Heritage Event!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!
A State Championship Event!
AUG. 30-31, AUG. 31-SEPT. 2, or AUG. 30-31, 2, MICHIGAN
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20
2013 Michigan Open
6th Annual LULU OPEN
Sept 20-22 or 21-22, Holiday Inn Southwest Fair Expo
$1000 guaranteed prizes ($1000 more than last year)
5 rounds, rounds 79-89, free parking, free airport shuttle
Open Section: $1000-500-200-100, clear/tiebreak first $50 bonus, top U2200/Unr $400-200.
U2000 Section: $800-400-200-100, top U1800/unr $400-200.
U1600 Section: $700-400-200-100, top U1400 (no unr) $300-150.
U1200 Section: $600-400-200-120, plaque to first 5, top U1000, U800, Unrated.
Unrated prizes limit: U1200 $200, U1600 $400, U2000 $600.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tourament Life / August

not, 4233 Kinyte Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95409. INFO: (707) 478-4385, paul@sinic.net.

AUG. 29-SEP. 2, NORTH CAROLINA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
2013 U.S. Masters Championship
See Nationals!

A Heritage Event!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!
A State Championship Event!
AUG. 30-31, AUG. 31-SEPT. 2, or AUG. 30-31, 2, MICHIGAN
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20
2013 Michigan Open
6th Annual LULU OPEN
Sept 20-22 or 21-22, Holiday Inn Southwest Fair Expo
$1000 guaranteed prizes ($1000 more than last year)
5 rounds, rounds 79-89, free parking, free airport shuttle
Open Section: $1000-500-200-100, clear/tiebreak first $50 bonus, top U2200/Unr $400-200.
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U1200 Section: $600-400-200-120, plaque to first 5, top U1000, U800, Unrated.
Unrated prizes limit: U1200 $200, U1600 $400, U2000 $600.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

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FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

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FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.

Tournament Life / August

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $400-$200. Team must average U2200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstorm.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 1 COLORADO, NORTHERN TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRXK POINTS: 10

COFFEE BREAKFAST Buffet for up to 4 included. Entries, checks payable to: Progress Chess School, 12000 W. 80th St., Creve Coeur, IL 60014.

-2 Day(s): $35/night, mention chess.

Hotel Rates:
-3 Day Sat 10 3:30; Sun 11 4:45; Mon 9 30 11:45 12:45; Mon 9 30 11:45 12:45. All scholastic sections are 4-SS, Reg. 9:30-10 a.m., 1st rd at 11 a.m., others ASAP. Tournaments in each 3 sect, medals to players with 3+ points not winning a trophy. EF: $20/material mailed by 8/26 or online by 8/25, at site. New England Blitz Championship! Sun 9/1, reg ends at 7:45 p.m., rd 8 a.m. 5-SS (d, g, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z). EF: $20 if played by online, others $15.

HR: 994-92-92-92, reserve by 8/16 and mention chess tense. Ent: payable to MALA and mail to Robert G. Hamlett, 4 12, Nashua, NH 03062 or online at www.MassChess.org. Info: email info@MassChess.org or phone 603-824-2484. NS, NC, W.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
AUG. 31, SAT. 8:30-4:30 PM

-2 Day(s): $445, 280, 140. EF: $45 if registered by 8/15, $40 thereafter. 3 half-point byes available, if requested before Rd 1.


Rds: Sat 8/31 8:30-12:30; Sun 9/1 8:30-12:30. Rds 10-4 Sat., 10-4 Sun., 9:30-3:30 Mon. 10-3:30. 2-Day Schedule (U2000 to U1500 Sects. only): EF: $80 8/29. 120 on site. Unr 40 in 3 sections.

A State Championship Event!

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, ILLINOIS, FACEBOOK.COM/CALEBCHASE, or online at www.CalChess.org. Info: email info@CalChess.org or phone 510-735-7355. Only, $200 bookmaker prize given to all participants finishing with 3.5 pts

See previous issue for TLAs appearing August 1-14

www.uschess.org 55
July - August

**150 Grand Prix Pts. • October 18-20, 2013 • F.I.D.E. Rated**

**$26,000 (b/275) $16,750 Guaranteed**

**Entry Fee $147 or less - 40/2 - G/1 - d5**

**- Rooms $25/$50 While they last!**

**Wednesday, October 16th**

- **GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul/Analysis - $30**
- **GM Alexander Ivanov Simul - $20**
- **Blitz Tourney - $20**

See TLA on page 58

For more info: www.renochess.org

31st Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western States Open

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!!

A Weikel Tournament

**150 Grand Prix Pts.**

**November 2-4, 2013**

**F.I.D.E. Rated**

**$26,000 Guaranteed**

**Entry Fee $147 or less - 40/2 - G/1 - d5**

**- Rooms $25/$50 While they last!**

**Thursday October 17th**

- **FREE Lecture by IM John Donaldson**
- **GM Alexander Ivanov Simul - $20**
- **Blitz Tourney - $20**

See TLA on page 58

For more info: www.renochess.org

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 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 joandubois@uschess.org.

*We’ll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess.*
at TD's discretion. Contact us at USCF about registering for FIDE before the event start time. Note: R1-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95, 96-100. GMs and IMs must pay $100 first, then $50 thereafter. Any USCF members over 60 years old may pay $50 first, then $25 thereafter. ED FIDE Members who are 65 years old pay $100 first, then $50 thereafter. ED FIDE Members who are 70 years old pay $100 first, then $25 thereafter. ED FIDE Members who are 75 years old or older pay $100 first, then $10 thereafter. ED FIDE Members who are 80 years old or older pay $100 first, then $5 thereafter.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 4 (ENHANCED)

Marlboro MA (I-495, exit 24B, Rt 20W, one mile from exit). 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9500.

Reservations: (U900 Sect. counts half, 0.75x entry fee). See previous issue for TLAs appearing August 1-14.

www.chesstour.com — for late news, results, games, minimum ratings, entries. To be added to email chess tour calendar.

Most tournaments have alternate schedules playing or less days than listed below. U900 Sect.

www.uschess.org — issues otherwise, see future issues or our website.

Events in red offer FIDE norm possibilities.


Asterisk (*) denotes events, not UCF members, so one way, only 1 special discount can be applied. Reg: Sat-9/15-9/30. Rooms: Sat-10/21-10/30. Top U2100 $200. Max one 1st prize declared by red. 2. MIS

South Carolina Open Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

New Orleans Open, New Orleans LA*

10/28-30: 7th Annual Atlantic City Open, Atlantic City NJ*

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 2 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

www.marshallchess.org or phone 603-691-2484. NS. NC.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 2 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

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TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

www.chess.com
**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20**

**National Chess Day Tornado**

*Oct. 12, Texas*

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6**

National Chess Day Tornado

*Oct. 12, Texas*
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 Affiliate status is determined 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 Affiliate status 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 Affiliate costs $150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract $3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. As of August 5, 2007, by paying an annual payment of $200.00 (instead of $150), Silver Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.
American Classic! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

44th annual National Chess Congress

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

To play up, Top Section FIDE-Rated. Prize Fund: $10,000. 80% Guar. Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
Regional

Alabama

AUG. 10, Chris Bond Memorial Ninth Annual See Grand Prix.


AUG. 24, Chester Magnetic School Junior Grand Prix! See Grand Prix.

AUG. 30, 10th Annual Alabama State Chess Scholarship Tournament See Grand Prix.

California, Northern

AUG. 9-11 OR 10-12, Summer Championship See Grand Prix.

AUG. 17, Chess4Less Bay Area Quads 3x30 dts. 1693A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Prizes: 4 players w/score. Sched: Checkin by 2:30p. Games: 10:15a-2p. Special EF: $15, $34 onsite. Info: BayAreaChess.com/chess4less. NS, NC.

AUG. 24, 25th Open Bank Exchange Open See Grand Prix.


AUG. 30, NOV. 28-DEC. 1, 2013 American Open Scholastic (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

California, Southern

AUG. 30, NOV. 28-DEC. 1, 19th Annual American Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

The Los Angeles Chess Club

The Los Angeles Chess Club is on the West Coast (310) 795-7510 - www.LACChessClub.com. Saturdays: 10am-10pm (Intermediate class + 2 Tournaments), Sundays: 11-7 & 1-5 pm (Junior class + 2 tournament) Details on our web site: Tuesdays: 7-10pm (Intermediate/Advanced). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Ange- les, CA 90025, (310) 795-7510 (4 blocks W of 405, 5 blocks of Santa Monica Blvd - 2nd floor - adjacent restaurant). Groups Classes Tournaments Private (1-1 Lessons).

Beverly Hills Chess Club

Join the elite group of chess enthusiasts! Curriculum based instruction from ages 3 and above. Private Lessons, Blitz, Simul, Open & Scholastic tournaments, Camps, Adult events, Member-only events and more... Open & 1600+, $30 member, $10 nonmembers; 1210-1699, $35; 1700+, $40. Beverly Hills, CA 90211. In the Beverly Hills Plaza (Corner of Laper Dr & Olympic) 310-274-7873, email us at info@bevhchessclub.com, website www.bchchessclub.com

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 12, 14th Annual TLA Chess Club Fall Tournament See Grand Prix.

OCT. 13, 14th Cuptorino Quads – PK-12 3x30 dts. 1693A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Trophies: players w/score. Sched: 2:30-3:30p. Games: 25 by 10/10. Info: bayAveChess@cupertino.com. NS, NC.


OCT. 20, 3rd Annual Cuptorino Chess Tournament See Grand Prix.

NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 1, 19th Annual American Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31, NOV. 10-12, 2013 American Open Scholastic (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

Regional

Arizona

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! Tuesday Night Open

4 or 5 round(s) tournament. TURNED TIMES: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/120, 20/60. PRIZES: 1st Place and Class Prizes based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $45; TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, email 602-482-4667; SITE: 10801 W. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

OCT. 11-12, Stuberenbraub/Steiner “National Chess Day” Memo- rial Chess Tournament

Join us for chess tournaments in honor of Steve Stuberenbraub and Marty Steiner, FREE Scholastic Tournament Oct. 12th on National Chess Day AND an Open Tournament on Friday, Oct. 11th & Saturday, Oct. 12th. Open. Adult and Scholastic players rated greater than approximately 1000. Prizes: Trophies the top 3 scholastic players in this section. 75% of adult entry fee for cash prizes to adults only in this section. Forum: Open (K-12), Middle (K-8), Elementary (K-4). Prizes: $40 to 1st, $25 to 2nd, $15 to 3rd.

OCT. 17, 2011 California Grade (K-12) Championship See Grand Prix.

Trees Inn, $129-129, no resort fee. 1-800-FOXWILDWOOD, must reserve by 1/8. Car rentals: Avis, 800-847-7898. Motels: $99-151.75, $145-173 or $63-82. Ratings: FIDE used in Open, Jan. 2014 official USCF in others. For foreign in U2000 & below, see www.chesstour.com for foreign listings. Highest of multiple ratings usually used. Players are not allowed to disclose foreign or FIDE ratings may be expensed. Special rules: Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. In round 4 or after, players with scores of over 880 in one section or from opponents may not use headphones, earphones or cellphones or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission. FIDE: Continental Chess, Blauvelt & Blauvelt, Ny, 52757, questions: +1 (914) 492-9466 or www.chesstour.com. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at chessaccount.com.

Arizona Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 12, 12th Annual Great American Open (450x450 dts) See Grand Prix.

OCT. 12, 12th Annual TLA Chess Club Fall Tournament See Grand Prix.

OCT. 14, 11th Annual California Grade (K-12) Chess Tournament See Grand Prix.

Oct. 17, 2011 California Grade (K-12) Tournament See Grand Prix.

NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 1, 19th Annual American Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.
10th annual LOS ANGELES OPEN
Oct 11 or 12-13, Sheraton Agoura Hills
$15,000 PROJECTED PRIZES, $10,000 MINIMUM
5 rounds, $95 rooms, free parking. 5 sections.

Open Section: Prizes $1800-900-500-300, clear/tiebreaker winner $100 bonus, top U2300/Unr $600-300. FIDE rated, 80 GPP.
Under 2200 Section: $1200-600-400-200, top U2000 $500-250.
Under 1900 Section: $1200-600-400-200, top U1700 $500-250.
Under 1600 Section: $1000-500-300-200, top U1400 $400-200.
Under 1300 Section: $500-300-200-100, plaques.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $400-200-100.

Unrated prize limit: $200 in U1300, $400 U1600, $600 U1900.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chesstour.com.
RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS FALL!
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 October and December 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:

**SNDOR** For age 50 or above, or a higher minimum age.

**UNRATED** Any tournament that offers free entry to unrated players. If your prizes are based on entries, say “paid entry.”

**USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT** A tournament that offers free entry to unrated players, or a free prize for the entry of 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 under 1400” are accepted.

COLLEGiate A tournament limited to college students.

JUNIOR, For age 20/20 (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. Announce starting dates & times, event locations, and a contact info, etc.

**USCF DISCUSSION GROUPS** See www.uschess.org for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

RUN THE TLA FLEET REGISTRATION TOGETHER.
Rds: (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1400 & Open Sections.

Rds: (K-8)


SEPT. 15, 93rd Knights Quest Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2875 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL. USCF Rated Sections: Open (K-12 & Adults), U1400 (K-12 & Adults), U1000 (K-8 & U1400; U1400; U800 & U1000 Sections. Players in U600 receive participation award. Time Control: Time Control Game 30 (G/25 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & U1000 Sections. Game 45 (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & U1000 Sections. Reg.: 11:00-11:30 am. Rds.: 1 at 12:00 pm, rest ASAP. Entry: $30 entry. $35 after Monday before. $40 after Friday before. $5 discount to siblings and team members when registering together. Online Registration: www.93rdrknights.org. Mail-in Registration: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065. Info: www.93rdrknights.org, 773-844-0701.

CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL Junior Grand Prix!
SEPT. 21, Springfield 10th Annual David Mote Memorial 45, $30 U800, 80 Sections. Players in U1000 receive participation award. Time Control: Time Control Game 30 (G/25 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & U1000 Sections Game 45 (G/40 d5) 4 Rounds U1000 & U1000 Sections. Reg.: 11:00-11:30 am. Rds.: 1 at 12:00 pm, rest ASAP. Entry: $30 entry. $35 after Monday before. $40 after Friday before. $5 discount to siblings and team members when registering together. Online Registration: www.93rdrknights.org. Mail-in Registration: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065. Info: www.93rdrknights.org, 773-844-0701.

OCT. 12, Park Forest Chess Challenge National Chess Day event! Hosted by The Village of Park Forest, an Affiliate of the United States Chess Federation. Tournament will be held at Dining on the Green, located at 349 Main Street in Park Forest, IL. 60464. This is a 45$, 45/40 USCF-rated tournament; must be a USCF member to participate. Register at: Park Forest Recreation & Parks, 5195 Victory Dr., Park Forest, IL 60466, 708-748-2005, Credit Card, Cash or Check. $5.00 Tournament Fee. On site registration: (cash only) 9-9:30 am. Schedule: : Players must check in by 9-9:30, Tournament time: 10 am-12 noon. Please provide your own clock. Concessions will be sold at the event. Advance registration if interested, send no money, I need USCF id and name. Not member just send name. I can be reached at PCHNESS@VOPF.COM. If you are not a member, yearly memberships or a ninety day membership will be available at tournament for an extra fee. Details for joining the USCF please visit their website at www.uschess.org or contact the Recreation & Parks Dept at Park Forest 708-748-2005.

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 22nd annual Midwest Class Championships 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: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13. Prizes: Boys and Girls each: 2 first, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th. Chess Life Oct 10, 2013 Motor City Open (OH) see Grand Prix.


ACTIVITY LEADS MEMBERSHIP
Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

Adults Dues Options! >>

NEW FREE TLA CATEGORIES ADDED!

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**USCF DISCUSSION GROUPS** See www.uschess.org for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

**See previous issue for TLAs appearing August 1-14**

www.uschess.org 63
Indiana
Orange Crush Chess Club Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)
Donatos Pizza, 825 W. 10th St. USCF rated. Reg.: 6:45 pm, starts at 6:30pm. Type: 3 RR Qd 4/5, 2 BLZ. EF: $15.00, $5.00 Quad limit $25.00, $30 for club members. Ent: Donald Urquhart, 1006 Central Ave., #304, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Info: Donald at 317-679-2813 or email: akakar prisoner@att.net. Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! The Second Saturday of the Month

A State Championship Event! AUG. 23, 2013 - Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! AUG. 24, 2013 - Reserve Championship 4-Ss, G/75 d5. Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 300 E 9th St, Coralville, IA 52241. Open to U1600. Rds.: 10-11-10-11, lunch, 1:15 then ASAmp: Reg.: 10:00-10:30, EF: $10.50 at 8/17, $20 on site. Total prize fund of $240 based on 24 entries. 1st & 2nd $75 each, b/25: $300. Total prize fund of $240 based on 24 entries. 1st & 2nd $75 each, b/25: $300. Total prize fund of $240 based on 24 entries. 1st & 2nd $75 each, b/25: $300. Total prize fund of $240 based on 24 entries. 1st & 2nd $75 each, b/25: $300.

Kansas

Iowa

Forty-Fifth Annual Atlantic Open August 23-25 or 24-25, 2013 - 7 sections at Washington Westin Hotel $23,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND!

Unrated prize limits: U1000 $150, U1300 $300, U1500 $500, U1700 $700, U1900 $900. Senior prizes: Top age 65/over among all sections: $800-400-200. Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $800-400-200. Must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both begin round 2.

Entry charge: $115 at chessaction.com. By 8/21, $120 priced to 406-896-2038 by 8/21, 3-day $118, 2-day $117 mailed by 8/14, $130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. Under Section 1000 Section entry fee: all $60 less than above. Re-entry (except Open): $60.

Special USCF dues: see TLA. USCF membership required. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 am & 6 pm, Sun. 10 am & 3:30 pm.

2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10 am, 2 pm & 6 pm; Sun. 10 am & 3:30 pm.

Byes OK all (limit 2), Open must commit by rd 2, others by rd 3.

Bring set, board, & clock if possible- none supplied. Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pellham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). JGP.
Louisiana

AUG. 31, 2013 Kickoff Scholastic
4-SS, 6/30/d5. Site: Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Dr., Kenner, LA 70062. EF: $50 if mailed by 8/24, $25 at site, $5 discount if also playing in State Championship. Top 3 in each section, medal and chess gift to all participants. Reg.: 8-8/5/15. Rds.: 9-10:15-11:30. Ent.: Info: Adam Canevini, 1001 Gen. Taylor St., Unit #206, Oradell, NJ 07649, (201) 269-2897, e-mail: info@lousschess.org.

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 2013 Louisiana State Championship
See Grand Prix.

Maine

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 12, National Chess Day - Rated Beginners Tourney

SEP. 23-24, 2013 Maine State Championship
NOV. 2-3, 2013 Maine Open
See Grand Prix.

Maryland

Maryland Chess Association
Open & scholastic tournaments in Maryland listed at www.mdchess.com.

NIH Chess Club
NIH Chess Club (National Institutes of Health), Bethesda, MD. Every Wed at 7:30, Bldg. 10, 2nd floor cafeteria. Contact: Leif at 240-460-04412, 207-945-3969, e-mail: wongiestev@aol.com.

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 2013 Maryland State Championship
See Grand Prix.

Minnesota

AUG. 17-18, 2nd National Twin Ports Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 23-24, 5th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 26, 2013 Midwestern Open State Championship
See Grand Prix.

Mississippi

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 23-24, 7th Annual Jackson Open (U2000)
A Class Players Rating Required. $50, G-60/d5. Jackson Public Library, 311 3rd St., Jackson, MS 39216. $75 Prize Fund Guaranteed. U2000 Event. Open to 1999 & under - unrated. EF: $25 if registered by Aug. 11th, $25 cash or $30 check. No debit or credit cards. USCF membership required. S95GT: $50. TROPHY - $10.00 - 11 PM. pipelines at the Senior Center. Rds.: Friday 7:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM - 1 PM, Monday after end of round one. One 1/2 point bye any round. ENT: Sam Smith, 720-490-9492 or paladinjackson@hotmail.com.

AUG. 24-25, 59th Iowa Open Championship (IA)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 20-21 OR 19-20, 22nd Annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

Missouri

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 24, 2013 Missouri State Championship Event!
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 29-30, 2013 Missouri Open
Ent: Sam 597-918, 1:30-3:45-5:00 p.m. Train/Bus Access. See Grand Prix.

Nebraska

AUG. 24, 25th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

New Jersey

AUG. 3, Ewing CC - Quad #1

AUG. 16-18 OR 17-18 NOT JUNE 21-23 OR 22-23, 14th Annual Northeast Open (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 16, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
ICA, 5-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60. EF: $25. Prize: $50 to first in each quad. Reg.: 2:45-1:15-PM. Rds.: 1:30, 3:45, 6:00. ENT: Diana 201-797-0338, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

AUG. 18, 10th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 23-24 OR 24-25, 44th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 24, 50th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 25-26, 2nd Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31, 2014 Kickoff Scholastic
4-SS, 6/30/d5. Site: Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Dr., Kenner, LA 70062. EF: $50 if mailed by 8/24, $25 at site, $5 discount if also playing in State Championship. Top 3 in each section, medal and chess gift to all participants. Reg.: 8-8/5/15. Rds.: 9-10:15-11:30. Ent.: Info: Adam Canevini, 1001 Gen. Taylor St., Unit #206, Oradell, NJ 07649, (201) 269-2897, e-mail: info@lousschess.org.

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 2013 Louisiana State Championship
See Grand Prix.

Michigan

AUG. 17-18, 2013 U.P. Open

AUG. 30-SEP. 2, AUG. 31-SEPT. 2, OR SEPT. 1-2, 2013 Michigan State Championship
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 69th Ohio Chess Congress (OH)
See Grand Prix.


AUG. 20-21 OR 20-22, 2012 Hardest Stein Memorial Cup See Grand Prix.

AUG. 13-15 OR 12-13, 1st Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 20 OR 21-20, 22nd annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, 2013 annual Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.


Minnesota

AUG. 17-18, 2nd Annual Twin Ports Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 23-24, 2013 Twin Ports Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 23-24, 2013 Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

Mississippi

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

AUG. 23-24, 2013 Mississippi State Championship Event!
See Grand Prix.

SEP. 21-22, 2013 Mississippi Open
NOV. 23-24 OR 21-22, 2013 biannual Mississippi Open
See Grand Prix.

Missouri

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

SEP. 3-4 OR 3-5 OR 5-6, 2013 Missouri State Championship Event!
See Grand Prix.

SEP. 20 OR 21-20, 22nd Annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

Nebraska

AUG. 24-25, 59th Iowa Open Championship (IA)
See Grand Prix.

New Jersey

AUG 3, Ewing CC - Quad #11

AUG. 17, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
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AUG. 18, 10th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 23-24 OR 24-25, 44th Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 25-26, 2nd Annual Open Tournament (DC)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 26-27, 2013 Vermont Open (VT)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 29-30, 2013 Louisville Open (KY)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 27-29, 2013 Missouri Open
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 28-29, 22nd annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix.

AUG. 31-SEP. 2, 2013 Iowa State Championship (IA)
See Grand Prix.
AUG. 24, 2013

Viking 4-County Open and Quads
See Grand Prix.

Viking Quads
Community Center, 293 Main St., Hackettstown, NJ. F/6, G/40, $50. Prize winner: $15 online entry fee. Duration: 4 rounds. Registration deadline: Aug. 22. Info: Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. NJSCF, PO Box 1511, Jackson, NJ 08527. Entries must include name, grade & entry fee, please include email address. Online registration: www.marshchessclub.org.}

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AUG. 28, 2013

Chess Mates Summer Quads

SEPT. 1

Chess Mates Sunday Quads
3-Round, G/40 d5. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Prizes: $50 to first in each section. EF: $20. 10:20-11:30 a.m., 12:40-1:00 a.m. Info: Lessons with GM Yudasin: westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 732-548-8432 or 848-219-1358, chessmates@chessmatesnj.com and www.westfieldchessclub.com.

SEPT. 2

Chess Mates Saturday Quads

SEPT. 3

Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 4

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 5

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 6

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 7

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 8

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 9

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 10

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads

SEPT. 11

萎缩 Chess Mates Sunday Quads
EASTERN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
October 18-20 or 19-21, Stamford CT
Prizes $10,000 plus plagues and free entries

For 4-player teams, one alternate optional. 5 rounds, match pt scoring.
AtSheratonHotelin downtown Stamford. Free parking, trains from
NYC run frequently. Room rates $94 single or twin. Early finish times.
GUARANTEED PRIZES: Top teams $2000-1200-600-400, teams
averaging under 1800 $1200-600, teams averaging under 1600 $1000-
500, top player on each board $400-200, top alternate $100. Mixed team
prize (2 males, 2 females, no alternate): free entry for each team member
in National Chess Congress. Plaque to top same school college team, K-12
team, K-9 team, K-6 team, K-3 team.

FOR FULL DETAILS: see “Connecticut” in this issue.
**North Carolina**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**Chess Magnet School**

Prizes: $50 per section. 3rd place: $25.

Site: www.charlottechess.org

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TOURNAMENT LIFE ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

BLZ: Blitz rated.
QC: Quick Chess events.
$SGtd: Guaranteed prizes.
$S/b/c: Number of entries needed to pay full prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of $500 or more must be awarded.

Bye: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take ½-point byes instead.

TOURNAMENT LIFE ABREVIATIONS & TERMS

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised by S and/or C (see below for explanations).

TOURNAMENT LIFE ABREVIATIONS & TERMS

BLZ: Blitz rated.
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$SGtd: Guaranteed prizes.
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Bye: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take ½-point byes instead.

CC: Chess club.
EF: Entry fee.
Ent: Where to mail entries.
FIDE: Results-based on FIDE for visible rating.
G/: Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.

GPP: Grand Prix Points available.
HR: Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75-80 means $60 single, $65 twin, $70/3 in room, $75/4 in room.
JGP: Junior Grand Prix.
Memb: Membership required; cost follows.

req’d: Usually refers to state affiliate.
Open: A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections to play for the learning experience.

Quad: 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.
RBO: Rated Beginner’s Open.
Rds: Rounds; scheduled game times follow. Tie breaks will determine the winner of each class gift certificate, in case of a tie in line. Online entries: www.menesschess.org; goyantis.com.

Reg: Registration at site.
RR: Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).
SD: Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 10/5/10/5, SD = each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.

WEB: Tournaments that will use a player’s online rating.
**Virginia**

Maryland Chess Association (MD) See Maryland.

Chesapeake Chess Club (VA) See Grand Prix.

Arlington Chess Club (VA) See Grand Prix.

**Georgia**

See Grand Prix.

See Maryland.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

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When I was asked to contribute “My Best Move,” my initial thought was, “Should I write this article about my chess moves or perhaps about some other interesting moves I have made?” For instance, despite being a chessplayer, some time ago I was able to build a sandbox for my son Gabriel. Ultimately though, I had so many interesting moves on the board that I still remember with a smile on my face (although sometimes my opponents had even wider smiles in games against me) that I decided to stick with chess.

Some readers might criticize me for not picking either of these two moves: 24. ... Rxg5 or 26. ... Qe3 in the game against Hikaru Nakamura in the 2010 U.S. Championship. Joel Benjamin might say, “C’mon, Yury, have you forgotten about 28. ... Be2 and your miraculous save in our 2004 U.S. Championship game?” The move 22. ... Rg4 in the game against Julio Becerra was probably the most important one towards me winning the 2008 U.S. championship. I could keep this list going on forever since all chessplayers have the tendency to enjoy their moves much more than the moves of other great players.

The very scrupulous reader might say that I only play good games on the black side of the French Defense. But if one really has enough time and desire to enjoy more great chess moves, I would direct them to an amazing website—timkr.home.xs4all.nl/chess/fant100.htm. This website lists 110 best moves (surprisingly not including any of them mentioned in this article) ever played! Anyway, the move I picked for this article is 20. Qxf5+ against Mark Ginsburg from Las Vegas 2001. Why was this move picked? As with everything great in our lives, it has no explanation.

This is the best move! Although I was a little disappointed that Mark didn’t take the queen. When I asked him why after the game, he answered philosophically: “When a GM sacrifices a queen, checkmate should be there even if you do not see it.” Again 20. Bxh5+?? did not work: 20. ... Kxh5 21. Qxf5+ Ng5.


Some readers might think that this is my best move, but just be patient ... 19. Bxh5?! was not a good attacking continuation because of 19. ... Nh8!. What an amazing defense! Black is just better. (If it had happened in the game, Mark would be writing this article!)

20. Qxf5+!!
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Editor’s Letter: Tactile Tactics

When my father taught my elementary-school-aged self to play chess during the buildup to the Fischer/Spassky match (I bet you’ve never heard of someone coming to chess because of Fischer before!), at first it wasn’t the moves themselves that drew me to the game as much as the sensation of handling the pieces. These weren’t just knights, kings, and queens—they were KNIGHTS, KINGS, and QUEENS in a very real sense to me. Partly it was that at that time in my life I had playing “Army” on my brain at all times, but more it was that the lure of handling the pieces was irresistible.

There is a large subset of people who enjoy chess not for the opening innovations and brilliant combinations, but for the beauty of the game’s material itself. We celebrate this aspect of the game this month with a special chess collecting section beginning on page 17. We look at two premier collectors: Dr. George Dean, whose collection is the subject of a DVD titled Chess Masterworks, and Jonathan Crumiller, whose collection is the subject of an exhibition at the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis. We also look a bit at the scholarship involved in chess collecting via Frank Camaratta’s article examining the Victorian production of the Carrara Staunton-style pieces.

If you are interested in other Chess Life treatments on this subject, you have decades of material to pour through. In the April 1973 issue, we reported on a chess set designed as a gift of state for President Richard Nixon to present to the Soviet Union: “The figures are each mounted on golden pedestals, which are encrusted with jewels. We see a plumed knight in armor complete with visored helmet, golden sword, and ful-panoplied horse.” In September, 1990, Marcy Soltis and GM Andy Soltis reported the Chess Collectors International (CCI) convention. Dr. Tim Redman reported the 2007 CCI convention in our July 2008 issue. This is just some of what can be found on the subject in the Chess Life archives.

If collecting is also a passion of yours, we are interested in hearing from you at letters@uschess.org. I hope you enjoy these features as well as our tournament coverage of the National Open and the Southern California State Championship. Here’s to your chess life.  

-Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: SEPTEMBER

Sinquefield Cup in St. Louis

Magnus Carlsen (photo below) will play in his first-ever U.S. tournament, the Sinquefield Cup (September 9-15) just two months before his World Championship match against Vishy Anand. Levon Aronian, Hikaru Nakamura and U.S. Champion Gata Kamsky combine for the strongest event ever held in the United States. CLO coverage will include an onsite report by GM Ian Rogers & links to all the news and live commentary.

U.S. CHESS LEAGUE BEGINS: 16 teams vie for dominance in the ninth season of the U.S. Chess League. CLO coverage will include dispatches from Kostya Kavutskiy, who won “Best of CLO” this year.

LABOR DAY MADNESS: The first week of the month will feature a series of pieces on state championships and Labor Day Grand Prix events. Add your own by e-mailing jshahade@uschess.org and also gear up for more round-the-country coverage of National Chess Day, on October 12, 2013.

BACK TO THE U.S. CHESS SCHOOL: As fall approaches, kids go back to school and chess clubs. Even adults tap into the increased motivation of the season. U.S. Chess School founder and popular CLO contributor Greg Shahade gives his top five chess study tips with full explanations, including “don’t switch your openings too often” and “Play up a section about 75% of the time.”

CONTRIBUTORS

AL LAWRENCE
Our National Open coverage comes from the former executive director of both the 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 Training Pocket Book II.

FRANK CAMARATTA
The Carrara Chess Pieces article author is a director for Chess Collectors International and a retired aerospace engineer. He has served in the past as a USCF vice president, treasurer, and VP of finance. In 1976, he was the absolute correspondence chess champion and represented the U.S. on board one of the Correspondence Chess Olympiad.

IM JACK PETERS
The Southern California State Championship coverage is provided by an 18-time southern California champion. He is a chess teacher and writer living in Los Angeles and is the former chess columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

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.
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ON THE COVER. Jonathan Crumiller pictured with part of his collection at the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis.
PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

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2013 Membership Options
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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) $5 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).
BILL CHESNEY, CALIFORNIA

It is with great sadness that I inform the chess world of the passing of Bill Chesney at the age of 60 after a prolonged illness. Bill was a major force in California chess for over 40 years, and was respected by everyone in the chess world. Never a negative word for any chess player, Bill was uncompromising in his pursuit of truth over the board and was feared as a deadly practitioner of main line theoretical variations involving 1. e4. Bill was a strong master who reached the senior master level at one point in his career and had numerous grandmaster scalps.

Most of all, Bill was always a good friend and never hesitated to lend a helping hand. His great integrity and uncompromising attitude extended also to his personal life. Once, having received a jaywalking ticket after returning to San Jose from the U.S. Army, Bill felt that he was wronged and began a long multi-year battle to fight the ticket. This celebrated battle was documented in the San Jose Mercury-News, and Bill eventually triumphed. He then filed a lawsuit against the San Jose police and won that battle as well.

Bill’s death comes as a great shock and he will be greatly missed! He is survived by his sister, Liz, also from San Jose. Following is one of his many victories over grandmaster-level opposition.

Sicilian Defense (B33)
Bill Chesney
Larry Kaufman
U.S. Open, 1987


Dave Abramsoni
via e-mail

REMEMBERING BYRNE

Frank Niro’s article (July Chess Life 2013) gave several examples of Robert Byrne as a chessplayer but left out something that defined him as a man. Byrne was an excellent writer and a man of integrity, and I can’t think of a better epitaph than his own analysis of his loss to Bobby Fischer in the 1963/1964 U.S. Championship.

The game, a Neo Grunfeld, appeared in Chess Life, June, 1964 and was reprinted in The Best of Chess Life and Review Volume 2 under the title “The Brilliance Prize Game.” I would like to see it re-published with the original annotations. It rounds out Niro’s tribute and reminds the rest of us of how things should be done.  

Ed Kotski
Endicott, NY

Space prohibits us from reprinting this game. ~Ed.
End Game
by Zena Fairweather

18”x12” Graphite Portrait of Liam Fairweather.

Zena Fairweather is a renowned southern California portrait artist and in between commissions devotes her talents to personal projects such as this portrait of her son Liam. She captures the concentration, tension, drama, and, in some way, the loneliness of the chess player in the final moves of a game.

Contact: www.zenafairweather.com
GM Timur Gareev Astounds in Blindfold Exhibition

By MIKE WILMERING

ST. LOUIS (May 1, 2013)—It took 10 hours and 39 minutes for Grandmaster Timur Gareev to topple the final king and leave the chess community in St. Louis dazed and amazed.

On April 30, 2013, GM Gareev put on a 33-board blindfolded simultaneous exhibition (“simul”) at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL), scoring 29 wins, four draws and zero losses. The field, composed entirely of Saint Louis Chess Club members, had an average USCF rating of 1363, and featured two experts, three class A players (1800-1999) and five class B players (1600-1799). CCSCSL Executive Director Tony Rich (USCF 2020) was the highest-rated player in the field and one of only four players to draw the blindfolded virtuoso.

“It was a truly an amazing experience to witness this remarkable display of concentration and memory,” Rich said.

Gareev provided Chess Life with the following insights from his blindfold play:

Anchoring

To anchor a set of games I used no system in particular. I figured it would be more entertaining for me and the audience to play a variety of openings. The blindfold in St. Louis was particularly challenging since I varied white & black pieces. The system I used mainly consisted of playing Nf3, e4, d4, c4, b4 (on the “white” boards and then coming back to Nf3). Color rotation was done for the sake of challenge and entertainment (formation alike chess board, black & white). I do think the system is required and will experiment with the ones of the previous contenders in my future challenges.

Visualization

Visualization intensity & experience depend on a number of factors. My priority at blindfold events has been to learn and master the skill. I want to see each one of the positions as clearly and defined as I can. As the event goes on, I’ll spend the optimal amount of energy making sure I see where each one of the pieces is placed. Ideally, if I am not 100 percent sure where the piece is at (especially in the case of h3- or a6-pawns), I’ll deduce through logic or backtrack the moves. I can certainly relate to the “line of force” motion. Experientially it is fascinating to tap in the harmonious creative force. As I reach the “state of flow,” visualization becomes effortless and turns into awareness. I agree with the fact that it becomes easier to see and execute as the game goes on. The positions become more distinct.

With or without blindfold

I have enjoyed the clarity of visualization process with blindfold. Dark cover makes it easier to focus and recreate the position in my mind. I play seeing the board and arrows on the screen in my biweekly timed blindfold challenges on chess.com. I will experiment playing with no blindfold facing the opposite direction in my live events. Certain aspects make the organization challenging, but do seem to add to aesthetics.

Overcoming Reluctance—and Katrina

The Louisiana Scholastic Chess League turns 30

By JEAN TROENDLE

PIctured from left to right are Jean Troendle, owner of Cajun Chess and current co-owner of the Louisiana Scholastic Chess League (LSC); David Pierson, original organizer of the LSC; Sherry Frohlich, assistant to Mr. Pierson during his league years; Louis Dudoussat, current co-owner of the LSC.

When David Pierson first started the Louisiana Scholastic Chess League (LSC), he telephoned every elementary school in the greater New Orleans area.

“As I remember,” said Pierson, “there were about 380 public, private and parochial schools at the time. I made a call list...
of every single school and persisted with each one until I had talked to its principal.” His conversations, he said, averaged between 10 to 15 minutes with each of the school principals. “The first response from nearly every principal was that no one at their school knew how to play chess.”

Instead of accepting that response, Pierson followed up by asking for the enrollment at the school; then he guessed the number of students at the school who knew how to play the game.

Said Pierson: “I worked on the very conservative ratio that one student out of every 50 in elementary school knew how to play. Then I would call back a week later to find out how close my guess came to the actual number.”

When he called back, he said, most principals told him they were surprised to find out they had 10 or more children who actually played chess. According to Pierson, that was more than enough for the school to field a six-player team.

Many principals, however, were reluctant to enter a team that first year. “I think they were afraid their team would be embarrassed. So we had only eight teams in 1984, but a lot of school principals stopped by to see how the chess league operated.”

The league must have made a good impression because the number of schools and the number of teams rose quickly each year after that. For the first three years the league had but one division, kindergarten through eighth grade.

“That was tough for a couple of schools whose players were all first- and second-graders. So, to even out the competition, I pitched in by coaching some of the younger teams so they could be competitive in those first years.”

In 1988 the LSCL had grown to the point where Pierson added a K-4 division. Two years later the LSCL expanded with a K-6 division and, two years after that, a K-2 division.

The teams would compete on three non-consecutive weekends from January through February with the playoffs extending another two weekends into March. The K-2 and K-6 divisions usually competed on Saturdays, and the K-4 and K-8 divisions on Sundays.

“That way,” said Pierson, “kids can play on both days. A second-grader, for instance, can play on his K-2 team on Saturday and ‘play up’ on his school’s K-4 team on Sunday.” Schools could enter as many as two teams in each division.

There is even a pre-season event in early December when the league hosts individual K-2, K-4, K-6 and K-8 open tournaments. “This serves as a wake-up call for the schools that the chess league is about to start.”

The secret to the success of the league, said Pierson, is the requirement that all teams consist of six players. “In nearly all scholastic tournaments, a team score consists of the scores of the top three or four players. There is no incentive there to grow the number of players.”

“With the LSCL six-player team requirement, however, the stronger players at each school will recruit and help weaker players on their team. After all, what’s the point of having two very strong players and four weak players? You’ll just lose a string of matches by the score of 4-2.”

This formula has proved successful for increasing the number of scholastic chess players. Since the inception of the LSCL, numerous schools in the greater New Orleans area have won national team championships, and two players (John Bick and Trevor Jackson) have gone on to win the Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School Champions.

“Not a bad accomplishment for a state with the population of Louisiana,” said Pierson.

Hurricane Katrina, of course, took its toll on the league. “Before Katrina, with about one hundred teams from about 30 schools,” said Pierson, “we hosted tournaments with about 350-400 players each day of league competition.”

But the hurricane had the effect of reducing the size of the footprint of New Orleans.

With a much smaller population, fewer schools, and the loss of several chess coaches who relocated to other cities, Pierson, who was trying to move away from the annual operation of the league, remained on for a few more years to insure the league would survive.

Five years ago he turned the league over to the safe hands of Louis Dudoussat, an avid chess parent and local coach, and Jean Troendle, owner/operator of Cajun Chess. Jean and Louis have honored the original owner every year since with the “David Pierson Citywide Scholastic Chess Tournament” which takes place each spring.

“The important thing,” said Pierson, “is the league has not missed a beat, even during the year of chaos, Katrina. After 30 years of continuous operation, we think it may be the longest-running scholastic chess league in the country. One thing is sure … it’s got to be just about the best.”

For more information on the Louisiana Scholastic Chess League, please call 504-208-9596, or e-mail cajunchess@yahoo.com.

www.uschess.org 9
2013 USCF Executive Board Election

A total of 2,049 ballots were received for the USCF executive board election, of which 2,046 were qualified.

The vote counts for each candidate are:

- **RUTH HARING**: 1,722
- **MIKE ATKINS**: 1,667
- **RANDY BAUER**: 1,646
- **CHARLES D. UNRUH**: 1,556
- **BEATRIZ MARINELLO**: 478
- **TIM REDMAN**: 450

Additionally, a total of 107 votes were cast for write-in candidates, with no write-in candidate receiving more than five votes.

The election results were certified by the delegates at the annual meeting on August 3, Ruth Haring and Mike Atkins have been elected to three-year terms, and Randy Bauer and Charles D. Unruh have been elected to two-year terms.

Bill Goichberg and Jim Berry have completed their terms. Ruth Haring remains as USCF president; the full listing of board positions can be seen on page two of this issue.

USCF Sales: Helping the USCF Grow

In celebration of the USCF Sales’ Back to School Buying Guide 2013, the USCF wants to take a moment to thank all of our members for their support of our official chess shop. Through their generous patronage, USCF Sales has contributed more than $665,000 to the operating budget of the U.S. Chess Federation over the past three years. From staffing to publications, from Olympiad support to tournament organization and ratings, there’s not a single aspect of the USCF that hasn’t directly (and significantly) benefited from the proceeds of USCF Sales. And all of that was made possible by purchases made at USCF Sales.

For those USCF members that haven’t shopped USCFSales.com lately, we invite you to enjoy the Back to School Buying Guide 2013 that is included in this issue. You’ll find that USCF Sales offers the widest variety of chess equipment at some of the lowest prices on the Internet—often cheaper than those so-called discounters and wholesalers. And with thousands of different products in stock and ready to ship, USCF Sales is truly your one-stop chess shop!
Teaching Chess Like a Tortoise

As the kids head back to school, a book advising parents and educators on the best ways to teach chess to children

By DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM

The Right Way to Teach Chess to Kids

James writes, “Tournament chess at an adult level is a formal operational activity, suitable for children from age 11 upwards.”

James’ second thesis is that chess should be taught to young children “step-by-step, introducing each piece in turn and giving children the chance to play mini-games which will both familiarize learners with the pieces and teach them thinking skills which can be applied both to chess and to other aspects of their lives.” A “step-by-step” approach is not unique to James. His resources chapter describes other authors’ books and software that also follow this approach.

Regarding teaching children with a step-by-step approach, James argues by analogy. James writes, “After all, children learn other subjects step-by-step. In math, they learn addition before subtraction, multiplication before division. They learn to work with small numbers before moving on to larger numbers. They learn to read one letter or sound at a time. Trying to teach all the rules of chess in one session will leave many children confused just as trying to teach them addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in one session will.”

Within James’ chapter on the rules of chess, I particularly liked his knight section. Most chess teachers state that a knight moves like a capital letter “L.” James does too, but he also offers two math-based explanations. First, “its move can be considered a jump from one corner to the opposite corner of a 3x2 rectangle.” Second, “you can also define a knight as moving to the nearest non-adjacent square of the opposite color.”

James acknowledges that step-by-step is not desired by all parents and teachers. He writes, “There are many well-produced books for young children which take a faster route.” Nevertheless, the fable of the tortoise and the hare teaches that the faster racer does not always win. The Right Way to Teach Chess to Kids bets on the tortoise, starting late and incrementally progressing.
Forget Me Not


By GM ANDY SOLTIS

FOR A BEGINNER, A CHESS GAME starts with the first move. For a tournament player, a game starts with the first new move.

Or, to be exact, the first move that looks new to you.

It could look new because your opponent has actually come up with something original, an innovation. But more likely, it looks new because your memory has failed, once again. This happens to everyone, even folks who spend weeks on opening preparation.

“I know I had seen this position before,” Ray Robson said after Hikaru Nakamura’s 16th move in last year’s U.S. Championship “But unfortunately I didn’t remember the right way.” Robson fell into a passive position and Nakamura won a great game.

When the position suddenly looks new to you, you’re in bigger trouble than you realize. That point—let’s call it the out-of-book moment—is physically stressful. You could always tell when Garry Kasparov’s opponent made the first new move of a game: Kasparov would nervously adjust his necktie.

Postal players know from experience how vulnerable you can be at that point. “Either you or your opponent will blunder the first move out of book,” is the way correspondence master Alan Burkett put it.

Grandmaster (and psychologist) Nikolai Krogius said players are naturally afflicted by a lack of focus and attention at the out-of-book moment. That seems to be the case in games like this:

![Diagram of Petroff Defense (C42)]

Believe it or not, this was virtually all book. Only White’s last move, in place of 22. b4 or 22. cxd5, was new. The situation has two ingredients for a disaster: The position is highly double-edged and yet the players haven’t really started to think.

“As long as you are relying on your preparation, your brain is not yet sharp!” as GM Peter Leko of Hungary said. “When you suddenly face a problem, it is very hard to get your brain to work properly without a warm-up.”

Here Black should avoid 22. ... dxc4 because it allows 23. Ne4 and Nf6+. So 22. ... Rd8 makes sense. But ...

22. ... f6?? 23. cxd5 Rxe5 24. Ne4!, Black resigned.

OK, so maybe you’re not going to blitz off 22 book moves in your next game and be faced with a situation like that. But at some point you’ll reach the out-of-book moment and be in danger of blundering.

Leko said this kind of blunder is happening more often today because of computers. Instead of preparing their openings the old way—working out variations “by hand” and imbedding the key moves in long-term memory—players are clicking away to cram for the next theoretical exam.

Veteran GM Vladimir Tukmakov said that for the pros, chess has become a mind-numbing game of rote memorization of computer moves. “A professional often sits down at the board tired and over-wrought, with energy levels that barely suffice to remember and reproduce the complex computer analysis,” he said in his book Modern Chess Preparation.

Tukmakov said amateurs shouldn’t even try to prepare their openings with a computer. But what can they do to retain opening knowledge?

After all, we don’t keep our memories in shape the way people used to, through everyday practice such as memorizing phone numbers.

A common sense approach stars with recognizing your limits: Don’t try to remember too much.

Vladimir Kramnik had analyzed this position, from a Four Knights Game, in detail well before this game. His computer told him that White is better in all lines after 11. Bg5.

But the lines were so convoluted that Kramnik realized he’d never be able to remember them all. So he just made sure that he would recall the first move. If and when that diagrammed position occurred in one of his games, he figured he would play 11. Bg5! and just think out the rest at the board.

That’s a remarkable attitude considering that Black can—and did—go in for a dangerous-looking queen sacrifice, 11. ... Nxc3?? 12. Bxd8 Nxd1 and then 13. Bxc7 Bxc7 14. Nxc6 Ne3. White eventually won, after 15. Bb5, but not until after more head-spinning complications.

There’s been some science done on the limits of recall. The amount and pace of
Gibraltar

Seven Americans were among more than 300 other players who began the year competing in several sections of the annual Gibraltar international. The top sections featured several grandmasters, including Gata Kamsky, Jaan Ehlvest and IM Anna Zatonskih of the U.S., and was won in a speed playoff by Nikita Vitugov of Russia. In each of the following six positions from Gibraltar 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. (But there’s also at least one mate to find.) For solutions, see page 71.

Problem I
GM Alexei Shirov
GM Mohamed Naser Al Sayed

Problem II
IM Husein Aziz Nezad
GM Nana Dzagnidze

Problem III
Heinz Boesch
FM Michael Stockman

Problem IV
GM Kiril Georgiev
GM Yangyi Yu

Problem V
IM Husein Aziz Nezad
GM Nana Dzagnidze

Problem VI
IM Anna Zatonskih
IM Piotr Dukaczewski

Gibraltar

memory loss seems to follow something called the Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve. For example, when you study a new variation, you might forget about 40 percent of the fresh material within 20 minutes. A month later, nearly 80 percent will be forgotten. But the remaining 20 percent might stay with you because it’s become part of your long-term memory. Hermann Ebbinghaus, author of the curve, concluded that there are many variables to this. For example, the more important the information is to you, the less likely that it will be eroded by time. Your girlfriend’s birthday, for example, may be more memorable than, say, what to do after 14. ... b4 in the Najdorf Sicilian.

Or about the Najdorf. One way to try to beat the Ebbinghaus curve is to review what you just learned soon after you studied it: When trying to memorize new moves in a Ruy Lopez, review them half an hour later. Then do it again two hours later. Then a day after that. Then three days later. And so on. This is called spaced repetition and gets high marks from foreign language instructors. Verstehen? Entiendes?

And all players, regardless of playing strength and memory skills, have to deal with a phenomenon called Jamais vu. This is sort of the flip side of Deja vu. Jamais vu is what happens when you reach a position and have an eerie feeling that you must have seen it before. You may even vaguely remember how many hours you spent studying it. But when you try to remember what to play, it looks like something from a different planet. Jamais vu is frustrating for the tournament player. It’s much better, psychologically, if you have dim memories of what you’ve studied. That was a factor in perhaps the best-game played this year.

Semi-Slav Defense (D46)
GM Levon Aronian
GM Viswanathan Anand
Wijk aan Zee, 2013

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3

So far, this is the Meran Variation that virtually won the 2008 World Championship for Vishy Anand against Kramnik. 8. ... Bd6!? 9. 0-0 0-0 10. Qc2 Bb7 11. a3 Rc8
12. Ng5 c5!

And this last move is what Anand had prepared to play in last year’s world championship match against Boris Gelfand but didn’t get a chance. Black avoids the defensive 12. ... h6 13. Nge4 in order to prepare his own attack with both of his bishops trained on the kingside.

13. Nhx7 Ng4! 14. f4


14. ... cxd4 15. exd4 Bc5 16. Be2

Black has been able to rely on his year-old analysis—until now. Here his memory halted. It was an out-of-book moment.

Was he supposed to play 16. ... Bxd4+ 17. Kh1 Nf2+ and then 18. Rxf2 Bxf2 19. Nxf8 Nxf8?

What he remembered is that Black comes out ahead in all lines. “It’s a big help knowing that it’s good,” Anand said after the game. “I was playing on that confidence.” And with that he found the stunning 16. ... Nde5! and 17. Bxe4 Bxd4+ 18. Kh1 Nxe4, which led to a winning position after 19. Nxf8 f5! and the invasion of the black queen.

Black went on to win (20. Ng6 Qf6! 21. h3 Qxg6 22. Qe2 Qh5 23. Qd3 Be3, White resigned). It’s bound to be recalled as a modern immortal game—if we remember it. ♚
It wasn’t until after the first official world chess champion Wilhelm Steinitz had left us (1836-1900) that American great Frank Marshall (1877-1944) became one of the chess world’s leading lights. But in 1893, the Canadian born Marshall had the opportunity to face Steinitz across the board in a simultaneous exhibition in Montreal. Unfortunately for the youngster, Marshall had black. Moreover, Marshall was still only 16-years-old. The historic encounter began as a French Defense (C03). The opening moves were:

French Defense, Tarrasch Variation (C03)
Wilhelm Steinitz
Frank Marshall
Montreal, 1893
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Ne7 4. Bd3 Nbc6 5. c3 Ng6 6. Nb3 e5

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.**

7. Qe2 Par Score 6
   White maintains the tension in the center. Accept only 3 points part credit for either 7. exd5 or 7. dxe5.
7. ... Be6
   Black develops a new piece while blocking the king-file. Add 1 bonus point if you saw that 7. ... dxe4 8. Bxe4 exd4? drops a king to 9. Bxc6 mate.**
8. Nf3 Par Score 5
8. ... Bd6
   Marshall played this move with the idea of setting a trap for Steinitz. Otherwise, the bishop would have gone to e7.**
9. exd5 Par Score 5
   Steinitz opens the e-file to get at the king-pawn.
9. ... Bxd5
10. dxe5 Par Score 5
   This gains a pawn, since 10. ... Bxf3 11. gxf3 any piece xe5 loses a piece to 12. f4. Add 1 bonus point for seeing it.
10. ... 0-0
   All part of Marshall’s plan. Had he realized it’s unsound nature, he might have dropped the bishop back to e7. But then he wouldn’t have brought it out to d6 in the first place. And then he wouldn’t have been Frank Marshall.**
11. Bxg6 Par Score 6
   Oops! Marshall was figuring on 11. exd6 (3 points part credit) 11. ... Re8 12. Be3 Nf4, which has some bite to it.
11. ... Re8
   After 11. ... hxg6 12. exd6 Re8 13. Be3, there’s no more knight to plop on f4.**
12. Bc2 Par Score 5
   Steinitz preserves the bishop and keeps things simple. Accept full credit for 12. Bxh7+ Kxh7 13. Qd3+ Kg8 14. Qxd5 Nxe5 15. Be3. Conducting a simultaneous, Steinitz was content to withdraw his bishop, seeing no reason to complicate.
12. ... Nxe5
   Black threatens 13. ... Nxf3+.**
13. Nxe5 Par Score 5
   White removes the centralized knight before it can do any harm.
13. ... Rxe5
14. Be3 Par Score 4
   This parries the threat along the king-file and prepares castling.
14. ... Qh4
   Both here and later Marshall has no interest in capturing the g2-pawn, since afterward White is able to use the g-file for attack.**
15. 0-0-0 Par Score 5
   Deduct 4 points for the erroneous idea of kingside castling. It would fall into Marshall’s trap: 15. 0-0? Rxe3 16. fxe3 Qxh2+ 17. Kf2 Bg3 mate (1 bonus point).
15. ... Qa4
   Suddenly, Black pursues Steinitz’s king on the opposite side of the board. Add 1 bonus point for spotting 15. ... Bxg2 16. Rhl Qxh2 17. Qg4, winning the bishop or mating at g7.**
16. Kb1 Par Score 5
   Deduct 2 points for 16. a3?, which returns the extra piece to 16. ... Bxb3.
16. ... Rd8
   Instead of the text, the try 16. ... Rae8 would have prevented White’s next move.**
17. f4 Par Score 5
   White asks the rook to declare its intentions. If the rook moves along the rank, White takes the rook; if along the file, White takes the bishop (1 bonus point).
**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.

**September Exercise:** This exercise should be done with a partner or any software tool that allows you to do it. From the starting position, practice playing without specific minor pieces, making sure to keep the material balance. 16 different starting arrangements are possible, and all 16 permutations should be explored before encountering the same initial setup again. This is an excellent approach to learning more about strengths and weaknesses of minor pieces, what they can and can’t do. It also brings out an odd truth. That is, often a great way to see the value of something is when it’s not there.

17. ... **Bc4**

Black’s move is essentially forced.**

18. **Qf3**  

Par Score 4

18. ...

Marshall piles it on against White’s castled king.**

19. **Nxa4**  

Par Score 6

Marshall tells us he didn’t really expect White to accept the Exchange sacrifice. But Steinitz has gauged things accurately. Black gets a pawn and a couple of checks, and that’s it. Accept only 2 points part credit if you got bluffed and went for 19. Nc1 Bxa2+ 20. Nxa2 (20. Ka1?? Bb3+, and mate coming up) 20. ... Qxa2+ 21. Kc1. White is okay here, but his material advantage is less than it should be.

19. ...

Qxa2+

20. **Kc1**  

Par Score 6

20. ...

Qa1+

Or 20. ... Qxa5, right away. The check is to see if the white king moves.**

21. **Bb1**  

Par Score 4

No credit for 21. Kd2. Even if it works, rational chess players don’t walk into discovered check. A rook ahead, Steinitz has no need to invite accidents.

21. ...

Qxa5

Black grabs the knight while he can.**

22. **Qe4**  

Par Score 6

Double attack: the bishop and the h7-pawn.

22. ...

Ba2

Black saves his bishop, allowing White to break in at h7.**

23. **Qxh7+**  

Par Score 5

23. ...

Kf8

24. **Rd4**  

Par Score 5

White has any number of good moves to preserve the win. But Marshall still has his tricks. For example, if 24. Bc2 Qxc3 25. bxc3??, then 25. ... Ba3 mate. Unfortunately, none of his traps work in this game: 25. Qh8+ Ke7 26. Qxd8+ Kxd8 27. bxc3 and here 27. ... Ba3 would be just check that is if the bishop was not pinned to d8.

24. ...

C6

25. **Rhd1**  

Par Score 5

25. ...

Qc7

Steinitz doubles his rooks, while Marshall marks time.**

26. **Qh8+**  

Par Score 5


26. ...

Black resigned ♪
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**Chess Masterworks—the DVD**

Exquisite and rare sets from the Dean Collection

By PETE TAMBURRO

You will invariably see passers-by stop at the windows. They are looking in fascination at the one part of chess that attracts non-chess players and chess players alike—beautiful chess sets.

They can be ornamental, historical (Civil War set), pop cultural (the Simpsons, the Mets) or they can be a finely crafted Staunton design set. They may even buy one for their nephew in kindergarten who already plays and must thus be a prodigy.

They, however, will not see any of the sets in the DVD titled Chess Masterworks. This is another realm of beauty—exquisite and rare sets from the private collection of George Dean, M.D.

He, along with Maxine Brady, put out a beautiful hardcover book (Chess Masterpieces: One Thousand Years of Extraordinary Chess Sets) weighing four pounds and containing 272 pages of text and pictures. So, the immediate question is why would you want a DVD? Yes, it weighs a lot less! Yes, it’s cheaper. The big winning point is that the camera moves around, zooms in, zooms out and captures the pieces in ways a book cannot. Being a book collector, my personal preference leans towards a book. Either way what’s best for you is fine.

Who exactly is George Dean other than a successful doctor? Some chess aficionados may know him as one of the founders of Chess Collectors International (see Chess Life, August 1986), started in 1984 by Dean, Ernst Boehlen of Zurich, Switzerland and David Hafler of Merion, Pennsylvania. Mr. Hafler, who had a stunning collection, has since passed on.

Being a collector myself, I can infer or speculate that Dr. Dean probably picked up Hafler’s collection, since that’s what often happens whether it’s books or sets. One can only imagine what that cost! Dr. Dean, though, does make a point of relating that he and his wife made an expensive hobby out of travelling the world to pick up rare sets.

We need to get something clear about the sets before we talk about them. They are works of art. You don’t play with them. Each piece, and, often, each pawn, is different from every other piece or pawn. That is not to say that your Staunton design set cannot be beautiful. A 19th century hand-tooled ivory set by Whitty is a thing of beauty. However, much of this effort is craftsmanship within a standard design frame.

The Dean collection is on another level. Its purpose is purely beauty. It does have another frame of reference, though. These sets have history behind them.

The most obvious choice is the 1905 Fabergé set which was a presentation set coming out of the Russo-Japanese War. Dean gives the people involved a brief interesting history. One question that came up in this reviewer’s mind on all the stories in the DVD was, “Do we have a provenance for all these stories?” There are references given, but, if I’ve learned anything in chess collecting, having owned Spielmann’s notebook, Lowenthal’s copy of the Labourdonnais-McDonnell match, and St. Amant’s presentation copy to Louis Phillipe of the Palamede, it’s that even “reliable” sources need to be checked and double-checked. It’s beyond the scope of this review to get into that.

Frankly, words fail this reviewer for any attempt to describe these sets. However, I will give some brief personal reactions in a stream of consciousness format ... Dalí’s set dedicated to Duchamp, using fingers (his own!) ... the Pope versus the Holy Roman Empire set complete with the warring Guelfs and Ghibelines (a personal reminder for me of Dante’s difficulties as a Guelf) ... the Sèvres Art Deco porcelain set ... the Man Ray set with the poem along the edge of the board ... the 16th century mock crystal and smoky topaz set ... the Communist propaganda set (workers versus evil capitalists) ... the Mussolini versus Haile Selassie set (pawns with rifles versus pawns with spears!) ... see—I just have to keep naming each set!

It’s a delightful collection aided by personal commentary from Mrs. and Dr. Dean, Susan Polgar (Kasparov was in the book), and some museum personnel who are also quite taken with these sets.

If you have never window gazed in the Village chess shops, or if you have, this is a marvelous opportunity to take time out from playing chess to savoring its rich history and art.
ON CRUMILLER’S background as a tournament chess player and avid follower of the game inspired his passion for collecting antique playing sets. Over time, he has increased the scope of his chess collection, which now includes over 600 ornamental and playing sets, as well as chessboards, timers, books, and chess miscellanea, mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries. Ever inquisitive about the origins of these antique sets, Jon often conducts research projects about the evolution of chess set styles, usage, and manufacturing. He enthusiastically shares the results of this research with the wide community of collectors. Jon also maintains a website with photos of his exquisite collection at www.chessantique.com.

Jon’s tournament experience stretches back to Fischer-boom years in the early 1970s, and includes a state championship title (Delaware) and numerous other tournament victories. Along the way, he has earned the USCF national master title in both over-the-board and correspondence chess. Still active via online chess, Jon credits much of his middle-age chess improvement to the outstanding teaching skills of his friend and chess teacher, Grandmaster Lev Alburt.

Jon and his wife Jenny live in Princeton, New Jersey, and have three adult children and one grandchild. Jon is co-founder and chief operating officer of Princeton Consultants Inc., a mid-size consulting firm that specializes in business optimization and operational efficiency. Jenny is an elected official on the Princeton Council, the governing body of Princeton, New Jersey.

Philosophy of Collecting

The guiding principles of a chess collector can evolve over time as the collection grows and takes shape. My initial acquisitions were driven by a lifelong love of the game itself. It was a thrill to purchase an antique playing set and touch the well-worn pieces from chess games of the distant past. One acquisition led to another, and eventually I had to admit—to myself and others—that these chess sets, which were now overflowing from one room to the next, formed a collection, which also meant that I had somehow become a collector.

Nowadays things are different. My collection has expanded to include ornamental sets, which were created as objects of beauty rather than intended for use in actual play. I also collect antique chessboards, timers, publications, and chess miscellanea. Every collection must have boundaries, and mine is defined by two words: “chess” and “antique.” But even these concepts are not quite specific enough. Does “chess” include variants or similar games? For my collection, generally not, so I don’t collect Xiangqi (better known as Chinese chess). However, I do have several antique Thai/Cambodian Makruk sets. These sets and boards can be used for normal chess, even though the rules of Makruk are somewhat different.

“Antique” also has a boundary definition. Generally I collect items created prior to the 20th century. Victorian-era (roughly 19th century) sets have special importance to me, due to the extensive archival research...
miller Collection

World Chess Hall of Fame.
I’ve done on the manufacturers and retailers of those sets. Earlier chess sets can be even more desirable because of their age, rarity, and oftentimes superlative craftsmanship.

Two other guidelines I have set for my collecting are “quality over quantity” and “seek the unique.” I am constantly searching for high-quality sets with rare and beautiful features. This was not always the case; early on, my collection lacked some of the “must-have” types of antique sets: a Russian Kholmogory set, a Rajasthan canopy set, a pulpit set, and so on. But as my collection has gradually matured, those gaps have been filled. So now I focus on rare, or even one-of-a-kind, antique sets.

What about restoration for a damaged antique set? There are two schools of thought, equally valid, in my opinion. The first school says that damage is simply part of the history of a set, and should be left as-is. I have friends in the collecting world who follow that doctrine, and I respect them for it. But my own opinion is in line with the other viewpoint, that careful restoration can honor the intentions of the creators of the sets. One important corollary is that any restoration should be fully and accurately documented, so that the set’s historical provenance is complete.

This last point is very important, and is worth stating in an even larger context: collectors have a solemn responsibility to the collecting community—and even to history itself—to accurately represent all aspects of the artifacts of antiquity. There is no place in the arts, sciences, or any other human discipline for historical items that are not fully authentic, or even worse, misrepresented. It is a “higher calling” of the collector, as it would be for a historian or museum curator, to ensure that the relics of past eras are passed on to future generations with confidence and valid provenance.

With regards to the future, I don’t know where my collecting interests will take me next. Like the game of chess itself, my chess collecting experience has always been filled with new excitement and new discoveries. Wherever it chooses to take me, I’ll certainly go along for the ride.
Prized

Intended to be shown as objets d’art rather than used in play, ornamental chess sets are testaments to the artistic skill of their creators, as well as the refinement of the wealthy patrons who commissioned them. Freed from the confines of practicality, artists created chess sets of great beauty and originality. Master carvers flaunted their expertise in manipulating luxury materials such as ivory, gold, silver, pearls and precious stones in these ornamental chess sets. Many feature elaborate gilded decoration, delicate carving, and tall forms that made them less than ideal for playing, but perfect as demonstrations of wealth, or as a generous gift for a friend.

Ornamental sets were also symbols of the erudition and sophistication of their owners. Several of the ornamental sets in this show have themes drawn from history, mythology, or religion. The good versus evil set contains bishops holding copies of Dante Alighieri’s *The Inferno*, while another set pits Venus and Bacchus, two figures from Roman mythology, against each other. Other artists turned to contemporary military conflicts for inspiration. The army of the British East India Company combats Indian military forces in John Company sets, while other sets celebrated the exploits of Emperor Napoleon. Ornamental sets could also show that a person was well-traveled. A set from Dieppe, France, where master carvers produced lovely ivory products could indicate the owners had traveled to the popular resort town. Swiss Charlemagne sets, produced in Brienz, Switzerland, were also marketed to tourists in catalogues.

These sets were so prized by their owners that, despite their delicate nature and rich materials, they have survived centuries later as examples of the excellent craftsmanship of their makers. They continue to be valued, not only for their aesthetic qualities, but also for the fascinating stories they tell.

Played

In Prized and Played, superb examples of antique playing sets from across Europe and Asia illuminate the fascinating history of stylistic evolution of chess pieces. Though some of the sets in this half of the exhibition feature elaborate decoration, they were all intended for use in play. Their widely varied appearances testify to the imagination and stylistic preferences of the artisans who created them, as well as the artistic tastes of the players who used them over the centuries. They were made of durable materials like wood, ivory, bone, and metal so that players could regularly use them for play over many years. While the style of the simple, brightly colored, and dome-topped Islamic sets in the show stands in contrast to that of the European sets, diverse styles of playing sets were often manufactured within the same country. Some examples include the Directoire, Régence, and Lyon style sets produced in France, or the Barleycorn and Northern Upright style sets manufactured in England.

The 19th century brought the rise of modern organized chess tournaments and clubs, which highlighted the need for standardized chess pieces. The regional styles that had proliferated in previous centuries led to confusion and contention when the great players of numerous nations gathered to compete. Prominent chess manufacturers of the early-to-mid 19th century England began to stabilize the designs of playing sets into recognizable precursors of the sets we use today. John Calvert set up shop in 1791 at 189 Fleet Street, London, and mass-produced several designs that grew in popularity. These designs, as well as fancier playing sets imported and sold

by James Leuchars and other retailers in the initial years of the 19th century, influenced subsequent well-known London chess manufacturers such as George Merrifield, Thomas Lund and his son William, and Charles Hastilow.

Finally the iconic Staunton chess set, designed by architect Nathaniel Cooke and endorsed by the famous English player Howard Staunton, emerged during this period. The sets were first manufactured and sold in 1849 by John Jaques and Son, Ltd., of London, and later became the standard for tournament play.

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THE JAQUES CARRARA CHESSMEN

There is ample evidence that Jaques advertised the availability of the Staunton chessmen in a material, referred to as “Carrara Marble” and produced by the well known Wedgwood company. However, there seems to be some question as to whether the chessmen advertised as “Carrara Chessmen” were ever produced or, if they were, were they made by Wedgwood.

There is physical proof that these Carrara Marble chessmen were not only mentioned in numerous advertisements, they were actually produced (see photo, next page). Of the four pieces in existence, one knight and one rook bear the mark of a king’s crown on their summits. That mark is identical to those found on the early Jaques ivory chessmen shown.

What still remains to be determined is whether the Carrara chessmen were actually produced by the Wedgwood company, since they do not bear the Wedgwood mark (at least, the four existing pieces don’t). Perhaps only the king bore the Wedgwood mark, but since an example of the king has not yet been seen, that question can’t be answered with certainty at this writing. According to Robert J. Reichner, a Wedgwood dealer and a director of the Wedgwood Society of New York, there are no known records in the Wedgwood files on the Carrara chessmen or any Staunton pattern chessmen that might have been produced by them. However, in an article written by him in the 1990 annual issue of Art Ceramica (#7), there is an interesting paragraph on page 26.

“Flaxman-designed pieces were mostly produced in Jasperware. There is known to exist at least one set with Jasperware pieces for one side and Drabware pieces forming the opposition. Harry Buten reported that a few sets were produced in bone china in
1910 in white and pink with the other side in white with blue bases. In the August 1936 issue of *Old Wedgwood*, it is stated that sets in white, red or blue Carrara, which resembled Parain ware, were also sold in 1849. No red Wedgwood piece has been reported in any available literature, nor has any piece definitely been identified as Carrara.”

While not identifying the chessmen specifically as Staunton pattern, the 1849 dating of the chessmen would seem extremely coincidental. Since only four of the white chessmen have been discovered to date, the color or colors of the opposing army are not known, although it is believed that they were “Delft” blue.

Of particular interest is the registration stamp which has been fired into the base of each of the chessmen. One is shown in the headline of this article. Comparing this stamp with the lozenges found on the early Jaques chessmen, it will be noticed that the correct fields are present.

There were actually three versions of the green lozenges that were affixed to the base of the early Jaques chessmen. The earliest had the “S” field missing, but everything else was correct. The next version was correct, except for a backward “S”.

The Carrara “Marble” chessmen were not only mentioned in numerous advertisements, they were actually produced. The Office of the Registrar of Design prescribed the data to be shown in the registration mark. This was done in the “registration certificate” that the Registrar of Design signed and attached to the duplicate copy of the design drawing that was returned to the proprietor when his application was granted if the application complied with the terms of the Ornamental Designs Act 1842 Class II Act. Since it was the responsibility of the proprietor of the registered design to produce the lozenge design and affix them to the chessmen, the printed green discs bearing this registration mark would have been designed by Nathaniel Cooke, who was probably the culprit responsible for the errors in the first two printings of the registration stickers. The registration mark stamp for the Carrara chessmen would have been the responsibility of the producer, Wedgwood. They got it right the first time.

As an aside, the registration certificate that Nathaniel Cooke would have received for the Staunton Chessmen contained the registration number 58,607, and the following wording:

*I HEREBY CERTIFY that the DESIGN of which this is a copy was on behalf of Nathaniel Cook of 198 Strand London.*
REGISTERED this thirtieth day of March 1849 in pursuance of the Designs Copyright Act, 5 & 6 Vict. c.100, in respect of the application of such Design to ornamenting Articles comprised in WOOD Chessmen for which a COPYRIGHT is granted of thirty six MONTHS.

The registration mark was required to identify the goods as being duly registered and was limited to a three-year period of coverage. Interestingly, the registration mark on the Staunton Chessmen only covered articles in wood. Affixing the mark to ivory or Carrara Staunton Chessmen was probably done inadvertently and constituted an unlawful abuse of the Act.

The only known box which housed the Carrara chessmen is the Carton Pierre casket with the Staunton hand-signed label pictured above with the hand-entered number “24.”

“revolutionary” new chessmen were first formally advertised in the September 29, 1849 issue of the ILN on page 223.

“THE STAUNTON CHESSMEN Registered No. 58,607, 5th and 6th of Victoria, cap. 100. The nobility and Gentry are respectfully informed that these new and elegant CHESSMEN are now obtainable of W. Leuchars, 38, PICCADILLY, at the following prices, viz: ... In Wedgwood’s Carrara, with the Carton Pierre Box and new Treatise ... £2; 12s, 6d.”

Note the use of the reference to Wedgwood’s Carrara. Then there is the following advertisement for the Staunton Chessmen that appeared in the December 29, 1849 issue of the ILN, page 447.

“The most Elegant Christmas Present for New Year’s Gift is a set of THE STAUNTON CHESSMEN, in the unique box of Carton Pierre, resembling Richly Carved Ebony. In the finest African Ivory, 5 guineas; Wedgwood’s Carrara, £3; Ebony, etc., £1 15s; Club size, loaded, £2 5s, in mahogany box. Each box containing an admirable Treatise on chess by Mr. Staunton, May be obtained of all dealers of Chessmen. Wholesale, Jaques, Hatton-Garden. Any bookseller can procure them.”

Here are some interesting snippets from Howard Staunton’s weekly column in the ILN from 1849 and 1850. Note Staunton’s April 27, 1850, reply to Belgravia in the ILN. Here, he clearly links the production of the Carrara chessmen with the Wedgwood factory. That location is also referenced in Reichner’s Art Ceramica article and is amply supported in the literature. Retail outlets where the Carrara chessmen might be purchased are also clearly identified in various ads between 1849 and 1850.
Since the ads for the Carrara chessmen only appear for six months or so, it can be concluded that these sets were not manufactured in large quantities and that they were only produced during the first year of the production of the Staunton chessmen. It is not known why production was discontinued. However, several scenarios can be postulated. First and most obvious is that the brittle nature of this material precluded their being used for serious chess play, no doubt occasioned by numerous pieces being returned for repair or replacement. The material would have been expensive to fabricate, fragile and easily soiled—not an ideal endorsement for a serious playing set. It is hard to imagine that there was much demand for playing chessmen in such a material. A second possibility is that both Jaques and Wedgwood wanted their mark on the chessmen and couldn’t find an acceptable compromise, so their production was discontinued. The former would seem to be the most compelling explanation.

Given the existence of the chessmen, the Carton Pierre casket, the numbered manufacturer’s label, along with identified retailers and the numerous ads and the references to Etruria, the Wedgwood factory in Staffordshire, there is ample evidence to support the thesis that not only were the Carrara chessmen advertised, they were produced and sold, albeit in small numbers, and they were produced by Wedgwood in their Staffordshire facilities.

Ample evidence has been presented to support the existence of the Carrara chessmen and the assertion that they were produced by Wedgwood at their Etruria facility in Staffordshire in 1849.

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Andranik Matikozyan, an IM, won the 25th Southern California Championship with an undefeated score of 5-2. Andranik had won three earlier state championships, but this one stands out. The tournament was quite possibly the strongest state championship ever held in the United States.

Matikozyan keeps a low profile, but he has been consistently successful in California since he arrived in 2000 as a young international master from Armenia. With two grandmaster norms, he’s very close to upgrading his title. He works as a teacher for American Chess Academy and serves as trainer to prodigy FM Samuel Sevian.

At his best, Matikozyan wins with sparkling attacks. This time, he succeeded mostly because of his good nerves in critical moments. Witness his fascinating marathon with IM Dionisio Aldama.
**Sicilian Defense, Kan Variation (B43)**

**IM Andranik Matikozyan (2553)**

**IM Dionisio Aldama (2565)**

25th Southern California Championship (3), 06.21.2013

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 a6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Qc7 6. g3 Nf6 7. Bg2 Bb4 8. 0-0?


8. ... Bxc3 9. bxc3 0-0

In the last round of the 2nd Metropolitan International in 2012, Aldama defeated Enrico Sevillano and took first prize by sacrificing the Exchange with 9. ... d6 10. Bg5! from lagging development and vulnerable dark squares.


Clearing e4 for the bishop. For example, 14. ... fxe5?? loses to 15. Be4 f6 16. Bxf6 gxf6.

14. ... fxe5!

Black had two better alternatives. First, 14. ... Nxe5 15. Qxf6+ Kg8 keeps control of the central squares without too much risk to Black's king. Second, Black can guard his king by 14. ... d5 15. exf6 Qd8 16. c4! Qxf6 (leaving the queens on the board by 16. ... dxc4 17. Nf3 Qxf6 18. Qxe4 suits White) 17. Qxf6+ Nxf6, although 18. cxd5 must favor White slightly.

15. exd6 Qxd6 16. Rfe1 Rg8 17. Nf3

Black can handle White's ideas of 18. Ng5 and 18. Qd4+, but he must postpone developing his queenside.

17. ... Qf8 18. Qd4+ Qg7 19. Rad1 Nf8

Understandably, Black doesn't want to throw away his sole positional plus by improving White's pawn structure with 19. ... Qxd4 20. cxd4. But alternatives let White's pieces run wild.


Turning the "weak" c-pawns into valuable passers. Also very strong are 24. Bd5 and 24. Bh3.

24. ... f4 25. Qxa6

Objectively, White is winning. It’s Black's job to confuse the issue. Aldama picks g3 as his target.

25. ... hxg3 26. Rd3

Reasonable, as is 26. Bxd5 Bxd5 27. Rxd5 h4 28. Rhd1. However, 26. Kh1! h4 27. gxh4, intending Re1-g1, leads to messy complications after 27. ... Bg4 28. Bf5 Ne6.

26. ... h4 27. c4 Nh7 28. Rd5 Ne4!

White keeps firmer control of the position with 28. Bxd5 Bxd5 29. cxd5.

28. ... Bf5 29. Bd5 Rgf8

White is not ready for 30. ... Rxa2 31. Bd5 Qe5 32. Rc3 Rb2. But alternatives let him miss a win. There are certainly a lot of pitfalls for White after 32. ... Rb7 33. Bxe4 Rb2 34. Qe2 Rb8 35. Qxg4, but Houdini claims the game should end in a draw thanks to the amusing line 35. Bd5 fxg3 36. Qh6+ gxh6 37. Kh2 Qg3+! 38. Kg2 Qxh3 39. Kh2 Qf1+. 40. Kb2 Qxh2+ 41. Qxh2 Qf1+.

33. Rd7 Qc3 34. Qe2 hxg3 35. hxg3 fxg3?

Now White regains the advantage. Chances would have been about even after 35. ... Rf8 36. Rd1 (threatening 37. Qh5) 36. ... f3 37. Qf1 Ng5, or 36. Bxe4!? fxg3 37. Qxe4 Rf6.

36. Kg2!

Planning 37. Rh1.

36. ... Nf6 37. fxg3?

Stronger is 37. Re7 gxh2 38. Rh1+ Kg8 39. Bd7!, which forces Black to enter an unpleasant endgame by 39. ... Qf3+.

37. ... Kf8?! 38. Qe3?!

White should hang on to material by 38. Bxd5+! Nxd5 39. Rxd5. Although 39. ... Rb2 looks dangerous, White can still strive for a win with 40. Rf1 because 40. ... Rxa2?? would lose to the shot 41. Rxf5! Rfx5 42. Qg4+.

38. ... Qxe3 39. Rxe3 Nxd7 40. Bxd7 Rb2?

At the time control, Black chooses a natural move and misses a subtle draw beginning with 40. ... Kg7. The idea is to restrain the c-pawn by hitting the bishop, as in the variation 41. c6 Rb5 42. Rc3 Rb6! 43. c7 Rd7 44. c8=Q Rxc8 45. Rxc8 Ra7, drawing. White cannot make progress by 41. Rc3 Kg6 42. c6 Rhb8 43. Rc5 Ke7 44. Rfx5?? because 44. ... Rxd5 45. Rfx8 Rd2+ 46. Rf2 e3 wins for Black.

41. Rc3 Kf7

Maybe Black can still draw with the miserable 41. ... Rb7 42. c6 Rc7. He hopes to give back the Exchange by 43. Rb3 Rf6 44. Rb7 Rfx6 45. Bxc6 Rxc6, when a draw is likely.

42. Bxf5 Ke7 43. g4!

Correctly rejecting 43. c6? Rxf5 44. c7 Rb8 45. c8=Q Rxc8 46. Rxc8 Rxa2. Black can draw after 47. Rc4 Kd6! 48. Rxe4 Rxc2+ 49. Kh3 Rxc8 or 47. Kf2 Ra3 48. c3 Ra4 49. Ke3 Kd7 50. Rg8 Rc4.

43. ... Kd8 44. Bxe4 Rxa2 45. Kg3

A winning endgame. The extra c-pawn makes a difference. After a trade of rooks, Black can often sacrifice his rook for two pawns, but he should not be able to capture all three.

The sharp line 45. c6 Kc7 46. Rf3! Rxf3 47. Kd3 wins too. If 47. ... Kc8 48. Kf4 Rf6 49. g5 Rf7+ 50. Bf1 Kxf6 51. g6, Black will have to give up his rook for the g-pawn, and he won't get the pawn at c2.

45. ... Rad4 46. Bc6 Ra5 47. Bf3 Kc7 48. c6

White is not ready for 48. g5?? Rg8 49. Kf4 because of 49. ... Ra4+ 50. Kf5 Rf8+ 51. Ke6 Rg8 52. Kf5 Rf8+, repeating.

48. ... Rg8 49. Rc4 Ra3 50. c3 Ra1 51. Rf4 Rc1 52. c4 Rc3 53. Kh4 Rh8+ 54. Kg3 Rg8 55. Kg2 Kg7 56. Bd5 Kd6 57. Rf6+ Ke5
If 57. ... Kc7, White must resist the temptation of a quick finish by 58. g5? Rxg5 59. Rf7+ Kb6 60. c7 because 60. ... Rxc4! 61. Bxc4 Rc5 draws. Also 60. Rb7+ Ka6 61. c7 fails, to 61. ... Rxc4.

Instead, White should meet 57. ... Kc7 by 58. Rf3 Rc2+ 59. Kg3 Rc1 60. Rf4 and gradually inching forward.

58. Re6+ Kf4 59. Re4+ Kg5 60. Re3!

White welcomes 60. ... Rxe3 61. Kxe3 Rc7 (or 61. ... Kxf6 62. Be6+ Kg5 63. Bxd7) 62. Kf4 Ke7 63. Kg5 64. g5, when Black cannot defend both wings.

56. ... Rc1 61. Kf3

Now White sees that 61. ... Rf1+ 62. Kg4 doesn't succeed, as 62. ... Kf6 63. Bc2 Kf5 64. Rd5 Rf3 65. Bd1 Rc8 66. c5, followed by a king march to b7.

61. ... Re7 62. Re5+ Kf6 63. Rd5+ Kg6 64. Ke4 Kg1 65. Kf4


65. ... Re7 66. Rg5+ Kf6 67. Rf5+ Kg6 68. Bf3 Rc1

Toughest. Against 68. ... Rf1, White sets up the decisive invasion by 69. Rg5+ Kf6 70. Rc5 Rc7 71. Rf5+ Ke6 (else 72. Ke5 wins) 72. Kg5 Kd6 73. Kg6. 69. Rc5!

To win, White must offer the bishop. The "simpler" 69. Rg5+ Kh6 70. Rc5 Rf7+ 71. Rf5? doesn't succeed, as 71. ... Rxc4+ 72. Ke5 Rc7 73. Kd6? lets Black draw with 73. ... R7xc6+ 74. Bxc6 Rgx4.

69. ... Rf7+ 70. Ke4

More direct is 70. Ke5! Rxf3 71. c7 Re1+ 72. Kd5.

70. ... Re1+ 71. Kd4??

The right way is 71. Kd5! Rxf3 72. c7 Rd1+ 73. Ke6.

71. ... Rf4+??

Both players were relying on the 30-seconds-per-move increment, and that's not enough time to calculate accurately in this complicated endgame. Black could have drawn with 71. ... Rxf3 72. c7 Rd1+ 73. Ke5 Rf1! 74. c8=Q Rf1+ 75. Kf4 Rf1+

76. Kg3 Rg1+, as White cannot elude the checks.

72. Kd5 Rxf3 73. c7 Rd3+ 74. Kc6!

Shelter! The checks end after 74. ... Re6+ 75. Kd6 Rb3+ 76. Ka4. 74. ... Re3 75. Rd5!

Precision is still required. The sloppy 75. Kg3? Rd7 only draws.

75. ... Rc7 76. c5 Kf7 77. Rd7+

White is not ready for 77. Kd7 Re7+.

77. ... Kg6

Black lasts a bit longer with 77. ... Kf6 78. Rd8 Re5 79. Rd5 Re8 but White wins by chasing Black's king further from e7: 80. g5+ Kf7 81. Rd7+ Kg6 82. Rd8, as in the game.

78. Rd8 Re5 79. Rd5 Re8 80. Kd7, Black resigned.

Andranik gained an unexpected victory from a time scramble against IM Roman Yankovsky.

A Heartbreaker
IM Andranik Matikozyan (2553)
IM Roman Yankovsky (2542)
25th Southern California Championship (2), 06.21.2013

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6

Also attractive is 30. ... Ne4 31. Rc2 Nd5, aiming at the hole at e3.

31. b4

Best. Instead, 31. Kg2? would increase the strength of 31. ... Ne4 32. Rc2 Nd5.

31. ... Bxb4 32. Rxd4 Nxf3 33. Rf4 Ne5 34. Bd4 Ke6 35. c4 Rg8

Ineffective, but it's very difficult for Black to make progress, as he must preserve a pawn. In addition, Yankovsky was down to seconds on his clock, plus the 30-second increment.

Houdini's recommendation of 35. ... Nd7 36. b5 Rc8 37. bxa6 Ra8 38. a7 Nc6 39. Be3 Nxa7 will not win because White eliminates the last pawn by 40. Rh4 Nf6 41. Bd4, drawing.

36. b5 a5 37. c5

Black cannot stop the passers by 40. ... Nf6 41. b7 Nd7 42. c6.

Three of the top contenders, Matikozyan and Grandmasters Melikset Khachiyan and Enrico Sevillano, played short draws among themselves. This energy-conserving strategy helps one cope with the tight schedule of seven games in four days, but forces one to pile up points in the remaining games. That requirement undid Khachiyan, who played the highest-quality chess and achieved decisive advantages in four games. He won only twice and had to settle for second place.

Sevillano fell to third place when FM Alexander Kretchetov defeated him in the game that took the tournament's best game prize.

Queen's Fianchetto Defense (A50)
FM Alexander Kretchetov (2398)
GM Enrico Sevillano (2558)
25th Southern California Championship (5), 06.22.2013

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6 3. a3
Declining the invitation to the wild 3. e4 Bb7 4. Bd3 f5? 5. exf5 Bxg2.

3. ... Bb7 4. Nc3 Nf6

If Black tries 4. ... f5 to take control of e4, White fights for the square by 5. d5 Nf6 6. g3.

5. d5

More ambitious than 5. Nf3, which would transpose to a common variation of the Queen’s Indian Defense.

5. ... exd5 6. cxd5 Bc5

Perhaps the bishop works better from d6, as 6. ... Bd6 7. Nf3 h6 would take away the best squares from White’s dark-square bishop.

7. g3 0-0 8. Bg2 Re8 9. Nh3 a5 10. 0-0 Na6

Black has developed quickly but he cannot easily make a threat. White has the edge.

11. e4

11. ... b5?

Black cannot apply enough pressure to d5 to make ... c7-c6 a disturbing threat, so advancing the b-pawn is his only method of generating counterplay. Objectively, Black should try 11. ... d6 12. Re1 Bc8 13. Qc2 Bd7, waiting for a more favorable moment to push the b-pawn.

12. Re1

A solid reply, but Houdini reveals the surprising line 12. Nxb5! Nxe4 13. Bxe4! Rxe4 14. Ng5, eying f7 and h7. Few humans would choose this sequence because White neglects the a8-h1 diagonal.


Black’s boldness has succeeded. He has almost equalized.

15. f3 Nfd7 16. Be3 Ba6 17. Nf2 Qb8?

Black spots the weakness at b3 but not the most effective way of exploiting it. The direct 17. ... Bc4 18. Bh3 Nb3? fails, to 19. Bf1! Bxf1 20. Qxb3. However, 17. ... Bb5! (intending 18. ... Ba4 and 19. ... Nb3) gives Black adequate counterplay after 18. axb4 axb4 19. Rxa8 Qxa8 20. Bd4 Qa2.

18. Bd4 bxa3

It’s too late for 18. ... Bb5 because 19. a4 Bc4 20. Re3 closes the queenside.

19. Rxa3 a4 20. f4 f6

Black must restrain e4-e5.

21. Bh3 Bb5 22. Qh5!

Shifting the battleground to the kingside, where White’s forces have more room to operate. Black faces a lot of problems, starting with the threat of 23. Bf5.

22. ... Re7 23. Be6+ (see diagram top of next column)

An inspired attacking idea, probably more powerful than 23. Bf5 g6 24. Qg4. White permits 23. ... Nxe6 24. dxe6 because 24. ... Rxe6?? would lose the rook to 25. Qd5 N8 26. f5 c6 27. Qa2, while 24. ... Nf8 25. f5 would immobilize the knight. Unless Black sacrifices the knight at e6, he would have to suffer passively as White prepared a breakthrough on the kingside (by g3-g4-g5) or the queenside (attacking a4 by Re1-a1 and Nf2-d1-c3).

23. ... Kh8

Hoping for 24. Bf5?! Qg8, but White can do better.

24. g4!

Threatening mate in four, starting with 25. Qxh7+.

24. ... Nxe6?

Black doesn’t get much relief from 24. ... Rxe6 25. dxe6 Nxe6 26. Rh3 Nfd7 27. Be3 Bb8 28. Qd5 Bf7 29. Qd2 because White will soon revive his attack with f4-f5 and g4-g5.

A more stubborn defense is 24. ... Nb3, shutting off the third rank. Nevertheless, White’s attack looks irresistible after 25. Bc3 Qa7 26. g5 fxg5 27. Qxg5 Rae8 28. f5.

25. dxe6 Rxe6
26. Rh3 Nf8
White refutes 26. ... h6 most convincingly by 27. Qd5! (less clear is 27. g5 Qe8) 27. ... Re7 28. g5.

27. f5 Be8 28. Qh4 Re5
Hoping to buy White off cheaply with 29. Bxe5 fxe5.

29. g5! Qd8 30. gx6 Qxf6
Accepting a lost endgame rather than the awful 30. ... gx6 31. Ng4.

31. Qxf6 gxf6 32. Bxe5 fxe5 33. Rc4
The alternative 33. g5 Qe5 34. gxf6 Rf5+ 35. Kg1 Qg3 36. Kf1 Qf3 37. Ke1 was better. White will eventually win.

33. ... Nd7 34. Rxc4 Nf6 35. Rd1 Rc7
A pawn must go, as 33. ... c6 34. Rd3 costs Black the d-pawn.

36. h3 Be2 37. Re1 Bh5
White wins routinely after 37. ... Rg8+ 38. Kh1 Be2. If instead 35. ... Bh5 36. Rd2 Bf3, White can abandon the e-pawn with 37. Rf7 Nxe4 38. Nxe4 Bxe4 because 39. Rxd6 will conquer h7.

38. Re3 Rb8 39. Rd3 a3
Setting the trap 42. Re7?? a2 43. Rdxa7 Bxa7 44. Rxe5+ Kf6 45. Kf2. White wins easily.

39. Rf3 a2 40. Rd1 Rb4
Saving the a-pawn by 43. ... Bf7 allows 44. Rxd6+ Kf8 45. Kg1 a1=Q 46. Rxb7 mate.

40. Nxe5 a1=Q 41. Rxe5 Qb5
A pawn must go, as 41. ... a6 42. Bb8 checkmate.

Kretchetov and FM Julian Landaw qualified for the state championship by sharing first place in the SCCF candidates tournament three weeks earlier. Ratings predicted that each would score 2-5, yet they finished with very respectable scores of 3½-3½. Here’s Julian’s best performance, played moments after being ribbed by the other players for habitually relying on the Closed Sicilian.

Closed Sicilian (B23)
FM Julian Landaw (2393)
IM Dionisio Aldama (2556)
Southern California Championship (7), 06.23.2013

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 e6 3. g3 d5
A good method of avoiding the main lines of the Closed Sicilian.

4. Bg2
White sometimes tries 4. exd5 exd5 5. d4, although 5. Bg2 Nf6 6. d3 appears more reliable.

4. ... Nf6
After 4. ... d4 5. Nce2 e5, the position is a King’s Indian Defense with colors reversed.

5. e5 Nfd7 6. f4 g5!

7. Nf3
The alternative 7. Bxe5? Qxe5 8. Nf3 Qd8 is almost a gambit because Black will pick off the pawn at e5.

7. ... Qxh5
8. f5
Of course, Black’s rook benefits from working on the open g-file. But the trade of g-pawns helps White too. Black is many moves from castling queenside, and his king could come under fire very soon if White’s queen reaches h5.

9. ... Ne6 10. d3 h6
Preventing Nf3-g5.

11. Kh1 b6?!
Aldama was visibly surprised by the coming reply. Black should rely on 11. ... Ne5 12. Bxe5 dxe5 13. Nxe5 Nxe5 14. Qh5 Bd6 15. Bf4. Next 16. Rae1 will create unbearable pressure.

(see diagram top of next page)

12. Bb7??
threats against e5, e6, and d5.

Only the weird 12. ... Nbd8! hangs on. Black’s idea is to guard vital points with a bishop at e6. For example, 13. fxe6 Bxe6 and 13. Bf4 exf5 14. Qd2 Be6 are satisfactory.


Instantly decisive. White’s attack proceeds effortlessly after 14. ... Ndx5 15. Nxe6, so Aldama desperately offers his queen.

14. ... Qh4 15. Rf4!


15. ... Qxf4


16. Bxf4 Nxd4 17. Qh5+

The meek 17. Ne2?! Nc6 18. c3 0-0-0 leads to a long struggle where Black has almost enough material for the queen. Landaw correctly presses the initiative before Black can complete development.

17. ... Kd8 18. Rf1 Be7


19. Qxh6 a6 20. Bg3 Kc7

Black needs one more move (... Ra8-f8) to fight back. He won’t get it!

21. Rf7 Rxg3

It’s easy to appreciate Black’s frustration with this bishop when you notice variations such as 21. ... Ra8 22. Bxd5+ exd5 23. e6+ and 21. ... Bg5 22. Qh7 Rgd8 23. Ndx5+! Bxd5 24. Bxd5 exd5 25. e6+.

22. hxg3 Re8 23. Qf4

Again menacing a sacrifice at d5.

22. ... Kd8 24. Bh3 Rh8 25. Kg2

Now White plans 26. Nd1 and 27. c3 to remove the defender of e6. If Black supports e6 with 25. ... Nf8, White wins with 26. Rxe7 Kxe7 27. Qf6+. Realizing the end is near, Aldama gambles on a tricky but doomed attempt to bother White’s king.


29. ... N7xe5 30. Qf6 Rh1+ 31. Kxh1 Bxe4+ 32. Kg1 Nf3+ 33. Kf1, Black resigned.

The three most daring players, Yankovsky, FM John Bryant and Aldama, ended with disappointing scores that did not reflect their contribution to the tournament. They injected excitement into every game. Aldama, the six-time Mexican champion who now lives in San Diego, was particularly unlucky. His high point, though, was a charming queen sacrifice.

A Queen Sacrifice

FM John Daniel Bryant (2527)
IM Dionisio Aldama (2565)
25th Southern California Championship (5), 06.22.2013

After a back-and-forth struggle, the players reached a position where Black’s activity compensates for White’s two extra pawns.

29. ... Bd4 30. Qe2??

Overlooking Black’s idea. After 30. Qxf4 Nxf4 31. Bxf4, the most likely result is a draw.

30. ... Qxg3! 31. hxg3

White can delay checkmate by 31. Nce4, but he will lose anyway.

31. ... Kf7!

Precise! The sloppy 31. ... Rh6?? would cost Black a point, as 32. Qe4 Rh6+ 33. Qh4 saves White.


In this era of instant coverage of title tournaments and national championships, is a state championship still important? I would argue that a state championship affects the broadest swath of the chess community.

Professionals will benefit from facing a stream of tough opponents in a round robin, and the winner gets bragging rights for a year. Lower-rated masters may view participation in the state championship as an honor, or perhaps their career highlight. Dozens of players can be motivated by merely the attempt to qualify. And finally, fans want to see battles between the local favorites.

Will there be a 26th Southern California Championship? Ultimately, the fans will decide. ♔

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2013 Southern California State Champion

IM Andranik Matikozyan
In the dramatic last scenes of the tense last round of the National Open chess championship there was nothing to hear. In the hands of the pros, the chess pieces—sliding across the wooden DGT sensory-boards that relayed each move in real-time to thousands watching around the world on the Internet—made little noise. The efficient tournament director team in the big room quashed any stray noise immediately. Even the in-and-out flow of players from the balcony to the aisle outside—so distracting at the finale of some other big events—was still.

Spectators could only watch. They searched for the possible look of stress, surprise or satisfaction on the faces of the competitors, those “tells” that so many watched for at the poker tournaments at other rooms in the Riviera and all along the Las Vegas strip. And of course, the onlookers followed the move-by-move, trying to guess what play their favorite grandmaster would make.

Make no mistake, the Las Vegas International Chess Festival is lots of fun—it’s hard to find a participant who isn’t effusive about the playing conditions, the many side events, and the opportunities for off-the-board excitement. But the chance for a big national title is serious business. The last round saw a dozen game-faced grandmasters meet at the top six boards, roped off and flanked by huge wooden demo boards, playing for the big prize. Even other competitors, their own games still in progress, stopped by for a look, sometimes slumping for a moment in one of the ring-side seats provided for spectators.

When the clocks started that Sunday at 4:30, three grandmasters were tied for the lead with 4½ points out of 5: Wesley So, his Webster University teammate and 2012 U.S. Open Champion Manuel Leon Hoyos, and Alejandro Ramirez—who just a month before finished in second place by virtue of a quick-play final in the powerful U.S. Championship. The previous round had set up So’s faceoff with Ramirez. “A critical moment for me was my fifth-round game with GM Tamaz Gelashvili, who was leading the event,” Wesley said in an interview with Chess Life Online (CLO). Gelashvili had won four in a row. So won that game with the white pieces.

But the final showdown on board one was anticlimactic. Ramirez, playing White, and So agreed to a draw in just 12 moves, gambling that Hoyos wouldn’t win against Ray Robson on board two. But the decision got dicey, as Hoyos had a number of chances to get an advantage. “At one moment, I checked with the computer and Hoyos was better,” So said. “If he won, he would get clear first. So that was also a very exciting last-round game. They’re both good fighters.”

With the split-point on board one and Hoyos failing to find more than a draw, fighting grandmasters starting the round a half-point behind had an opening. Jaan Ehlvest, Varuzhan Akobian, and Enrico Sevillano seized the opportunity, all winning despite having black and against proven champions—Tamaz Gelashvili, Victor Mikhailovski and Fidel Corrales Jimenez, respectively. The white pieces, an advantage in the hands of a grandmaster, had a bad afternoon in Vegas.

After all the suspense, So won the Edmondson Cup on tiebreak points. The top six split cash prizes for first through sixth, taking home $2,175.
GM Wesley So of the Philippines, who plays for Webster University’s chess team, is the eighth youngest grandmaster in chess history.
Class acts and class warfare

The National Open is divided into sections—there is the Open section, the rip tides where the big sharks swim, and seven class sections, where you can paddle in shallower waters. The system makes it fun and competitive, without the mental whiplash of over-your-head-and-then-under-your-head yin-yang pairings of wide-open Swisses. Players can enter any section as long as their ratings are not over the limit (a 1200-player can technically enter the Open section, for example), and they play only opponents also signed up for that section.

Whatever the format, a lot of us class players are familiar with the “stanchion-envy.” The big shots behind the roped-off area have lots of space. If they want to get up to stretch or take the comfort-walk that’s unavoidable during a four-hour game, they have plenty of room. They don’t have to squeeze out from behind the board like they’re crawling out of the backseat of a Nissan Juke because their chair is gridlocked with the player at the table behind them. And you don’t get stuck in the middle of a row that requires disturbing, or at least attempting to disturb, half-a-dozen intent players whose chair-backs nearly touch each other. Class players at big events dread the chair-back prison.

But as you expect to hear by now, the team at the Las Vegas International Chess Festival doesn’t let that happen to anyone. It’s true that the top boards are roped off. But everyone, right down to the unrateds, has plenty of room. Chief Tournament Director Bill Snead’s preflight checklist again comes into play. “One of the things we do is to make sure that there are at least six and a half feet of space between the long sides of every table and its neighboring tables,” he said. “And each table is eight feet long with only two boards on it.” Playing at the National Open is a bit like flying first class, rather than squeezing into coach.

Raising your own bar

This year three aspiring masters topped the 93-player section for those Under 2200. Mike Zaloznyy and Austin Hughes, both of California, and Andrew Lebovitz of Arizona each took home $2,067. Mike and Andrew moved into the master class. All three survived the test without a loss, giving up two draws for a 5-1 score. Zaloznyy, from Oxnard, about 50 miles outside of Los Angeles, took the first-place trophy. “I played in the National Open several times in the past in the U2200 section; my best score came in 2004 and 2006 when I scored 4½/6. Half a point can make a big difference!” And so does his new rating of 2243, which will require him to play in the Open section next year.

“I like Las Vegas, but if the National Open were someplace else, that’s where I’d go,” Zaloznyy said. “The organizers do a great job and there are lots of side events. I see lots of friends there from other states.”

“I stayed at the same level for many years,” Zaloznyy said, “but something clicked in the past year. I’ve gained 133 points.” Mike is in his 30s, has a family and a full-time job as a programmer. So how did he break through to master at a time in life when many bog down? “I spent a lot of time watching online chess videos, studying tactics and solving puzzles on my smartphone—75 to 80 puzzles a day. And I’ve taken lessons off and on for several years from GM Melikset Khachiyan.” Okay, not all of us have the opportunity to get insights from a U.S. Championship participant and Olympic coach, but you have to admit Mike worked at his goal. (And he’s not just good at self-improvement—one of his former private students, Sammy Kennedy, took top Under 1800 honors.)

Chris Hobart of Texas finished in a five-way tie for second in the Under 2000 section with five points. In round five, he put together a rook lift-and-shift with a bishop faux-sacrifice that left Black helpless:

Lift-and-shift

Christopher T. Hobart (1936)
Fernando Sevilla (1895)


“K” is for rating kick-start

Some of the strong results in the National Open’s class sections resulted in especially great rating increases. That’s because, effective in May, USCF changed the rating formula a bit to allow for more rapid change by increasing the value of “K-factors.” “The higher the K-factor, the more volatile the rating,” a statement from the USCF explains. “The amount that the K-
factors will be increased especially large (about a 40% increase) for players rated between 1900 through 2100.” (So keep in mind that this year may be your chance to break through to that next rating level! But note that the new “volatility” applies to gains and losses.)

The biggest upset section-winner of the entire event was Willie Grandberry, Jr. of Chicago, who, with a pre-tournament rating of 1737, could have competed in a lower-rated group, but entered the Under 2000 section. “I just wanted to see how I measured up,” he said, “how the big boys play. I guess I’m a big boy now!” After a first-round bye, and despite the fact that all of his opponents were rated over 1900, Grandberry gave up only a single draw, taking clear first over 119 combatants and $3,500. He added over 200 points to his rating.

Sammy Kennedy, a 17-year-old from Santa Clarita, north of Los Angeles, won the title of best Under 1800. Kennedy wasn’t even planning to play in the tournament, but was going to Las Vegas for his sister’s wedding. His mom noticed the event and suggested he stick around to play. Sammy is a veteran of USCF’s scholastic championships and now teaches for the non-profit California Youth Chess League in after-school elementary programs. “I like it and it’s good for the kids.” Kennedy and Hakop Tataryan finished with 5½ points in the 133-player field and took home $2,650.

Tataryan certainly has the sound of one of the repeat “customers” the event’s team works so hard to produce. “The TDs run the event so smoothly throughout the tournament,” he told me. “There are so many side events, GM lectures, and prizes. There are grab-bag prizes and even a $50 gift certificate at the bookstore for everyone making a plus score. I don’t know of any other chess event that does all this and is so much fun.” His next e-mail continued the praise. “They have their own site (vegaschessfestival.com) that gives prior year results, live standings, pairings, etc. They also provide chess sets for the players.

After 14. … Bd6, Black would have a much more compact position, leaving White with a lot to prove about his reckless pawn-pushes on the kingside. On the other end of the spectrum, the blunder 14. … Bxb2? loses the bishop to Qc2. Black finds an “in-between move”—that is, in between the best and the worst.

14. … Bxf4 15. exf4 Re8+ 16. Be2


16. … Bxg4 17. Nf3 Qf6

Too Ambitious?
Phillip Perez (1780)
Hakop “Jack” Tataryan (1731)
2013 National Open, Under 1800 (1), 06.07.2013

“My opponent could have forced a draw by playing 53. Rh5,” Tataryan wrote. “However, he chose to go for the win.”

53. Rxa6 f3!

The only move that forces a clear win. Tataryan finishes the game off nicely.


(LEFT TO RIGHT)
GM MANUEL LEON HOYOS,
GM ENRICO SEVILLANO,
GM JAAN EHLVEST,
GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ,
GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN

PHOTOS: HOYOS BY DANIEL MEYROM; SEVILLANO BY THOMAS ALLEMAN; EHLVEST BY ERIC ROSEN; RAMIREZ AND AKOBIAN COURTESY OF SLCCSC.
WHO PUT ALL THAT FUN IN THE NATIONAL OPEN?

For half a century, the National Open, an innovation of former USCF President Ed Edmondson, has been famous for rolling out the chess red carpet. It’s fun to wonder about the reaction of USCF’s 8,600 members as they unlocked big-city mail slots or yanked open suburban mailboxes to find the unusual promotion for the inaugural event on the cover of the January 1965 Chess Life magazine. Back then the monthly issues—black-and-white except for a splashy red box on the cover that showed off the USCF logo and a newsstand price of 40 cents—normally featured something staidly chess on their covers. But to call attention to the first-ever National Open, that 1965 Chess Life featured a Las Vegas showgirl named Patricia Johnson, then starring in the “Lido de Paris Review,”—in short-shorts, no less, in an artful glamour-pose poolside at the Stardust Hotel.

In another context, in that decade famous for Playboy’s Playmates of the Month, the photo would have hardly been remarkable. But Chess Life, a magazine that can always raise curious eyebrows, that month must have arched them in an altogether different way.

Chess Life “Swimsuit Edition”

That first National Open attracted four grandmasters and 138 players. The very next month’s Chess Life cover was back to normal with a prompt photo featuring the National Open’s first title-holder, Sammy Reshevsky accepting his trophy from a husky Stardust representative, towering over the diminutive world-championship contender. The uneven pair was book-ended by Edmondson and the event’s first chief tournament director, George Koltanowski.

But the January 1966 cover was again poolside. This time a bikini-clad woman posed a bit awkwardly, one leg held through a life preserver marked with the Stardust logo. Dubbed by many the “Chess Life swimsuit edition” (Sports Illustrated had only two years before begun its famous special issue), it was the last such CL cover, but not the last National Open. In the early 1970s, former USCF President Tim Redman helped Koltanowski direct the National Open in Las Vegas. “Edmondson’s brainchild was hugely popular—chess players and Las Vegas seemed like a natural combination,” Redman recalled. But after Edmondson’s retirement as executive director, the Las Vegas tournament faltered.
In the late 1970s Koltanowski gave one of his remarkable demonstrations of memory at the Oak Park, Illinois, Chess Club—where a meeting between Chicago businessman Fred Gruenberg and Redman led to the making of USCF history. “I got to know Fred, who started organizing ‘Put the Fun Back into Chess’ tournaments in the basement of Morgan Park Methodist Church, with raffles and free food. It didn’t take much to convince Freddie to start up the National Open again.”

As a new USCF staffer in 1982, one of this writer’s duties was to help local organizers with national events—and to be cautious about expenditures. On the phone, Redman warned me that Fred had a “grand vision” for the event. Give him leeway, and USCF will develop a heritage event. Redman was right.

So thirty years ago, in March of 1983, after its absence from Vegas of seven years, Gruenberg brought back the National Open, as GM Art Bisguier wrote in CL’s report, “to the city that beckons all seekers of fame and fortune to come take a shot at success.” IM Leonid Bass topped a group of more than 400 that included GMs with the only perfect score ever in the Gruenberg era to take home the first-ever Edmondson Cup. Senior Master Ken Smith, of Smith-Morra Gambit fame, a top-level poker champion, attended the tournament in his trademark tuxedo and top hat.

The event flourished under Gruenberg, known for his generosity to players. By 1990, it hit its record of 1,117 and in 1998 again attracted over 1,100. In 1991, Alan Losoff became co-organizer and the next year Bill Snead became chief TD. Gruenberg retired altogether from organizing duties in 2010, after 28 straight memory-making years. “In the early days I sneaked in sheet-cakes for the players,” he said. More than once, he bought last-minute tickets for stranded GMs. One of Fred’s vivid recollections is of legendary world-champion candidates David Bronstein and Victor Korchnoi walking down the red carpet the same year. They were only a few of the world-greats who have played in the National Open.

Losoff and Snead have now worked together for more than 20 years to make sure the National Open lives up to the original goals of Ed Emondson and Fred Gruenberg. And keeping it more fun then ever, they’ve taken the event into a new era: The Las Vegas International Chess Festival.
1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5
This line is becoming more and more fashionable these days. White makes a committal decision. He gains lots of space, but in the meantime lets Black’s light-square bishop stay outside of the “French pawn chain.”

3. ... Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Be2 Ne7 6. c3 h6 7. 0-0 Nd7 8. Nbd2 Bg6 9. Nb3 Nf5 10. g4!?
An aggressive move that has been played once before by none other than Russian super-GM Peter Svidler!

10. ... Nh4 11. Nxh4 Qxh4 12. f4
12. ... h5!
Black has to undermine White’s pawn avalanche.

13. g5 f6?!
Opening the g-file only helps White. Perhaps 13. ... 0-0-0 14. Be3 Be7 15. Nd2 f6 was a better choice for Black.

14. Bd3 Bxd3 15. Qxd3 0-0-0 16. Bd2 fxg5 17. fxg5 Be7

A deep positional pawn sacrifice. Black’s queen is misplaced and will lose lots of tempi. White seizes the initiative.

This knight is heading to g5.

27. ... Rdf8 28. Ng3 Qe4 29. Ng5 Qg6 30. Re7 Rhg8 31. Qh3!
A very accurate move. Now White is technically winning.

31. ... Re8 32. Ng5 Qe4 33. Rf7 Bxg5 34. Qxg5 Qxg5 35. Kh1 Qh4 36. Qg2 Qh4 37. Qg7 Qe4+ 38. Kh1 Qe4+ 39. Kg2 Qg6 40. Qe8+.
This knight is heading to g5.

38. ... Qe1 39. Kg2 Qc1 40. Rxe8+ Qg6 41. Kh1, Black resigned.

The following fifth-round encounter between eventual co-winner Varuzhan Akobian and three-time U.S. champion Nick de Firmian shows fighting spirit, creative ideas, the dangers of time pressure, and possibly the results of fatigue.

Modern Benoni (A61)
GM Varuzhan Akobian (2683)
GM Nick de Firmian (2583)
2013 National Open, Open (5), 06.09.2013
Notes courtesy of GM Elshan Moradiabadi


A blunder at the infamous 40th move!

40. ... Rxd5??
Black returns the favor. He misses the winning shot 40. ... Qc1+!. Then if 41. Rf1 Rxg2+ 42. Kxg2 Qxd2+, 43. Kf1 Qb2+ leads to mate.

41. Ng5 Rd1+ 42. Kh2 Qe2+ 43. Ng7 Qxe2+ 44. Rf4 Qf2 45. Rf6 Qg6 46. Nh5 Qh7 47. Rg6 Qe4 48. Kg7 Qg4 49. Kg6 Qf3, Black resigned.

Last year’s popular winner GM Aleksandr Lenderman was chugging through the opposition until derailing in the last two rounds, finishing just out of the money. The fifth-round encounter below with GM Manuel Leon Hoyos was a key to the Mexican grandmaster’s tournament victory.

English Opening (A25)
GM Manuel Leon Hoyos (2651)
GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2670)
2013 National Open, Open (5), 06.09.2013
Notes courtesy of GM Elshan Moradiabadi

The Las Vegas International Chess Festival

A Nonstop Chess Buffet with a “So-So-So” Result—
The Las Vegas International Chess Festival lives up to its name, with participants coming from as far away as China and abundant opportunities to have fun. This year competitors had the chance after every round to have their games analyzed, for free, by world-renowned trainers GMs Ron Henley and Melik Khachiyan. There were a series of free lectures throughout the long weekend offered by grandmasters Henley, Khachiyan and six-time U.S. champ Walter Browne, who was also there explaining his new chess-variant “Finesse” and signing copies of his new book, *The Stress of Chess*. Last year’s champ, GM Alex Lenderman, gave a simultaneous exhibition, playing 29 at once to kick off the Festival on Thursday afternoon. U.S. Junior Champ IM Daniel Naroditsky (now GM-elect) gave a special simul for the under-15 crowd Saturday night. Another popular extra was the free bulletins by Chris Bird, recapping the previous day’s action with photos and games.

Plenty of tournaments
The main-event chance at a national title (see feature story) attracted 626 players, including 22 grandmasters and seven international masters, in their choice of Friday-Sunday or Saturday-Sunday formats. Webster University’s GM Wesley So won that championship and snagged another national title as well, tying with GM Var Akobian, Kansas, for first in the U.S. Game/10 Championship. This event drew 95 players as a Thursday night warm-up. On Saturday night, 60 played in the Blitz (five-minute chess) Sectionals. From the top section to the bottom, the winners were Steven Winer, Massachusetts; Aaron Grabinsky, Oregon; Royce Pereira, Nevada; Hans Niemann, California; and Jeff Sinick, California. During the Sectionals, a new event, dubbed “The Rumskey Chess Challenge” was sponsored by Schmooze Brothers Distilleries owner George Racz. The round-robin featured eight grandmasters putting on a show, punching out moves in front of the crowd to the time control of Game/3 with a two-second increment. Elshan Moradiabadi of the Texas Tech University chess team emerged in clear first. On Sunday night, the seven-round, double-round National Open Blitz Championship drew 81 players and gave So yet a third chance to take first place, edging out last year’s National Open champ GM Alex Lenderman by a full point. There were actually two sections, the Open with 46 players and 35 in an Under 1900 one. The aptly-named Arizonan Rick Sun won this latter section.

Youth events
The Festival places a big emphasis on events for young players, opening on Thursday with an all-day grandmaster chess camp taught by four grandmasters and led by GM Ron Henley. There were nonstop opportunities for the kids to compete and learn, including a chess-puzzle-solving-contest, won by Jack Easton, Kansas. Queena Deng, California, won the top section of the five-round National Open Scholastic Trophy Tournament on Friday, while Griffin Salvador, New Mexico, and Carson Woods, Oregon, won the under 1200 and under 800 sections, respectively. The four-section International Youth Championship, held over Saturday and Sunday for those 14 and under, was the main youth event. Winners of four sections each received a laptop loaded with chess software. Alexander Yu, Colorado, won the top section. Digvijay Sawant, Canada, won the 14-and-under Reserve section. Anthony Ge, California, won the 9-and-under section. Ruiting Ma, who traveled from China for the event, was top in the 9-and-under Reserve section. Because Ma was unrated, the computer went to Kyle Liu, Oregon, who also had a perfect score. The Lightning Knights Chess Club, of Portland, Oregon, took top team honors, winning on tiebreaks over the Beyond Chess Club of Rowland Heights, California.

Even poker and pinball
On Monday after the big chess tent folded, a special no-limit hold ’em poker tournament was held for Festival participants in the Riviera’s poker room. “I ran into the winner the next day,” Chief TD Bill Sneed said, “and he was still wearing his commemorative bracelet.” Marty Grund, Vice President of the Internet Chess Club, and former Executive Director Bill Hall came in second and third. Las Vegas is the home of the Pinball Hall of Fame, and 14 old classics were rounded up for Monday’s pinball event. “We’re always listening to players and never stop experimenting,” Organizer Alan Losoff said. Many at the 2013 Las Vegas International Chess Festival would say they already have it just right.


Black’s pawn structure is shattered. It is hard to believe that Black’s pair of bishops could be of any meaningful compensation.

33. ... bxa6 34. Bg5 Rd4 35. Be3 Rd4 36. Bd2 Bf6 37. h4 a5 38. Nb2 Rh7 39. Bg5 Bg7 40. Bd8 Bh6 41. Bg5 Bg7 42. Rd8  

White gradually consolidated his advantage. Now his position is technically winning.


Bf4 Bxf4 56. gxf4 Re5 57. e5 Rf2 58. Ra4 Kf7 59. Kg1 Rb2 60. Ra6, Black resigned.  

“I was very satisfied with this game.” Ehhlvest said about this next contest. “In open tournaments, the art of chess is sometimes forgotten because we are looking only for the final result. Here I got both.” Ehhlvest, a previous National Open champ, says he’s mainly coaching and teaching now. See his online site at www.chessgymnasium.com.

The last difficult move to make. At first I wanted to play 31. f3?, but then I thought more clearly and chose not to gamble, because after 31. f3? h4 32. Ne2 Nh5!, Black is doing fine.

31. ... Ng4 32. Qd2 Qa8 33. Rd6  

White is dominating, and it’s obvious that at some moment the sacrifice on h5 will win.

33. ... Kh7 34. Rd1 Qc8 35. f3 Nh6  

Time trouble! But after 35. ... Ne5, I have 36. Nf5 gxf5 37. Rh6+ Kg7 38. Qg5+ Ng6 39. exf5 Re5 40. f6+ Kg8 41. Rh8+ Kh8 42. Qh6+ Kg8 43. Qg7 mate. During the game I did not see this line immediately, but I had the feeling that both Nf5 and Qg5 were winning, and according to my computer engine, that’s true.

36. Nxe5 Ng8 37. Ng3 Re5 38. h5 gxh5 39. Qf4 Kg7 40. Nf5+, Black resigned.
“I like Las Vegas, but if the National Open were someplace else, that’s where I’d go.”

At A Glance

Date: June 7-9, 2013 | Location: Riviera Casino & Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada | 626 players. | Top Finishers:


THE WINNER OF THIS MONTH’S AWARD, Martin Carlson, calls his story “A Karpovian Crush.” Writes Mr. Carlson (my further comments are in italics):

My opponent, Wellington Lee, was Oklahoma state champion in 2000, so I knew I had a fight on my hands. After the game, Lee complimented me on my play. He said it was one of the most miserable positions he ever had to play, from start to finish.

I’m very proud of this game, even though it wasn’t perfect. I gained a positional advantage early, and slowly crushed my opponent under the pressure.

Catalan (E11)
Martin Carlson (1623)
Wellington Lee (1728)
Sooner Chess Series Fall #3 (4), 11.03.2012

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3

With his last move, 4. g3, White steers the game into the Catalan.

4. ... Nc6 5. Bg2 Bb4+

Instead, 5. ... dxc4 leads to a main theoretical line.

6. Bd2

I was already in unfamiliar territory, so I just tried to play logically.

6. ... Bxd2+ 7. Nbxd2

Now Black has no ... dxc4 counterplay. Yes, White is now slightly better, thanks to Black’s last move (or two last moves).

7 ... 0-0 8. 0-0 b6

(see diagram top of next column)

9. a3

I wanted to play Qc2, but I wanted to rule out the annoying ... Nb4 first.

I’d prefer 9. Rc1, and if 9. ... Bb7, then perhaps 10. cxd5.

9. ... a5 10. Qc2 Qd7 11. Rac1 Bb7 12. Rfd1 Rfc8 13. e3

I probably could’ve played Ne5 here, but I wanted to solidify my position before undertaking any action.

13. ... Ne7?

I don’t understand how this could be good. It simply gives up the e5-square, which I immediately take.

Yes, 13. ... Ne7 looks unappealing—but was there a better move?

14. Ne5 Qe8 15. c5!?

The computer was screaming for cxd5 for the last few moves, but I like my move better! It guarantees that Black’s light-squared bishop will remain bad.

After 15. cxd5 Bxd5 (recaptures with any knight lead to exactly the same position, while 15. ... exd5 loses to 16. Bh3) 16. e4 Bb7, White is stronger in the center—and somewhat better overall. And I like it that a) Martin employs Fritz to go over his games, while b) maintaining independence and trust in his own ideas and judgment.

15. ... bxc5 16. Qxc5

Now, Black has the bad bishop, and his c-pawn is backward and forever a target. White is so much better.

16. ... Nd7?

No good!

17. Nxd7?!


17. ... Qxd7 18. Bf1

Trying to improve my bishop. Granted, Black can trade it off, but even if he does, Black still has the horrible c-pawn, so he’s stuck being passive anyway.

18. ... c6

After 18. ... Ba6 (noted by Martin in his comment above) 19. Bxa6 Rxa6 and then ... a4 (to stop the knight hop via b3 to c5) White is better, but hardly much better.

19. Qc2

(see diagram top of next column)

Planning Nb3-c5.


As soon as my opponent made this move, I started thinking about how I could use the dark squares around his king.

22. Nc5 Qa7 23. h4
With all of Black’s forces tied up on the queenside, I felt like the time was right to start weakening the black kingside.

Excellent!

23. ... Qb6 24. Rb1?!

Simply 24. b3 would’ve sufficed.

Indeed, there is no need to commit the white rook to defensive duties. After 24. b3 White’s queenside knight-and-pawns complex is self-protective—and very safe.

24. ... Kg7?

The losing move in my opinion. I now blast open the h-file and move all of my heavy pieces to begin a vicious attack.

Again, as on move 13—what’s the alternative?

25. h5 Ra7

I could tell that my opponent had no idea what to play, so I could take my time in defeating him. After all, why hurry when your opponent is suffering? (My coach, IM Goran Vojinovic, taught me that.)

After 25. ... gxh5 26. Qe2 or 26. Kg2 the h5-pawn will soon fall.

26. hxg6 hxg6 27. Kg2 Ng8 28. Rh1 Nf6

29. Qc1

An immediate e3-e4 may have been better, keeping my queen flexible. But, my opponent can’t do anything to stop me, so it didn’t really matter.

29. ... Re7 30. e4 Ng8 31. e5!!

Remember how I said I wanted to take over the dark squares back on move 21? Mission accomplished!

31. ... Qa7 32. Qg5

I was short on time at this point (under five minutes), so I missed an even stronger move (which I played on my next move).

Here Martin gives a 13-move line—Fritz’s of course—starting with 32. Rh4. But 32. Qg5 is fine, too.

32. ... Qc7 33. Rh4 Qd8

34. Qg4?

Here is the line: 34. Rh1 Kf8 35. Rh8 Rd7 36. Qh6+ Ke7 37. Qh4+ g5 38. Qxg5+ f6 39. Qg7+ Ke8 40. Rxg8 mate.

I intentionally left here this long Fritz line to emphasize that a) we should learn when to cut Uncle Fritz short and b) during the game, think no longer than is needed! Here, for instance, not beyond 37. Qh4+ (or the equally good 37. Qg7) when it is absolutely clear the game is over.

34. ... Qe8 35. Qh3?

Again, not the best move.

35. ... f5

Excellent! Both rooks are needed in the attack, and White shouldn’t worry about his b2-pawn (but psychologically, it would be easier for White, now and earlier, to move his b-rook to the h-file, were White’s b-pawn on b3).

36. Rh1

Here I used most of my remaining time (three of my five minutes) before I played the most devastating move of my career:

40. Rxf5+!!

Now I knew I had won.

40. ... Kxg8 41. Qh8+ Kf7, White won on time.

My queen was headed to d8 to commit royal murder. Here is one sample line: 42. Qd8 Ra8 43. Rh8 Rg8 44. Qc7+ Kf8 45. Bxd5 exf5 46. Qd8+ Kf7 47. Rxg8 Qxg8 48. Qf6+ Ke8 49. Qxc6+ Kf7 50. Qxa8.

In conclusion, this game shows the power of creating weakness in your opponent’s position. Create enough, and the entire position collapses.

Or, as Bobby Fischer said, good tactics flow from superior positions. Also relevant, and practically important, here was the principle of two weaknesses. By itself, White’s dominance on the queenside wasn’t enough to win the game. But, after tying up most of Black’s forces on the queenside, White opened “The Second Front” and created this proverbial second weakness—the black king himself. With predictably devastating results. 🖤
CONTINUING MY ARTICLE ON INSTRUCTIONAL ROOK-ENDINGS FROM THE AUGUST CHESS LIFE, I HAVE TAKEN MY EXAMPLES THIS TIME FROM THE 2013 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP. THE KEY LESSON TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS COLUMN IS THAT ONE CANNOT THINK SIMPLY MOVE-BY-MOVE; ALL MOVES MUST FIT INTO A SPECIFIC PLAN THAT IS BASED ON A CONCRETE OBJECTIVE.

**Passivity**
GM Sam Shankland (2698)  
GM Alex Stripunsky (2680)  
U.S. Championship (4), St. Louis, 2013

The position is essentially equal, but White has some initiative by virtue of his rook’s possession of the open d-file.

28. ... b5
Safer was 28. ... Re7.

29. Rd7 Kg6 30. Ra7 c5 31. axb5 axb5 32. Rc7 Re5?

The rook has no future here. Had Black recognized the danger, he could have escaped into a three-versus-four pawns rook ending that is a book draw. For example, after 32. ... c4 33. Rc5 Rd6! (instead of the passive 33. ... Rb6) 34. Rxb5 Rd2 35. b3 cxb3 etc. is equal.

33. g4 hxg4 34. hxg4 Kf6 35. Kf2 g5
Still 35. ... c4! 36. Ke3 Re6 37. Rb7 Rc6 38. Rxb5 c3 could have been played.

36. Ke3 Ke6 37. Rb7 b4

It is too late now for 37. ... c4 since after 38. Kd4 f6 39. Rb6+ Ke7 40. Kc3 comes.


As you can see, even simple and equal positions can be lost through passivity.

**Wrong Activity**
GM Joel Benjamin (2622)  
GM Robert L. Hess (2647)  
U.S. Championship (2), St. Louis, 2013

With the h6-pawn in danger, Black starts a diversionary action.

48. ... a5 49. Ra7 Rb6

A better plan could have been 49. ... Kd8 50. Rxa5 Ke7 51. Ra7+ Kf8 52. Rb7 Ra6 53. Ke4 Ra5 54. Rxb6 Kg7 55. Rg6+ Kf7, which keeps the rook locked up. Then, after attempting to free the rook with g4-g5, there are book-draw possibilities (even two pawns down).

50. Rxa5 Kd7 51. Ra7+ Ke6?

Black still could have tried 51. ... Ke8 52. Rh7 Rb3 53. Ke4 Kf8 with the plan described above.

52. Rh7 Rb4+ 53. Ke3 Ke5 54. Rxb6 f5 55. g5

(see diagram top of next column)

The two connected passed pawns are very strong, especially since they are supported by a rook. The situation would be different if the black king was placed on g7 without having the f-pawns. Such positions were possible if there had been a strong defense. Then the position would be a book draw after ... Rb5.

55. ... Rb3+ 56. Ke2 Rb2+ 57. Kd1 Kf4 58. g6 Rg2 59. Rh8

Somewhat quicker is 59. Rh7 followed by g6-g7.

59. ... Kxf3 60. Rf8 f4 61. h6 Rg1+ 62. Kd2 Rg2+ 63. Kd3 Rg6+ 64. h7 Rh6+ 65. Kc3 Rc6+ 66. Kd3 Rd6+ 67. Kc3 Rc6+ 68. Kd4 Rd6+ 69. Ke5 Rh6 70. Rxf4 Kg3 71. Rf7 Kg4 72. Rg7+ Kh5 73. Kf5 Kh4 74. Ra7 wins.

Let’s see a pair of examples from the Women’s Championship.

**Mutual errors**
WGM Tatev Abrahamyan (2385)  
WGM Sabina-Francesca Felsor (2371)  
U.S. Women’s Championship (1), St. Louis, 2013

The two connected passed pawns are very strong, especially since they are supported by a rook. The situation would be different if the black king was placed on g7 without having the f-pawns. Such positions were possible if there had been a strong defense. Then the position would be a book draw after ... Rb5.

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Let’s see a pair of examples from the Women’s Championship.
Two pawns down, Black’s situation is practically hopeless. No one would think that she would be able to resist for another 35 moves.

37. ... Rf7

Objectively, now the best resistance is offered by 37. ... Rxc5 38. Rxe6+ Kxe6 39. Rxc5 Ra4.

38. Rd3

Here the simple 38. Re2+ Kf5 39. c6 wins quickly.

52. ... Rg2+ 53. Kh3 Rc2

53. ... Rg1?"n

54. a4 Rc4

Essential was 54. ... h5! Then after placing the rook on c5, the king would have had an escape route through h7.

55. a5 Ra4 56. h5 Kg8 57. Kg3 Kh7 58. f4 Ra1 59. a6 Ra5

It is too late for 59. ... Rh1 because of 60. Rb7 Rhx5 61. a7 Ra5 62. f5 and f6.

60. Kg4 Kg8 61. f5 Ra4+ 62. Kf3 Kg8 63. Ke3 Kg8 64. Kd3 Ra5 65. Ke4 Kh8 66. Ra8+ Kh7 67. Kf4

Naturally not 67. a7??, taking away the king’s hiding place from any checks (interestingly, many computers recommend it).

67. ... Ra6 68. Ke5 Ra5+ 69. Ke6 Ra1 70. Kd6 Ra5 71. Kc6 Rxf5

Black could resign here.

72. Rc8 Rhx5 73. a7 Ra5 74. a8=Q Rxa8 75. Rxa8 Kg6 76. Kd5 Kf5 77. Rf8+ Kg4 78. Ke4 g5 79. Ke3 h5 80. Kf2 Kh3 81. Rf3+ Kg4 82. Kg2 h4 83. Ra3 Kh5 84. Ra4 g4 85. Ra8 Kg5 86. Rh8 g3 87. Kf3, Black resigned.

Finally, here is a stellar example from the women’s champion.

Simplification

IM Irina Krush (2489)
WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia (2334)
U.S. Women’s Championship (4), St. Louis, 2013

Black now has drawing chances despite her king being badly placed.
HAROLD STEEN WAS AND HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST-known and best-liked chess players in Michigan for many, many years. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, he learned how to play chess when he was a young boy and competed in many rated tournaments. He was a member of the Michigan Chess Association (MCA) and the USCF very early on. In 2002, well after his retirement as executive manager in the human resources department at the Chrysler Corporation in 1994, he was inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame. He was co-champion in the Michigan Senior Championship in 2004. Harold remained very active in the chess community until his passing in September, 2008, of Lou Gehrig Disease (ALS).

Where many adults showed little time and patience in helping young children get started in chess, Harold spent countless hours encouraging and teaching children throughout the metropolitan Detroit area. He truly believed in the value chess had for children of all ages and all walks of life. When a child could not afford his/her own chess set, Harold very often purchased one for them. When a youngster performed exceptionally well in a tournament, he often encouraged them by rewarding them with a chess gift. Harold coached many children who continued on to become strong players. James (Jimmy) Canty, III, is an example of one of those players. He won many local, state and national tournaments, and at one point was the youngest black teenage expert in the country. Jimmy is now a master. Expert Manis Davidovich won in 2011, and expert John R. Brooks in 2012. In the Reserve section, Forrest Reddick and Demarcus Berry were co-champions in 2009. In 2010, Jalen Wang won, and in 2011 and 2012, Forrest Reddick won both years. The Cup is housed at All The King’s Men and has the names of the Open and Reserve winners engraved in gold on the cup.

Harold conducted seminars for training chess coaches and taught numerous chess classes in Detroit and suburban schools. He was a unique man whose love of chess and its potential for the young was prevalent in his pursuit to make chess available to all of them. Although Harold is not most remembered as being an exceptionally strong player (at best he achieved a class A rating), he fostered the development of many children, and adults, who have already become experts and masters. In the chess community, Harold is remembered as a special kind of hero—a chess icon to many.

In 2009, All The King’s Men Chess and Brain Games, Inc., established the Harold Steen Memorial Cup tournament, one year after his death; and it has now become an annual event. This year’s event, sponsored in part by Michigan Chess Festival, LLC, is September 20-22 and features a special guest appearance by Mrs. Harold Steen. This dynamic woman will give a short talk at the tournament on Saturday morning. Come meet and hear this interesting woman—even if you’re not playing. You’ll be glad you came!

The Fifth Annual Harold Steen Memorial Cup offers three sections: Open, Reserve (U1700), and Novice (U1000), with a prize fund of $1,750, 80 percent guaranteed. It has two-day and three-day schedules available in the Open and Reserve sections. The three-day schedule starts on Friday, September 20, and the two-day on Saturday, September 21. Both schedules merge after round two. The Novice (U1000) section is one day only on Saturday, September 21. Winners are awarded large trophies.

There is easy access to the tournament site at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Sterling Heights, Michigan, via three freeways: I-75, I-696, M-59. Amenities for registered guests include a hot breakfast, indoor pool, fitness room, suite shoppe; a refrigerator, microwave, iron & board in each room, and more. Nearby shopping centers house many restaurants, including fast food, a Target, Meijer’s, and many other stores.

Harold’s wife, Altha, and their son and daughter, Michael and Jill, were very proud and supportive of the work Harold did with children and subsequently established the Harold Steen Memorial Fund to help needy and deserving children to continue the pursuit of Harold’s beloved game. Donations can be sent to Mrs. Harold Steen, c/o All The King’s Men, 27170 Dequindre Road, Warren, MI 48092. Please make checks payable to Harold Steen Memorial Fund. 🌟
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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 August 7 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES!
FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!
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PHOTO BY BETSY CARINA

PHOTO BY BETSY CARINA
ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by August 7, 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.

**Junior Grand Prix Top Overall Standings**

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**Check Out USCF’s Correspondence Chess Rated Events!**

### 2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

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- **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.

### 2013 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

(Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)

**2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25**

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.

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**Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)**

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

- **WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY**
  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 past office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.
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USCF National Events

**See TLA in This Issue for Details**

**2013 U.S. Class Championship** September 27-29 or 28-29 • Houston, Texas

**54th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship** October 12-14 • Fort Eustis, Virginia

**2013 U.S. Action Game/30 Championship** October 26 • Santa Clara, California

**2013 U.S. Game/60 Championship** October 27 • Santa Clara, California

**FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)**

**2013 K-12 Grade Championship** December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida

**2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship** December 27-30 • Lubbock, Texas

**2014 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North** February 21-23 • Schaumburg, Illinois

**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

**2014 U.S. Amateur Championship South** June 7-8 • Memphis, Tennessee

**2014 National Open—TBA**

**2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship—TBA**

**115th annual (2014) U.S. Open** July 26-August 3 • St. Louis, Missouri

**2014 U.S. Class Championship** October 31-November 2 • Irvine, California

**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

**2015 National Open—TBA**

**2015 U.S. Game/10 Championship—TBA**

**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

**2017 K-12 Grade Championship** December 8-10 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida

**2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship** May 11-13 • Nashville, Tennessee

**2018 K-12 Grade Championship** December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida

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**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. Game/15 Championship

**DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:**

- 2014 U.S. Amateur Teams (South, West)
- 2014 U.S. Amateur (East, North, West)
- 2014 U.S. Cadet
- 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. Masters Championship

**DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2013:**

- 2014 U.S. Junior Open
- 2014 U.S. Senior Open

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**ATTENTION AFFILIATES**

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.

**Rating Supplements**

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.
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the US Chess Federation nor any of its officers assumes the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in acquiring information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the tournament organizer listed. Chess life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TLA submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prize tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prize point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prize point total. Also include full time control notching rate or time delay even if zero is done.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix: A Junior Grand Prix event must have four or more rounds with a time control greater than 65 min. Please see www.uschess.org/data/page/PG-Rules.php for complete rules.

SUBMISSIONS: E-mail your tla to: tla@uschess.org (Jean DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prize information see January 2013 CL pg. 50 and 51 or check www.uschess.org/go/tlaInfo. Payment can be done online through the TDC Affiliates area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., Box 3967, Cleveland, OH 44101.
10th annual LOS ANGELES OPEN
Oct 11-13 or 12-13, Sheraton Agoura Hills
$15,000 PROJECTED PRIZES, $10,000 MINIMUM
5 rounds, $95 rooms, free parking, 5 sections.

Open Section: Prizes $1800-900-500-300, clear/tiebreak winner $100 bonus, top U2300/U600, $300. FIDE rated, 80 G/40.


Under 1900: $1200-600-300-200, top U1700 $500-250.

Under 1600: $1000-500-300-200, top U1400 $400-200.

Under 1300: $500-300-200-100, plaques.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $400-200-100.

Unrated prize limit: $200 in U1300, $400 U1600, $600 U1900.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chesstour.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! OCT. 6-7, PA  
3 TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRK PKTS. 10 (ENHANCED) 
Reg ends 15 min before start. 2 sections. Open (FIDE rated): 
100-70, U1600-U1400-Unr. each $50. No unrated may win more than $125. 
4 Sections. Open (FIDE rated): 450, 400/60 d/60 s. EF: $50 received by 10/2, $65 at site. 
If joining USCF for 1st time, USEF $91 if received by 10/2, $136 at site. 
Kingstowne Chess Festival 
22122. 
Start (Fri): Rds. 1-2, $45. 2 limits. $0 2. See TLA on page ________

NO TOURNAMENTS IN YOUR AREA? 
WHY NOT ORGANIZE ONE? 
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 based-on Swiss or with projected prizes up to $500, a tourney 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 joandubois@uschess.org. We’ll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess! 

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!! A Weikel Tournament 
Entry Fee $147 or less – 40/2 – G/1 – d5 
- Rooms $25/$59 while they last! 
Wednesday October 16th 
- GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul/Analysis - $30 
Thursday October 17th 
- FREE Lecture by IM John Donaldson 
- GM Alexander Ivanov Simul - $20 
- Blitz Tourney - $20 
- See TLA on page 56 
For more info: www.renches.com 

Tournament Life / September 2013 | Chess Life 54
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 5 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 10 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 15 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 20 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 25 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 50 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 100 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 150 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 200 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 250 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 300 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 350 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 400 (ENHANCED)**

**CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: 450 (ENHANCED)**
Trophies Plus - Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)

Third Annual Fall Festival
Michigan Chess Festival LLC presents the Third Annual Fall Festival, NORMS POSSIBLE 9 ROUND FIDE RATED October 23-27, 2013, Adams Hotel, Dearborn, MI.

Registration: All Sections: 8 Sections: 3:30pm - 4:30pm; 4:30pm - 4:45pm; 1:00pm - 1:15pm; 1:15pm - 1:30pm. 2-day: $55 entry. 3-day: $80 entry. 9 round: $120 entry fee plus $60 GM observer fee. GMs can observe any round of play. GM observers look at positions and discuss strategy. GMs only. GM/IMs in attendance free for all rounds. GM/IMs $150 per round. GM/IMs also allowed to serve as Tiebreakers. Ask for tournament director for proper registration/fee. Entry fee must be paid by 10/21/13. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 347-201-2269.

Trophies Plus - Grand Prix Points: 10

Awards to all. TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

A CHAMPIONSHIP

Trophies Plus - Grand Prix Points: 10

A State Championship

Trophies Plus - Grand Prix Points: 10

Trophies Plus - Grand Prix Points: 10

The tournament will be held at the Capital Area Chess Club, 4451 Brookfield Corporate Dr., Suite 201, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Registration: All Sections: 8 Sections: 3:30pm - 4:30pm; 4:30pm - 4:45pm; 1:00pm - 1:15pm; 1:15pm - 1:30pm. 2-day: $55 entry. 3-day: $80 entry. 9 round: $120 entry fee plus $60 GM observer fee. GMs can observe any round of play. GM observers look at positions and discuss strategy. GMs only. GM/IMs in attendance free for all rounds. GM/IMs $150 per round. GM/IMs also allowed to serve as Tiebreakers. Ask for tournament director for proper registration/fee. Entry fee must be paid by 10/21/13. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 347-201-2269.

entry for chess action.

Entry fee: $115 at chessaction.com by 10/30, $120 phoned to 406-896-9281 by 10/30 (entry only, no questions), 3-day $123, 2-day $122 mailed by 10/23, $130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hrs before game. Re-entry (no Open to Open) $60

USCF membership required. Special dice: Chess Life or chess.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

Registration: All Sections: 8 Sections: 3:30pm - 4:30pm; 4:30pm - 4:45pm; 1:00pm - 1:15pm; 1:15pm - 1:30pm. 2-day: $55 entry. 3-day: $80 entry. 9 round: $120 entry fee plus $60 GM observer fee. GMs can observe any round of play. GM observers look at positions and discuss strategy. GMs only. GM/IMs in attendance free for all rounds. GM/IMs $150 per round. GM/IMs also allowed to serve as Tiebreakers. Ask for tournament director for proper registration/fee. Entry fee must be paid by 10/21/13. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 347-201-2269.

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USCF membership required. Special dice: Chess Life or chess.com.
22nd annual KINGS ISLAND OPEN

Mason, Ohio (near Cincinnati) - Ohio’s largest open tournament!

5-round Swiss, November 15-17 or 16-17, 2013

PRIZES $30,000 PROJECTED, $24,000 MINIMUM GUARANTEED

At KINGS ISLAND RESORT, on a 1600-acre wooded setting - VERY LOW ROOM RATES, ONLY $63!

5 rounds, 40/110, SD/30, d1 (day 2 option, rds 1-2 G/75, d5), Kings Island Resort, 5691 Kings Island Dr (I-71, 6 miles N of I-275), Mason OH 45040. Free parking.

Prizes $30,000 based on 350 paid entries (re-entries & U1000 count 50%), else proportional; min. 80% each prize.

In 7 sections: you face only those in your section. Unr will obtain ratings.

Open: $3000-1500-700-500-300-1st, Under 2300/U1600 $1800-1600, FIDE 1500+ ($100 less).


Unrated prizes limit: U1000 $200, U1250 $400, U1500 $600, U1700 $800, U1900 $1000.

Mixed Doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player combined score among all sections: $600-400-200. Team must average under 2200; must register (no extra fee) before both begin rd 2.

Top 6 sections entry fee: $115 online at chessaction.com by 11/13, $120 phone (call 800-704-0239, no questions), 3-day $118, 2-day $117 mailed by 11/6. $130 at site, or online until 2 hours before first game. Re-entry $60, not available in Open Section.

Under 1000 Section entry fee: all $60 less than top 6 sections entry fee.

Ohio Chess Association: Advance entry fees $5 less to OCA members.

Special 1 year USCF dues (with 2 day) - you face only those in your section: $600-400-200. Team must average under 2200; must register (no extra fee) before both begin rd 2.

3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun 10 am & 3 pm.

2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat. 9 am, rds. Sat 10 am, 1:30 pm & 5 pm, Sun 10 am & 3 pm.

All: Half point byes OK all; limit 2; Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. 2-day round settings, boards, clocks if possible- none supplied. Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix points available.

Hotel rates: $63 single or twin, 800-727-3050, 513-398-5115. Reserve by 10/29 or rate may increase.

Online tournament (recommended for airport transportation): Avis, 800-331-1600, #D657633, or reserve at chesstour.com.

Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 4825, Albany NY 12207. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).
23rd annual NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

Dec 26-30, 26-29 or 27-29, Bally’s Las Vegas - GM IM norms possible $120,000 projected prizes, $90,000 minimum guaranteed


Players with under 26 games rated as of 12/13 official list may not win over $1500 in U1250, $3000 U1500 or U1700. $249, 3-day $248 if check mailed by Dec 17, 5-day late reg. ends 12/26 11 am, Rds. 12/26-28 12 noon & 6:15 pm, 12/29 10 am & 4 pm, 12/30 10 am & 4 pm.

Online entry fee: $245 at chess.com by 10/15, $275 by 12/20, $300 until 2 hours before game. Note. Higher Open Section fee if FIDE U2200. Entry fee at site: $9,000-4500-2500-1500-1000-500. Entry fee for sites: $60. USCF membership or USCF life membership required.

Bring set, board, clock if possible, or we will provide. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.


9-7-98. Entry fee: $1,400-700-350-175-100-50-25. Please bring clock if possible, or we will provide. USCF membership required.

Special room rate at Bally’s $97 single or twin. Reserve now at 800-833-3308 or 702-739-4111. Rooms may sell out about Nov 7. Check-in: 3 pm, Check-out: 11 am, Wed 29th, for $350, 30 Days, 145 single service charge for refunds. Questions: www.ballychessevent.com or chess@goes.com. Bally’s 9411 Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking.

7 sections. Prizes $120,000 based on 600 entries (seniors, re-entries, GMs, IMs, WGMs & U1250 count half), else equal distribution. Prize funds guaranteed. FIDE ratings used in Open. Jan 1st USCF in each section. Re-entry fees: $50; 3-day late reg. ends 12/27 2:00 pm.

2013 Cross California Chess Championship.

Open Section: 9 rounds, Dec 26-30, 40, 52D, 30D, 410. Open Section entry fee: $1000-500-2500-1250-625-312-156. Open Section entry fee for sites: $60. USCF membership required.

Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Special room rate at Bally’s $97 single or twin. Reserve now at 800-833-3308 or 702-739-4111. Rooms may sell out about Nov 7. Check-in: 3 pm, Check-out: 11 am, Wed 29th, for $350, 30 Days, 145 single service charge for refunds. Questions: www.ballychessevent.com or chess@goes.com. Bally’s 9411 Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking.

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Players with under 26 games rated as of 12/13 official list may not win over $1500 in U1250, $3000 U1500 or U1700. $249, 3-day $248 if check mailed by Dec 17, 5-day late reg. ends 12/26 11 am, Rds. 12/26-28 12 noon & 6:15 pm, 12/29 10 am & 4 pm, 12/30 10 am & 4 pm.

Online entry fee: $245 at chess.com by 10/15, $275 by 12/20, $300 until 2 hours before game. Note. Higher Open Section fee if FIDE U2200. Entry fee at site: $9,000-4500-2500-1500-1000-500. Entry fee for sites: $60. USCF membership or USCF life membership required.

Bring set, board, clock if possible, or we will provide. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Special room rate at Bally’s $97 single or twin. Reserve now at 800-833-3308 or 702-739-4111. Rooms may sell out about Nov 7. Check-in: 3 pm, Check-out: 11 am, Wed 29th, for $350, 30 Days, 145 single service charge for refunds. Questions: www.ballychessevent.com or chess@goes.com. Bally’s 9411 Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking.

Players with under 26 games rated as of 12/13 official list may not win over $1500 in U1250, $3000 U1500 or U1700. $249, 3-day $248 if check mailed by Dec 17, 5-day late reg. ends 12/26 11 am, Rds. 12/26-28 12 noon & 6:15 pm, 12/29 10 am & 4 pm, 12/30 10 am & 4 pm.

Online entry fee: $245 at chess.com by 10/15, $275 by 12/20, $300 until 2 hours before game. Note. Higher Open Section fee if FIDE U2200. Entry fee at site: $9,000-4500-2500-1500-1000-500. Entry fee for sites: $60. USCF membership or USCF life membership required.

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Nov. 25-26, TENNESSEE

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

Western Missouri Open

54th Mid-South Open

Other Sections: $2000-1000-500-400-300.

American Classic!

A Heritage Classic!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!

Nov. 17-18 OR 17-16, CONNECTICUT

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

4th Annual Florida Open

555, 390, SD/10 $120 (2-day option, rds. 1-2/f/120), Sheridan Hotel, 121, 800 E. Amsterdam, Chicago, IL 60616.

Cheat Happens

NOV. 20-24, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6 (ENHANCED)

2013 Motor City Open

With Co-Sponsorship from Michigan Chess Festival, LLC. 6-SS (5-SS in U1000 Section). 4 Sections: OPEN, U1000, U1200, U1400. To play up. Top Section FIDE-Rated. Prize Fund: $10,000. 80% Guar. per section. SITE: New Detroit’s FABULOUS MOTOR CITY CASINO HOTEL, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, MI 48203 (Directions and Lodging Info below). All Sections except U1000 have 2-Day and 3-Day Schedules. No Re-Entries in OPEN or U1000 Sections. Up to Three 1/2- pt. byes available (2 in U1000 Sect.; must be requested before start of RD. 3 on 11/12 in U1000 Sect.). Sections merge after RD. 3. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if purchased on site. TD may extend this time at TD’s discretion only for 2nd iteration. Spectators will be expected to excuse for the

Continental Chess Schedule

Visit www.chesscontract.com for late news, results, games, minimum ratings, entries, etc. To be added or email list. see chesscontract.com.

Events in red offer FIDE norm possibilities.

remainder of the event for any offense. Headphones cannot be used if opponent objects for any reason and cannot be used in the last 2 rounds for any player with a plus score. Player must be willing to present same to TDs for examination at any time. Failure to do so may result in removal from tournament without refund. Rules Posted at Site: $300 OKRA OPEN. OPEN: $4,400 (80% guar.: b/50): 1st-2nd-3rd, $1,500-900-600, TOP U2400, U2200, U2000, U1800/UNR, U1600 $300. TOP U1800, U1600: $2,400 (80% guar.: b/50): 1st-2nd-3rd, $900-500-300, TOP U1600, U1400 $300-$200. U1400: $2,200 (80% guar.: b/50): 1st-2nd-3rd, $700-400-300; 1st-2nd TOP U1200, U1000/UNR $300-$150. U1000: Large Trophies for TOP 5 Overall and 1st-2nd TOP U800, U600/UNR, U400/UNR.

3-day schedule:
1st-2nd-3rd, $1,500-$900-$600 $1600-800-400-300-200.

3-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 10:45 & 3:30 each day.

4th annual National Chess Congress
A Heritage Event!

Greater Midwest Class Championships - $10,000 Guaranteed!

Trophies PLUS GRAND POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

See www.mapquest.com for directions. Reservations: MCO Chess Rate $119 (reg. $249!) by Fri, Nov. 15 for I-94, I-96, I-75 and M-10 (Lodge Freeway). See www.marshallchessclub.org for details. Info, Ent: chesstour@aol.com or 845-496-9658. Advance registration is $119/25% ($297) thru Nov. 15, $139 by Nov. 17.

Registration: USA Chess $120. Unrated max $200 exc. in Open.
For Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.

9th annual Greater Midwest Class Championships - $10,000 Guaranteed!

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

For Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.

Under 1800: 1,000 500 200, u2300 300 150.

14th annual National Chess Congress
A Heritage Event!

Under 1200: 200 100 50.

NOV. 29 DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

Under 2200: 1,500 900 600, Under 1800/UNR: $350 EACH.

UPSET in OPEN, U1800 and U1400 sections get choice of Mechan-
Chess Magazine School Junior Grand Prix!  
Jan. 17-20 or 18-21 or 19-20, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN  
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)  
5th annual Golden State Open  
C.57, Grande Casino Resort, 45 John Glenn Dr., Carson, CA 90745 (free BART station).  
Entry Deadline: Jan 17, 2014; Rds: 1-2, 7D0/10 1/2, 2-4, 7D0/9 3/4, 5-7, 7D0/10 1/2; 4-2, 400-200-100.  
Trophies: first 3 each section.  
Limited to entering 3 sections.  
C.56, Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.  
This Open is free for all MACA members; may join/renew at masschess.org. Re-entry $50.  
Winner: $1000-500-300-200, clear or tiebreak 1st $100 bonus, top 1200-1000.  
Ed: if tiebreaks, official USCF handicap.  
FIDE: Not available if otherwise unrated.  
Special rules: Players who fail to disclose foreign or FIDE ratings may be expelled.  
Highest of multiple ratings usually used.  
See previous issue for TLAs appearing September 1-14.

See previous issue for TLAs appearing September 1-14
approximate 1000. Prizes: To the top 3 scholastic players in this section. 75% of entry fee plus cash prizes to adults only in this section. Format: 5 Round Swiss, Game/10, 5 sec. adjournments. Round Times: Fri 8:30-9:45, Sat 8:30-10:30 (2 sets), Sun 9:00-10:45, Fri 8:30-9:45, Sat 8:30-10:30 (2 sets). On-site registration is $50.00. Players registering on-site will receive a 1/2 point bye for the first round. Location: Punte de Héroe, 3401 N. Fourth St., Flagstaff. Contact for more information, may be purchased on site. Register Online at: flagstaffchess.com. For More Information: Bill Cheney 928-266-2112. E: chessnnnc@gmail.com. Official Web Site: flagstaffchess.com.

OCT. 13-11 OR 12-13, 10th annual Los Angeles Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 1, 49th Annual American Open (CA-G) See Grand Prix.

NOV. 30-DEC. 1 OR DEC. 1, 2013 American Open Scholastic (CA-S) See California, Southern.

DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 23rd annual Northern Open (NV) See Grand Prix.

Arkansas


NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, Class Warfare Championship See Grand Prix.

NOV. 30-DEC. 1 OR DEC. 1, 2013 American Open Scholastic (CA-S) See California, Southern.

DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 23rd annual Northern Open (NV) See Grand Prix.

Jan. 2-6, Bay Area International See Grand Prix.


California, Northern


SEPT. 15-22 OR 21-22, Full Championship See Grand Prix.


SEPT. 28-29, 2013 Sacramento Senior Chess Championship ROUNDS: 4 FORMAT: Swiss. RATING: Full-KC. SITE: Hampton Inn & Suites, 2300 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, CA. ON-SITE REGISTRATION: 9/28-9/29 at 9:00-10:45 AM. Rounds: 8 am to 8 pm both days. TIME CONTROLS: 2-day: 30/5+5 45 sec increment. SECTIONS: Open, ENTRY FEES: $50 per day or $90 for 2 days. 1st place: $1500, 2nd $850, 3rd $500, 4th $250, 5th $150, 6th $75. 15/20, 10/15, 30/60, 15/10, 10/5. Reroll 30/60, 15/10, 10/5. ENTRANCE FEE: $50 per day or $90 for 2 days. 1st place: $1500, 2nd $850, 3rd $500, 4th $250, 5th $150, 6th $75. 15/20, 10/15, 30/60, 15/10, 10/5. Reroll 30/60, 15/10, 10/5.
FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**OCT. 11-13 OR 12-13, Orlando Autumn Open & National Chess Day Scholastic** See Grand Prix.

**OCT. 12, National Chess Day Tournament G/30 Scholastic (K-12)** Site: Hialeah Gardens Middle School, 2169 NW 92nd Ave., Hialeah Gardens, FL 33018. Entry Fees: $20 by 10/1 per person, $25 after. Email info@nachess.org. Advance Registration: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Round 1: 1:30 p.m.; Round 2: 3:00 p.m. Entry Fees: $35, $20 if by 10/5, $30 at site. Entry Deadline: 9/16. Email entries OK. Reserve by 10/5, or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-336-3789. Avis DEP56713, or reserve car online through chess.com. Cont: Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. (Directed at USChess.com, chess@cont.com, 347-201-2269. $15 per section. For details, see www.fschess.org.

**NOV. 1-3 OR 2-3, 4th annual Boardwalk Open (NJ)** See Grand Prix.

**NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, 4th annual Hartford Open** See Grand Prix.

**NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 44th annual National Chess Congress (PA)** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 10-12 OR 11-12, 2nd annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 22-26, 23-26 OR 24-26, 12th annual Foxwoods Open (CT)** See Grand Prix.

**Delaware**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

Newark Chess Club 4-5, USCF-rated game every Thursday 7-7:30 PM. 345 Bell Rd., Bear DE 19702. For a full year of weekly games $22 for in-state players, $15 out-of-state! www.newarckesschessclub.blogspot.com, newarkchess@gmail.com.

**District of Columbia**

**OCT. 9-14, 11-14 OR 12-14, 4th annual Continental Class Championships** See Grand Prix.

**OCT. 19, National Capital Scholastic Cup Qualifier** See Grand Prix.

**OCT. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 23rd annual National Chess Championship (CA)** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 17-20 OR 18-20 OR 19-20, 5th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)** See Grand Prix.

**North Shore Chess Center**

a friendly environment to learn and play chess USCF rated tournaments every week, Grandmaster lectures and simul matches, team events, and scholastic camps. Private and group lessons available onsite and at your location. Contact us at 847.423.8625 or sewan@nachess.org. Visit our website at www.nachess.org/events for our full schedule of events. Located at 5500 W. Touhy Ave., Suite A, Skokie, IL 60077 across the street from the Village Crossing Shopping Center.

**Renaissance Knights**

Illinois’s premier provider of chess tournament, summer camps, enrichment classes, and our Chess in the Classroom Program where we make chess part of the school day. Our monthly Quest tournament for kids & adults is now in its 8th year & held at the beautiful Crown Plaza in Northbrook. Contact us at 773.844.8076 or renknightz@att.net. Visit our website at www.riknightz.org for our schedule of events and to find out more about our programs.


**SEPT. 15, 93rd Knights Quest** Craine Plaza Hotel, 2875 Mill Ave., Northbrook, IL. USCF Rated Tournaments. Entry Fee: $45.00, $25.00 for junior players, $20.00 for half rated players. Check in: 7:30 PM; Round 1: 8:30 PM; Round 2: 10:00 PM. Reserve: $100-75-50. OR/ENT/INFO: ICA, www.idaho-chessassociation.org. Contact: George Lundy, 9533 Caraway Dr., Boise, ID 83704. tmldnny@juno.com. NC. NS. W.

**Connecticut**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! **OCT. 1-8 OR 2-9, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship** See Grand Prix.

**OCT. 1-13 OR 12-13, 10th annual Los Angeles Open** See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

OCT. 1-13 OR 12-13, LACC - National Chess Day Weekend** (Sponsored by Harold C. Valery, Inc.) 6SS, $66/day. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. 2 sections: C-3, $140/300. EF: $70 at the door ($5 if notified by 10/11); $60 LACC members ($5 if notified by 10/11); 2 sections: F-3, $140/300. EF: $70 at the door ($5 if notified by 10/11); $60 LACC members ($5 if notified by 10/11); 2 sections: C-5, $100/200. EF: $50 at the door ($5 if notified by 10/11); $50 LACC members ($5 if notified by 10/11). Siblings 1/2, $30 new LACC members, Free new LACC Life members! Reg: Sat 10-11:45am, Sun 8-11am. Byes: Up to three 1/2-point byes available. 1-day Option E: Play 1 day - 1/2 pt/Players. 2-day Option E: Day 1 & Day 2 - 1/2 pt/Players. EF: $20, $40 for each 1/2 pt, $100 for each 1 pt. Byes: Up to three 1/2-point byes available. No entries will be accepted for same section, same school, same school, same school, same school, same school, same school, same school, same school, school. Mixed team prize (2 males, 2 females, no alternate): free entry for each team member to National Team Championship. No Nov. 29-Dec. 1 Philadelphia. October official USCF ratings used. Unofficial uschess.org ratings used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF Scholastic $250 with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chess.com. Adult, $30 Young Adult, $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun 11 am & 3 pm. Top 16 byes: 10, 13:00, 5, Sun 10 & 3:30, Bye: all limit 2; must commit before 2 nd 2 HR: $94-94, 800-406-7604, 203-358-8400; reserve by 10/4 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-336-3789. Avis DEP56713, or reserve car online through chess.com. Cont: Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. (Directed at USChess.com, chess@cont.com, 347-201-2269. $15 per section. For details, see www.fschess.org.

**Florida**


**EASTERN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP October 18-20 or 1920 Stamford CT Prizes $10,000 plus plaques and free entries FOR TEAMS AVERAGING UNDER 2000**

For 4-player teams, one alternate optional. 5 rounds, match pt scoring. At Sheraton Hotel in downtown Stamford. Free parking, trains from NYC运转. Room rates $94 per twin or single. Early finish times. GUARANTEED PRIZES: Top teams $2000-1200-600-400, teams averaging under $1200 600-400, teams averaging under $1000 500-200, top player on each board $400-200, top alternate $100. Mixed team prize (2 males, 2 females, no alternate): free entry for each team member in National Chess Congress. Plaque to top school college team, K-12 team, K-9 team, K-6 team, K-3 team. The website at chess.com.

**FOR FULL DETAILS: see "Connecticut" in this issue.**
22nd annual MIDWEST CLASS
Oct 18-20 or 19-20, Wheeling, Illinois
$20,000 PROJECTED PRIZES, $16,000 MINIMUM

22nd annual MIDWEST CLASS
Oct 18-20 or 19-20, Wheeling, Illinois
$20,000 PROJECTED PRIZES, $16,000 MINIMUM

Master (2200/up): Prizes $2000-1000-500-300, clear/tiebreak winner $100 bonus, top U2300/Unr $800-400. FIDE, 100 GDP.


Class B (1600-1799/Unr): $1400-700-400-300. Unr limit $700.

Class C (1400-1599/Unr): $1200-600-400-300. Unr limit $500.


Class E (Under 1200/Unr): $1000-500-300-200. Unr limit $200, plaques to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $600-300.

See TLA or chesstour.com. Rated players may play up one section.
New Hampshire

SEPT. 25, Manchester Blitzfest (BLZ) RR, Game 5/6 20, Comfort Inn, 29 Queen City Ave., Manchester, NH 03102. This is a round robin event. All players will play each other, up to 31 rounds. U2100 or unrated. Entry fee $25 per player. Advance entry fee posted at website. Players must commit before Rd. 2. Held concurrently with UMass 4 Nations. Reg. $25. Solve 5, $100 to 1st, 50% of remaining goes to prize fund. Entry fee posted for prize fund. Registration: 4:00-8:00 PM Thu 9/26 or Fri. 9:00-12:00 PM. www.chessclubnh.com. Info: 603-624-0063.
At the Chess Magnet School, students can participate in various tournaments throughout the year. Here are some highlights:

**New Mexico Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prize!**

A State Championship Event!

**SEPT. 28, 29**

New Mexico, 2013 NM State Championship and School Team Section - New Mexico Chess Magnet School.

**Nov. 28-30, 2013**

New Mexico Chess Magnet School.

**SEPT. 27, 28**

Marshall Saturday U1600!

**NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17**

4th Annual Hartford Open (CT)

**SEPT. 29-20, 28-29**

Marshall Thursday Open

**NOV. 13, 14, 11, 18, Viking Swiss**

See Grand Prix

**NOV. 3-1 OR 3-2**

3rd Annual Boardwalk Open

**NOV. 1, 2013**

1st-3rd Place: $120, $85, $65. 3rd-4th Place: $40, $25 members. USCF mem req'd for Sections 1, 2 AND OVER 1600, OVER 1800.

**SEPT. 15**

Marshall Tuesday Event! Game 3!

**NOV. 6**


**SEPT. 26-28**

New Mexico State Championship Event!

**NOV. 29**

Marshall Monday Event! Game 2!

**NOV. 11**

First Round: $75. $200/$150/$100, U1800-$100, U1600 $75, U1400 $50. Prize: $25. Unrated eligible only for One half the stated prize.

**NOV. 29-30**

Marshall Tuesday Event! Game 1!

**NOV. 11**

First Round: $75. $200/$150/$100, U1800-$100, U1600 $75, U1400 $50. Prize: $25. Unrated eligible only for One half the stated prize.
442-2430. Prizes based on entries.

OCT. 5-6 OR 6

OCT. 10, 17, 24, 31

See Grand Prix.


Chess Life Grand Junior Prize! 2013-14 OR 12-14, 4th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix.


Chess Life Grand Junior Prize! 2013-14 OR 12-14, 4th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix.


NOV. 2-3 OR 3, Marshall November FIDE GP

See Grand Prix.

Ohio

SEPT. 5, DCC Friday Night Quick 2013 (QC)
455, 24/6 d5. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 (80 DCC mbrs.). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net, 937-461-6283.

SEPT. 6, DCC Friday Night Quick 2013 (QC)
455, 24/6 d5. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 (80 DCC mbrs.). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net, 937-461-6283.

SEPT. 13-15 OR 14-15, 2013 Universal Midwest Fall Swiss (MI)
See Grand Prix.

SEPT. 20, DCC Friday Night Quick 2013 (QC)
455, 24/6 d5. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 (80 DCC mbrs.). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net, 937-461-6283.

SEPT. 20-22 OR 21-22, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY)
See Grand Prix.

SEPT. 21, Columbus Tornado

SEPT. 21, Fall Daze Pawn Storm XIX
See Grand Prix.

SEPT. 21, Solon Fall Sizzler

SEPT. 27, DCC Friday Night Quick 2013 (QC)
455, 24/6 d5. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 (80 DCC mbrs.). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net, 937-461-6283.

OCT. 4, DCC Friday Night Quick 2013 (QC)
455, 24/6 d5. Dayton Chess Club, 18 W. 5th St., Dayton, OH. Rds.: 7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30. One bye. Prizes based on entries. EF: $10 (80 DCC mbrs.). Info: DCC.18W5@sbcglobal.net, 937-461-6283.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 1, 2, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 1, 2, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 1, 2, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 6, 6,3, DEC. 1, Columbus Chess League New shorter season! 4-board teams (1 alternate), 1 Open Section. 6SS, G/75 d5, 2 rounds each, first Sunday/month at Donatos OSU Campus. EF: $50/team. Trophies to top 2 teams, 1st U600 team and 1st/2nds. Advance entries only due, 9/29. Full details at www.newleystonechess.com.

OCT. 11-13 OR 12-13, 11th Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 12, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 12, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 12, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 12, National Chess Day Tournament

OCT. 19, 20-21, 12th annual Foxwoods Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 21, MasterMind's National Chess Day!

OCT. 21, MasterMind’s National Chess Day!

OCT. 22-24 OR 23-25, 2013 National Chess Day Open (CA-N)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 26-28 OR 27-29, 4th annual Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 27, 2013 PA State Game/45 Championship
See Grand Prix.

NOV. 1-3 OR 2-3, 4th annual Boardwalk Open (NJ)
See Grand Prix.

NOV. 3, PCL November Quick Quads (QC)
395, G/40 d5. Wm. Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. EF: $15, $7 Jrs. $20 to 1st/quad. REG.: 9-11am. Rd. 1 10AM then asap: 17 indi-

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1 (NOT NOV. 22-24), 2013 Motor City Open (MI)
See Grand Prix.

Oklahoma

Chess Magnet School Senior Grand Prix!

Ohio

CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

OCT. 4-6, OR 5-7, 11th Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 5-7, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 6, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 7-9, 11-14 OR 12-14, 4th annual Continental Championship (SA)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 10-12, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 12-14, 2013 Experimental Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 12-14, 2013 Experimental Eastern Team Championship (CT)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 13, PCL October Quick Quads (QC)
395, G/50 d5. Wm. Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. EF: $15, $7 Jrs. $20 to 1st/quad. REG.: 9-11am. Rd. 1 10AM then asap: 17 indi-

OCT. 14-15 OR 14-15, 2013 Universal Midwest Fall Swiss (MI)
See Grand Prix.

Pennsylvania

Maryland Chess Association (MD)
See Maryland.

North Penn Chess Club
See Grand Prix.

North Penn Chess Club
See Grand Prix.

Raymond Chess Magnet School (MD)
See Maryland.

Pennsylvania

Maryland Chess Association (MD)
See Maryland.

Pennsylvania

Maryland Chess Association (MD)
See Maryland.

OCT. 15-17 OR 16-17, 22nd annual Kings Island Open See Grand Prix.

OCT. 19, 20-22 OR 21-23, 2013 Motor City Open (MI)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 20-22 OR 21-22, 6th annual Louisville Open (KY)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 21-23, 2013 PA State Game/45 Championship
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 22-23 OR 22-24, 26th annual Foxwoods Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.

Rhode Island

OCT. 21, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 22-23 OR 22-24, 26th annual Foxwoods Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.

South Carolina

OCT. 20-22 OR 20-21, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

Tennessee

OCT. 20-22 OR 20-21, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 22-23 OR 22-24, 26th annual Foxwoods Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.


OCT. 28-29 OR 29-30, 2013 National Chess Day Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31, 2013 OR NOV. 1-3, 2013 National Chess Day Open (CA-N)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 2, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 5, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 6, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 7-9, 2013 National Chess Day Quads
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 8-10, 10-12, 2013 National Chess Day Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 9-11, OR 10-12, 13th Annual Wright Brothers Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 10, 11-12 OR 11-13, 2013 Royal Kings Island Open (OH)
See Grand Prix.
Texas

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<td>Texas Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix</td>
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4th annual CONTINENTAL CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Oct 9-14, 11-14 or 12-14 - Columbus Day weekend - Hyatt Regency Crystal City, near DC

SCHOLASTIC Tournaments:

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<td>2000-1000-500-300-200</td>
<td>2000-1000-500-300-200</td>
</tr>
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Entry fee $80 less to rated seniors 65+ over in Master through Class C.

No at site, credit cards OK.

4-day reg. ends Wed 6 pm, rds. Wed, Thu 7-11:45 & 6, Fri 6, Sat 11:45 & 6, Sun 10:45 & 5, Mon 10 am.

3-day reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds Sat 10, 2 & 6, Sun 10:45 & 5, Mon 10 & 3:30.

Byes: OK all limit (3 limit in last 4 rounds), must commit before round 3.

All: FIDE ratings used for Master, October USCF for others. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Bring set, board, clock if possible; none supplied. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

Entries: at chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8842, Pelham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Special USCF dues: see Chess Life TLA or chessour.com.

Entries are posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).
All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised by S and/or C (see below for explanations).

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Problem III.

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Problem V.

Problem VI.

Problem VII.

Problem VIII.

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Problem XCV.

Problem XCVI.

Problem XCVII.

Problem XCVIII.

Problem XCIX.

Problem CXC.

Problem CXCI.

Problem XCII.

Problem XCIII.
When the U.S. Open came to Phoenix in 2005, I took a full week off of work. The following game was the first one I played that week in the top quad.

Alekhine’s Defense (B04)
Bradley J. Sawyer (2100)
Joel F. Johnson (2218)
U.S. Open Biltmore Quads I (1),
Phoenix, Arizona, 08/09/2005

One of the great thrills of playing in major events is meeting new players such as Bradley. At the time, I was near 50; Sawyer appeared to be an older teenager.


My first mistake was not realizing just how strong the move 15. … e4! is. Black can really crank up the pressure on the b2- and c4-squares while drastically increasing the power of the dark-squared bishop, and both rooks after the moves, … Re8 and … Rc8.

16. Rc1 Nd7 17. 0-0 Nc5 18. Qa3 a5

Black attempts to blockade the queenside before attacking the white monarch on the opposite side.


Prior to this move, Black had a firm advantage of just under a pawn due to the strength of Black’s bishop and the dark-square weaknesses around the white king. White was clearly prompted into playing 25. Nc7? because of the fabulous knight outpost located on the e6-square. He would be able to gain control of the f-file while contesting the d4-square, and all his troubles would just disappear. Or would they?

25. … Rf3!!

At first glance this crazy-looking move appears to be just insane. How can Black hang both of his rooks and expect to survive? What is going on here? In my attack books (Formation Attacks, Formation Attack Strategies, and Attacking 101: Volume #001), I refer to moves of this ilk as a “lay-down piece sacrifice.” Frequently the moves cause pawn structure weaknesses that the defender cannot circumvent, much like here.

26. Rxf3

White is checkmated after 26. exf3 Qg3+ 27. Kh1 Qh2.

26. … exf3 27. Ne6

The capture of the black rook on a8, leads to a quick finish after 27. … Bd4+ 28. Kh2 (28. Kh1 fxg2+ 29. Kxg2 Qf2+ 30. Kh1 Be5 as in the game) 28. … Qf4+ 29. g3 (No better is 29. Kh1 Qxe1+ 30. Kh2 Be5+ 31. g3 Qd2+ 32. Kh1 Qg2 mate.) 29. … Qd2+ 30. Kh1 Qg2 mate.

Also, after 27. Qxf3, Black wins with 27. … Rf8 attacking the white queen. The white queen is faced with capture and no square is available to defend the dual Black threats of 28. … Qg3 or 28. … Qf4.

27. … Bd4+ 28. Kh1

28. … Nxd4 Qxd4+ leaves White unable to avoid the loss of his rook. For example, 29. Kh1 fxg2+ 30. Kxg2 Qf2+ 31. Kg3 Qxc1.


The weak h2-square can no longer be adequately secured by White.
“Even now, when he is number one in the world, I sometimes say: ‘He’s got potential’.”

- Simen Agdestein
44th annual
NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS

At luxurious Loews Philadelphia Hotel
6 rounds, Nov 29-Dec 1 or Nov 30-Dec 1, 2013 - early finish times!
$35,000 guaranteed prizes plus 35 trophies!

6 rounds, 40/110, SD/30, d10 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/50, d5). Trophy Sections play separate 2-day schedule only, 11/30-12/1, G/50, d5.

Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St, Philadelphia 19107. Special room rates $98-98-123, 215-627-1200, reserve by 11/15. Hotel has valet parking only, with a chess rate of $30/day. Many lots in the area charge less, especially on Sat & Sun. Gateway Garage, 3/5 mile away at 1540 Spring St, (1 block from Sheraton Hotel) is about $5 Sat/Sun, $18 Thu/Fri. Many restaurants, shops, museums within easy walking distance, including world famous Reading Terminal Market 1.5 blocks from Loews.

10 sections- you play only those in your section.
Premier: Open to 2000/over & juniors under 18 1800/over. $3000-1500-700-400-200, clear/tiebreak win $100, U2400/Unr $1600-800. FIDE, 150 GPP.
Under 1400/Unr: $1600-800-400-300-200.
Under 1200/Unr: $1600-800-400-300-200.
Under 1000/Unr: Trophies to top 10.
Under 800/Unr: Trophies to top 10.
Under 600: Trophies to top 10. Unrateds eligible for this section only if age 14 or below.
Under rated may not win over $250 in U1200, $400 U1400, $600 U1600, $800 U1800, $1000 U2000.

Mixed Doubles bonus prizes: Best male-female 2-player combined score among all sections: $2000-1000-600-400. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may be in different sections; must register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2.

Student/Alumni trophies to top 5 teams of 4 (regardless of section) representing any US college, HS, or pre-HS players attend or have graduated from.

Top 7 sections entry fees: $118 online at chessaction.com by 11/27, $125 phoned to 406-896-2038 (no questions) by 11/27, 3-day $123, 2-day $122 mailed by 11/20. All $140 at site, or online until 2 hours before first game. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Re-entry $60 (except Premier).

Trophy sections entry fees: $28 online at chessaction.com by 11/27, $35 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 11/27, $32 mailed by 11/20, $40 at site.

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: see TLA or chesstour.com.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 noon & 6 pm; Sat 12 & 6; Sun 10 am & 3:30.
2-day schedule (Open through U1200): Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds Sat 10 am, 12:45 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm; Sun 10 am & 3:30 pm.
3-day and 2-day schedules merge after round 3; all compete for same prizes.
Trophy Sections schedule: Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12:45 & 3:30 each day.
Half-point byes available all rounds, limit 3; Premier must commit before rd 2, others before rd 4.

Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied. 
December ratings used, except unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

$15 service charge for refunds.
Advance entries are posted at chessaction.com.
Entry: www.chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803.
Happy Birthday, GM Pal Benko!

Our endgame columnist for the last 45 years turns 85.
The Death of Dr. Alekhine
B0075OB (Hardcover) $27.95
B0074OB (Paperback) $16.95
The time: March 24, 1946. The place: Paris. The world chess champion, Dr. Alexander Alekhine, is found dead in his hotel room. Was it an accident? Or suicide? Or murder? In this fictional novel, Detective Inspector Colbert, a brilliant and highly unusual man, receives the case. With the help of his assistant, he unravels a tangle of lies, half-truths, false leads, and ambiguous clues. His path leads through Dr. Alekhine’s character, his murky past and through pre-war and current politics and espionage.

The Modern Defense - Move by Move
B0369EM $29.95
The Modern Defense is an ambitious, counter-attacking choice for Black which can be played against all mainline openings. In typical hypermodern style, Black allows White to occupy the centre and then undermines this centre by attacking it with pawns and pieces. In this book, Cyrus Lakdawala examines the key variations of the Modern Defence. He shares his experience and knowledge, presents a repertoire for Black and provides answers to all the key questions.

Chess Informants Issue 117
B0117INF $35.95
Don’t be mistaken; Chess Informant has changed in revolutionary ways over the last year and has become much more than a collection of recent, theoretically important and annotated games! The newest issue includes: “Garry’s Choice 117” - 5th Edition, where he analyzes the game Svidler-Grischuk from the 2013 London Candidates’ tournament, as well as articles from several new columnists, including Adrian Mikhalchishin.

Playing the Trompowsky
B0086QT $29.95
If you want to push for an advantage with White, then the Trompowsky is a great choice. The Trompowsky, 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5, has not been as deeply investigated as many of the main lines, and it is an attacking opening that is tricky for Black to face. As well as providing an attacking repertoire for White with the ambitious Trompowsky Attack, the author also covers 2.Bg5 against the Dutch Defense, as well as the Pseudo-Tromp, 1.d4 d5 2.Bg5.

Kotronias on the King’s Indian - Fianchetto Systems
B0085QT $34.95
The King’s Indian, one of Black’s most dynamic chess openings, is covered in impressive detail by grandmaster Vassilios Kotronias. As well as giving specific information on the opening moves, practical advice is provided on typical middlegame themes, both positional and tactical. In Volume One of this series, the author provides Black with full coverage on how to meet the widely popular g3-system.

The King’s Gambit
B0084QT $29.95
Chess had a golden era when The King’s Gambit was the favorite opening of every attacking player. Since then, its popularity has faded as players became distrustful of White’s ultra-aggressive approach. Nevertheless there are honorable exceptions whose games prove that this ancient weapon can still draw blood – Short, Nakamura and Zvjaginsev regularly use it successfully. In this book, Grandmaster Shaw shows that the ultimate Romantic chess opening remains relevant and dangerous today.

Learn from the World Champions
The Classical Era - 1886-1946
DVD0058CL $49.95
Although chess styles have evolved greatly over the last hundred years, the insights from players of the Classical and Hypermodern eras are still the foundation of good chess play. This collection features those lessons in brilliant examples of play from the 5 World Champions Botvinnik, Smyslov, Spassky, Petrosian, Tal. Dennis takes us on a two game tour per World Champion of the classical era of chess spanning from 1887 to 1946.
2 DVDs - Over 255 Minutes

Learn from the World Champions
The Soviet Era - 1948-1972
DVD0059CL $49.95
Although chess styles have evolved greatly over the last hundred years, the insights from players of the Classical and Hypermodern eras are still the foundation of good chess play. This collection features those lessons in brilliant examples of play from the 5 World Champions Botvinnik, Smyslov, Spassky, Petrosian, Tal. Dennis takes us on a two game tour per World Champion of the Soviet era of chess spanning from 1948 to 1972.
2 DVDs - Over 255 Minutes

Learn from the World Champions
The Modern Era - 1972-2013
DVD0060CL $49.95
This collection of lectures features lessons and brilliant examples of play from the 5 World Champions Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov, Kramnik and Anand. Dennis takes us on a two game tour per World Champion of the modern era of chess spanning from 1972 to 2013.
2 DVDs - Over 270 Minutes

Capablanca in the Endgame
DVD0061CL $19.95
José Raúl Capablanca was a Cuban chess player and World Chess Champion from 1921 to 1927. Renowned as one of the greatest players of all time, Capablanca had exceptional endgame skill and clarity of thought that contributed to his exceptional speed of play. Over time his achievements in the chess world and mastery over the board and due to his relatively simple and direct style of play he was nicknamed the “Human Chess Machine”.
1 DVD - 87 Minutes
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Under 1400: $3000-1500-900-700-600-500-400-300-300-300, top Under 1200 (no unr) $1000-500. Players under 1200 play for both U1400 and U1200 prizes; receive larger if winning both.

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October 2013 | Chess Life

Jacqueline Piatigorsky:
PATRON, PLAYER, PIONEER
October 25, 2013 – April 18, 2014

WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME
Saint Louis, Missouri

Image: Jacqueline Piatigorsky with the Winners of the 1963 Piatigorsky Cup Tournament, Tigran Petrosian and Paul Keres, Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles

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Chess Life for Kids

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Editor’s Letter: The Circle of Life

If you’ve raised kids in the last 20 years, or have been around people who have, you’re probably familiar with Disney’s The Lion King. The animated musical (and now Broadway show with a national touring version as well) tells the story of the young lion Simba who (spoiler alert!) eventually takes his rightful place as king of the pride. One of many showstopping numbers is “The Circle of Life” which celebrates the unending cycle of birth and death. I thought about this Elton John/Tim Rice song as I was editing this issue. We feature a profile both of a young grandmaster-elect at the beginning of his career and one of an 85-year-old grandmaster (GM) whose career is still flourishing. Making the analogy even more striking to me is that young Daniel Naroditsky—to the misplaced incredulity of some—has even published a book on our older GM’s (and cover subject) specialty, endgames, which Pal Benko has written a column about for this magazine for 45 years now (see our January 2013 issue for more about the history of “Endgame Lab”). But as you read these profiles, you’ll find they have more in common than just endings—each has been misunderstood in some way, though all has worked out for now at least. To again quote from The Lion King: Hakuna matata! You can find these features on pages 18 and 36.

Here’s to your chess life.

-Daniel Lucas, Editor
Meet the newest addition to our family

NEW IN CHESS

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Ever wished you could just tap on the moves in your chess book and they would play themselves on the board? Ever sighed at having to reset the board after analysing a position from your book? Ever read a chess book in bed, in the train or on a plane and wished you had a board to better understand the author’s ideas and concepts? With the New in Chess Books & Files App no more pieces will be rolling on the floor! You can read our books anywhere, without a set, following every move simultaneously on the built-in board. Our interactive books install in seconds on your iPad, are complete, have all the right features, are amazingly simple to operate, are competitively priced and will make reading, studying and training so much easier and more effective. Have a look in the AppStore and keep watching: from now on we will be adding new books or files every two weeks.

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Or take a peak at www.newinchess.com
I really enjoyed your “Editor’s Letter” in the August Chess Life about your change in life plan (“From Searching to Editing”). I have told my family and friends that there are four things in my life that are very important to me: God, my family, Auburn University and chess.

I have spent the last four decades as a veterinary pathologist to take care of my family obligations and if my three grown children, their spouses and their six beautiful children did not live in my hometown, I would be an employee of Auburn University and play in chess tournaments whenever possible. My hat’s off to you for having realized your dream.

At 75, it would be a little hard for me to change paths, and, there are very few chess tournaments near here, but I am still very active in correspondence chess (server version). I learned to play chess from my best friend, Dr. Phil LaHaye, in college in 1956 and have enjoyed every minute of it. I still have copies of I.A. Horowitz’s Chess Review and Chess Life and Review from the ‘50s. Chess has helped me through some rough spots.

I really enjoy Chess Life every month. Keep up the good work.

Dom Cangelosi
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
USCF life member (since before Bobby Fischer)
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Teaching Chess in Liberia

By CALEB LUSH

I had been awaiting the letter for about a year and when it finally came, my mother and I eagerly tore it open in the kitchen. It said the Peace Corps was inviting me to serve as a high school teacher in Liberia. Embarrassingly enough, I had no idea where Liberia was so our first reaction was to find it on a map. We found it right in between Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. My mom's reaction was to curse uncharacteristically loud and storm out of the room. My reaction was to slyly smile. I didn't know practically anything about Liberia, but if it was anything like its neighbors, I had been given what seemed like one of the toughest assignments the Peace Corps had to offer.

What I did next is exactly what anyone else in my generation would do; I Googled Liberia. The images I saw were mostly pictures of children posing with AK-47s and shooting using them in the streets. I saw people running for their lives, buildings being blown to bits by rocket-propelled grenades, and only peppered in were pictures of peace before these violent events or in their wake. The prospects of living in Liberia instantly became a lot less cool, and a lot more intimidating.

After awhile, the shock of what I was getting myself into subsided because I started to focus on the things I was most likely to encounter on a daily basis. I watched movies that would show me what the countryside looked like. I read stories about Peace Corps volunteers or backpackers traveling around Liberia back before the war. I read about surfers in Robertsport and how people were starting to call it one of the best hidden surf spots in the world. I read about bus rides with chickens and goats that took days to travel down to the southeastern tip of the country where you could watch generator-powered movies on the beach like in some post apocalyptic paradise. I watched YouTube videos of Liberians speaking Liberian English, which might as well have been another language altogether. And I researched the history of Liberia: how it was settled by freed American slaves; how since its beginning it has been so closely tied to America; how Liberians consider America their big brother, all the time knowing that most of us couldn't point out Liberia on a map or give any substantial information about this "sibling" state. Most of my friends, when I told them I was going to Liberia, worried for my safety because, "Of what Qaddafi was doing over there," confusing it entirely with Libya.

Once I got to Liberia, besides the stray bullet casings I found at school or the bombed out houses some had yet to repair, the effects of the war were much more subtle and significant. I saw them when I asked questions and was answered with silence. I saw them in their writing assignments and class work when they couldn't construct complete or sensible sentences. I saw them when my middle school and high school students read aloud and struggled through passages taken from a fourth grade curriculum in America. I saw them in faces ranging from 12- to 28-years-old, sharing the same desks. I saw them in time lost that the students would never get back. Their analytical and critical thinking skills were nonexistent. I began my first marking period with logic problems and critical thinking questions to no avail. What they wanted was what they were used to and what they were used to was esoteric, rote memorization with no requirements for deeper understanding. They could memorize long and technical definitions, but couldn't explain what they meant or extrapolate any practical knowledge from them. I wasn't satisfied with that kind of learning or willing to promote it in my classroom. However, I was forced to lower my expectations, revert back to basic grammar teaching, and try to inject lessons with critical thinking and analysis wherever possible.

It was apparent, every night when I sat down at my desk to grade or lesson plan, I had to find some way to change the students' thinking, so that one day they could learn to problem solve in their everyday lives, not just in the classroom.

Almost a year into my service my mother sent me a package in the mail with something inside that helped me find a way to tap into these skills that had been lying dormant in the minds of my students since my arrival. At the bottom of the box was a chess set, a game I loved as a boy until those who taught me tired of losing to a 12-year-old. I hadn't played in years and the desire to play was resurrected.
However, the old problem still remained: I had no one to play with. The good news was Liberians love board games like checkers, so my students would use my chess set, but they would just ignore the different shapes and sizes of the pieces and play checkers with them. Eventually, I decided it was time for these kids to play the game the way it was meant to be played. I explained how it was a much more complex game than checkers because of the different pieces and their unique movements. Furthermore, chess is full of decisions about whether or not one should capture. In Liberian checkers, when given an opportunity to “eat” a “seed” it is compulsory to do so. I explained that in this game you had a choice of whether or not it was a good idea to capture a piece, that you had to first consider the consequences of your move before making it. Most kids fell off immediately and didn’t have the time or patience to learn, but before long there were three or four who had an interest. Before long those three or four turned into 10, then 15. Soon, one sixth grader showed a natural ability to see the board and it was only a couple of months before he beat me.

It is almost a year later now and I am nearing the end of my two-year service. Our chess club has eight members in my town with about 10 to 15 others outside of the official club who regularly play and have the drive to compete and improve. The competitive aspect of the club operates as a league and after the final tournament a champion will be crowned with a prize of 1,000 Liberian dollars, approximately $15 U.S. The top two players from our league will then travel to the Peace Corps training facility in another county where students will come from at least six other sites that have started their own chess clubs after seeing the success of ours. At the tournament, the students will compete for the bragging rights to become Liberia’s first scholastic chess champion.

Now, the kids practically knock down my door for the chance to train for the tournament and to climb the ladder of our league standings. On one wall there are two chess boards with pieces made out of rice bags for the kids to do a couple of tactical problems each day. They are learning algebraic notation by following the moves of master games I write on a sheet on the wall and when they reach the end of the notation, we all meet at a central board to discuss what the next best possible move would be. They have improved, so much and so quickly, that presently several of the kids can beat Peace Corps volunteers. Some can even beat coaches of other chess leagues that have sprouted up around the country after seeing the success of our own. I had been searching for some way to get kids to think critically, analyze situations, plan ahead, and accept the consequences of their own actions, and as far as I’m concerned, chess is it. In all the fun and competition, it would be easy for these real, practical benefits of chess to be lost on them or too well disguised, but this isn’t the case. I asked my students last week why chess is such a great game, especially for students, and our second place player from the eighth grade, Mohammed, said, “Because chess forces you to think forward to be sure you can make the best decision.”

Liberia is finding its way back on track towards development, but it won’t be street lights or garbage trucks that make this beautiful country come closer to reaching its potential. It will be the kids of today that will be in a position of power tomorrow. And as long as they are equipped with the right kinds of skills and habits to make sound decisions, like what they have learned in chess, this country will have a chance to develop and keep it that way this next time around. 🏆
Katie Dellamaggiore:
Chess Educator of the Year

By DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM

WHEN UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS ASSOCIATE PROVOST ABBY KRATZ PRESENTED Katie Dellamaggiore with the Chess Educator of the Year award, Kratz observed, “Great documentary filmmakers are great teachers.” Nonetheless, Katie expressed surprise at being chosen. For one thing, she is not a chess player. Katie learned how to play chess over the year she spent at I.S. 318, the middle school featured in her film Brooklyn Castle. Observing the “brilliant, brilliant” teacher Elizabeth (Vicary) Spiegel was her chess education. Katie also expressed her appreciation for John Galvin, Assistant Principal, and for the late Fred Rubino. Principal Rubino allowed Katie and her crew access to I.S. 318.

From following Spiegel’s students for a year, Katie saw the benefits of chess for children. Katie recalled, “I saw kids who were excelling, becoming more confident, better thinkers, and more self-reflective.” What Katie learned about chess and about education is displayed in her documentary. Katie said, “As a filmmaker, you get to learn. And then you get to share it. So, in a way, I am an educator.” Still, she admitted, the Chess Educator of the Year award was “not something I ever imagined I would receive.”

Katie told how she got the idea for Brooklyn Castle. An article in The New York Times, about a student at Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn, caught her attention. Then Katie read more about the chess powerhouse Murrow in The Kings of New York (paperback title: Game of Kings). When Katie mentioned The Kings of New York, I wondered if she knew that one of that book’s stars, UT Dallas chess team captain International Master Salvijus Bercys, was listening. UT Dallas chess team members, plus about 40 members of the general public, attended her presentation on March 6, 2013.

Katie’s presentation had a clip from her appearance on The Daily Show and photos from the chess promotions held alongside Brooklyn Castle showings. Brooklyn Castle appeared at 25 film festivals before opening in over 50 markets. DVDs are now available. Brooklyn Castle will be shown on PBS on October 7 (and streamed at pbs.org for the following month).

Katie hopes that Brooklyn Castle inspires kids to keep at it. “It” could be chess or some other sport or hobby. She hopes that parents realize that they have a voice in their children’s education. To promote education and chess, Brooklyn Castle has partnered with the After School Alliance and USCF. The After School Alliance is working to ensure that all children have access to affordable, quality after school programs. The executive producer of Brooklyn Castle, Robert McLellan, is also the USCF Director of Marketing.

2014 Annual Samford Fellowship Announced

The Frank P. Samford Jr. Chess Fellowship is pleased to announce its 28th consecutive annual award. The Fellowship was created by the late Frank P. Samford of Birmingham, Alabama to advance the game he loved by identifying and assisting the most promising young chess masters in the United States.

Since its inception in 1987 the Samford has been successful in promoting the chess careers of more than two dozen young Americans, many of whom have gone on to become grandmasters, members of the U.S. Olympiad chess team and United States chess champions. Former Samford scholars Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky are presently rated in the top 20 players in the world. This Fellowship is open to American chessplayers who are under the age of 25 at the start of the Fellowship, July 1, 2014, and have been permanent residents of the U.S. for at least one year prior to that date. Leadership of the Fellowship program is provided by Mr. Samford Jr.’s son, Frank P. Samford III of Atlanta, Georgia, with the able help of Barbara DeMaro of the U.S. Chess Trust.

The 2014 Samford Chess Fellow will receive a monthly stipend for living expenses, training by leading chess coaches, chess books, computer equipment and other study materials as well as opportunities to travel and compete in tournaments and matches at the highest levels. The value of the Fellowship (including stipend, training, study materials and tournament travel) has been increased to $42,000 annually. It is given for a one-year-term and can be extended for a second year by mutual consent.

The 2014 Samford Fellow will be selected by the Samford Chess Fellowship Committee (“Committee”), consisting of Frank P. Samford III, Grandmaster Arthur Bisguier and International Master John Donaldson. Each applicant, who can be male or female, must be able to demonstrate talent, achievement and commitment to chess. He or she must be willing to make the effort required to become a leading grandmaster and possible challenger for the world chess championship. Applicants must have a chess rating (USCF, FIDE or both). For further details and an application form write to:

John Donaldson, Secretary
Samford Chess Fellowship
1623½ Martin Luther King Junior Way
Berkeley, CA 94709
Or: (510) 644-1285 and irmwd@aol.com

Completed applications for the 2014 Fellowship must be received no later than January 15, 2014. We expect to announce the winner in April, 2014. All decisions by the Committee will be final.

The Samford Fellowship seeks to replicate the excellence and achievement that marked the life of Frank P. Samford, Jr. Funding for this program is made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Virginia Donovan, widow of Mr. Samford, Jr., and by Torchmark Corporation.
If I was asked to use one word in order to describe *The Dark Knight System* by James Schuyler it would be “gimmicky”. Everywhere from the title, opening move, style of play (not to mention writing) is very much geared towards not necessarily improving your chess but perhaps entertainment. The author takes on a daunting task proving that playing 1. ... Nc6 against nearly every first move at White’s disposal is completely sound and fun (he follows with ... e5 instead of ... d5 so no Chigorin). I suppose Black is not losing by any means, but occasionally the positions he acquires make a sorrowful impression. Other than being trappy and a bit rebellious it is difficult to see what the opening has to offer the improving player or how such a book could help this perception.

The most important gripe I have with this book is not just that the author is trying to justify his opening choice at the cost of objectivity, but that he feigns objectivity at the same time! Often ending analysis with something along the lines of “slightly better for White but ...” and then nonsense about how Black has better pawn breaks or dark-square control. In reality White is between slightly or clearly better (maybe a computer analysis of +0.55 or so) in most main lines but I think it is even worse than that practically. In some positions (particularly the King’s Indian related ones) Black remains cramped and passive often with his queenside still rather undeveloped. Not that Black has to be dead equal in every line for me to be a firm supporter of a repertoire book, but the computer evaluations are higher than usual and I would be very uncomfortable playing such positions. It’s one thing to stretch the truth and do hard analysis trying to prove Black is not lost, but to pretend like you are the voice of reason by admitting Black is worse but not identifying the concrete problems is manipulative.

We could even do some deductive reasoning to see what exactly I mean: there exist openings in which Black has a similar engine evaluation and are much harder to learn due to the length of theory and yet are more popular. One that immediately springs to mind is the Modern Benoni. Often considered a second-rate opening and with good reason considering not only engine evaluations but also White’s scoring percentage in databases is usually well above average. Still this opening is much more popular than 1. d4 Nc6. The reason, I figure, is that the Benoni is massively complex strategically and tactically, while the fact of the matter is in “The Dark Knight System” you’re simply worse with little counterplay; a recipe for getting crushed.

I could understand how one would find Schuyler’s writing style entertaining, but I find it detracting from the actual studying of chess. Calling Houdini “Mr. H” for example is something I would consider cute if written in a J.D. Salinger novel, but not as much in a chess book. The introduction to the book is particularly flowery and pointless. Going through lengths to explain why playing offbeat openings catches your opponent off-guard and that the transpositions are easy to handle and that strong players really do play this dreck. I say we should just study some chess. I was very hesitant reading the introduction and his next section explaining “Weak Color Complex’s” for those reasons. I do repeat, however, that in and of itself his writing is fine and probably rather funny, but I am not in a mood for jokes and the like when I study chess. I thought at first that one would have to write in this fashion to distract the reader from the unsoundness of this opening and skimpy analysis. My fears were in fact confirmed.

It is tough to honestly recommend this book to anyone. Some positives you could extricate are that the writing is clever, games are interesting, and that there exists relatively few manuscripts on this opening or its relatives. So if you already unfortunately play these kinds of openings or if you find yourself repeatedly playing players much weaker than you and need quick wins (with slightly higher risk of actually losing) and also don’t mind that the author is relatively weak (he is a FIDE Master) then this is the book for you. If you would like to get better at chess or learn reliable openings that can last your whole career, or would like to tap into the mind of a grandmaster then I would have to say to look elsewhere.

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A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE CAN BE A DANGEROUS THING. AND TO BE MORE ACCURATE, RELYING ON INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE IS OFTEN DISASTROUS, AS MIKHAIL TAL RECALLED.

Sicilian Defense, Richter-Rauzer Variation (B67)
Aivars Gipslis
GM Mikhail Tal
Latvian Championship, 1958


Up until Black’s last move, this was a popular opening line at the time. The consensus was that 15. ... Ne7 is best but White is still better.

While preparing for this game Tal read an article in the world’s leading magazine on opening theory, Shakhmatny Bulletin. “Recently Black has frequently adopted the new continuation 15. ... e5,” it said.

“That’s excellent, I thought. I’ll have a quick draw in this variation with Gipslis,” Tal recalled thinking. But after he played 15. ... e5, it suddenly occurred to him that he had made Bc4—and the threat of Bxf7 or Nd5—very strong. The game went:


With Bxg6/Qxf4+ coming up, White easily won the endgame after:


What had gone wrong, Tal wondered after the game? In the post-mortem, his opponent reached into his briefcase, pulled out the magazine, found the comment about 15. ... e5—and did something Tal failed to do: He turned to the next page.

On the top line, it read, “However, by answering 15. ... e5 with 16. Bc4, White sets his opponent difficult problems.”

That’s a cautionary tale about what can happen with opening theory that is in constant flux. But accidents like that can also occur with endgame theory—which evolves slowly. An embarrassing example was:

Oops
Arshak Petrosian
IM Vitaly Tseshkovsky
Minsk, 1976

The players, who soon became strong grandmasters, adjourned here. With so few pieces, the position is either a forced draw or forced win. In the era before Nalimov tablebases, you would find out which it is by looking it up in a book.

The point is that 62. ... c2? 63. Rb3+! and 64. Rxb2! draws because the last pawn is pinned.

However, Black can win with the remarkable 62. ... Kf3!, which threatens 63. ... c2. The rest would be 63. Kf5 Ke2 64. Ke4 Kd1! 65. Kd3 c2 66. Rf8 c1=N+. But the result stood—draw—because Black didn’t turn the page.

This may sound like ancient history to some of today’s cyber-savvy players. Who turns pages nowadays?

Well, in a way, everyone who uses a computer does. When you move the cursor downward—or click on another page, or hit the analyze button again, or check a database—you are seeking more information, just as a page turner would.

You want to be sure that what you’ve just read is all you need to know. But today there’s so much more that you can know that a human has a much harder time deciding when to stop looking at the screen. The cost of stopping too soon can be a surprise in the first dozen or so moves of a game.

Turning the Page
Knowing how much you need to know is harder in the computer age.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

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That evening White found the position in the authoritative text of the day, written by Yuri Averbakh. He showed the diagram—with the caption “Draw” under it—to Black. That was convincing: A handshake followed.

But the next day Black discovered that the Averbakh conclusion was based on the position with White to move, not Black.

On the next page, Averbakh added that if it were Black’s turn he would win with 57. ... b3 58. Rd8+ Ke5 in view of 59. Ke4 b2 60. Rb8 c2!.

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(see next game, next page)
Russian Team Championship

Thirty-eight of the world’s 100 highest rated players—including Gata Kamsky, Fabiano Caruana and Peter Leko—took part in a super strong tournament earlier this year. Was it an Olympiad? A World Cup? No, it was the Russian Team Championship. The massive event, which allowed non-Russians to compete, provides our six quiz positions this month. In each of the diagrams 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.

Nimzo-Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E34)
GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2801, NOR)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2772, RUS)
Mikhail Tal Memorial, Moscow 2009


White was caught off guard by 12. ... g4! and the spectators couldn’t figure out why. After all, the pawn push is a natural follow-up to 11. ... g5. And it’s not hard to see that moving the attacked knight to d2, h4 or g1 is going to allow a strong 13. ... Nxd4! (14. exd4? Nxd4+).

Fans following the game online saw White play 13. Ne5 and get the worst of it after 13. ... Nxe5 14. Bxe5 c5! 15. Bd3 Bf5.

The threat was 16. ... c4 (17. Be2? Ng3). White replied 16. Qe2 and Black was comfortably better with 16. ... f6! 17. Bxe4 Bxe4! 18. Bg3 Qa5+ 19. Qd2 Qxd2+ 20. Kxd2 c4! He had good winning chances before the eventual draw.

So why was Magnus Carlsen surprised by an opening position he must have analyzed with a computer? He had access to the same programs and databases as his opponent, didn’t he?

The answer, according to his opponent, is that you have to look further—to turn the page, as it were—to get a program to take 12. ... g4 seriously. When Rybka was given the diagram position to analyze, it spat back five major alternatives for Black—but none was 12. ... g4!, Vladimir Kramnik said.

Garry Kasparov offered perhaps the wisest advice on dealing with a computer: “I know when it’s necessary to turn it on—and when to turn it off!”

But before you turn it off, it’s worth focusing human eyes on the last position you’re examining.

Nimzo-Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E34)
GM Lajos Portisch
GM Tigran Petrosian
Candidates match, 1974
(see diagram top of next column)

One more page
GM Lajos Portisch
GM Tigran Petrosian
Candidates match, 1974
(see diagram top of next column)

After this game was played, annotators found an apparent drawing resource for Black. They analyzed it three moves into the future. Kasparov disagreed and carried the analysis four moves further, to the position in the diagram, in My Great Predecessors. White’s extra pawn gives him good winning chances, he concluded.

But GM Vladimir Akopian went further and found that 43. ... Qb1!—with a threat of 44. ... Qxb4—leads to a draw after 45. Rxa4 Rd1. For example, 45. Qc3 Rh1+ 46. Kg1 Rb1 (47. Qc1 Re1 48. Qc3 Rc1), he wrote in the Russian magazine 64.

Readers checked this on their own computers. They examined lines such as 49. Qd2 R1 50. Qf2 Rf1 and looked several more moves into the future.

And at the end of each variation, the verdict was: a White edge of 1.00 or more, indicating good winning chances. Every time the machine turned the page, it got the same wrong answer. ☒
THE RECENT PASSING OF GRANDMASTER Robert Byrne (1928-2013) saddened chess fans the world over. One of America’s leading players for years, Byrne was also a distinguished writer and journalist, his regular column in the New York Times recognized by all for its precision and eloquence. Perhaps Byrne’s greatest success was his third place finish in the 1973 Leningrad, which made him a candidate for the world chess championship. A nice example of Bryne’s consummate play is this month’s offering, a 1971 win he executed against Yuri Balashov (Black) in Moscow. A Sicilian Defense, the game began:

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B90)
GM Robert Byrne
IM Yuri Balashov
Moscow, 1971


10. 0-0-0 Par Score 5

This move is all part of a plan. White castles queenside and later aims to storm the kingside with pawns.

10. ... Rc8

These days, we’re more likely to see 10. ... b5, and in fact that was Byrne’s suggestion at the time.**

11. g4 Par Score 5

The storming begins. The immediate purpose is to drive the black knight from f6, opening the way for the c3-knight to come to d5.

11. ... Nb6

Vacating d7 for the king knight.**

12. g5 Par Score 5

White storms ahead.

12. ... Nfd7

13. Rg1 Par Score 5

This rook move prepares for play on the king-knight file when it opens, though at this point it’s not absolutely certain it will open.

13. ... Qc7

14. Kb1 Par Score 5

White’s king move is a standard precaution when castling long. If the queen breaks through to c2, it won’t be mate. Moreover, the a2-pawn gets an extra protection.

14. ... Nc4

Black threatens the queen, the dark-square bishop, and the b2-pawn. Accept 1 bonus point if you spotted 15. Qf2? Nxb2 16. Kxb2 Qxc3+.**

15. Bxc4 Par Score 5

In the Byrne Variation, White doesn’t rush to develop his king-bishop. It sits on f1, so when a black knight shows up on c4, the bishop snaps it off. The bishop consumes one tempo, the knight three.

15. ... Qxc4

16. h4 Par Score 5

Byrne figures on opening lines after h4-h5 and g5-g6.

16. ... b5

Black tries for a pawn storm on the queenside. Here, it succeeds in pushing away the defending knight. Fortunately, White has a second knight at b3.**

17. Qg2 Par Score 5

White anticipates Black’s next, driving the knight from c3.

17. ... b4

18. Nd5 Par Score 5


18. ... Bd8

Had the white queen remained at d2, Black might have traded 18. ... Bxd5 19. Qxd5 Qxd5 20. Rxd5, though even here, White is somewhat better. In the end, Balashov decides to keep both his bishops. Thanks to his 17th move, Byrne keeps his queen on the board.**

19. f4 Par Score 5

Another nice feature of 17. Qg2 is that the king-pawn is protected. This allows the text, taking the initiative in the center.

19. ... f5

Fighting fire with fire is a mistake. The opening of lines with Black’s king still uncastled is too risky.**

20. gxf6 e.p. Par Score 5

And just like that, courtesy of en passant, White has an open g-file.

20. ... gxf6
### 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.

#### October Exercise:

No matter who we are, each one of us has a style, even as a chess player. We tend to like certain types of positions, and often feel awkward in others. To counter such proclivities, make a note every time you come upon a situation in which you sense anxiety. Then, in your practice games, make an effort to reach similar displeasing setups, as recommended by the great teacher and perennial world champion, Mikhail Botvinnik. He believed such an approach not only broadened one’s game. He felt it was a sure way to turn nagging weaknesses into lasting strengths.

---

**Problem I**  
**Trapping**

- **Score:** 5

21. fxe5  
White is still opening lines.

21. ... dxe5  
If 21. ... Rg8, then 22. Qf3! Qxc2+ 23. Ka1, threatening mainly 24. Rxg8+ Bxg8 25. Re1! (2 bonus points)**

22. Bh6  
White has his eyes on 22. ... Rg8. He is ready to answer with 23. Qxg8+! Bxg8 24. Rxg8+ Kf7 25. Rg7+ Ke6 26. Ne3!, guarding c2, while attacking the queen and the knight (3 bonus points).

22. ... f5  
Balashov is determined to remove the obstacle at e4, so his bishop can get at White’s king. But this second go at f5 is no better than the first, mainly because Byrne is up to the task.

23. exf5  
Black threatens to take the queen with discovered check.

24. Qxd4  
An ingenious countersacrifice.**

25. Rxd4  
Of course, the queen has to be taken.

25. ... Rxc2  
Black is to move.

**Problem II**  
**Driving off**

- **Score:** 4

26. Nc7+  
Returning the queen, 26. Qxg8+! Bxg8 27. Kxc2, leaves White nowhere after 27. ... exd4.

26. ... Bxc7  
If 26. ... Rxc7+, then 27. Ka1 exd4 28. Re1+ Be7 29. Qg7 wins (2 bonus points)**

**Problem III**  
**Undermining**

- **Score:** 6

27. Qa8+  
Here, the queen is safe from discoveries. Meanwhile, there’s a skewer on king & rook.

27. ... Ke7  
If 27. ... Nb8, then 28. Ka1 exd4 29. Qd5, and there is nowhere to put the bishop. If 29. ... Bd3, then 30. Qe6+, if 29. ... Bg6, then 30. Re1+; if 29. ... Bd7, then 30. Qe4+. Accept 1 bonus point for each one worked out. On 27. ... Bb8, the strongest is 28. Ka1! exd4 29. Re1+. If 29. ... Kd8, then 30. Qb7! Rg8 (to answer 31. Bg5+ with 31. ... Rg8xg5) 31. Qd5 winning (2 bonus points); if 29. ... Kf7, then 30. Qd5+ Kf6 31. Bg7+ Kxg7 32. Qxf5, and the attack continues to roll (2 bonus points)**.

**Problem IV**  
**Trapping**

- **Score:** 5

28. Rg7+  
White puts the rook on a protected square. If immediately 28. Qxh8, then 28. ... Rg8+ 29. Kc1 Rxe1+, followed by 30. ... exd4, and Black is up material.

28. ... Kf6  
Black is to move.

29. Qxh8  
Now it’s safe to take. Of course, Black can pick up the queen rook, 29. ... exd4, or look around for a devastating discovery, which doesn’t exist, but even then White gets his own nasty discovered check.

29. ... Kxh8  
Black resigned.

---

**Problem V**  
**Simplification**

- **Score:** 4

**Problem VI**  
**Fork**

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**TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:**

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OTHER USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES

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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) $5 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).
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Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort
1000 W. Buena Vista Dr.,
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(until November 19, 2013 then regular rates apply!!)

OPENING CEREMONY
Friday: 12:30pm

ROUNDS
Friday: 1 pm, 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm
Sunday: 9 am, 1 pm

AWARDS CEREMONIES
Sunday: 4:30 pm (K-1) approx.
& 5 pm approx.

SPECIAL ROUND TIMES
FOR K-1 SECTIONS
Friday: 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am, 1:30 & 5:30 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am, 1:30 pm

ON-SITE REGISTRATION
12/12: 9 am-9:00 pm
12/13: 8 am-7:00 pm

7SS, G/90 D5 13 SECTIONS
Play only in your grade. December 2013 rating supplement will be used. Team Score = total of top three (minimum two) finishers from each school per grade. First place individual and team, including ties, will be national champion for their grade.

AWARDS
Trophies to top 10 individuals (K, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), top 15 individuals (2, 3, 4, 5, 6), top five teams (K, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), & top 10 teams (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (minimum) in each grade. Many class prizes. All participants will receive a commemorative item at the completion of the final round!

BLITZ
Trophies in K-6 and K-12 sections, individual, team and class prizes.

SIDE EVENTS
BUGHOUSE
Thursday: 11 am
On-site entry only Thursday, Registration ends at 10 am Thursday. $25 per team.

BLITZ
Thursday: 5 pm
On-site entry until 4 pm. Entry in advance $15 by 12/1, $20 after or on-site. Register at main.uschess.org/content/view/10014/95

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
USCF membership is required and must be current. You may pay USCF membership with your entry. Adult: Please check our website (uschess.org) for Adult and Young Adult options. Advance entries must include player’s name and all fees to be accepted. Roster changes are considered new entries and will be charged according to date received. List name, address, phone, section, grade, school (even if no team), coach’s name, e-mail, birth date, USCF ID #, USCF expiration (enclose USCF dues if necessary) and rating. Players must be eligible to play in accordance with USCF Scholastic Regulations. Please bring clocks. Ent: “K-12 Championship,” c/o USCF, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967. For more info or to register online: www.uschess.org. Please make all checks payable to USCF.
In 2005, a tournament director at the Far West Open in Reno, Nevada watched a boy walk to the front of the room and sit down at the wrong board. It was understandable. Nearly 200 competitors had come out to the Sands Regency Hotel that weekend, and $20,000 in prizes had the tournament hall bustling with activity between rounds. To say the least, the board system was a bit confusing, but one thing was for certain: The scholastic tournament was on the other side of the room.

The kid began to set up camp at one of the Open’s top boards and, with the third round set to begin, the tournament director was quick to action. Conversation was straight and to the point: You have reached the wrong end of the hall, this area is for grown-ups. And when the boy became adamant that he had, indeed, found the correct army to command, he was simply met with sternness. Armed with only the physical intimidation of a fourth-grader, the boy became flustered and was sent on his way.

Distraught, Daniel Naroditsky ran back to the only identification a nine-year-old has: his parents. “For the first time,” said his father, Vladimir, “we noticed he was playing an adult game.”

Today, Naroditsky is the author of two books, a former World Youth champion, the reigning U.S. Junior champion and one of the freshest grandmaster-elects on the world scene. But despite an illustrious over-the-board career that has spanned more than half of his 17-year-old life, Naroditsky keeps running into people who doubt who he says he is.

Up until the Far West Open, it hadn’t been an issue. To that point, he had gotten by just fine as “Danya,” like any other American boy, with a Russian tweak. He liked to read. He liked to write. He liked to shoot hoops. And there was no doubt that the boy liked chess. His brother, Alan, showed him how to move the pieces on a sunny summer day in the park, and his father showed him what it meant to study. “I would exaggerate if I say his talent was discovered immediately, but it was clear he had something,” Vladimir said. “He wouldn’t play ... how kids play chess: just moving the pieces very quickly. It was noticeable that he was thinking about his moves, and he just had this natural ability to put the pieces in the right places.”

Danya got his feet wet in the California scholastic scene, a pond big enough to keep his aspirations content—and perhaps big enough to disguise just how comfortably he swam in the demep water. By the time he was seven, he had crept into the top 100 of his age group and received an invitation by the USCF to play in the Pan-American games in Brazil. With only a two-week notice before the event, the invitation was ultimately passed, but the flattering moment left a profound effect on the family, kindling curiosity in the next level of chess.

It led the Naroditskys to San Francisco’s iconic Mechanics’ Institute, where the boy...
was instantly cast into the fire of adult chess. Danya was taken under the wing of Director IM John Donaldson, who became a chess godfather of sorts, showing the path to international chess, recommending coaches and guiding him through tournaments.

“It sounds primitive, but I had never seen such a chess-oriented place with so many players,” Daniel said. “Some of these players were absolute gods to me, these big and burly 2200 masters. I was so intimidated.

“I met John and started getting involved, and the whole experience was kind of a wake-up call for me. Here I am invited to the Pan-American games: Just the thought of travelling internationally to this prestigious tournament and being one of the best players in that age category. It was staggering.”

Still, Danya was just another fish in a big pond at the Mechanics. He was a class D player when he entered the hall, and though he was often the spectacle of the Tuesday Night Marathon—this eight-year-old, propped up on a cushion to face opponents who averaged the far side of 50—Danya splashed around for several years without turning many heads.

He found his share of successes—including the California scholastic championship three years in a row, and the national scholastic championship for two—but his name seemed to stay contained there, in scholastics. Danya was always strong, just perhaps a bit shadowed, by those playing the adult game.

But on that fateful day in Reno, Daniel's chess game seemed to grow up—or the chess world seemed to grow up around him. Vladimir noticed the landscape change while he vouched that his nine-year-old son had found the correct seat in Reno. Daniel would go on to clear up matters himself, winning the Class B section outright with 5½ points out of 6.

Soon, weekend tournaments around the region were giving way to national tournaments on the opposite coast. By the time he was 10, Daniel was exhausting his dominance over other children, first moving into the 100th percentile of his age group in the U.S., and then flying across the world to find opponents.

He made his first international move in Belfort, France, placing fifth in the World Youth Chess Championship. And when he returned to the competition in 2007, in Antalya, Turkey, he won the World Under-12 crown.

“My single greatest chess achievement,” Daniel said. “Eleven rounds, the best kids from all countries. I didn’t come in with too many expectations, but then I just started winning. It was an absolutely incredible feeling: Infallible. Not capable of making mistakes. Such a great feeling, and one I very rarely obtain. It was such a nice way to win a tournament.”

Headlines in chess are hard to net, and Daniel seemed isolated to the inside pages for most of his career. His play was great—in scholastics—but he never tallied many wins with the big boys. And for that matter, he was young, but he wasn’t that young.
**World Champions in the U.S. Junior**

The 2013 U.S. Junior Championship was the youngest field in history, with the 10-player field featuring two twelve-year-olds and only one competitor over 18. The skill and trajectory of several of these juniors, including FM Luke Harmon-Vellotti, FM Jeffrey Xiong and WFM Sarah Chiang, are likely to position them as staying fixtures in the U.S. chess scene of tomorrow. And, like IM Daniel Naroditsky, two others have already made their mark as world champions:

**SAM SEVIAN**

Ironically, Sam Sevian’s biggest problem right now is time. The 12-year-old is frustrated to find there is never enough.

In six short years—half his life—Sam has earned the title as the youngest expert in U.S. history as well as the youngest-ever national master, an accolade he grabbed just before turning 10. Just before his 12th birthday, he claimed the role as the Under-12 World Champion and, this past May, he played as the youngest ever competitor in the U.S. Championship. In June, he fell just a half-point short of Naroditsky as the best player in the country under 21.

Yet despite one of the fastest ascents in U.S. history, burning time, it seems, has been a problem plaguing Sevian since the beginning.

“That was one thing about Sam: He took a lot of time,” said his father, Armen. “It was something that separated him from other kids. The others would play so mechanically in the opening, but he would take his time making all the moves— really trying to absorb the opening. Then the kids would make mistakes, and all of a sudden he was up a piece.”

It was that time-consuming calculation that tipped Armen off early. Sam learned the pieces by five and, like many other kids, found enjoyment in local tournaments around central Florida. But when puzzles were laid out in front of the boy, there were no curious hands that sampled multiple moves. No wandering fingers that touched several pieces, Sam left it all alone. He just sat there, took his time with each position and, eventually, made the only move.

Armen wondered about Sam’s chess vision and gave his son a book of 303 puzzles—simple ones: two or three move problems, your standard forks and pins. Sam read it like a book, after school each day, handling most riddles without even setting up positions on a board.

“He finished it in a week,” Armen said. “And I was like ‘Wow. That’s not too bad.’”

An understatement, as Sam’s forward progress in tournaments became rapid. Sam was eight years old and rated 1614, having cut his teeth in Open tournaments, when Armen moved them to California in March of 2008. By June, he was done with class B, breaking 1800 at the National Open in Las Vegas, Nevada. At a 2009 Bay Area Chess tournament, Sam—still eight years old—grabbed even more rating points and broke through to the expert class.

“I first attributed it to the players in Florida just being stronger than the players in California,” Armen said with a laugh. “But no, his game was really improving. I don’t know what it was, maybe the air or the water.”

At nine years, 11 months and nine days, Sam became the youngest national master in USCF history, and his rating stayed fixed in its trajectory. After his selection to the elite Young Stars—Team USA program, partnered with the Kasparov Chess Foundation, today he lingers just below the FIDE 2400 watermark. He has already tallied up the needed international master norm requirements—an unnecessary fourth coming from his performance at the 2013 U.S. Championship. His accomplishments have literally outrun his rating.

Because there’s never enough time.

“These guys who like to calculate at the board, it comes with a kind of expense: they tend to get into time trouble,” Armen said. “It’s something we’re coping with. In many games in the U.S. Championship, he was getting down to two or three minutes in 15 moves, and the position is not really quiet.

“But there is no recipe for how to deal with that. We keep on asking people ‘What do we need to do to help this situation?’ But there just aren’t any recipes. It’s hard to play like that, especially on the GM level.”

**KAYDEN TROFF**

Kayden Troff never took the time to be taught chess. After watching his two elder brothers get mentored in the family living room, he simply hopped off his father’s lap and declared himself ready to play.

“Right after he turned three, he said, ‘Okay, I’m ready to play,’ and just sat down and played a whole game,” said his mother, Kim.

“He knew everything: how the pieces moved, how to attack. It was pretty obvious early on, though we had no idea there was a chess world, no idea about tournaments or any of that stuff.”

What the Troff’s found was an incredible scholastic scene in Utah—and a state that was otherwise void of consistent high-rated chess. Beginning grandmaster coaching at six-years-old and winning his first of several state elementary championships at that age, Kayden was quick to outgrow Utah, earning an All-American selection by age 10.

“We got to the point where he couldn’t really play here anymore, he was the highest-rated player in the state,” Kim said. “It was a hard transition, a big challenge to try and keep him playing. I look at kids his age from New York and in Dallas, and I think ‘Wow, how might it have been if we were able to go to top-rated FIDE tournaments any weekend he wanted to go?’ But in a way, it has made his journey that much more sweet.”

Aged 11, Kayden became a national master at the American Open in 2009, his final tournament in a year that earned him more than 300 rating points as well as a gold medal in the North American Youth Championship. The next year marked his first appearance in the Under-12 World Youth Championships in Greece, where he earned a silver medal, and he expanded his title to FIDE master in 2011. Last November, he grabbed the Under 14 World Youth gold in Slovenia, and FIDE awarded him his IM title just two months later.

This year, Troff celebrated his 15th birthday during his first performance in the U.S. Championship, scoring 5/9, earning his first grandmaster norm, and entrenching himself as one of America’s ambassadors for tomorrow. From his annually successful TNT Chess Camp in Utah—giving back to his home’s scholastic program in a seven-year running event that features Kayden and other kids-teaching-kids—to his participation on Capitol Hill in Washington, where he gave lessons to members of Congress in a bipartisan effort to recognize the benefits of chess for students, Kayden Troff is the face of the next generation.

“Honestly, representing chess is what I really want,” Kayden said. “Not just because ‘oh, I’m a good chess player, and I want to make people notice me more’—it’s not about that at all. It’s all about chess. It’s about how much I love chess.

“I want kids and teenagers and adults to be able to experience the same joys I’ve had with chess, no matter what their level. I want to take it out there, and make it more broadcasted. There is this huge, absolutely tremendous field of chess players all over the world, and just being able to present myself and share that love we all have for this game we play … I think it’s fabulous.”
He had quickly become a national master, but it wasn’t that quick.

“In our area, a couple years ago, we had players like Greg Young and Sam Shankland, Steven Zierk coming through,” Donaldson said. “Sam Sevian was becoming the youngest master under 10, and the youngest master before him was another Mechanics Institute member. There has always been a tradition of strong junior players in the Bay Area, a lot of talented kids.

“Really, the first moment I realized that Daniel was exceptional, his first exceptional result, was when he won the World Under-12.”

To the point, Daniel needed to win the world before it noticed him.

And when the chess world finally stopped to take in a full assessment of Naroditsky, it was not for his play, but for his prose, becoming the youngest chess author in history at age 14.

Those notebooks that Vladimir would grab from the $5 bin every time he went to Barnes and Noble, those hardcover pads that Daniel had insatiably filled with various topics of interest. From chicken scratch to fiction, short stories to magazine articles about airline food—black caviar on American Airlines in the ’60s—those notebooks ranged all of the boy’s interests since he was six-years-old. And, not surprisingly, many were filled with chess.

“I have certainly enjoyed writing for as long as I can remember,” Daniel said. “Even when I could barely write legibly, I just loved putting words on paper. Short stories, fiction, non-fiction—anything, and that became a great thing for me: Chess is very writing friendly.

“If I put analysis into writing, rather than just look at my mistakes on a computer, writing those things down and putting a conclusion into words added an extra dimension for me. I was able to immerse myself.”

In the years following his victory in Turkey, Daniel’s new desire to seek the next echelon of chess was met with his first rating plateau. He was 11 years old and rated 2100 FIDE when he became the best in the world, but two years later he was still spinning his wheels under 2300, unable to break the international master (IM) ceiling.

It was a coaching tip, to strengthen his positional prowess, that he reanalyze his old games and begin studying those of other famous players. So Daniel pulled out those old notebooks and started to study them. Then he started to reorganize them. And as his new study methods began to provide traction in his own career, those hardcover notebooks soon compiled neatly into a manuscript. He thought it may help others.

And for the second time in his life, people doubted Daniel Naroditsky. It began four days after his father sent out the manuscript, a phone call from an editor at New In Chess, with a question.

“They called and were happy to publish...
the book, said it was unbelievable," Vladimir said. “But they asked: ‘Who wrote it?’ They didn’t believe it was him. And if you didn’t know Daniel, it was so easy to doubt him. He was 13 years old ... I didn’t know what to say.”

Dozens of hardcover notebooks did the talking, page upon page of handwritten notes, juvenile in appearance, exceptionally wise in their content. Any doubt left in the author’s identity was vetted through personal assurances from Donaldson and coach GM Gregory Kaidanov.

“This sort of thing, if it was assigned to Daniel, it would have never gotten done,” Donaldson said. “It was something that had to happen by capturing his imagination. All of these notebooks he worked in were just different parts of the game, moments he thought were fascinating, interesting positions that he wanted to delve into.

“He did it primarily to improve, trying to answer questions that had risen in his own study. And also, he wanted to give back to the game.”

Though real reviews of the book were glowing, touting Daniel for his stylistic conversation despite the depth of content, brainless amateur criticism surrounded him. “How many 15-year-olds use the words ‘verbosity,’ ‘armada’ and ‘multitude?’” screamed the anonymity of the Internet, pregnant with the accusation that his parents had stood in the background, dictating. But his mother didn’t even play chess, and Vladimir was a class B player at best. “It’s not uncommon to find a parent working with a child, but chess is such a specialized subject matter: His parents were just not capable of writing to an audience at the level Daniel had written it,” Donaldson said. “There was quite a bit ofinitial skepticism, but those notebooks were filled with his own notes. Cut and pastes from Chess-Base, old school three-lined notebooks, handwritten exercises, drawings of diagrams. You just couldn’t get much more basic than that.”

Said Daniel: “It was frustrating, a lot of those comments were said right to my face. That I had a ghost writer, that the book was a publicity stunt. It was not taken seriously, this big effort that I had exerted with the bottom line of helping other players improve. It was distorted and slandered and blackened.

“I wasn’t as thick-skinned back then, it got to me a bit. A real life experience.”

Three years later, the only people left doubting Daniel Naroditsky—because they must—are his opponents. And the way this year has played out, membership to that club is dwindling.

Mastering Positional Chess was published in 2010, and Naroditsky began applying for his IM title by the end of the year. And when he ran into another ratings plateau, he made amateur book critics eat their words by producing more of his own: Mastering Complex Endgames, compiled from more study on the weakest aspect of his own game, was released at the close of 2012 and received at universally warm reviews—now celebrating such fresh content, suddenly praising his mature tone.

Daniel needed to win the world before it noticed him.

He picked up his second grandmaster norm—finally closing a gap of two years—with a 7/9 performance for top billing at the 2013 Philadelphia Open in late March. Then he arrived at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis for the U.S. Junior Championship, his third appearance in the event, and one of the last kiddie pools left to swim in. This time, however, he sat down as the top seed, the favorite to win a tournament for the first time since his scholastic days. This time, under the bright lights of the national stage.

He acknowledged the added pressure, vowed to convert it to confidence, and his play throughout the tournament screamed of comfort and control. There was little fanfare in Daniel’s games that week, most of them straight and to the point, amidst a tournament that otherwise promised explosive drama. By the end, his approach looked almost systematic: He finished undefeated, with 6½ points out of 9, drawing against the top-five placers and picking up wins against the bottom four.

And not surprisingly, he found his familiar demon: a doubter.

Idaho’s Luke Harmon-Vellotti was invited to the Junior Championship as a wild card, and the 14-year-old had lived up to the title. Featuring dazzling tactical footsteps and several lethal upcuts for wins, Harmon-Vellotti was the darkhorse that Junior-fans loved, he was the fireworks.

His second-round draw against Naroditsky saw his white army efficiently cleaned to opposite-colored bishops by 20 moves, and when he found himself tied with the favorite entering the tournament’s final round, Harmon-Vellotti knew who held the edge:

“I’m going to win tomorrow, and I’m going to win the tournament outright,” Harmon-Vellotti predicted. “Daniel is hard to beat, but he’s easy to win against. He just doesn’t have that winning spirit.”

Ironically, Naroditsky was seething winning spirit that day. At 17, he has just recently grown tall, but he has not yet grown out of Danya. In another year, he will begin to fill out his frame, but for now he’s left long and lanky. It’s easy to miss mental aggression in a boy during this awkward phase of his life, when his outward appearance often looks uncomfortable, almost unsure of his place. Not helping his case is a boyish soft smile and eyes that are gentle. Danya shows no sign of judgment or calculation. Naturally kind, with no intentions.

Danya had been the sole front-runner that morning, and an eighth-round win against Yan Liou would have meant an early fitting for the national crown. But he let a superior position with the white pieces slip away, and Liou’s squirm to a draw allowed Harmon-Vellotti to catch pace for the last round. It set fire to Danya.

He stood tall and filled out that frame as he got up from the board, aggressive as he walked from the Saint Louis Chess Club, his once-gentle eyes spitting fire. He left the half-point of today and immediately focused fury on tomorrow. If it wasn’t winning spirit that filled his broad shoulders that day, it was a clear and definitive acceptance of what lay ahead.

And it steamed from Daniel Naroditsky’s
“Tomorrow is a must-win. I will win tomorrow.”

Infallible. Incapable of making mistakes. The feeling is familiar, but now Naroditsky commands it.

He celebrated his U.S. Junior crown for just one week, then he hopped on a plane for Spain, with just a little more doubt left to squash. At the XXXIII Open Internacional “Villa de Benasque” in July, Daniel grabbed his third and final grandmaster (GM) norm by staying true to Harmon-Vellotti’s description: Hard to beat.

His undefeated performance in Benasque, tarrying six points out of nine—including four points against seven straight grandmasters, culminated with a tournament-closing draw that simultaneously confirmed his last norm and pushed him over (2500) FIDE’s GM-watermark—to 2503 (August 2013). He followed that up with another undefeated performance at the Open Internacional Cuitat de Balaguer, earning ninth-place and another norm, just for kicks.

Naroditsky wrapped up his 2013 summer surge at the RTU open A in Riga, Latvia in August. He turned in a strong performance, tallying five wins and three draws, good for a tie for 3rd-13th place, a half point out of a first-place tie. And after 30 draws, good for a tie for 3rd-13th place, a half point out of a first-place tie. And after 30 draws, good for a tie for 3rd-13th place, a half point out of a first-place tie.

A loss. One of the lasting shreds of doubt, now few and far between, for Daniel Naroditsky.

So far, we are following the main line of the Bogo-Indian. While White has an undeniable space advantage and good piece coordination, Black’s impeding central counterplay (… d6 followed by … e5) is nothing to sneeze at either.

The main move is 6. … d6!? would lead to an unpleasant position after 9. d5! Nb8 10. 0-0; in fact, 10. … e5 11. Nd2 transposes to the game! 9. Rc1 d6 10. d5, when Black’s position is cramped and a wee bit passive. Perhaps 7. … Na5!? 8. b3 b6 is a better try for equality, but that is a theoretical discussion beyond the scope of these annotations!

6. … d6?!

Positionally justified, but tactically flawed. By delaying … 0-0, Black aims to execute … c6-e5 before White gets a chance to fully coordinate his pieces. For instance, after 7. Bg2! Bxc3 8. Bxc3 Ne4 (Alertness is crucial. The nonchalant 8. … d6!? would lead to an unpleasant position after 9. d5! Nb8 10. 0-0; in fact, 10. … e5 11. Nd2 transposes to the game!) 9. Rc1 d6 10. d5, when Black’s position is cramped and a wee bit passive. Perhaps 7. … Na5!? 8. b3 b6 is a better try for equality, but that is a theoretical discussion beyond the scope of these annotations!

7. d5!

Simple but strong. The knight on c6 cannot move, since Qa4+ will pick up the bishop.

7. … Bxc3 8. Bxc3 Nb8 9. Bg2

Only now does the seriousness of Black’s error on the sixth move become clear: the move 9. … Ne4, a crucial part of Black’s set-up, is now impossible because of 10. Bxg7. Unable to eliminate the dark-squared bishop, Black suddenly finds himself in total passivity, incapable of organizing any counterplay on the kingside.

9. … e5 10. Nd2?

Of course. 10. 0-0 would allow 10. … Ne4 followed by 11. … Nxc3 or 11. … f5. In my opinion, one of the main reasons for my success at the Junior consisted in my ability to limit my opponent’s counterplay. Moves like Nd2 are inordinately debilitating for the opponent!

10. … 0-0 11. 0-0 b6?!

Black exacerbates the problem by further weakening his position. Since White’s main play lies in a rapid queenside pawn assault (b2-b4-c4-c5), there was no need to create more targets on the queenside.

Perhaps 11. … c6?!, contesting White’s central superiority, was a better option, although after 12. Rc1 cxd5 13. cxd5 Na6 14. Nc4 White had a clear edge in Gustäffson-Arnold, World Open 2010.

12. b4

Once again, simplicity reigns supreme. During the post-mortem, GM Seirawan suggested 12. e4!? followed by 13. f4, but I could already smell blood on the queenside. In addition, after 12. e4 a5 13. f4 Na6 14. f5 (a common idea; White “locks” the kingside in order to allow the g- and h-pawns to march forward) 14. … Nc5 Black has the annoying idea of obtaining queenside counterplay with … Ba6 and … b5 or even … c7-c6 and … b6-b5.

12. … Bb7 13. Qb3?!

A little too tentative. Although the rooks are now connected and the queen on b3 supports the d5-pawn, Black will now have the unwelcome opportunity to create some luft (translation: breathing room; I know—I can’t resist the urge to vaunt my multi-linguistic erudition) for his pieces. Instead, the banal but powerful 13. a4 would have created serious problems for Black; for instance, 13. … c6 (13. … a5 is impossible on account of 14. bxa5 bx a5 15. Nb3 and White picks up the pawn) 14. e4 (Houdini’s first choice is 14. Ne4?!, but in my opinion 14. e4 creates more practical problems) 14. … Nb7 15. a5! and Black is in serious trouble, since it isn’t clear how to stop the massive pawn assault on the queenside.

13. … c6 14. Rc1 Rc8 15. Bb2

Once again, my intention (to find optimal squares for my pieces on the queenside) is understandable, but the execution is a tad languid. Instead, 15. e4?!, followed by Nf1-e3, was a better perestroika (see comment after move 13) to choose.

15. … Nbd7 16. e4

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“It was not taken seriously, this big effort that I had exerted with the bottom line of helping other players improve. It was distorted and slandered and blackened.”

The author of *Mastering Positional Chess* and *Mastering Complex Endgames* dealt with skepticism of his authorship due to his youth.
At this point, I sat back with a satisfied sigh, took a sip of Sprite, and began watching Jeffrey’s clock tick down. At first sight, my position seems totally dominating: given time (and a perfunctory glance at the position seems to reveal that I have all the time in the world), I will transfer my knight to e3 via f1, and either take on c6, following up with a frontal assault on the d6-pawn, or run my a-pawn up the board, wreaking havoc on Black’s cramped pieces. My utopian ruminations, however, were nipped in the bud:

16. ... b5!?

The right idea, but the wrong pawn! Clearly, Black has to alter the pawn structure on the queenside, but this should have been done by 16. ... c5, when it turns out that Black’s position is rather solid. After 17. b5, Black has the annoying idea of doubling up on the a-file: 17. ... a6 18. a4 Ra7?! followed by 19. ... Rca8. Although White’s advantage is undeniable, Black’s defensive prospects are still very real. After the text move, however, Black’s position becomes very bad, very fast:

17. dxc6 Bxc6 18. cxb5 Bxb5 19. a4 Bc6 20. Qd3?

I was quite proud of this quiet but devastating move after the game. Due to the devastating threat of 21. Nc4, Black’s next move is practically forced:

20. ... Qe6

After the computer’s cold-blooded suggestion of 20. ... Bb7, Black’s position is untenable after 21. Nc4 Ne8 22. Na5. Now, 21. ... d5 is clearly threatened, so I must act immediately:

21. Qa6!

Devastating! Suddenly, White switches from ‘positional crunch’ mode to ‘immediate kill’ mode, and the effect is lethal. Black’s bishop on c6 has no squares, and 21. ... d5 loses after 22. b5 Nb8 23. exd5! Nxd5 24. Bxd5.

21. ... Nb8?!

Slightly winded by the turn of events, Jeffrey misses his last chance. The “computeresque” 21. ... Rc7 (which I was slightly worried about during the game!) still leads to a very difficult ending after 22. Qc4 (note that 22. Rxc6? Nb8! is not at all clear) 22. ... Rac8 23. Qxe6 fx6 24. Nc4, Black can still fight with 24. ... Ne8. After the text move, Black’s position falls apart.

22. Qc4! Nbd7 23. Qxe6 fx6 24. b5 Bb7 25. Nc4 hx e4

Both 25. ... Ne8 26. Ba3 d5 27. Na5 and 25. ... Bxe4 26. Nxd6 Rxc1+ 27. Rxc1 are not much better.

26. Bxe4 Bxe4 27. Nxd6 Rx c1 +

Unnecessarily going with the flow. Black could still have tried 27. ... Rc2, when the win is a little tougher. Still, following 28. Ba3 (but not the impulsive 28. Rxc2?!) Bxc2, and Black’s bishop is suddenly in an irksome position) 28. ... Bg6 29. Rxe2 Rxc2. Clearly, Black has to alter the pawn structure on the queenside, but this is not much better.

28. Rxc1 Bf3 29. Rc7?!

Rash, rash, rash! This doesn’t throw away the win, of course, but 29. Rc3!, aiming to induce the diagonal-opening 29. ... e4 before penetrating the seventh rank with 30. Rc7.

Now, 30. ... Rd8 is impossible on account of 31. Nb6! (note the importance of White’s 29th move: the e4-pawn imprisons the f3-bishop), winning a piece. On the more resilient 30. ... Nf6, White replies not 31. a5?!, and when Black can still resist after 31. ... Ne8 32. Rc8? (this isn’t computer chess; White simply goes for the more important pawn and keeps his back rank safe) 32. ... Rxc8 33. Nxc8 Be2 34. Nxa7 Nd5 35. Bb7, but 31. Bxf6!, when 31. ... gxf6 32. Ne8 is crushing.

29. ... Rb8?

Ugh! Only now did I realize that my intended 30. Rxa7? leads nowhere after 30. ... Nf6 31. Bxe5 Ne8!, and Black suddenly develops formidable counterplay based on the weakness of White’s first rank. With time pressure rearing its ugly head, I missed both 30. a5 and 30. Ba3, both of which win in a matter of moves, but decided to liquidate into a winning, albeit slightly messy minor-piece ending.

30. Nb7? Rb8!

Of course, 30. ... Bxb7 31. Rxb7 loses immediately.

31. Na5 Nb6 32. Rxe7+!

This is the ideal move. Jeffrey’s intended 32. ... Kg8 33. Rxd7 Kg8 fails to 34. Rh8+, and White uses the same tactical motif to trade rooks and win a third pawn.

32. ... Kxg7 33. Bxe5+ Kf7 34. Bxb8 a6

Perhaps 34. ... Nxa4 35. Bxa7 Ke7 was a better try, but White should still win by evicting the bishop from f3 and pushing his kingside pawns; Black’s pieces are overextended.

35. bxa6 Nxa4 36. Nc4!

Precision is key in these types of endings. Now, Black’s knight doesn’t have access to the b6-square.

36. ... Ke7 37. Bd6+ Kd8 38. Bf4 Kc8 39. Nd6+ Kb7 40. Ne8+ Ka7 41. Ng5

Finally! Black loses the h7-pawn, but, perhaps more importantly, his king is way too far away from White’s double passers. In short, Black is busted.

41. ... Bd5 42. Nh7 Kxa6 43. Nf6 Bf3 44. h4 Nc4 45. h5 Nf5

A good try, but White will have too many passed pawns for the “opposite-colored bishop endings are drawn” rule to take effect. Of course, Black had no other way to stop White’s pawns.

46. Nxd5 exd5 47. h6 Be4 48. Be5!

Care must be taken until the very end. The impulsive 48. g4?! is less clear after 48. ... d4.

48. ... Bxb5 49. f4 Kc6 50. g4 Bh7 51. Bd4, Black resigned.

Black is powerless to stop White’s armada of passers (after f4–f5, Kf2–e3–f4 and g4–g5), so he threw in the towel.

All things considered, this is my best effort at the Junior. Although both players committed their fair share of inaccuracies and errors, I found some nice ideas and came out superior in all three stages of the game (an advantage out of the opening, a winning position out of the middle game, and a relatively clean win in the ending) despite Jeffrey’s stubborn resistance. In addition, this game set the tone for the rest of the tournament and imbued with much-needed confidence. 🏆

www.uschess.org 25
After GM Sergey Erenburg played the eighth move of the high-stakes final round at the 41st Annual World Open, he encountered a novel position in the Berlin Defense that he has never seen before. Then he did two things that I have never seen before—at least not on the top boards in such an extreme fashion.

First, Erenburg spent close to an hour contemplating his next couple moves, a curiously lengthy amount of time to burn when one is still 30 or so moves away from the critical 40th move that brings additional time in a 40/90 game.

Second, Erenburg cast a piercing glare at his opponent, GM Parimarjan Negi, of India, who had just taken first place the weekend prior at the DC International. So I wanted to know why? Why did he spend nearly an hour on just two moves so early in such an important game and what did he hope to glean by staring at his opponent?

“The main reason is because the position is very, very complicated,” Erenburg told Chess Life in response to the first question.

In the annotated version of the game, which appears later in this article, Erenburg lists a multitude of possible moves that he says he considered for move nine—all of which he said lead to “very long variations where both sides can deviate on every move playing a number of different continuations.”

And what about that glare?
“What I looked at him is because I was trying to see if he analyzed everything or this line is just for one game, meaning that objectively, I can find a refutation,” Erenburg said.

And this can be figured out by looking at one’s opponent?
“In some sense, it is similar to poker, where players try to figure out whether their opponents are bluffing,” Erenburg continued. “But the more I calculated, the more I got convinced that he is 100 percent prepared.”

But Erenburg might be giving Negi more credit than he deserves.

“Before the game started, I wasn’t planning on being very ambitious,” Negi told Chess Life via Facebook.

“Yes, my move Ng4 … f5!? was a rather unusual, but very interesting novelty in a topical main variation of Berlin,” Negi explained.

He said due to the tense situation in the final round of the tournament—with eight grandmasters tied for first with six points each and several others breathing down their necks—he wanted to play something that creates chances for three results, and thus put pressure on his opponent, too.

He said the near-hour that Erenburg spent to play a couple of moves early in the game came as a “welcome relief.”

“It put me in the driver’s seat and I got time to see what was happening in the other boards, so I could choose my strategy optimally,” Negi said.

When Negi saw that GM Conrad Holt “might be winning” against GM Yuniesky Quesada Perez, he refused a draw and planned to keep playing a long game if need be.

“But then, Quesada managed to find a drawing setup, and any ambitious plan by me would give mutual chances, so I didn’t feel like taking much risk,” Negi explained.

The game represents what another top-finishing grandmaster described as one
GM Varuzhan Akobian, photographed at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis.
of the more complicated at the Continental Chess Association’s annual World Open, which made its debut this year in its new venue—at least through 2015—at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency in Arlington, Virginia.

It is also one of four games on the top boards in the final round that ended in a draw by the top finishing grandmasters.

The tournament was remarkable in that a total of 10 grandmasters tied for first and split the first through 10th place prizes.

The last time the World Open saw a ten-way tie was back in 2003, USCF records show.

Each top-finishing grandmaster walked away with about $3,900, except GM Varuzhan Akopian, who earned a small bonus by drawing with black in an Armageddon game against GM Yuniesky Quesada Perez.

Here is the dramatic Erenburg/Negi game, annotated by Erenburg:

#### Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defense (C65)

GM Sergey Erenburg (2691)

GM Parimarjan Negi (2749)

21st Annual World Open, Arlington, Virginia (9), 07.07.2013

Notes by Erenburg


Trying to avoid the main avenues of the Berlin variation.

4. ... Bc5

Black develops his bishop to an active position with the possible idea of trading knights with ... Nb6-d4. Another alternative was 4. ... d6 with the following possible fianchetto on g7.

5. Bxc6

Again, not the most popular continuation. I figured that with a different pawn structure, and material in a not very explored position, this would give me chances to outplay my opponent.

5. ... dxc6 6. Bxd4

The pawn structure is very similar to the one from the Sicilian Rossolimo, where Black’s bishop is usually “fianchettoed” on g7. In comparison to it, it is hard to say if White has any better chance for an opening advantage in this particular line. White is usually better off with any trade of pieces and generally wants to carry out the f2-f4 or d2-d4 advances in the future. Black on the other hand, wants to prevent White from taking control over the center, and one of his typical plans is to develop initiative on the kingside using active pieces.

6. ... Nf6 7. Nc4 Ng4

To my surprise, Negi kept playing fast with very aggressive and unpredictable moves. I was caught off guard with his 7. ... Ng4, which turned out to be a very strong new concept deeply analyzed by him. In the preceding games, most of the top players chose one of the two more conventional options: 7. ... Nd7 8. Bd2 (8. 0-0 Re8 9. Bd2 Bf8 10. b4 This is another typical idea to freeze Black’s queenside. 10. ... f6! 11. a4 N6b 12. Ne3 Bc4 13. Qb1 Qd7 14. Rd1 Bf7 15. h3 Rfa8 16. Be1 Bh5 17. g4 Bf8 18. c4 c5 19. b5 Nc6 20. Qe2 Re8 21. fxe6 21. fxe6). 11. White got nothing after 7. ... Re8 8. Bg5 b5 9. Nc6 h6 10. Be3 Bxe3 11. fxe3 c5 12. b3 a5 13. a4 c6 14. Qe2 Ba6 15. c4 Ra7 16. 0-0 Re7 17. Ne1 b4 18. Rf3 Rd6 19. Nf1 Bc8 and even managed to lose in GM Igor Kurnosov (2680)-GM Mateusz Bartel (2609)/Lublin 2010/EXT 2011 (60).

8. 0-0 f5!?  

After 8. 0-0 and his fast reply 8. ... f5, I realized that I was dragged into his preparation, whereas, I saw that position for the first time in my life. The list of the moves I considered is follows: 9. exf5; 9. Bc4; 9. Qc2; 9. Qe1. 9. Nfxe5 and 9. Bg5. All of those lead to very long variations where both sides can deviate on every move playing a number of different continuations.


9. Bg5

I realized that my main problem was that there was little coordination among the heavy pieces along the first row. The disadvantage of this move is that it helps to bring Black’s queen to a more active position and the bishop on g5 becomes vulnerable because of Black’s possible ... f5-f4 advance. Here are some of the variations I calculated during the game: 9. Nfxe5 Nxe5 10. Rxf2 Bxf2+ 11. Kxf2 fxe4+ (During the game, I did not see the 12. ... Qb6 resource, but I did see 11. ... b5 12. Ne3 f4 13. Kg1 fxe3 14. Bxe3 Qe8, which gives Black a slight edge.) 12. Kg1 Qf6 (12. ... b5 is not good, in view of 13. Ne3 Qf6 14. Nc3 Qb4 15. Nxe4 Qd4+ 16. Be3) 13. Be3 b5 14. Bxc5 bxc4 15. Bxf8 exd3;


Now Black is ready to bring his queen to h5, and at the same time to push the f-pawn locking White’s bishop on the kingside.

10. exf5

I thought playing this was a must. It turned out that there was one preceding game, where White continued 10. h3 fxe4 11. dxe4 b5?! (11. ... Be6 is probably better.) 12. hxg4 hxg4 13. Nxe5 f3! (12. ... g3 13. Nd3) 13. g3 Qe8; 9. Qe1 fxe4 10. dxe4?? (10. Qxe4 Bf5 leads to the 9. Qe2 line.) 10. ... Rxh3! 11. gxh3 Qh4! 12. fxg4 Qxg4+ 13. Kh1 Qf3+ 14. Kg1 Bh3.

10. ... e4


11. dxe4 Qxe4 12. Qd3

(see diagram top of next column)


12. ... Qxd3

Looks like a logical choice, but apparently, taking on f5 was even better. 12. Bxf5 Qe4 13. Qxe4 Bxe4 14. Ncd2 Here Parimarjan and I were both sure that White is fine, but Houdini finds a way to keep Black’s initiative alive! (14. h3 Nxf2 15. Rxf2 Bxf3) 14. ... Bxf3 15. Nxf3 Rae8 16. Bh4 (Maybe better 16. h3 Ne5 [16. ... Nxf2 17. Rxf2 Re2 18. Bh4 Rxc2 19. b4]) 16. ... Re2 17. Rac1 g5! 18. Bg3 h5 19. h4 gxf6! 20. Bxf6 a5 and although Black has no immediate threats, White’s position is unpleasant.

13. cxd3 Bxf5 14. d4 Bb6 15. Rfe1

Preventing immediate transfer of Black’s bishop to d5 via e4 or e6.

15. ... Nf6

This was the moment I realized that I could not really play for a win here. Objectively speaking, the endgame is equal: Black will occupy the d5-outpost, and I will take control over e5. With the opposite colored bishops, the outcome of the game would have been predictable. But I decided to try my luck by playing...

16. Bxf6

The position is equal after 16. a4 Rad8 17. Nxb6 axb6 18. h3.

16. ... gxf6!

This is the point! I lost control over the e5-spot.

17. Re7

Also OK is 17. Re3 Rf7 18. h3 Rd7 19. Nxb6 axb6 20. a3.

17. ... Rf7 18. Ra1?!

This was some kind of a blunder. I simply forgot that my rook could be driven away from e7 after we trade rooks. Better was 18. Re3.

18. ... Rxe7 19. Rxe7 Kf8

Now that I can’t take on b6, I have to be extra careful to hold this endgame.

20. Re1?!
expected to have a very difficult game. 100 percent concentration would be necessary in order not to miss anything and fight till the end, otherwise a loss is the likely result.


I decided to play this line, because it’s less tactical and more positional. Probably, White is slightly better in this line, but Black gets a very solid position and it’s not so easy for White to find a way to get a clear advantage.

6. g3 0-0

Another interesting move is 6. ... d5 which is a main line here, but I decided to play more solidly and keep the central pawns on the board.

7. Bg2 Re8 8. 0-0 c6 9. a4

I don’t think this move is necessary here. White usually plays a4 to stop ... b5, but when White’s bishop is already on g2, Black can hardly play ... b5, because of a weakness on c6. That’s why White could continue development without a4.

9. ... a5 10. Re1 Bf8 11. h3 Nbd7 12. g4

Not the best move. Much better was 12. Bf4 followed by Qd2 and Rad1, but Ray is trying to start an attack and create some
Tournaments / 2013 World Open

12. ... g6!

Not only allows ... Nh5 after g4-g5, but also controls the f5-square, which is very important.

13. Bf4 Nc5 14. Qd2 Qb6 15. e5?!

Played in Ray's style again. Most players would play 15. b3 Qb4 16. Rad1 when all White's pieces are developed and only after that White can start thinking about moves like e4-e5, but Ray decided to sacrifice a pawn and try to get compensation or even a decisive advantage.

15. ... dxe5 16. Bxe5 Ncd7 17. Bf4?!

Probably better was 17. Bxf6 Nxf6 18. Qf4 Bd7! 19. Qxf6 Bg7 20. Nd5 Qxd4 21. Qd6 with equal play, but this definitely is not what Ray had in mind when he played 15. e5.

17. ... Rxel+ 18. Rxel Qxb2 19. g5 Nh5 20. Bc7 Ng7

Safely played. I decided to get control on the e8-square. For quite some time I was thinking about 20. ... Bb4 21. Re8+ Nf8 but was worried about 22. Qe1! (Black is much better after 22. Nde2 Ng7 23. Rd8 Bc7) 22. ... Ng7 (Worse are 22. ... Bxc3?

Continued on page 34 >
WORLD OPEN SENIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

By GM LARRY KAUFMAN

It’s been five years since I won the World Senior Chess Championship in Germany in a field of about 300 players at the age of 60, and now I’ve won the top Senior (65 and up) prize in the World Open, with a 50 percent score in the Open section against mostly higher rated opponents. “World Open Senior Chess Champion” sounds pretty impressive, but in fact it was pretty much a foregone conclusion before the first pawn was pushed, because all of the other eligible masters chose to play in the Under 2400 Section, leaving me with only two rivals for the Open senior prize, both rated nearly 400 points below me. Still, since my performance rating topped any senior in the Under 2400 Section, the new title does have some real basis even if it was not awarded on that basis.

Regarding the other seniors playing (in the Under 2400 Section), I’d like to mention IM Ilye Figler, who had a fine result, and FM Larry Gilden, who was the local chess superstar (among the top dozen players in the U.S.) when I first joined USCF over half a century ago, and my mentor and friend so long ago. Although Gilden’s result was not a success, his return to chess at the age of 70, after nearly three decades of absence, is most welcome. As for my own performance, I did well enough to lift my own rating back into the ranks of senior masters (2400+). The only other “senior senior master” (65 and up and 2400 and up) with more than one rated event in the last year is IM Igor Foygel. My rating is now quite close to what it was when I first played in the U.S. Championship at the age of 24. Although my standing among American players was much higher then (#17), I feel that I actually play better now than then. The level of play is just way higher now.

I managed to beat the highly rated Grandmaster Alex Lenderman, in the following game. Annotations are heavily aided by the number-two-rated engine Komodo (soon to be number one I predict), of which I am co-author along with Don Dailey.

Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening (A01)
GM Alex Lenderman (2640)
GM Larry Kaufman (2390)
21st Annual World Open, Arlington, Virginia (4), 07.05.2013

1. b3

Lenderman knows of my reputation as an openings expert and so plays something unexpected and offbeat, but memory declines with age so he might have done better to engage me in a theoretical contest. In fact, Lenderman told Chess Life, “It was a terrible game for me, so I deserve the question marks [that Kaufman used in his annotations]. Getting out of theory might’ve been an OK decision since I’m not a theoretician myself, but I overdid it still I think with 1. b3.”

1. ... e5 2. Bb2 Nc6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bb5 Bd6

As recommended in both of my Black and White repertoire books.

5. d3?!
The main line is the funny looking 5. Na3 Na5?!

5. ... 0-0

Probably best was 5. ... Ne7, when White will probably rescue his endangered bishop by 6. d4, when after 6. ... e4 7. Be2 c6 8. Nh3 Bc7 9. 0-0 d5 is Black’s choice.

6. Nd2 Re8

Probably best was still 6. ... Ne7.

7. Ne2 Bf8 8. d4

8. ... exd4

The move 8. ... e4 was the way to play all-out for a win, but Alex outrated me by over 200 points.


14. ... Ne4?!

Best was 14. ... Be7! to free up the queen from having to defend the knight and slightly in Black’s favor. Black plans ... Qc7 and ... Rad8.

15. c4 dxc4 16. Bxc4 Qxd1

It is equal after 16. ... Qc7.

17. Rxxd1 Nd6 18. Bd5 Be4?! 

Correct was first 18. ... Rad8 with equal chances.

19. Ne5 Rad8 20. Rac1?! 

20. Bxe4 Nxe4 21. Nd7 was slightly in White’s favor.

20. ... Bf8 21. d4 

The move 22. ... Ne4! was slightly in Black’s favor. The move chosen suffices to equalize; I had no idea that I should try for more here.


Better was 26. ... b6.

27. Ne6?!

Stronger was 27. Kf2.

27. ... Bd6 28. f4 Re8 29. f5 Rc8 30. Bd4 Rc1+ 31. Kf2 Rc2+ 32. Kf3 h5 33. h4 Rc1 34. g3 Kh7 35. Nf4 Bxf4 36. gxf4 Nh6 37. Bc5 Ng4 38. b4 Rf1+ 39. Kg2 Re1

(see diagram top of next column)

40. Rd7?!

White had about an hour left, but moved too fast perhaps because I was down to one minute. But I only had to make one move, so that was a questionable decision. We now had a minor rules issue, and the clock was stopped. The problem was that the clock added 30 minutes, apparently “thinking” that we had both made 40 moves, but we both agreed that I still had to make my 40th move. The problem was that since the time was added, there was no longer a display of seconds, so I would either have to move quickly or risk forfeiting when my minute was up as I had no way to see the seconds. Alex sportingly agreed not to claim a forfeit if that should happen, and anyway I moved before the minute was up, making the issue moot. Still, for the future, this needs to be addressed by the rules guys.

40. ... Nxe3+ 41. Kf2?

It seems Alex simply overlooked my reply. He should recapture, and although he will be worse, he can count on at least reaching the easily drawn ending of rook and two pawns versus rook and three all on the kingside.

41. Rd1? 42. Rxb7 Nxf5 43. Ra7?!

Probably White is already lost, but this makes things worse.

43. ... Ra1 44. Bf8 Ra2+ 45. Kf5 Kg8 46. Ra8 Kf7 47. b5?

Apparently just an oversight, but otherwise a pawn will soon fall on the other wing and so I don’t think it mattered.

47. ... Nd4+ 48. Ke4? Nxb5 49. Bc5 Ra4+, White resigned.
> Continued from page 31


21. Rb1

Good for Black is 21. Ne4 Bb4!.

21. ... Qa3 22. Ne4 Qxa4

At this point I started thinking what to do... I was quite sure that 22. ... Ne8 was the best move here. d6 and f6 are key squares and it’s good to protect them. After 23. Bxa5 Nd6 (After 23. ... Qxa4 24. Bc3 White has great play for the pawn.) 24. Nxd6 Qxd6 25. Bd6 Qc7 White has no more attack and the a4-pawn is very weak, that’s why Black is slightly better, but Ray was already running very short on time, that’s why I decided to accept a challenge and take the second pawn on a4. It was too risky, but I couldn’t see a clear way for him to checkmate me and if White doesn’t do something really fast, I will simply push the a-pawn and then White will be lost.

23. Re1

23. ... Qa2?

Better was 23. ... Qa3! The idea is simple; Black needs to avoid the dark-squared bishop trade, because all dark squares in Black’s camp are weak. 24. Re3 (No better is 24. Nf6+ Nxf6 25. gx6 Ne6.) 24. ... Qb2 25. Bd6 a4 and compare to the game; Black gained some time.

24. Bd6 Qb2

When I played 23. ... Qa2, I missed that after 24. Bd6 Bxd6 25. Nxd6 Nf8 he has 26. Qc3! threatening Ra1 and my queen is in trouble.

25. Bxf8?


25. ... Nxf8 26. Qf4?

And this is a decisive mistake. White’s last chance was 26. Nf6+ Kh7 27. Re7 Be6 28. Nxe6fxe6 29. Rxf7 Qd4! (Consistent with my plan, but losing is 29. ... a4? 30. Qe4 a3 31. Bf1!! [Black escapes with a draw after 31. Qxe6 Qc1+ 32. Kh2 Qf4+ 33. Kg1 Qc1+ 34. Bf1 Qg5.] 31. ... a2 32. Qxe6 a1=Q 33. Rxg7 30. Qc1 [Black has a big edge after 30. Qxd4 Nxd4 31. Rd7! [Too slow is 31. Rxb7 a4.] 31. ... Ne2+ [Equal is 31. ... Nxc2 32. Be4 Nb4 33. Rxb7.] 32. Kf1 Nf4 33. Rb7 a4 34. Rb2 a3 35. Rxa6+ 30. ... a4 31. Rxb7 a3 32. c3 Qf4 winning for Black.

26. ... Be6 27. Nf6+ Kh8 28. Qh4 a4

At this point, we were both in time trouble, but I had an easy plan, just to push the a-pawn and White could do nothing about it.

29. Re4 a3 30. Qh6 a2 31. Rh4 a1=Q+ 32. Kh2 Nh5 33. Rhxh5 gxh5 34. Nhxh7 Nhx7 35. Be4

35. ... Qg1+! 36. Kxg1 Qc1+ 37. Kh2

37. Kg2 Qxg5+.

37. ... Qf4+, White resigned.

A very interesting and sharp game as expected. I was very happy to win this game against such a strong opponent. In round eight and nine I drew number one and number two seeded players and again try to attack White’s center and again try to capitalize on White’s previous pawn push to f3.

Scandinavian Defense (B01)

FM Kazim Gulamali (2437)
GM Varuzhan Akobian (2698)
21st Annual World Open, Arlington, Virginia (1), 07.03.2013

Notes by Akobian

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6

These are, of course, the opening moves of the Pirc Defense. I have been playing the French Defense for the past 25 years. The fact that my love for the French Defense has allowed others to prepare more easily for me, than if my repertoire as Black had been more varied, was not lost on me. Having, at minimum, two openings and two defenses (each against e4 and d4) makes preparation considerably more difficult for one’s opponents; thus my decision to play the Pirc against 1. e4.

3. f3

This move came as somewhat of a surprise as the main move is 3. Nc3. White’s choice is a very rarely played move in this position.

3. ... d5

I believe this is the best move in this position. Black is attacking the center and trying to take advantage of the weakness caused by 3. f3.

4. exd5

This is another surprising decision. Usually White plays 4. e5 Nf7 5. f4 e6. N3 c5 which transposes into the French Defense. I speculate that my opponent wanted to avoid a transposition into the defense with which I am most familiar.

4. ... Nxd5 5. c4 Nb6

This is the best square for the knight’s retreat because it attacks both central pawns.

6. Nc3 e5!

This is a very strong move. The idea is to attack White’s center and again try to capitalize on White’s previous pawn push to f3.
7. dxe5

If 7. d5 Bc5 (7. ... Nxc4?? 8. Qa4+ It’s important to avoid this trap which loses the knight by the intermezzo check. [8. Bxc4 Qh4+ 9. g3 Qxc4 and Black is up a pawn and in a better position with the bishop pair.])

7. ... Qxd1+ 8. Nxd1 Nc6

It’s very important for Black to quickly finish development and play very aggressively as he has sacrificed a pawn.

It is noteworthy to mention here that the player having the black pieces may still “press the action” despite White’s initial advantage. Whether I do so with the black pieces usually depends, primarily, upon the perceived strength of my opponent. In this situation, however, it is due to my having sacrificed material. If I permit White to also gain an initiative (or even neutralize my initiative), I am without compensation for the material sacrificed. Also, if my opponent is rated significantly lower then I am likely to play more aggressively.

Even when a position is equal against such an opponent, I attempt to extend the game and continue playing despite having the black pieces. I accomplish this by trying to create complications, positions that I suspect may be unfamiliar to my opponent or by pressuring White by striving for the initiative. I do not, however, play anything but what I deem the best move. If the best move is not aggressive, I try to continue play without weakening my position.

9. f4 Be6

Again combining development with an attack which here is an immediate threat to win back the sacrificed pawn.

10. b3 0-0-0

Playing energetically per Black’s plan. Black now threatens ... Bb4+.

11. Ne3 Bc5!

Black’s idea is to play the knight to b4 and capture on e3.

12. a3

Preventing ... Nb4.

12. ... Rxe3

Completing development and preparing f6 in order to open the position against White’s uncastled king.

13. Nf3 f6 14. exf6?

This only serves to hasten the opening of the position to White’s disadvantage as his king’s safety is lacking. Still worse for White is, but better than the game, 14. Be2 fxe5 15. fxe5 Nd7.

14. ... Bg8!

(see diagram top of next column)

The reason this move is strong is because it controls f7. If White captures on g7, the passer is blocked. If 15. Kf2 Rd1! threatening to win material by ... Rxc1.

15. Ke2 gxf6!

My opponent resigned after calculating the following variations. I was, of course, very happy to have won my first game as black in just 16 moves. 16. ... Na5 17. Rb1 (17. b4 Bxe3! 18. Bxe3 Naxc4) 17. ... Nxb3! 18. Rxb3 Bxc4+ 19. Kf2 Bxb3. 

I believe this is the best move because White is stifled and in virtual Zugzwang so I have time to regain material.

16. g3 Na5!, White resigned.

My opponent resigned after calculating the following variations. I was, of course, very happy to have won my first game as black in just 16 moves. 16. ... Na5 17. Rb1 (17. b4 Bxe3! 18. Bxe3 Naxc4) 17. ... Nxb3! 18. Rxb3 Bxc4+ 19. Kf2 Bxb3. 

At A Glance


See full results here: http://chesstournamentservices.com/cca/world-open/
Uncompromising in both chess and life, Pal Benko’s career has been one of chess exploration and innovation.
In the pre-war years, in Budapest, Hungary, a 10-year-old boy went to the park to play soccer. He became distracted when he saw people playing chess on benches, and he stayed on, fascinated by the board game. His father later explained the moves to him. Barely having figured out the rules, he nevertheless eagerly entered a tournament in the park. Though he finished last he was awarded a consolation prize: a Soviet basic openings book.

He started playing with his older brother and then with classmates, soon becoming the best at his school. One of his teachers gave a simultaneous exhibition and he was the only one to beat him. The teacher recognized his natural talent and invited him to play in his club and in team competitions. He won the club championship with 11/12.

In a student magazine, he saw chess problems. His curiosity about this baffling game grew deeper. He now spent many hours at the park, using chess to earn his pocket money. The park became his chess school. But then the war started and the benches in the park eventually disappeared, furtively removed to be used as firewood.

After the war, chess activity slowly returned. His blitz wins against masters attracted the attention of Hungarian Chess Federation’s officials and he was invited to play at his first official tournament. He faced 10 chess masters and seven candidate masters. To the astonishment of all, this novice won the tournament and was awarded a master’s title. He had just turned 17.

These were the humble beginnings of one of the 20th-century’s chess icons: Pal Benko. He added to his Russian openings book two more chess manuals, Capablanca’s 350 games and the collection of games from the 1938 AVRO tournament. These three books were the only “trainers” he has ever had. Benko paved his path to the heights of world chess as an independent innovator, relying entirely on his own originality and daring imagination. He reached legendary status having played and won against some of the greatest chess minds including Bobby Fischer, Sammy Reshevsky, Mikhail Botvinnik, Paul Keres, Tigran Petrosian, Mikhail Tal, Vasily Smyslov, Miguel Najdorf, Viktor Korchnoi, Boris Spassky, Efim Geller, Lajos Portisch, Yuri Averbakh, Mark Taimanov, Svetozar Gligoric and Bent Larsen.

Uncompromising in both chess and life, his need to explore and innovate and his search for freedom and justice have brought him happiness, but he also endured brutal events with stamina, resourcefulness, and an unbending spirit. Though his World War II childhood experiences were harsh, the Soviet Union’s occupation of post-war Hungary would cause even more horrific episodes. Drafted, the army sent him to the Austrian border as a ditch digger. He deserted. After three days on the run evading the Hungarian army, the Soviet army, and the police, he managed to reach his home in Budapest only to be met with yet another harsh reality: his brother and father had been sent to Russia as “prisoners of war.”

Though ever since he was a 12-year old child he had always worked, beside his schooling, to help his family, now life
became an unbearable struggle. He had to take care of his sick mother and a younger sister. His mother never again saw her husband and older son. She died before they returned home a year and a half later. Soon afterwards, his father defected to the United States.

When life again reached a somewhat relative normality, Benko resumed his chess activities and soon was ranked among the best Hungarian chess players, and in 1948 at the age of 20 he won the Hungarian national championship.

However, the communists had taken over every aspect of Hungarian life and politics. Openly outspoken against the new order, the government restricted his movements and his tournament participation was limited to the borders of the Iron Curtain. Unable to continue his college education, he found work in a factory as a bookkeeper. His mind became focused on following his father to the USA.

In 1952, while playing a tournament in East Germany, he made an ill-conceived attempt to escape. He was caught, sent back to Budapest and imprisoned in a concentration camp. For a year and a half, he faced the absurd brutality of his country's communist regime.

After his release, for a number of years he was forbidden to play in any international tournaments. Not until the 1956 Moscow Olympiad was he allowed abroad as a member of the Hungarian team, which finished in 2nd-3rd place.

In 1957, deemed to have “learned his lesson,” he was allowed to play at the Interzonal in Ireland and shortly afterwards at the World Student Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland. In Reykjavik, he made his second and this time successful bid for freedom. In October of the same year, he reached New York. Seven year later in 1964, amnesty was declared for all those that had defected and he could again visit Hungary, though now as a U.S. citizen.

During his years in the U.S., he won the U.S. Open a record eight times, played on six U.S. Olympic teams, and in 14 U.S. Championships. He qualified twice as a world championship candidate, in 1959 and 1962.

Beginning in 1974, he slowed down his competitive play, eventually abandoning it entirely in the early 1990s. Instead, he concentrated his energies on the other chess activities for which he has become best known: as a chess composer and endgame specialist. He has the distinction of having earned two separate FIDE titles: grandmaster and international master chess composer.

Chess Life readers are of course particularly well acquainted with Benko’s writings. In the January 2013 issue, the magazine celebrated 45 years of his “Endgame Lab” column. The book Pal Benko’s Endgame Laboratory contains a collection of these columns published between the years 1981-1986.

For this article, he has provided us with a study of his own favorite endgame:

This is my last endgame composed for a specific competition. I lost my enthusiasm for compositions due to the computer’s influence, but this one is hard even for a computer to solve.

This appears to be a simple game-like position. However, misleading is 1. Rd1? Rf8 2. Ra1 Rf3+ 3. Kd4 0-0!, which frees Black. Therefore, White must find a good hiding place for his king. (See page 71 for the solution.)

Indeed, his compositions puzzled even Bobby Fischer who would lose bets because he was unable to solve them in a specific period—sometimes for as much as 30 minutes, sometimes not able to solve them at all!

He played 18 tournament games against Fischer, winning three, while Fischer won eight and the rest were drawn. “But later analysis has shown that Fischer’s games had flaws and that at least five of our games could have had a different outcome,” says Benko.

Not only against Fischer. Benko’s chess career has been peppered with almost-won games where he would succumb to time pressure or a debilitating blunder. “I was prone to blunders,” Benko reports. “I would lose my rook inexplicably quite too often, and I lost many games in time pressure. As I was applying all my concentration at the board, time pressure became my greatest enemy. I would play important games without any previous preparation, which I did not like to spend time on. I had no repertoire. Often, I would sit by the board pondering my first move there and then. I would be looking for some offbeat opening.

“Also, I started playing chess relatively late. I did not have trainers nor did I have much chance to work during the war years in Hungary, or later during my escape and settling efforts in the USA. When you start playing chess as a four-year-old kid and have a rigorous training, chess becomes a mother tongue. It was not the case for me.”

Wryly and humbly, Benko spins this handicap: “Looking back at blunders and time pressure losses is the most creative way to regret missed opportunities.”

Yet this thwarted what is every player’s ambition: to fight for a world championship. “I was a professional chess player for a very short time during my career,” Benko explains. “Most of the time, after I gained my freedom in the USA, I had to work to earn my living. I had to learn the language, to adapt and prepare for survival. I [didn’t have the necessary experience to compete] for the world championship. So, actually, I never entertained the idea of becoming a world champion. Also, I liked to wander away from chess—to read, to learn, to chase girls ... To win an Open and make some money was of a more immediate concern to me most of the time.”

He played and won so many Opens in the USA that he earned the nickname “The King of Opens.” When he played, the question often was who would take second place because first place so often belonged to Benko. He made an unprecedented run at the U.S. Open, winning eight times in 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1974 and 1975. In 1964 he also won the Canadian Open.

His lack of formal experience was balanced by his natural talent, and so he did at least hint at world championship ambitions. He qualified and competed at two Candidates tournaments that included the top eight in the world, in Zagreb, 1959 (eighth place) and in Curacao, 1962 (sixth place). These were his highest achievements.

He had a chance to advance to a third Candidates tournament after qualifying for the 1970 Interzonal in Palma de Mallorca. However, he made a grand, rare, gesture which would lead to the greatest event in chess history: he gave up his earned spot to Bobby Fischer.

He explains his decision in a most down-to-earth manner: “I was into my ’40s and my chess ambitions were waning. On the other hand, Bobby was 26 years old and a great talent and promise. I knew that he had the potential and realistic chances to win the tournament.”

His prediction came true: Bobby won not only the Interzonal, but also the subsequent Candidates tournament and the Championship match against Boris Spassky in Reykjavik, 1972 to become
the 11th world champion.

Did Fischer ever recognize his friend’s generosity? Did he show any gratitude?

“No. Not at all,” is Benko’s rueful response. “On the contrary, he made a lot of fuss about it. A rumor has spread that I had obtained a payment to give up my spot. Absolutely untrue. Fischer was taunting me: ‘You are willing to put it in writing?’ On his insistence, I made an official declaration in Chess Life, that no money was paid for my relinquishing the post to him.”

Benko was sent to Palma de Mallorca with two duties. First, to be there in case Fischer does not show up, and second, to act as a second along with Samuel Reshevsky and William Addison, for which he did receive a payment.

The relationship between Bobby, the young prodigy and his older friend, Benko, a newcomer to America, was as volatile as any relationship with Bobby was, but was still a long-lasting one. They met at a chess club soon after Benko’s arrival in New York, when Bobby was 14 years old. Their paths were intertwined. They played and analyzed together; they travelled to several international tournaments together. At the Portoroz Interzonal in 1958 they both qualified for the Candidates tournament and both were granted a grandmaster title, with Fischer also earning the accolade of being the youngest grandmaster ever. Five years his senior, Benko assumed a father-figure role.

Not once, Benko had to bare the eccentricities of his young friend. He is haunted to this day by an incident that took place at the 1962 Candidates tournament in Curaçao, and remembers it with a genuine guilt. “In Curaçao, we were to share the same second, Bisguier, because the Federation did not have enough funds. I was not happy with a clause that Fischer would have the first choice, and I would only get help when Fischer would have no adjourned game, but I accepted it. However, I started quite well, and in the fifth round, in my adjourned game with Petrosian, I had winning chances and I felt it was a moment to ask help from the second. But, to my astonishment, he refused to let me use the second, claiming he was his second! In a heated argument, in his hotel room, I hit him.”

Later on, it turned out that Fischer was not aware that they were supposed to share the second. They clarified matters but only after the tournament.

Nonetheless, their friendship endured. Bobby looked up to Benko and was awed by his older friend’s flamboyant style. “I want to be a playboy like Benko,” Fischer would enviously say. When they went together to an international tournament in Europe, Benko advised him to change his scruffy, knitted jumper and tried to entice him to wear a suit. “He was getting invitations at more and more prestigious tournaments, but could not see the need to be better presentable,” recalls the sartorial Benko. After that, Fischer would wear a suit and a tie to almost all tournaments. At one point, he told Benko, “I have now more suits than the American president.”

During Bobby’s later reclusive years, he accompanied Benko to some tournaments in Europe, which Benko began attending when Hungary eased the aforementioned laws allowing defectors to return. Benko elaborates that, “He accompanied me to team tournaments in Germany but would not leave his hotel room. He would not meet the players or venture to the playing hall. I did not talk about his presence there to anyone.”
Benko kept in touch with Fischer's Japanese wife and president of the Japanese Chess Federation, Miyoko Watai, and on her invitation, he went to Japan to give lectures.

Back in his home country, Benko established a genuinely warm and cordial relationship with other young geniuses: the three Polgar sisters. In their fledgling early years, when they needed training but finances were scarce, he offered his help gratis. He trained them and was their second at two Olympiads, in Novi Sad, 1990 and in Moscow, 1994.

In the foreword of his autobiography, *Pal Benko: My Life, Games and Compositions*, 2003, Siles Press, Susan Polgar wrote, “Always a big supporter of the Polgar sisters, Benko has helped us in many ways throughout the years. I am deeply indebted to this great man for the many kindnesses he has shown to my family.”

Judit Polgar today says, “I like his studies very much. I talk about our work with him in my book *How I beat Fischer’s Record*. His studies always impressed me—every nuance fit so well in a position! The ones he showed me over many years were extremely difficult to solve. His endgame studies are very pure, precise and seem as if they happened in a practical game. He was also a great player but when I met him, in the late ’80s, the peak of his career was long over. He has a very strong personality, intelligent, with clear and sharp views but also a great sense of humor. I am glad that I have spent many hours learning from him.”

Fabiano Caruana is one of his more recent famous pupils. Benko tells us, “I taught Caruana in his early days, back in the USA. He would come to my home with his father for a few hours of training daily. He was the only pupil I had who would contradict my assessment of positions. He was just a 14-year-old kid!” Was he right sometimes? “Sometimes. But on most occasions he was just annoying.”

With the World Cup upon us as we talked, he used yet another example to sneer at “the computer-prepared openings” and memorized moves that “kill chess creativity.” He picked up on the GM Anna Ushenina versus GM Peter Svidler game, in which Ushenina beat her 246-points-stronger opponent: “They played 20 moves of opening theory. That is why she won. This is not chess. He should know better. He should not play what he usually plays at such an important competition. He should steer away from the known path and try something else, maybe the Caro-Kann, or whatever … when he would most surely beat her eventually.”

He also noted that the Chinese are having much more success probably because they do not play many international tournaments and therefore are underrated.

“Anybody can learn 20 moves,” he explains. “That is how weaker players can make draws or even win. And so, stronger players don’t play Opens, because they would lose points.”

Perhaps this is old-fashioned thinking—Benko avoids using computers if at all possible and does not even type himself—however, he is not alone in tackling the question about the inflated rating system and the subsequent disproportional number of grandmasters. He talks with nostalgia about the times when a chess grandmaster was a rare person indeed: “Fischer never came close to 2800. In our time, there were 40 grandmasters in the world. You had to reach the Candidates tournament to be awarded a grandmaster title. Simple. Today there are 2000.” (Slightly exaggerated; there are fewer than 1,400. ~ed.)

To somebody who, out of a sheer curiosity and a sense of adventure, played 1. b4 or 1. g3—and won—against top players of the time, including Fischer and Tal, it is understandable that he may harbor a genuine dislike for artificially learned and memorized computer moves. Chess is a brain game and its main tool is mental creativity.

Throughout his own chess career, Benko has always avoided learning opening theory. He philosophizes that “truth does not exist in the beginning phase of a game,” while he saw the “ultimate truth” in endgames which proved his lifelong fascination and where “he felt at home.”

His name will always be connected to the Benko Gambit, an opening he developed in order to avoid studying openings and to use as a surprise weapon against his opponents. He called it initially the “Benoni Counter Defense”: 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5. He wrote a book in 1973 for RHM Chess Publishing; it was the publisher who christened it the “Benko Gambit.” To promote the book, Benko gave a simultaneous exhibition tour playing Black whenever his opponents were willing to play against the Benko against Benko. In his autobiography he remembers, “I was undefeated with the black pieces, but I lost two games with white!”

He has been faithful to his gambit having played (and won!) hundreds of times, in comparison to Alekhine who seemingly eschewed the Alekhine Defense, employing it only three times in his own games.

At the 1962 Curacao event, Benko scored two noteworthy wins against Fischer and Mikhail Tal by playing an unexpected first move against both of them, 1. g3. This became known as the “Benko Opening” or sometime the “Benko System.”

Bobby Fischer acted upon Benko’s original idea of “randomized chess” and created the system of play called “Fischerandom,” today well known and occasionally used in tournaments. He believes that randomized chess might be the answer to the unimaginative and non-creative computer chess of today.

Now in his 85th year, having celebrated his birthday on July 15, Benko is living his twilight years in Budapest, in the company of his Hungarian wife, Gizella, whom he married in 1968. “She waited for me faithfully for 13 years!,” he happily exclaims. Both of their American children, Palma and David, came to Budapest to celebrate his birthday. It is a family of mathematicians; Mrs. Benko is a retired university lecturer in mathematics, and both Palma and David are lecturers in mathematics in the USA. They are all chess players. Mrs. Benko, who met her husband at a chess tournament, was at one point a Hungarian national women’s team member.

Untamed by age, with a surprising vitality, he spends his time in Budapest, still active as a chess writer and composer, always ready to crack a joke and refusing to bend to unpleasant life memories. The 1993 Hall of Fame inductee’s legacy to chess is undisputed, but Benko the person—his kind but professional manner, his passionate talks about life and his lifelong dedication to chess, his calm recounting of stories from his rich, albeit sad, past, his patient readiness to oblige to my endless demands for yet one more photo shoot—this is what will remain in my memory about the cherished hours spent in the company of a living legend.
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THE KING’S APPEARANCE ON THE battlefield is a key marker noting that the endgame has begun. After spending most of the game safely tucked in a corner, the king may suddenly become a strong, active piece. In rook endings, the king routinely either supports or blocks the passed pawn. The success or failure of these actions usually decides the game. Let’s look first at an example involving a rook pawn.

**The right defense**
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2809, ARM)
GM Michael Adams (FIDE 2727, ENG)
Alekhine Memorial 2013

53. ... Rd5 54. Ke2 a4 55. Ra3 Kb5 56. Rd3 Rc5
57. Kd2 Kb4 58. Rd8 a3 59. Rb8+ Rb5
Also drawn is 59. ... Ka4 60. Ra8+ Kb3 61. Rb8+ Ka2 since the black king is confined in front of his pawn. This is a typical game-saving method.

**Mutual mistakes**
Lyubomir Danov (FIDE 2158, BUL)
GM Marijan Petrov (FIDE 2518, BUL)
35th International Open Bulgarian Chess Championship ”Georgi Tringov Memorial,” 2013

Fighting Kings
As befits its regal stature, the king often decides an endgame.

*By GM PAL BENKO*

There was an opportunity here to reach a theoretically winning position via 40. ... d4! 41. Kf2 Rc3!, cutting the white king off from the passed pawn.

41. Kf3 Rd7 42. Kf4?
The d-pawn should have been blockaded with 42. Ke3, assuring the draw.

42. ... d4 43. Ke4 Kf6! 44. Rh1 Kg7?
Instead 44. ... Kg5! 45. Rg1+ Kh4 46. Rh1+ Kg4! 47. Rg1+ Kh3 48. Kf7+ 49. Ke4 Kh2 wins.

45. Rd1 Re7+ 46. Kf5 Rf7+ 47. Ke4 Re7+ 48. Kf5 Rf7+ 49. Ke4 h5 50. Rxd4 Kg6 51. Rd1 h4

This position is drawn even if it is Black to play.

52. Rd5
Not bad, but the usual methods with either 52. Rd8 or 52. Ke3 Kg5 53. Ke2 h3 54. Rf1 are simpler.

52. ... h3 53. Rd1?
Now the only good continuation is 53. Rd3 and after 53. ... Rh7 54. Rg3+! Kf6 55. Rg1 there is still a draw.

53. ... Kg5 54. Rg1+ Kh4 55. Rq8 h2 56. Rh8+ Kg3 57. Rg8+ Kf2 58. Rh8 Kg1 59. Rg8+ Kf1 60. Rh8 Rf2 61. Ke3 Kg1 62. Rh7 Rg2, White resigned.

There were a lot of mistakes in this game. Normally at the top levels even one misstep can prove fatal, as we see in the next game.
**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

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**One misstep!**

GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2864, NOR)  
GM Fabiano Caruana (FIDE 2774, ITA)  
8th International Chess Tournament “Tal Memorial,” Moscow, 2013

White has been working hard to salvage a draw after losing a pawn earlier in the game.

41. Kf5 Kg7 42. Rb8 Rc5+ 43. Kf4 Rb5 44. Ke4  
45. Rb8 Kg6 46. Rb7 Kg5 47. Ke5  
Why not 47. Kf5?  
47. ... Kg6 48. Rg8+ Kh7 49. Rf8?

Black’s persistent attempts finally pay off. The position could be drawn even if White gave away both the h4- and g5-pawns for the b6 one. Therefore 49. Rb8 should have been played.

Unluckily for White, with his king cut off on the horizontal, he is one tempo short of a draw.

52. ... Ra4 53. Rb8 Kg4 54. Rg8+ Kf3!  
Still drawn is 54. ... Kh3? after 55. Kf5! h4 56. Rb8.  
55. Rf8+ Kg4 56. Rg8+ Kh3 57. Kf5 h4 58. Rb8 h3! 59. Kg5  
If 59. Rb2+ Kg3 60. Rb3+ Kh4 61. Rb2 Ra1 62. Kf4 Rf1+ wins.

59. ... Re4 60. Kf5 Re2 61. Kg5 Re2 62. Rb8 Rb2+ White resigned.

---

**King rush**

GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2809, ARM)  
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2801, RUS)  
Alekhine Memorial 2013

White has a significant advantage with both an advanced passed pawn and his nearby king.

49. ... Rxa6 50. Rxa6 Rxa6 51. Rxa6 Kxa6 52. Bxa6

---

**36. ... f6**

A necessary move, but it yields the white king an extra tempo.

37. Rce6!  
Misses an interesting tactical possibility with 37. Rxe5? Rxe5 38. dxe5 dxe5 39. Kxe5—Black to move, but the victory is still not achieved quickly.

37. ... fxe5 38. Ke3 Kg8 39. Ke4 Kg7 40. Kd5  
Also good is 40. Kxe5, but this method allows the black rook more play after 40. ... Re8+ 41. Kd5 Ke4.  
40. ... a5

If 40. ... a4 then 41. Rxa6 e3 42. Ra3 comes.

41. Rc5 b4 42. Rb5 Kf8 43. Rb8 Kg7 44. Kd6

---

**44. ... b3**

More resistance is offered by 44. ... Rc8+ but 45. Kd7 Rxc6 46. Kd8 e4 47. d7 Kf7 48. Rb7 e3 49. Rb4 Rxa2 50. Rf4+ Kf6 51. Ke8 wins.

45. axb3 Rxb3 46. Ra8 Rx3+ 47. Kd7 e4 48. Rf8+ Kg5  
If 48. ... Ke5, then the continuation 49. Ke7 e3 50. d7 Rxc7 51. Ke8 wins.

49. Ke7 e3 50. d7 e2 51. d8=Q e1=Q+ 52. Kd6+, Black resigned.

An extraordinary king walk. Black resigned since mate is inevitable. 🏆
A COMMON SITUATION: YOU’RE UP A pawn and you see a simple move which maintains your advantage. There are also a couple of other moves which may (or may not) bring you more, but those require some checking/calculation.

What to do? There is no easy answer, perhaps no general answer at all, as all depends on the actual position (and time). But you can prepare yourself!

The game below, submitted to me by my new student prior to our first lesson via phone, is full of relevant examples! Here is his letter to me (my further comments are italicized).

My name is Matt Featherston (USCF rating 1676), and I’m 52 years old. I love chess, although I’ve only been playing for about eight years. When I was about six years old, a neighbor taught me how the pieces moved, then proceeded to thrash me (I still remember this first game) with the “Neanderthal” 1. e4 e5 2. Qh5 Nc6 3. Bc4. I absorbed enough from this first game that in the next three games (played at the same sitting), I won all three and my neighbor no longer was interested in playing me. But I was hooked, and tried to find others to play. I spent a few months just playing moves on the board by myself, but with nobody willing to play me, I eventually gave it up.

Fast forward to late-2002, I developed rheumatoid arthritis. I was an athlete up until then, playing competitive beach volleyball and basketball. After several years unable to play sports due to the arthritis, and remembering how much I had loved chess as a child, I decided to put chess back into my life. This was mid-2005, and I played casually for about two years before deciding to study the game. My opening repertoire is mostly from Chess Openings for White, Explained (and the companion volume for Black). I have several of the Jeremy Silman middlegame books and his endgame book, as well as most of Roman Dzindzichashvili’s videos. I also have about two bookshelves of other books like Kasparov vs. Karpov, and I enjoy solving tactics puzzles.

I have only played about eight tournaments. (Up until now, the fatigue and fogginess from the rheumatoid arthritis made tournaments extremely taxing.) I have recently found some alternative treatment that is improving my health, so I’m thinking to start playing more tournaments. As a short-term goal, I would like to improve my chess skills to a master level, if that is possible at my age. I look forward to your advice and help to make the most of any potential I may have to reach this goal.

Scotch Gambit (C44)
Matt Featherston (1584)
Gary Blanton (1913)
Land of the Sky XXV (4), Asheville, North Carolina, 2 hours/40 moves + 30 minutes, 5 second delay 01.29.2012
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Bb4+
I had mixed feelings about Black’s fourth move. I knew that this wasn’t Black’s best line, but I see it so rarely that I really haven’t studied it that much.

5. c3 dxc3 6. bxc3
White is better also after 6. 0-0.

6. ... Ba5 7. 0-0 d6 8. Qb3 Qe7
I realized after this move that I already made an inaccuracy here, since it allows 10. ... Na5. As I waited for Black’s ninth move, I realized that 9. e5 was better. I confirmed this after the game by consulting my Chess Openings for White, Explained. Fortunately, Black’s eleventh move got me off the hook for this mistake.

9. ... Bb6 10. e5 Na5 11. Qa4+ Kf8?
I was surprised by this move, since 11. ... Bd7 seemed to take the steam out of White’s initiative. I was mentally scrambling before I saw 11. ... Kf8, and was thinking of 11. ... Bd7 12. Bb5 c6 13. Bd3 c5 14. Qf4.

12. exd6 cxd6 13. Re1 Be6

14. Bxe6
I had about 40 minutes more on the clock before I made move 14. I took about 20 minutes on this move. It’s a bit embarrassing it took me so long to find the obvious continuation, but I was so focused on avoiding trades and keeping the initiative (things that I always read are essential when playing gambits) that I only considered 14. Bxe6 after 15 minutes of looking at other options.

It’s good to know the rules; it’s also important to remain flexible, open-minded, and, yes, opportunistic.

14. ... fx6 15. Qf4+ Qf7 16. Qxd6+ Ne7 17. Qxe6 Nac6 18. Nbd2
(see diagram top of next column)

18. ... h6
I thought this was a good move, since in response to 18. ... Qxe6 19. Rxe6 Kf7, I liked the option of playing 20. Ng5+, and
although I still would have the option of 20. Rae1, which might even be better than Ng5+. Still, with Black’s king stuck in the center, and White’s active pieces and up a pawn, I felt comfortable with my position. But starting at this point, I started losing my way, giving a number of opportunities to my opponent to recover.


21. Rab1

I thought a while about playing 21. Nd4!, but chose what I thought to be a safer path that still is winning. I calculated 21. ... Nxd4, 21. ... Rxb6, but I think psychologically I started to fear missing something, so I didn’t trust my calculation. With the text move, I thought I’d keep it simple by pressuring the weaknesses on the b-file. But after a few moves, it was clear I was losing my way, and that 21. Nd4 was much better.

This is an example of playing too safe! By the way, all these lines Matt mentions lose a lot of material. In fact, 21. Nd4 is both simple, safe—and winning.

21. ... Qxe6 22. Rxe6 Kf7 23. Ree1 Nc8 24. Rbd1

White is still winning (an extra pawn, for one thing)—but this is no longer easy.

24. ... Nba7 25. Rb1 b5 26. Bc5 Rd5 27. Bxa7 Nxa7

(see diagram top of next column)

28. Nd4?

After I played this move, I was horrified to see that I missed the obvious 28. c4! Here, too, Matt settled for an easy-to-find, I-am-still-better move.

30. Kf1?

I calculated 30. ... Rxc3 31. Nxb5 Nxb5 32. Rxb5 and thought I’d have a better position. But I should have calculated one more move to see that after 32. ... Rxc7, it’s starting to look like Black can hold.

White should be concerned about possible back-rank mate—but not overwhelmed. Thus: 30. Re3!, preserving the pawn.

30. ... Rxc7

My opponent had been under pressure for a while, and although he still had about 18 minutes to the 40-move time control, likely the pressure resulted in this blunder.

31. Ne6 Rxc3 32. Nxc7 Rxc7 33. Rf3+ Kg6 34. Rb1 b4?

It’s over anyway.


44. Rf4?

I felt like there was a mate here, but I had about 15 minutes left on my clock, and was feeling some time pressure. So again, rather than search deeply, I took what I thought to be the less risky path. (Definitely a flaw in my chess psychology that I’m working hard on.) The mate in three I missed here: 44. Kh3 Rg5 45. Rf5 Rxd5 46. g4.

Again, the excessive risk aversion. And here, as on moves 21 and 30, there was no risk in looking for, and then choosing, the right path. By the way, the line Matt gives is beautiful, but you don’t need to see a striking 45. Rf5 to play 44. Kh3; after the forced 44. ... Rg5, 45. g4+, winning the rook (with a mate next move) is good enough. Here, there was no real difference—but imagine that Black retained a couple of pawns on the queenside!

44. ... Rg5+ 45. Rxf5+ hxg5 46. Rf8 Nc6 47. Rh8+ Kg6 48. h4 gxh4+ 49. Rxe4 Ne7 50. Ra4 Nf5+ 51. Kf4 Ne7 52. g4 Nxd5+ 53. Ke5 Ne7 54. f4 Nc6+ 55. Ke4 Nf5 56. Ra6+ Kf7 57. Ra7 Kf8 58. Rxe7 Kxe7 59. Ke5, Black resigned.

Matt’s 44th move concession made him play an additional fifteen moves, which he did well, avoiding the only real threat, the forks. Overall, a very good game played against a much higher-rated, and resourceful, up to the end, opponent. And Matt himself pinpoints his problem, manifest in this game, namely an excessive caution—an important first step in addressing the problem and improving his play.
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Free to teachers/coaches of at least 5 students
Includes our powerful, easy-to-use Coaching Tools & Reports

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To learn more, call 650-284-5062 877-378-4319 (US toll-free)
email info@ChessMagnetSchool.com
USCF National Events
Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

54th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship October 12-14 • Fort Eustis, Virginia
2013 U.S. Action Game/30 Championship October 26 • Santa Clara, California
2013 U.S. Game/60 Championship October 27 • Santa Clara, California
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship December 27-30 • Lubbock, Texas

FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)
2013 K-12 Grade Championship December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2014 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North February 21-23 • Schaumburg, Illinois
2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress February 28-March 2 • Irvine, California
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
2014 U.S. Amateur Championship South June 7-8 • Memphis, Tennessee
2014 National Open—TBA
2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship—TBA

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.

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. Game/15 Championship

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:
2014 U.S. Amateur Teams (South, West)
2014 U.S. Amateur (East, North, West)
2014 U.S. Cadet
2014 U.S. Game/30 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/60 Championship
2014 U.S. Junior Closed
2014 U.S. Masters Championship

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2013:
2014 U.S. Junior Open
2014 U.S. Senior Open

For the expanded list of national events available for bid, see: www.uschess.org/content/view/12116/705/.

ATTENTION AFFILIATES
The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor the Tournament Life assumes any responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TLA submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control noting increment or time delay even if delay is zero (d).
Unrated. NEW Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player "team" moves all sections: $600-$300. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections. Team members must register (no extra fees) before both players begin round 2; teammates may not play in same round. Rated players in same section. Unrated prize limits: $300 E, $350 D, $500 C, $700 B, $900 A. Top 6 sections: EF: $105 online at chesssection.com by 10/9, $110 phone to 469-562-3500; no questions asked. No 2-day MRI $500, 2-day MRI $1200, 10% off at site, or online before 2 hours for first class. Class EF E: $55 less than above. All: No checks at site; credit cards. Online or mailed EF $5 less to ICA members; join/renew at lchess.org. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazines and online database. Online only at chesssection.com. Online registration deadline: Adult 15; Adult 12, 60; Adult 10, 55; Under 20, 30/10/50/30/200 (2-day schedule, rd. 1/9/10), McGuire Chess Club, 541 S. Willis St., Stillwater, OK 74074, 1-405-372-0800; chan @uschess.org. Advance entries posted online at (online entries posted instantly) at chesssection.com. Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

94th Annual South Carolina Open

Dallas Open

Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn St., Dallas, TX 75214-3234. F. Kim Berry @ AOL.com, chess@dalchessclub.org. Contact for info only: chrisney2@gmail.com. W. NS.

See previous issue for TLAs appearing October 1-14

www.uschess.org 53
**CHESS MENTORSHIP REVIEW**

**CL_10-2013_TLA_JP_r7_chess life  9/6/2013  10:29 AM  Page 54**

**44th Annual NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS**

6 rounds, Nov 29-Dec 1 or Nov 30-Dec 1. Loews Philadelphia Hotel $35,000 prize fund guaranteed, 35 trophies!

- **6 rounds, 40/110, SD/30, d10 (2 day option, rds 1-3 G/50, d5). Trophy sections play separate 2-day schedule, only 11/30-
- **12/1 G/50, d10.**
- **Loews Philadelphia Hotel,** 1200 Market St, Philadelphia PA 19107. 150 GPP (enhanced).
- **10 sections:**
  - **Premier:** Open to 2000/over & juniors under 18 1800/over. $3000-1500-700-400-200, clear/tiebreak win $100, U2400 $1600-800. FIDE rated.
  - **U2200/Unr:** $2000-1000-500-300-200
  - **U2000/Unr:** $2000-1000-500-300-200
  - **U1800/Unr:** $2000-1000-500-300-200
  - **U1600/Unr:** $2000-1000-500-300-200
  - **U1400/Unr:** $1600-800-400-300-200
  - **U1200/Unr:** $1600-800-400-300-200
  - **U1000:** Trophies to top 100
  - **U800:** Trophies to top 100
  - **U600:** Trophies to top 100
  - **U400:** Trophies to top 100

**Unrated may enter U800 to U2200. Unrated age 14/below may enter U600. Mixed doubles prizes:** Best male-female 2-player combined score among all sections: $2200-1000-600-400.

**Student/Alumni trophies** to top 5 teams of 4 (any sections) representing any US college, HS, or pre-HS players attend or have graduated from.

**Top 7 sections entry fee:** $18 online at chessaction.com by 11/27, $125 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 11/27, 3-day 123, 2-day mailed by 11/20, $140 at site, or online until 2 hours before game.

**Trophy sections entry fee:** $28 online at chessaction.com by 11/27, $35 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 11/27, $40 at site, or online to 8 am 11/30.

**All:** No checks at site, credit cards OK. 3-day Entry (except Premier) $60. Online entry fees charged.

**Special USCF memberships:** see Chess Life TL or chess.com.

**3-day schedule:** Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 6, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.

**2-day U1200/Up:** Reg. Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12/45, 3:30, 6; Sun 10 & 3:30.

**Half point byes OK all rds, limit 3.** Premier must commit before rd 2, others before rd 4.

**Bring set, board, clock if possible—none supplied. December ratings used (web unofficial usually used if otherwise unr).**

**USCF membership required.**

**Hotel rates:** $98-98-123, 215-627-1200, reserve by 11/5 Parking $30/day (Loews valet). Gateway Garage, 3/5 mile away, 1540 Spring St (near Sheraton Hotel) is about $5/day Sat & Sun, $15 Fri.

**Entry:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 802, Pelham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**1. CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!**

- **OCT. 25-27 OR 26-27, INDIANA**
- **TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)**
- **72nd Indiana State Chess Championship**
- **SSS. Barbara Mathys-Wynne Tennis Center, 1801 E. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46204 to 46208.**
- **On Site, North Central High School.**
- **Prizes: $1,600 Guaranteed!**
- **In 3 sections, $500 each.**
- **5SS, G/90 d5.**
- **Trophies: Top 1st 2nd 3rd overall. Trophies to 1st U800, U1000, U1200, U1600, U1900, U2100.**
- **Entries:**
  - Top 6 at time of reg.
  - Age limit.
  - All: $25 online entry feesrus.com, or $30 at site.
  - Entry deadline: 10/31.
  - Refunds: $15 by 10/1, $25 by 11/1.

**2. CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!**

- **OCT. 25-27 OR 26-27, MICHIGAN**
- **TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)**
- **Traditional “Weekend Swiss”**
- **Michigan Chess Federation presents a Traditional “Weekend Swiss” Tournament and three day schedule October 25-27 or Oct 26-27: Ada Hotel, Dearborn, MI.**
- **TIME CONTROL: 4 rounds/2.5 hours.**
- **Trophies: Top 1st 2nd 3rd overall.**
- **In 4 sections: Grades K-12 U900. EF: $15 or $16 online entry feesrus.com.**
- **Reg ends: Saturday 9 am, rd. 1 Sat. 10, 2 & 3 Sun. 10 & 3:**
  - **Trophies:**
    - **Top 1st: $600, 2nd $300, 3rd $150.**
  - **Trophies plus Grand Prix points:**
    - **6.**

**3. CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!**

- **OCT. 28, NOV. 4, 11, 18, NEW JERSEY**
- **TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)**
- **Community Center, 293 Main St., Hackettstown, NJ.**
- **4SS, 40/10 d5 or 40/90 d5.**
- **Grades K-12 U900.**
- **Trophies: Top 1st 2nd 3rd overall.**
- **In 3 sections: Grades K-12 U900. EF: $15 or $16 online entry feesrus.com, or $30 at site.**
- **Entry deadline: 10/30.**

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**Chess Life Magazine Junior Grand Prix!**

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- **Entries:**
  - Top 6 at time of reg.
  - Age limit.
  - All: $25 online entry feesrus.com, or $30 at site.
  - Entry deadline: 10/31.
  - Refunds: $15 by 10/1, $25 by 11/1.

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**Chess Life Magazine Junior Grand Prix!**

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- **In 4 sections: Grades K-12 U900. EF: $15 or $16 online entry feesrus.com.**
- **Reg ends: Saturday 9 am, rd. 1 Sat. 10, 2 & 3 Sun. 10 & 3:**
  - **Trophies:**
    - **Top 1st: $600, 2nd $300, 3rd $150.**
  - **Trophies plus Grand Prix points:**
    - **6.**

See previous issue for TAs appearing October 1-14
NEW mixed doubles bonus prizes: break $200 bonus, top U2300/Unr $1600-800. FIDE. 1000-500-400-300. members $25, GMs free. Resort, 5691 Kings Island Drive (I-71, 6 mi north of I-275), Mason, OH 45040. 22nd annual Kings Island Open

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, OHIO

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

22nd annual Kings Island Open

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, OHIO

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, CONNECTICUT

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, NORTH CAROLINA

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, NEW YORK

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, VIRGINIA

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

NOV. 22-24, 19-21, 11-13 NEW JERSEY TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held November 22-24, 19-21, 11-13 at the Westfields Conference Center and Westfields Marriott in Bedminster, New Jersey. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Club of York Junior Grand Prix

NOV. 30-DEC. 1, YORK, PENNSYLVANIA TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Club of York Junior Grand Prix will be held November 30-December 1 in York, Pennsylvania at the York Expo Center. This is a Rapid Event! The event will feature nine sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, Under 200, Under 100; Open Scholastic, Open Scholastic with Family Hcap, and Open Scholastic with Family Membership. The entire registration fee is $50. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Tom Martinak. More information is available at www.yorkchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

NOV. 24, NEW JERSEY TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held November 24 at the Westfields Conference Center and Westfields Marriott in Bedminster, New Jersey. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 1, TEXAS TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held November 28-December 1 or November 29-December 1 at the Westfields Conference Center and Westfields Marriott in Bedminster, New Jersey. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

DEC. 2, 2013 TROY, NEW YORK TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held December 2 at Troy, New York at the City Hall. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

DEC. 7, 2013 CHICAGO TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held December 7 at Chicago, Illinois at the McCormick Place. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

DEC. 14, 2013 FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held December 14 at Farmington Hills, Michigan at the Farmington Hills Convention Center. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

DEC. 21, 2013 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held December 21 at Fort Lauderdale, Florida at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

DEC. 28, 2013 HOUSTON TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

The Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix will be held December 28 at Houston, Texas at the Westin-Galleria Houston. This is a Blitz Event! The event will feature six sections, divisions: Under 1900, Under 1500, Under 1100, Under 750, Under 400, and Under 200. The event will feature a $3000 prize fund. The entire registration fee is $75. All players must be registered with the USCF. This event is for USCF members only and the USCF rating required is 400. The event will be directed by Zak Sperber. More information is available at www.chessmagnet.com.
Dmitry Gurevich, GM Mesgen Amanov and IM Florin Felecan are confirmed
Max 2 1/2-pt byes, comm bef rd. 3.

$20. GMs/IMs free by 11/19: prize-EF. Nov 13 Supp, CCA min, & TD disc
prize (not avail in Open). Onsite +$20, Playup +$20. r/e $40. Rfnd fee
ance to a dozen restaurants and a 16 screen movie theater. Less than
Weekend after Thanksgiving! 6R-SS. Hyatt Regency O’Hare Hotel, 9300
envelope by early registration cut-off (10/19). Re-entry $50.

Club Group Discount Special - 5 entries for the price of 4 if all in the same
postmarked by 11/16, $129 thereafter . No checks at site, credit cards OK.
3-day in Rd. 4.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)

Oakton St., Suite 113, Skokie, IL 60077.
www.nachess.org/gmclass or North American Chess Association, 4957
HR:

3-day Game-90 + 30/sec increments, 2-day
Game-50 + 5/sec increments for Rd. 1-3 then merge in Rd. 4. Master + Publisher (M/P) $1000-$500-$200-$100-$50. Top U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400

80% guar . b/50): 1st-2nd-3rd, $1,500-$900-$600; TOP
U1600, U1400/UNR: $120/50-$70/40-$40/30.

under 24, and a 24 screen movie theater. Less than

for 2nd infraction. Spectators will be subjected to expulsion for the
motion in tournament room. INFRACTION: deduct 1/2 the remaining time or game
tiebreak $100, U2400/Unr $1600-800. FIDE.

Trophies to top 5 teams of 4 (regardless of section) represent-
top 10; unrated age 15/over may not enter Under 600.
mixed doubles prizes: best
male-female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections; $2000-
1000-600-400. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play
in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) before both play-
ngames. Region 3 = NJ, PA, MD, and Washington, D.C. For more info, see

GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

GOLD

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year is eligible to be an Official Participant. 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 is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. These affiliates will be recognized 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 Affiliate 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.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! 

NOV. 30 - JUNIORS 3 - 12 yrs; 9-SS, 40/120 d5, SD/60 d5. Winner least 1200.

TOPROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZES: 200 (ENHANCED)
3-day reg.

5th Annual Marshall Chess December! 

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)
3-day reg.


DEBUT 6-8 7-8, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN TOPROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZES: 20 (ENHANCED)
2-day reg.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZES: 30 (ENHANCED)
2-day reg.

Booster: Open to U1300, U1200. U1000; USCF 1000 or above from 11/7.

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Booster: Open to U1300, U1200. U1000; USCF 1000 or above from 11/7.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

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TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Regional

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! Tuesday Night Open
4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUND TIMES: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/10, 20/5, 5/1. PRIZES: 1st Place and Cash prize based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: $5; $10 at the door. contact: calnorthyouthchess@gmail.com

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www.uschess.org 61
Tourism Life / October


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

**Dec. 7-8, 2013**

Continentals: Winter Springs Open 4-5SS, G/90 +30 second increment, City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Phone (719) 685-1984 or e-mail buckpeace@americanoopen.org.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

**Nov. 28-Dec. 1 or Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2013**

American Open Action

Online at chessaction.com, Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rnds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10, 13 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. Bye: all, limit 2; must commit before rd. 2. $HR: $94-94, 800-606-7468, 203-358-6400; reserve by 10/4 or rate may increase. Car rental:AVIS, 800-331-3388, AWD D654963, or reserve car online through Cheesefruit.com. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 9482, Pelham, NY

Overall Affiliate Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
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Small State Affiliate Standings

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<td>RELYEA CHESS</td>
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State Chapter Affiliate Chapter Standings

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<tr>
<td>RHODE ISLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION</td>
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Member Standings

State | Count | Standings
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NY | 597 | CHESS ASSN
CA | 398 | BAY AREA CHESS
NY | 232 | SILVER KNIGHTS CHESS
NY | 219 | NATIONAL SCHOL CHESS FOUND INC
NY | 192 | CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN
PA | 148 | WESTERN PA YOUTH CHESS CLUB
NY | 147 | LONG ISLAND CHESS NUTS
TX | 112 | DALLAS CHESS CLUB
TX | 96  | ROCKS & ROCKS CHESS CLUB
NY | 90  | COLUMBIA GRAMMAR SCHOOL
CA | 74  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
CA | 59  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
FL | 34  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
AL | 30  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
CA | 23  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
CO | 14  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
TX | 14  | CAMPBELL, TIM V
FL | 13  | CAMPBELL, TIM V

Connecticut

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

**Oct. 18-20, 2013**

4th annual Eastern Team Championship

Prizes: Top teams: $200-$100-$50-$30; top scorer on each board: $200-$200-$100. Entry fee of $10 at the door ($5 if notified by 10/25); $50 if notified by 10/16, $100 if notified by 9/16. Parking: Free. Info: 310/795-5710 or Mick@LAClub.com.

Connecticut - State Dec12 Dec13 PCT

Name | State | Count | PCT
-----|-------|-------|-----
CAMPBELL, TIM V | CA | 74 | 300
LUNA, GILBERTO, II | FL | 13 | 300
ZAVALA, JOSUE | TX | 14 | 300
NELSON, THOMAS | TX | 14 | 300
LARSON, GERALD A | AL | 23 | 300
NAVARRO, ANNA D | CA | 17 | 300
NELSON, THOMAS | TX | 14 | 300
FL | 13 | 300
LA | 588 | 588 | 5.4
LA | 558 | 558 | 5.4

PCT Gain Standings

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The Map program continues in 2013. See details at main.uschess.org/go/Map. Top standings will appear every two months in Chess Life.

Chess Life
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

North Carolina Chess School

Washington, DC

Illinois Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

North Shore Chess Center

Kentucky Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Ohio Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

South Carolina Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Tennessee Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Florida Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

New York Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Delaware Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Idaho Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Illinois Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

North Carolina Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Ohio Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

South Carolina Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Tennessee Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Ohio Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

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Ohio Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

South Carolina Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Tennessee Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Ohio Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

South Carolina Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Tennessee Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, NOV. 6
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Massachusetts

OCT. 19-20, 2013 Mississippi State Championship
A State Championship Event

Mississippi State Championship Event

Tournament Life / October

4th annual BOARDWALK OPEN
November 1-3 or 2-3 - $20,000 projected prizes, $15,000 minimum!

At Stockton Seaview, luxury golf & spa resort on 670 acres, 8 miles from Atlantic City

5 rounds, 40/110, SD/30, d10 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/90, d5), Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club, 401 South New York Road, Galloway NJ 08205.

Golf, indoor pool, fitness center, art gallery, free parking. 8 miles from Atlantic City, 6 miles from AC Airport.

Prizes $20,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries count half); minimum $15,000 (75%) each prize guaranteed.

Under 1300: $1000-500-300-200, top Under 1100 (no unr) $400-200, trophy for first 3, top U1000, U800, unr.

Under 1300: $1000-500-300-200, top Under 1100 (no unr) $400-200, trophy for first 3, top U1000, U800, unr.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” (average under 2200) combined score among all sections: $600-300.

Unrated prize limits: U1900 $900, U1600 $600, U1300 $300.

USCF memb. required. Special dues: see Chess Life or chess.com.

Earlier finish times than last year: 3-day schedule: Reg. Fri 6 pm, rds Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.

2-day schedule: Reg. Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 2 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.

Half point byes OK all rds (limit 2); Open must commit before rd 2, other sections before rd 3.

ALL: No smoking. JGP. Bring sets, boards, clocks if possible-none supplied. Hotel rates: $99-99, 732-741-3897; reserve by 10/18 or rate may increase.

Entry: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 4842, Pelham NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chess.com, director@chess.us, 347-201-2269. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

Mississippi Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! Oct. 9, 1-2 Team Championship 465 S. 6/95 D5, Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Free entries for GMs and EMs: $30 for 2 person team, $20 for 2 person team that are both annual members of club if registered by 10/18. $400 Unconditionally Guaranteed! Championship Team-$150, Top Team U1800-$120, Top Team U2000-$100, Top Team U2200-$90. 1st Place Team Members qualify for 2014 Club Championship. Reg.: 9-9-45, Rds: 10, 12-45, 3:30, 6:15. No 1/2 point byes available. No alternates. Match points will be used for pairing and prize purposes. Unrated Players will be considered 1100 for pairing and prize purposes. MCA Membership required from SS. Entry: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108, or online at saintlouischessclub.org. Info: 314-361-CHES, info@saintlouischessclub.org.

Montana
A Heritage Event! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! NOV. 2-3, Turkey Open

Mississippi Chess Association homepage, ralphmcn@comcast.net. Mississippi Chess Association Tournament rate.

5SS, G/90 d5, Turkey Open
New Hampshire

OCT. 26-27, 2013 Vermont Open (VT)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 30, 2013, 35th Annual New Hampshire Open Championship
4SS, G/60 d0. Comfort Inn, 299 Queen City Ave. (exit 4 if 1-293), Manchester, NH. 3 Sections: Championship open to U2000 or Unr. EF: $33 if rec’d by 10/31, $38 at site. $350-$100; trophies to top 3, top 1 U1500. Intermediate, open to U1750 or Unr. EF: $33 if rec’d by 10/31, $38 at site; $350-$80; trophies to top 3, top 1 U1200. Novice, open to U1300 or Unr. EF: $29 (to future 10/28). $27 at site ($39 yrs. U1200). Trophies to top 3, top 1 U1000, Novice mem-

New Jersey

The NJ Players Club Monday League
Mondays - 28th to Dec 30, 2013. Community Center, 23 Main St., Hackettstown, NJ. Play one game per Monday at 7:30pm. Just show up from Sept. 23 to Dec. 30, and play a rated game. No sign up needed. Round 1 begins 10/3. Rds. 7pm.

OCT. 3-5, 2013 Westfield CC - Quad #13
3-RR. G/40 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ. 1:30-5:30 p.m.; 2:15-4:05-5:55 p.m. Prize: $50 to first in each section.

OCT. 4, 2013 Kids Kwik Swiss: U1200, K-8 (QC)
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ. 4SS, G/10 d5. $30 to first in each section. EF: 1:30-2:00 p.m.

OCT. 5, 2013, 5th Annual Hartford Open (CT)
4SS, G/60 d0. Church Street Center, 260 Church St., Hartford, CT. $30-$150,000 (unr.), $25-$100,000 (rated). Prizes based on 12 entries. Open: $30-$150,000; U1200+$100, U1000+$50, U800+$25; No gift card. Pre-entry: $25 (30 members). Entries postmarked by 10/15 to Dean of Chess, 3150 Route 22 West, Branchburg, NJ 08876 or online at www.chessopen.org. On-site: $30 ($40 members). Registration: 9-9:45 PM. Top 30% and A4AP.

OCT. 7, 2013, 3rd Annual New Hampshire Chess Open (NH)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 8, 2013, 50th Annual American Open (CT)
4SS, G/60 d0. Chess Academy, 3150 Route 22 West, Branchburg, NJ 08876, (908) 955-0966. Prizes based on 12 entries. Open: $30-$150,000; U1200+$100, U1000+$50, U800+$25; No gift card. Pre-entry: $25 (30 members). Entries postmarked by 10/15 to Dean of Chess, 3150 Route 22 West, Branchburg, NJ 08876 or online at www.chessopen.org. On-site: $30 ($40 members). Registration: 9-9:45 AM. Top 30% and A4AP.

OCT. 10, 2013, 3rd Annual King’s Chess Club Quads (CT)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 11, 2013, 1st Annual King’s Chess Club Quads (CT)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 14, 2013, 1st Annual King’s Chess Club Quads (CT)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 15, 2013, 2nd Annual Westfield Chess Congress (MA)
23rd annual North American Open
10th annual Los Angeles Open (CA-S)
24th annual New York Open (NY)
25th annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 17, 2013, 3rd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 18, 2013, 5th Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 19, 2013, 50th Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 20, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 21, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 22, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 23, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 24, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 25, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.

OCT. 26, 2013, 2nd Annual Annual New England Open (MA)
See Grand Pair.
OCT. 16, Marshall Saturday U1600!


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

OCT. 19, Syracuse University College Open


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

OCT. 20-20 OR 20, Marshall October U2200!


OCT. 24, 2013 Vermont Open (VT)

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 27-28, 2013 New York State Scholastic Championships (NY)

See New York.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2013 Queens Chess Club Championship

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 14, Marshall Grand Prix


Tournament Life / October

DEC. 8, Dr. David Getsfeld Memorial ICA Early Winter 2013 Scholastics-Butterfly Championships


DEC. 19, Dr. David Getsfeld Memorial ICA Early Winter 2013 U1600 Open Championship

Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Open to All Ages With Rating below 1600. 45S, $5-45. USCF Membership Required. Prize Fund ($920/20): 1st - 3rd $100, $75, $50. U1200 $25. Prize Fund Will Not Be Reduced Below 75%. Info: 201 287 0250 or chessdirector@icanj.net. EM: chessdirector@icanj.net. Masters $25.

DEC. 29-7 OR 28-29, 32nd annual Empire City Open (NY)

See Grand Prix.

JAN. 10-12 OR 1-12, 11-12, 12-13, 13-14, 2014 Annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)

See Grand Prix.

JAN. 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2014, 46th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JAN. 22-24, 23-24 OR 24-26, 25th annual Foxwoods Open (CT)

See Grand Prix.

FEB. 1-2, 4th-5th, 6-7th, 8-9th, 10-11th, 12-13th, 14-15th, 16-17th, 18-19th, 20-21st, 22-23rd, 24-25th, 26-27th, Marshall Thursday Open (NJ)

See Grand Prix.

FEB. 21, 28, NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25, Marshall FIDE Mondays!

6-9, U2200. CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716. Open to all players 1600 and above. EF: $40. Rds.: 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM. EN: Make EF and/or USCF Membership and entry fee checks payable to: International Chess Academy. Mail To: Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Ln., New Milford, NJ 07646. INFO: www.icajun.net.

FEB. 28, Westfield Quads

3-9S, 4/4, Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prizes: $50 to first in each section. EF: $20, $15. Members: $10; 9:30-12:00 pm, 12:30-3:00 pm.

Marshall Friday U2000 Action!

FEB. 11, 28, NOV. 15, 22, Marshall Saturday G/60!

FEB. 13, MONTGOMERY - 3 DAY,(RDS. 1-2), G/90, D5, FEDERATION; (RDS. 3-4) G/60; U2000 $85, U1600 $75, U1200 $65. EF: $175-125, 110-85. Rds.: 3:30PM each day, 2 schedules: 2 day, 3 day. Enroll by Round 3. www.marshallchessclub.org.


FEB. 23, 2013 New York Open (NY)

See New York.


MARCH 1-2-3, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 1-2, 3-4, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 1-2, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 1-2, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 8-9, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 8-9, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 8-9, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

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See Grand Prix.

MARCH 8-9, 2013 Richmond Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.
Wednesday U2000!

Marshall FIDE Thursdays! NEW! 10:45. One bye available, request at entry. RATED!

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1 See Grand Prix.


Wednesday U1400!

NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 18, JAN. 1 (NO RD. DEC. 25), Marshall 4 Rated Games Tonight! NOW ALSO FIDE RAPID RATED!


DEC. 5, Marshall 4 Rated Games Tonight! NOW ALSO FIDE RAPID RATED!


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!


CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 18, JAN. 1 (NO RD. DEC. 25), Marshall Wednesday U1400!


22nd Annual KINGS ISLAND RESORT

Mason, Ohio (near Cincinnati) - Ohio's largest open tournament! 5-round Swiss, November 15-17 or 16-17, 2013 PRIZES $30,000 PROJECTED, $24,000 MINIMUM GUARANTEED

At KINGS ISLAND RESORT, on a 1600-acre wooded setting- VERY LOW ROOM RATES, ONLY $63!

See previous issue for TLAs appearing October 1-14
Adult Dues Options! >>

**NEW FREE TLA CATEGORIES ADDED!**

**FREE** 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

**ACTIVITY MEANS VITALITY!**

**RBO**, Open to Under 1200/Unr or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”

**BLitz**, Time control of Games/TLAs such as “USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm” are accepted.

**COLlegiate** A tournament limited to college students.

**JUNIORS**, For age 20/20 below (age 20 must be eligible).

**NON-SColARIST WITH SColARISTIC** A tournament for all ages held concurrently (same location) with a scholastic tournament that in its previous year drew at least 50 players. We encourage organizers of scholastic tournaments to consider offering a scholastic section for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a Scholastic Open.

**SPc** A tournament offering one or more special events, such as a club event, an invitational, or a tournament limited to residents of a certain area.

**USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT**, A tournament that offers special prizes or other benefits to USCF members.

**CHESS CLUB SPECIAL**, A tournament playing only one or more weekday evenings.

**FREE** 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

**FREE** 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

**FREE** 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

**FREE** 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

South Carolina

OCT. 18-20 OR 19-20, 74th S.C. Championships See Grand Prix.

OCT. 27, 2013 PA State Game/45 Championship See Grand Prix.

Rd. 1st = Book. Rd. 2+ = better than/book. Rd. 3+ = better than/too many books. Rd. 4+ = very strong player.

TOURNAMENT LIFE

ABREVIATIONS & TERMS

BLZ: Blitz rated.
Qc: Quick Chess events.
S$Gtd: Guaranteed prizes.
S$B/C: Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to pay full prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund likely to be awarded.

BYE: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take a 1/2-point bye instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1-3 point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.

CC: Chess club.
EF: Entry fee.
ENT: Where to mail entries.
FIDE: Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.
GF: Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.
GPP: Grand Prix Points available.
HR: Hotel rates. For example, $65-$70/5 means $65 single, $65 twin. $70/3 in room, $75/4 in room.
JGP: Junior Grand Prix.
MEMB: Membership required; cost follows. 
req’d: Usually refers to state affiliate.
Open: A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.
Quad: 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.
RBO: Rated Beginner’s Open.
RR: Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).
SD: Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). 
S: Swiss/Random pairings (preceded by number of rounds).
T/DX: Time delay, x = number of seconds.
U/NR: Unrated.
W: Site is accessible to wheelchairs.
WEB: Tournaments that will use a player’s online rating.
Juniors U21. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

DEC. 21-22, 2013 CAC FIDE Open III

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 15th North Central/Martz Memorial See Grand Prix.

Wisconsin

North Shore Chess Center (IL)

Tournaments, lectures, simul, and camps located in northern Illinois. Visit www.northshorechesscenter.org for a full schedule of events.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

A State Championship Event!

NOV. 2-3, 2013-Wisconsin Junior Open

Gruenhagen Conference Center, UW-Oshkosh, Corner of High and Oceactive St., Oshkosh, WI 54901, HR: $35 double (room), 9/30-10/24. Mention Chess Magnet School in your entry for GMs, IMs, GMs. Regis-
tration: 8:30-9:30. AM: 11:00-12:00. PM: 1:00-2:00. Top 5 Players: Top 5 Players and Other Class Trophies in each.section.

NOV. 10-11, 11-12 OR 12-14, 4th annual Continental Class Cham-

pionships See Grand Prix.

OCT. 12-14, 24th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Champion-
nip

See Nationals.

Chess Magnet School Junior School Grand Prix!

NOV. 9-10, Tri-Cities Open

SSS, Sat. 40/90, Sun. 30/90, SD/1, $150. Top 3: $250; $125; $75. Trophy: Top 5 Players and Other Class Trophies in each section.

NOV. 9-10, 10th Annual Northern Virginia Open! See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 13-14, 16-15, The Wisconsin Memorial

SSS, 45/120, $40-$80; $50-$100 for Age 12 and Over. Top 3 with medallion. Trophies: Top 5 with medallion and Other Class Trophies in each section. Registration: 11:30am-12:30pm; Format: SSS, 45/120; Rounds: 1pm and ASAP.

OCT. 25-26 OR 26-27, 2013 CAC FIDE Open II

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 2, 4th Annual Sterling Chess November! See Grand Prix.

NOV. 2-3, 8th Emporia Open

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 2-10, 10th Annual Northern Virginia Open! See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 19-21, 41st Annual National Open

See Grand Prix.

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!


West Virginia

OCT. 11-12 OR 12-13, 1st Annual Western Scholastic Championship (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 20 OR 18-20 OR 19-20, 5th annual Golden State Open (CA-N) See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 21-22, 2013 CAC FIDE Open III

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 4, 20th Annual Sterling Chess November! See Grand Prix.

NOV. 7-8, 2013 Annual Fairfax Open

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 8-9, 4th Annual Fairfax Open

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 20-24 OR 23-24, 2013 CAC FIDE Open III

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 44th annual National Chess Congress (PA) See Grand Prix.

DEC. 8, 7-8, 4th Annual Fairfax Open

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 5, 4-5, 2013 Annual Fairfax Open

See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 46th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA) See Grand Prix.

Washington

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 26-27, 2013 Washington Challengers Cup

2 Sections: Open: 455, 40/90, 50/100, 15/20; Jr.: Reserve (5000): SSS, Sat. 40/90, Sun. 40/90, SD/1, $5 in advance, $10 on site. Chess Seattle Club, 2510 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133. 206-417-5905. $50.00/b40. Medal only entry fee counts as half fee. Open: FIDE Rated, $20-$40, $30-$50, 100-150, 150-200, 200-250, 250-300. Registration: 9:30-10:30, AM: 11:00-12:00. PM: 1:00-2:00. Top 5 Players: Top 5 Players and Other Class Trophies in each section.

OCT. 21-22, 4th Annual Sterling Chess December! See Grand Prize.

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Fort sesame box counts as two words, telephone numbers as one, and ZIP code is free. Full payment must accompany all advertising. All advertising published in Chess Life is subject to the applicable rate card, available from the Advertising Department. Chess Life reserves the right not to accept an advertisement or to accept it subject to the approval of the Advertising Committee. Advertisements will be accepted only by the deadline. No deadline extensions will be granted. No telephone cancellations of ads will be accepted. Advertisements which contain profanity, libel, slander, or any other material in violation of local, state, and/or federal laws will not be accepted.
V.
Black resigned after...

Problem V.

Solution:... Nh3 mate. Black won after... Nhf2+ 26. Kg1 Nxe3 27. Qc3 Nfxd1 28. Bxd1...

PAGE 15 / ABCS OF CHESS

Problem I.

Problem I. 45. Qg8+ Kh6 46. e4! Threatens Qxh7 mate. (Not 46. Qxh7?? Qxh7.) Problem II. 33...

Problem III.

Problem IV.

Problem V.

Problem VI.

Problem VII.

Problem VIII.

Problem IX.

Problem X.

Problem XI.

Problem XII.

Problem XIII.

Problem XIV.

Problem XV.

Problem XVI.

Problem XVII.

Problem XVIII.

Problem XIX.

Problem XX.

Problem XXI.

Problem XXII.

Problem XXIII.

Problem XXIV.

Problem XXV.

Problem XXVI.

Problem XXVII.

Problem XXVIII.

Problem XXIX.

Problem XXX.

Problem XXXI.

Problem XXXII.

Problem XXXIII.

Problem XXXIV.

Problem XXXV.

Problem XXXVI.

Problem XXXVII.

Problem XXXVIII.

Problem XXXIX.

Problem XL.

Problem XLI.

Problem XLII.

Problem XLIII.

Problem XLIV.

Problem XLV.

Problem XLVI.

Problem XLVII.

Problem XLVIII.

Problem XLIX.

Problem L.

Problem LI.

Problem LII.

Problem LIII.

Problem LIV.

Problem LV.

Problem LX.

Problem LXI.

Problem LXII.

Problem LXIII.

Problem LXIV.

Problem LXV.

Problem LXVI.

Problem LXVII.

Problem LXVIII.

Problem LXIX.

Problem LXX.

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Problem XC.

Problem XCI.

Problem XCV.

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Problem CCCXXXIII.
Going into this game I was near the middle of the pack at the 2012 U.S. Cadet Championship. My task was clear: I needed to win to have any chance at first place. My opponent had lost a few games and was looking for a win, so I knew it would be an exciting game. I played a risky opening, trying to create complications that might give me a chance to outplay my opponent. However, my king grew weak and my opponent brought most of his army into the attack.

While most of the action had taken place on the kingside, I managed to save myself by looking at the entire board and remembering that every chessboard has 64 available squares and two kings—either of which can be checkmated. The move I played has left a lasting impression with me of how quickly the action on the board can shift and I consider it the best move I’ve ever played.

"... I managed to save myself by looking at the entire board and remembering that every chessboard has 64 available squares and two kings—either of which can be checkmated."

A simple pawn push
James Black (2318)
Michael Bodek (2396)
2012 U.S. Cadet Championship (6), Rockville, Maryland, 07/23/2012

At first glance this position looks very difficult for Black. I am faced with a dangerous attack, and my opponent is threatening e6-e7 which cuts off my king’s escape route. Also Qxh7+ and exf7+ both look dangerous. However, as dangerous as these threats look, it is relatively superficial, as it will take White at least one more tempo to generate mating threats. Since I am not threatened with immediate checkmate, I have enough time to play:

23. ... b6!!

Unleashing the latent power of my bishop with a fury. All of a sudden it goes from a useless piece to a deadly attacker. White no longer has the time to play e7 as I am threatening checkmate in two: 24. ... Ba6+ 25. Ke1 Qd2 mate. So White must continue checking, but the checks don’t lead to a mate. 23. ... Bxe6 24. Bxe6 fxe6 25. Qxh7+ Kf8 26. Rg3 Nf7 27. Qg8+ Ke7 28. Rc7+ Kd6 29. Qxf7 is not as strong.

24. exf7+

No better is 24. Qxh7+ Kf8 25. Qh6+ Ke7 26. Rg3 Nf7 27. Qg8+ Kd6.

24. ... Kf8 25. Qh6+ Ke7 26. f8=Q+ Rxf8 27. Qg7+ Ke8 28. Ba4+

Desperation, but what else can White try?

28. ... Qxa4 29. Rxe7 Qd7

This defends against all mate threats.

30. Qh6 Nf7

The rest is trivial:

31. Qf4 Qd6 32. Qf3 Qd4 33. Qe2 Bd7 34. g3 Rc8 35. Rd1 Qc4, White resigned.
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OTHER USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES

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<td>ONE TIME CHARGE</td>
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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) $5 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).
This Letter of Intent represents my commitment to the work of the U.S. Chess Trust. It does not represent a legal obligation and may be changed by me at any time.

Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information and email Barbara DelMoro at bduscf@aol.com (845-527-1167)

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor. Write or send an email to Barbara DelMoro, bduscf@aol.com for this amount. Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax-deductible. A 501(c)(3) organization. BD/10/03
Editor's Letter: Anything But “Jade”ed

This is an anniversary of sorts for me and my relationship with Chess Life. 35 years ago (the Jade anniversary year) my newly-minted-USCF-member father received his first issue of Chess Life in the mail, an issue this 14-year-old chess fanatic quickly devoured. We had visited family in New York City the previous summer, and we took some time to make a chess pilgrimage to a couple of chess emporiums. We stopped in at The Chess and Checker Club of New York (aka “The Flea House”), the notorious gathering place off of Times Square. This was when 42nd Street was its absolute seediest, and unfortunately this monument to chess reflected that fact. More happily, we also headed uptown to the Upper West Side’s Game Room where the atmosphere was friendlier. It was here that I saw my first copy of Chess Life and also greedily thumbed through dozens of back issues of the late, great, Chess Review. Before we left that evening, my dad had signed up for the USCF.

Chess Life was my link to the chess world. Living at the time in a chess wasteland—my only opponent was my dad—I was unaware of names like Pal Benko, Arthur Bisguier, and Joel Benjamin until I read about them in the pages of this magazine. We only had a few basic chess books at home, so I was being introduced to cutting-edge opening theory for the first time. As time went on, the magazine became my only source of world championship news as even my local paper didn’t cover any of the Kasparov/Karpov happenings, so I only learned the results weeks, sometimes even months, after the fact.

I can only hope that the current incarnation of Chess Life has this kind of affect on some of our readers. If so, we’ve certainly done our jobs as intended. Here’s to your chess life.  

-Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: NOVEMBER

Carlsen versus Anand

After winning the Sinquefield Cup in September, World number-one-rated player Magnus Carlsen galvanized fans and earned plenty of new ones. Viswanathan Anand, one of the famous sportsmen in India has also recently visited the U.S., for a chess camp in Los Angeles. Anand and Carlsen will compete from November 7-28 in Chennai, India. Don’t miss our exclusive reportage by GM Ian Rogers of what rates to be one of the most exciting matches of our time.

WORLD TEAM IN TURKEY:
The World Team Championship will be held in Antalya, Turkey from November 24-December 6th. Watch our top players battle amongst the top ten teams in the world, including Armenia, Russia & China.

THANKSGIVING SCOOPING:
Find our exclusive coverage of the National Chess Congress in Philadelphia and the American Open near Los Angeles, both held over Thanksgiving weekend. Video clips from Philly will also be up on uschess.org as well as on our YouTube channel at USChessFederation.

U.S. CHESS LEAGUE:
Stay tuned to Kostya Kavutskiy’s weekly highlight reports as the ninth season of the U.S. Chess League nears its conclusion on Saturday, November 23rd, the date of the championship final.

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

AL LAWRENCE
Our U.S. Open coverage comes from the former executive director of both the 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.

GM IAN ROGERS
Our World Cup coverage is from a regular contributor to Chess Life and Chess Life Online of international events.

FM ALEX DUNNE
Paul Morphy versus Rybka is written by the USCF’s correspondence chess director. His column “The Check is in the Mail” appears monthly on Chess Life Online.

JAMAAL ABDUL-ALIM
Looks at Books this month is by the 2013 Chess Journalist of the Year, currently pursuing a Spencer Journalism Fellowship at Columbia University.

FM KOSTYA KAVUTSKY
Our First Moves story is by a member of the Lindenwood University chess team. He offers online lessons through Chess.com.

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COVER PHOTO AND THIS PAGE BY PAUL TRUONG
OPENING CEREMONY
Friday: 12:30pm

ROUNDS
Friday: 1 pm, 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm
Sunday: 9 am, 1 pm

AWARDS CEREMONIES
Sunday: 4:30 pm (K-1) approx.
& 5 pm approx.

SPECIAL ROUND TIMES
FOR K-1 SECTIONS
Friday: 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am, 1:30 & 5:30 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am, 1:30 pm

ON-SITE REGISTRATION
12/12: 9 am-9:00 pm
12/13: 8 am-7:00 pm

7SS, G/90 D5 13 SECTIONS Play only in your grade. December 2013 rating supplement will be used. Team Score = total of top three (minimum two) finishers from each school per grade. First place individual and team, including ties, will be national champion for their grade.

AWARDS Trophies to top 10 individuals (K, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), top 15 individuals (2, 3, 4, 5, 6), top five teams (K, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), & top 10 teams (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (minimum) in each grade. Many class prizes. All participants will receive a commemorative item at the completion of the final round!

BLITZ Trophies in K-6 and K-12 sections, individual, team and class prizes.

BUGHOUSE Top five teams.

SIDE EVENTS
BUGHOUSE Thursday: 11 am On-site entry only Thursday, Registration ends at 10 am Thursday. $25 per team.

BLITZ Thursday: 5 pm On-site entry until 4 pm. Entry in advance $15 by 12/1, $20 after or on-site. Register at main.uschess.org/content/view/10014/95

Players registering late (after 10 am Friday) will not be paired for round 1, will receive a half-point bye, and will begin play with round 2.

Team Rooms are limited! Contact Ashley Knight 931-787-1234 ext. 138 or by e-mail: aknight@uschess.org

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
USCF membership is required and must be current. You may pay USCF membership with your entry. Adult: Please check our website (uschess.org) for Adult and Young Adult options. Advance entries must include player’s name and all fees to be accepted. Roster changes are considered new entries and will be charged according to date received. List name, address, phone, section, grade, school (even if no team), coach’s name, e-mail, birth date, USCF ID #, USCF expiration (enclose USCF dues if necessary) and rating. Players must be eligible to play in accordance with USCF Scholastic Regulations. Please bring clocks. Ent: “K-12 Championship,” c/o USCF, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967. For more info or to register online: www.uschess.org. Please make all checks payable to USCF.

NAME ___________________________________________ USCF ID #: __________________ RATING ____________________
ADDRESS ___________________________________________ CITY ____________________ STATE _______ ZIP__________
E-MAIL ADDRESS ________________________________________________________________
SCHOOL __________________________________________________ GRADE ________________

BYE REQUESTED: Rd. 1 ❑ 2 ❑ 3 ❑ 4 ❑ 5 ❑ 6 ❑ 1/2-pt bye available if requested in advance (except rd. 7)
USCF MEMBERSHIP DUES: Please go to www.uschess.org for appropriate membership category and rates.
ENTRY FEES: $50/participant postmarked by 11/10, $70/participant postmarked by 12/1, $85 after 12/1 or $90 at site. (Add $5 for all phone registrations.) Blitz entry: $15 until 12/1 or $20 after 12/1 or on-site.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: Entry Fee $ _________ Blitz $ _________ USCF Dues $ _________ TOTAL ENCLOSED $ _________
In advance: Make checks payable to: U.S. Chess Federation (USCF). On site: Make payments in cash, by money order, or credit card.

MASTERCARD ❑ DISCOVER ❑ AMEX ❑ VISA ❑ NUMBER ________________________________
EXPIRATION: _______ / _______ V-CODE (last 3 digits on the signature line) __________________

SIGNATURE: ______________________________________________________________________

DECEMBER 13-15, 2013
Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort
1000 W. Buena Vista Dr., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
$133 single/double/triple/quad (until November 19, 2013 then regular rates apply!!)

Players registering late (after 10 am Friday) will not be paired for round 1, will receive a half-point bye, and will begin play with round 2.

Team Rooms are limited! Contact Ashley Knight 931-787-1234 ext. 138 or by e-mail: aknight@uschess.org

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
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Looking Back

We are light on publishable letters this month, so we’ve decided to take a look back at what was on readers’ minds in the November issues 30, 20, and 10 years ago. Surprisingly, or not, the topics are largely the same as now. These letters have been edited from the original.

NOVEMBER 1983

Messrs. Denker and Seirawan (August 1983) summarized a longstanding debate: Should we make our top priority the support of existing stars, or scholastics to create the stars of tomorrow? Both deserve support, and our resources are limited.

However, both overlook our major problem: that stubborn lack of resources.

No sport can attract young hopefuls or support professionals unless it is capable of attracting and holding a spectator class.

It is the spectators who provide the money, the press coverage, and the moral support that pros need.

We have the heroes, too. Our grandmasters include priests and prodigies, gentlemen and bums. The stories (the yogurt code, the x-rayed chair, offering God odds of move and pawn) are as important to the fans as technical triumphs.

Most of the things we’ve done have been aimed at attracting new tournament players. Have we deliberately, honestly, and respectfully tried to reach people as spectators of our sport?

Chess is classy. We can offer business to a positive marketing association. But we have to make it easy for people to be fans, and we have to honor them as fans.

Creating grandmasters—even a world champion—will not solve the problem. We had our chance during the Fischer boom. People came to us as spectators. We called them patzers and pushed them right back out the door. We will never hold those people, no matter how many booms we have, until we find a way for someone who never gets a rating to make a legitimate, respected contribution to American chess.

James Calvin
Clarkston, Georgia

NOVEMBER 1993

I was 30 years old when my brother-in-law taught me the game of chess. He’s gone now, God bless him, but he sure did me a wonderful favor. I am 80 now and would like to share my impressions as well as those of the other devotees of this fascinating game.

Chess is undoubtedly and undisputedly the best game in the world. It develops precision of the mind, promotes foresight and it is one of the few fields of human endeavor where, however temporarily, you can achieve perfection. The fascination of the game lies in its boundless possibilities. For you can play thousands of games for years and years and no two will be alike. Because each game is different, at practically every move, you find yourself looking at a position on the chessboard that you have never seen before, and this is what compels you to think. There is nothing in the world that can compare to chess for developing the art of logical thought.

On the 64 squares where the chess pieces move, lies hidden a world of exciting subtlety, endless complexity and irresistible beauty. A lifetime of pleasure awaits the one who discovers this marvelous game—and sometimes more than pleasure...

If you get embroiled in a bitter battle with a worthy opponent, you’ve been at it for hours—you are getting tired, but, you do not give up, you keep looking for the move that will destroy your opponent. And finally, you find it—a beautiful inspiration! This brings more than pleasure—it brings RAPTURE!!!

Frank Oltarzewski
Boynton Beach, Florida

NOVEMBER 2003

I’m a sergeant in the United States Army. Currently I am deployed with the “Death Dealers” Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, to Ba’Qubah, Iraq for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

I arrived here with my unit in April 2003 and with the hot weather and constant skirmishes, it has been quite a busy and dangerous rotation. I try playing chess every night. If I am unable, I play through one of the games from a tournament. I find this help to relax and unwind which is good because we get mortar and RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) attacks nearly every night.

Surprisingly, my family just sent me my last four issues of Chess Life in a care package about a week ago! Talk about making my entire month. I’ve tried to take my time reading them but I’ve already burned through them all.

On behalf of my unit, the U.S. Army, and myself, we are grateful for all the support our friends and family have been giving us while we are gone and may peace reign again soon. Thank you.

Sgt. Jared Cornell, U.S. Army
1-67 AR, BFSC 966207, APO AE 09323

AUTHOR INQUIRY

I am writing a book on the U.S. Open Junior Chess Championships 1946-2013. If you played in one or more of the championships, please send me your games (some or all!). Send to: Alex Dunne, 324 West Lockhart Street, Sayre, PA 18840 or adunne@stny.rr.com.

FM Alex Dunne is the USCF’s Correspondence Chess Director

CORRECTIONS

We had a trifecta of mistakes in the October “Faces Across the Board” in John Hartmann’s entry:

In one instance we misspelled his name; the correct spelling is John Hartmann. “Luis Hoyos” should have been Manuel Leon Hoyos. And finally, his website is chessbookreviews.wordpress.com.

In the World Open feature, “Notes by Akopian” should have read, “Notes by William Faulk and Akopian.”

Chess Life regrets the errors.

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 by Kopec and Terrie. We regret that we cannot reply to all letters.
CHESS CLUB
AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER
of Saint Louis
CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

2013 SAINT LOUIS CLASSIC
GRANDMASTER AND INTERNATIONAL MASTER NORM EVENTS

NOVEMBER 21-27
NO ENTRY FEES!!
PLAYERS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM FIDE RATING OF 2250

GM TOURNAMENT
PRIZE FUND
$1,000-$800-$600-$400-$200
10 PLAYERS / 9 ROUNDS
ROUND-ROBIN

IM TOURNAMENT
PRIZE FUND
$750-$500-$200
10 PLAYERS / 9 ROUNDS
ROUND-ROBIN

ROUNDS
NOV. 21 & 22 5PM
NOV. 23 & 24 11AM - 5PM
NOV. 25 & 26 5PM
NOV. 27 11AM

Please send application to info@saintlouischessclub.org, and make sure to put GM/IM norm in the subject line.

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Viswy Anand Visits Los Angeles

By KOSTYA KAVUTSKIV

In August 2012, World Champion Viswanathan Anand visited the United States for a serious event for the first time in over a decade. The event? It was the 2nd Annual Metropolitan Invitational Chess Camp, held in Los Angeles, featuring Anand doing something he had never done before—providing high level instruction to expert and master ranked players over the course of a week. Although the camp was only scheduled for five days, Anand visited with his wife Aruna, and toddler Akhil, and stayed for a few weeks in order to experience the best of what Los Angeles had to offer.

The Metropolitan Chess Club (Metro) was founded by Ankit Gupta in the fall of 2010. In August 2011, Metro ran its first ever chess camp, featuring international superstars GM Michael Adams of England and GM Loek van Wely of the Netherlands as its premier instructors. Also present were local instructors, such as GM Melik Khachiyan, IM Armen Abartsonumian, and IM Andranik Matikozyan. Although the camp was highly successful, Ankit wanted to improve on it even further for the next year, so he invited Anand to headline as the primary instructor. Anand had a great time and returned for the 3rd Annual Metropolitan Invitational Chess Camp in July 2013, also held in Los Angeles. Joining Anand as instructors were GM Vadim Milov and GM Dejan Bojkov, as well as local instructors Khachiyan, Ambartsonumian, Matikozyan, and IM Zhanibek Amanov.

I sent Ankit several questions about what it was like to bring Anand to the U.S. and have him teach a chess camp:

What was your first correspondence/contact with Anand? Did you meet him through a mutual friend, his agent, etc?
We were introduced to each other through a mutual friend whose son had previously played in our events. This mutual friend lived in the same neighborhood with Anand’s family (parents/himself) during his childhood.

Were there any scheduling difficulties with him (elite tournaments, other commitments)?
Back in 2012, there were several scheduling difficulties. We had originally intended for the first camp to be a few weeks earlier than it was actually scheduled, but the dates conflicted with a cultural ceremony the Anand family had arranged for their son, Akhil. The week that we eventually hosted it in August were some of the only weeks that were available.

Why has Anand not visited the U.S. in so long?
In terms of chess, not much has happened on the higher level that affords an opportunity to visit. He did note that the dynamic has recently been changing and he has enjoyed his visits to the U.S.

What steps did you take to make Anand’s visit as enjoyable as possible?
We arranged for an extended stay in California so that he could relax and sightsee with his family before and after the camp. He stayed at the waterfront resort Terranea in a large casita prior to the camp. We also arranged for some sights for him to see in 2012 and 2013, and arranged dinners at several of the top restaurants in Los Angeles for both of his visits.

What did you ask of Anand (lecture materials, product endorsement, etc)
We asked Anand to create exclusive material for the lectures, and to provide content to students based on the various concerns (in regards to their own games) that they each had raised. Several of Anand’s courses will be available through our mobile application via www.mchessapp.com, an endeavor which he is supportive of.
We’ve become close family friends from our Anand? Anything else about your experience with States becoming a growing chess powerhouse. upcoming players mirrors what he saw while is indeed bright if the current generation of nus Carlsen. the best in his upcoming match against GM Mag- keep in touch on a regular basis still. I wish him interactions and experience during the camps, and also gave an assessment that the future of chess is interactive the attendees (many of which were teaching at the camps, seeing how he enjoyed teaching at the camps, seeing how Aruna had positive impressions of their initial stay about Terranea, saying “the hotel is breathtaking and the oceanfront casita is absolutely fantastic.” Anand himself called ChessBase about his stay, and was breathlessly exhilarated about a smoked salmon omelette “with lashings of guacamole,” as well as the stunning view from his hotel.

How was his experience teaching the camp? He was the only student to be chosen for both of Anand’s simuls in 2012 and 2013. Remarkably he was able to draw both times, although humbly admits that Anand completely out prepared and yet Anand is able to mostly navigate the minefields, though the students have a much harder time.” Michael had a unique experience with Anand. He was the only student to be chosen for both of Anand’s simuls in 2012 and 2013. Remarkably he was able to draw both times, although humbly admits that Anand completely out prepared and outplayed him in their second encounter. Anand’s visits to Los Angeles will certainly be memorable for both the Metro Chess Camp, as well as the world champion himself. Although details for the 2014 Metro Chess Camp have yet to be announced, if Anand returns for a third year it will truly be a unique hat trick, and I suggest you don’t miss out!

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ORGANIZER

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How was his experience teaching the camp? He was the only student to be chosen for both of Anand’s simuls in 2012 and 2013. Remarkably he was able to draw both times, although humbly admits that Anand completely out prepared and yet Anand is able to mostly navigate the minefields, though the students have a much harder time.” Michael had a unique experience with Anand. He was the only student to be chosen for both of Anand’s simuls in 2012 and 2013. Remarkably he was able to draw both times, although humbly admits that Anand completely out prepared and outplayed him in their second encounter. Anand’s visits to Los Angeles will certainly be memorable for both the Metro Chess Camp, as well as the world champion himself. Although details for the 2014 Metro Chess Camp have yet to be announced, if Anand returns for a third year it will truly be a unique hat trick, and I suggest you don’t miss out!

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ORGANIZER

What was his general experience in Los Angeles Like?
Both he and his wife loved their stay in Los Angeles. Aruna had positive impressions of their initial stay about Terranea, saying “the hotel is breathtaking and the oceanfront casita is absolutely fantastic.” Anand himself called ChessBase about his stay, and was breathlessly exhilarated about a smoked salmon omelette “with lashings of guacamole,” as well as the stunning view from his hotel.

How was his experience teaching the camp?
He enjoyed teaching at the camps, seeing how interactive the attendees (many of which were the top youth players in the country) were. Anand also gave an assessment that the future of chess is indeed bright if the current generation of upcoming players mirrors what he saw while here, boldly stating that he foresees the United States becoming a growing chess powerhouse.

Anything else about your experience with Anand?
We’ve become close family friends from our interactions and experience during the camps, and keep in touch on a regular basis still. I wish him the best in his upcoming match against GM Magnus Carlsen.
I also asked a few students who attended the camp what it was like to learn from the world champion. For most of his lectures Anand would analyze recent games by top players (GM Hikaru Nakamura, GM Veselin Topalov, GM Boris Gelfand, etc.), putting an emphasis on the plans and ideas chosen in the game. He also showed a number of his own games, providing extremely valuable insight into his thought process, especially when faced with a difficult decision at the board. Craig Hilby said it was a great experience, and that it was “helpful to see how chess is played and how players calculate at the 2700+ FIDE level.”

Michael Brown elaborated in detail on what it was like to analyze directly with Anand (whose calculation skills are legendary) for extended periods of time—“Learning from a world champion always gave me an impression that there is so much more to the game of chess than what I know. When I see the ideas and tactics and variations that Anand showed to the group, I become so perplexed that chess can really be so complicated, and yet Anand is able to mostly navigate the minefields, though the students have a much harder time.”

Michael had a unique experience with Anand. He was the only student to be chosen for both of Anand’s simuls in 2012 and 2013. Remarkably he was able to draw both times, although humbly admits that Anand completely out prepared and outplayed him in their second encounter. Anand’s visits to Los Angeles will certainly be memorable for both the Metro Chess Camp, as well as the world champion himself. Although details for the 2014 Metro Chess Camp have yet to be announced, if Anand returns for a third year it will truly be a unique hat trick, and I suggest you don’t miss out!  

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ORGANIZER

We’ve become close family friends from our interactions and experience during the camps, and keep in touch on a regular basis still. I wish him the best in his upcoming match against GM Magnus Carlsen.
I also asked a few students who attended the camp what it was like to learn from the world champion. For most of his lectures Anand would analyze recent games by top players (GM Hikaru Nakamura, GM Veselin Topalov, GM Boris Gelfand, etc.), putting an emphasis on the plans and ideas chosen in the game. He also showed a number of his own games, providing extremely valuable insight into his thought process, especially when faced with a difficult decision at the board. Craig Hilby said it was a great experience, and that it was “helpful to see how chess is played and how players calculate at the 2700+ FIDE level.”

Michael Brown elaborated in detail on what it was like to analyze directly with Anand (whose calculation skills are legendary) for extended periods of time—“Learning from a world champion always gave me an impression that there is so much more to the game of chess than what I know. When I see the ideas and tactics and variations that Anand showed to the group, I become so perplexed that chess can really be so complicated, and yet Anand is able to mostly navigate the minefields, though the students have a much harder time.”

Michael had a unique experience with Anand. He was the only student to be chosen for both of Anand’s simuls in 2012 and 2013. Remarkably he was able to draw both times, although humbly admits that Anand completely out prepared and outplayed him in their second encounter. Anand’s visits to Los Angeles will certainly be memorable for both the Metro Chess Camp, as well as the world champion himself. Although details for the 2014 Metro Chess Camp have yet to be announced, if Anand returns for a third year it will truly be a unique hat trick, and I suggest you don’t miss out!
Jean Hoffman Hired as USCF Executive Director

The USCF is pleased to announce Jean Hoffman has been hired as our next executive director.

Most recently Jean has been the executive director of 9 Queens in Arizona, an organization started by Jean and Jennifer Shahade. “This is an exciting time for the USCF and chess. I am thrilled and honored to join the USCF during such a pivotal time,” Hoffman states.

Jean has spent her adulthood serving the game of chess. In addition to 9 Queens, she has served as a manager of Teams and Tournaments and as an instructor in the Chess-in-the-Schools programs in New York.

Jean has a bachelor of arts in history with distinction from Yale, and a masters in education in urban education from Harvard. While working and living in Tucson, Arizona, she was selected as a member of the “40 under 40” by the Arizona Daily Star in November 2012.

Jean has extensive experience with 501(c)(3) organizations, including taking 9 Queens through the IRS approval process. Jean is an experienced fundraiser and brings conviction for chess to the fundraising process. Jean will begin her service to the USCF on November 1, 2013, and her initial agreement with the USCF is for two years.

2014 Executive Board Election

The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) will hold an election in 2014 for three at-large positions on the USCF executive board for a term of three years, expiring in 2017.

Any current USCF member who is not a current USCF employee or designated contractor (as defined in USCF bylaws) may be nominated for election to the USCF executive board.

Nominations must be made by petitions containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more members of the USCF who are either registered or eligible to register to vote, and by payment of a filing fee of $250 to the U.S. Chess Federation.

The members signing the nomination petition must include at least fifteen (15) USCF delegates representing at least five (5) states. The petition to nominate a candidate and the filing fee must be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31, 2013. (Send nominations and the filing fee to: Cheryle Bruce, U.S. Chess Federation, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967.)

The nomination petitions must contain the dated signatures, printed names, and USCF IDs of each voting member, and should contain the following text:

“We, the undersigned voting members of the U.S. Chess Federation, nominate (candidate name goes here) as a candidate for election to the USCF executive board in the 2014 election. We also consent to having our names and USCF IDs published as having signed this petition.”

A sample nomination form will be made available on the USCF website.

Candidates must consent to be on the ballot, either by signing their own nominating petition or by separate notice to the USCF.

A voting member for this election is any current USCF member (active as of May 4, 2014) whose membership expires on or after June 30, 2014, who will be age 16 or older by June 30, 2014, and who registers to vote by March 31, 2014.

Ballots will be distributed to voting members who are registered to vote as of March 31, 2014. Ballot distribution will occur around June 10th, and returned ballots will be counted in July. The terms will begin at the conclusion of the 2014 Delegates Meeting.
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Playing to Win
Fear of falling behind in the tournament of life

By JAMAAL ABDUL-ALIM

As one who regularly writes about chess and higher education, I’ve long been an advocate of using the principles required to excel at the former to achieve success in the latter.

So it was with great enthusiasm that I recently opened an e-copy of Playing to Win: Raising Children in a Competitive Culture by Harvard sociologist Hilary Levey Friedman. (University of California Press, 304 pages, $29.95.)

One of the book’s major strengths is the scholarly manner in which it illuminates how some parents insert their children to the world of competitive chess—as well as soccer and dance—in order to help their children develop “competitive kid capital.”

They believe it will give their children an advantage in the quest to be admitted to selective colleges and ultimately to succeed in the world of work.

“Parents worry that if their children do not participate in childhood tournaments they will fall behind in the tournament of life,” the book states. “While it’s not clear if the parents are correct, what matters is that they believe they are and act accordingly.”

But one major shortcoming of the book is that while it focuses on families in Metro and West counties—her pseudonyms for the city and suburbs where she conducted her research—it focuses on families that are mostly rich and white, and that’s hardly a fair microcosm of the world of competitive chess.

To wit, 62 percent of the children in the families interviewed with children currently competing were white, and none were Asian or Indian—a demographic profile that hardly comports with any tournament in which I’ve competed over the past three years that I’ve been playing in tournament chess, and I’ve been to quite a few.

What’s more, 59 percent of the families had an income of $200,000—an income bracket enjoyed by less than five percent of the wealthiest Americans.

21 percent came from families that earned $120,000 to $199,999, and seven percent from families that earned $80,000 to $119,999. Only 10 percent came from families that earned $40,000 to $79,999, and a meager three percent came from families that earned under $40,000.

The largest religious group represented in the book was Jewish (38 percent) followed by “other” (31 percent); Protestant (24 percent) and Catholic (seven percent.)

Those socioeconomic statistics should be kept in mind as readers contemplate the author’s contention that at chess tournaments where children compete, there exists an underlying drive among parents to get their kids in a position to have a good shot at achieving a higher station in life—or at least a similar station—in terms of education and income.

This purpose has become even more urgent given recent economic uncertainties, Friedman maintains.

“With all of the economic uncertainty that we’ve had for a while, even upper class families are concerned in a way that they haven’t quite been before,” Friedman said during a phone interview about her book, which was released over the summer.

College-educated parents are cognizant that “you can’t pass on a graduate degree to a child the way you pass on a family business or inheritance.”

“So they’re trying to raise kids with the skills you need to get through schools, job applications,” Friedman said.

Chess parents “definitely want their kids to achieve,” she said. Raising a child who becomes a top-rated player is just an added bonus.

“But it’s really about developing the skills that will enable you to succeed when you’re applying to college or a job,” Friedman elaborates.

Those skills include the discipline, focus and the ability to perform under time pressure.

“Those are the skills that (are needed) in the economy of the future the parents think they’re preparing their kids for,” Friedman said. “Those skills will really matter.”

Friedman maintains that chess can have a direct benefit in the college admissions process, but she offered a few caveats to go with the claim.

First, the benefit is conferred when the child sticks with chess throughout high school, not for those who drop out in the beginning of middle school.

“If you still play chess in high school, it signals that, ‘Oh, I can stick to something. I’m dedicated,’ and so that is true for whatever activity you do, but particularly for chess because so many kids don’t stick with it,” Friedman said.

But overdoing it can be problematic, too, Friedman warns.

If children really stick with chess and focus on it to the exclu-
At least among the families she interviewed for her book, the issue is seldom about money.

Rather, the reason for many chess dropouts stems from the sheer amount of time that it takes to play at a high level, particularly beginning around third-grade, Friedman contends.

"Some of these children were clearly not top competitors, so their departures were part of the problem of the high-achieving child phenomenon, and their parents chose to invest resources in other activities, such as music and sports," Friedman writes.

In addiction to examining the quitters, Friedman also spends time at the other end of the continuum dealing with those who just can't quit.

"If your kids are having fun and seem to be learning, that promotes continued involvement as well," Friedman writes. "But more than anything, the winning can be addictive. Seeing your child win can be thrilling, and even when he or she does not land the top spot, that loss can add fuel to the competitive fire."

Friedman includes the experience of a chess mom who is sad to report that her son counts his trophies and has a "running tab of how many there are."

Friedman also deals with a complaint among "savvy" parents who feel trophies are a "cheap and transparent ploy" to keep kids wanting to go back.

"Some complained that these trophies take up space and just collect dust, but the deeper issue is that many parents feel that they debase a 'real' win," Friedman writes.

But there's another aspect to the dilemma.

"The importance of the trophies cannot be overstated," Friedman said.

"The trophies are just such a huge part (of chess), especially in the minds of the kids," she said. "When they go to a tournament, they want to leave with a trophy. They want to leave with the biggest trophy."

She notes how the spectacle that trophies create is on full display at the nationals.

"The trophies are bigger than most of the kids," Friedman said. "They carry them through the airport and on the airplane. They become a conversation piece."

But there are drawbacks that create a certain trophy dilemma.

"A lot of the psychological research suggests this is not the best way to motivate kids," Friedman said. "We all want to find intrinsic motivation in ourselves and in our kids, but the trophies or medals or whatever it's going to be act as an extrinsic form of motivation. A lot of psychological studies found when they do something they would have done otherwise and got an award, next time they ask what the reward will be before they do it."

Then there's the reality that size matters.

"It's very clear when you look at the size of the trophy how you stacked up," Friedman said. "It can be damaging in many ways but overall it's a huge carrot that will motivate the kids."

The motivation, however, does not always work, and along those lines Friedman's book seeks to elucidate why so many kids drop out of chess.

While lifetime addiction to chess is rare for kids, Friedman said, their parents' hope is that they become "hooked on competing and winning throughout life by learning how the process works while still young."

Though Friedman posits that what goes on at chess tournaments is—at least in the minds of some chess parents—sort of a dry run for the world of work, she points out how the environment necessarily portends no such thing.

"It is crucial to the American ethos of competition that it should not look too much like work, especially for children, even if the competitive experience clearly has work-like elements," Friedman writes.

In leading up to her examination of the characteristics and motivations of modern-day chess families, Friedman delights lovers of historical and global context by tracking the evolution of competitive chess among young people in the United States.

And, as any serious treatment of children's chess must, it recounts how scholastic chess "took off" in the 1960s along with the career of the young chess phenom Bobby Fischer.

Very astutely, Friedman notes how competitive chess is "unusual in that it has refocused itself on helping children from less-advantaged backgrounds."

"This is partly because of the game's low cost, but also because there are many perceived benefits to chess, including academic outcomes," the book states.

Which makes it all the more unfortunate that Friedman didn't spend more time interviewing more families from those less-advantaged backgrounds.

Friedman offered up an explanation as to why, saying, "it was just hard to connect with those parents for a variety of reasons."

Coming from a sociologist, it's an excuse that doesn't quite fly. Playing to Win would have been a much better book if the author had devoted more time to kids who have nothing to lose. 🎌

Read chapter one at: www.ucpress.edu/content/chapters/11584.ch01.pdf.
Making Connections

Connected passed pawns are strong. But how strong?

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

When a pawn advances, it typically gives the bishops and rooks huddled behind it greater range: Those pieces are worth more because they get to attack more squares.

But the pawn itself increases a bit in value. How much is in dispute. However, the value tends to grow exponentially when we’re talking about connected passed pawns.

This is shown by a rule of thumb known to every master: A pair of connected pawns on the sixth rank can defeat a lone rook. That may sound like esoteric information. But it comes up a surprising number of times.

Know the rule.
GM Sergey Karjakin (FIDE 2775, RUS)
GM Alexander Morozevich (FIDE 2748, RUS)
FIDE Grand Prix Series Tashkent, 2012

Black can draw with 52. ... bxa6, e.g. 53. bxa6 Rc7+ 54. Kb4 h4!. The key line is 55. Rb5+ Kh6 56. g6! fxg6 57. Ka5 g5 58. Rg5 Rg7!, when Black’s g-pawn is as good as White’s a-pawn.

But the rule decided the game because Black played 52. ... Rc7+??. After 53. Rc6! one of the pawns must queen (53. ... bxc6 54. b6).

Once you know the rule, it’s not hard to apply it.

Apply the rule.
GM Levon Aronian (FIDE 2809, ARM)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2801, RUS)
Alekhine Memorial 2013, Russia

White saw 37. Rc8! Rxc8 38. e6 would queen (or 37. ... Rd7 38. e6 Rxd6 39. e7). He explained that he chose the less flashy 37. Rc6! because of Mikhail Tal’s advice: You don’t get more than one point for a victory.

Connected passers become valuable long before they reach the sixth rank. Masters often make a sacrifice to create a pair on the fifth rank, as in this neglected masterpiece:

King’s Indian Defense (E70)
GM Grigory Serper
Ioannis Nikolaidis
St. Petersburg Open, 1993


White bet that his two center pawns are worth a knight.
18. ... f5 19. d6 Qc6 20. Bb5 axb5 21. axb5

It’s a safer bet that three connected passers are worth two pieces, as 21. ... Qb7 22. c6 Qb8 23. Qxb4 and b5-b6 indicates.

21. ... Qxb5 22. Rxa8 Qc6 23. Rfa1! f4 24. R1a7 Nd7 25. Rxc8+ Qxc8 26. Qd5 fx3

Now 27. c6 would be the logical follow-up. But 27. ... exf2+ and 28. ... Bf6 isn’t convincing.

27. Qe6+ Kf8 28. Rxd7 exf2+ 29. Kf1 Qe8 30. Rf7+ Qxf7 31. Qc8+ Qe7 32. d7!

The passed pawn White created at moves 17–18 is now worth a queen.

32. ... Kf7 33. dxe8=Q+ Rxe8 34. Qb7+ Re7 35. c6l e4! 36. c7 e3 37. Qd5+ Kf6 38. Qd6+ Kf7 39. Qd5+ Kf6 40. Qd6+ Kf7 41. Qxe7+ Kxe7 42. c8=Q Bh6 43. Qc5+ Kb8 44. Qb5+ Kb8 45. Qb6+ Kd7 46. Qxe6 e2+ 47. Kxf2 Be3+ 48. Ke1, Black resigned.

Of course, pieces can also change in value during a game. A rook, for example, is almost always more valuable in an ending than in a middlegame.

But connected passers are unique because their stock shoots up radically. In one celebrated example, from a La Bourdonnais-McDonnell game, three connected pawns—with no other help—beat a queen and rook when they reached the seventh rank. Frank Marshall made the “no other help” point on this occasion:

I don’t need no stinkin’ rooks
Johannes Esser
Frank Marshall
Amsterdam, 1911
New York, A Century Ago

A century ago, New York seemed to be the center of the chess world. There were fewer than a dozen international tournaments held anywhere in the world in 1913—yet four of them were held in New York. They featured world-class players such as José Capablanca, Frank Marshall, Oldrich Duras and David Janowski. Three were won by the 24-year-old Capablanca. The tournaments provide our six quiz positions this month. In each you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will typically mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. For solutions, see page 71.

To savor his position, Marshall lit a cigar. (Yes, it was legal in those days.) But as he fumbled with his stogie, he accidentally pushed his rook off the board with his right elbow. A spectator tried to retrieve it. “Never mind. I shan’t need it,” Marshall reputedly said—and played 37. c3. White resigned because even with an extra rook he can’t stop one of the pawns from queening.

The changing value of connected passers is confusing. Perhaps some Chess Life reader can come up with a practical formula that would be understood by even the mathematically-challenged. (Like me.) For the time being, there’s some evidence that connected passers double in strength when they reach the fifth rank and triple on the sixth. This works best in an endgame because there are fewer enemy pieces to stop pawns and they can be shepherded by a king.

Another rule of thumb
GM Artyom Timofeev (FIDE 2651, RUS)
GM Denis Khismatullin (FIDE 2643, RUS)
Russian Championship Superfinal (5), 2009

White has better placed pieces. But how does he make progress?
40. Rb5! Nxb5+ 41. axb5 Ke8 42. Ra1 e6 43. Ne3 d5

Black had to avoid Nd1-b2-a4, attacking his trapped rook.
44. exd5 Rd6 45. c5 Rdd8 46. Kb4 Rac8?! 47. Rxa5 e5+ 48. Kc4 b6

Did White fall into a trap? Now 49. Ra7 Rxc5+ 50. Kb4 Rd7 defends.
49. b4! bx5 50. bxa5 Ra8 51. a6 e4 52. fxe4 Kd7 53. Nf5 Re8 54. c6+ Kd8 55. Nd6

Let’s see if we can figure out why White is winning, using that point-count system we learn as kids:
A knight is worth three pawns. If the four connected pawns have at least doubled in value, they are worth more than eight points now. That’s a total of 11. So knight plus four pawns should outmuscle two rooks.

55. ... Re7 56. Kc5 f5 57. exf5 Re2 58. Nb7+ Ke8 59. d6 Rxg2 60. d7+ Ke7

Now 61. d8=Q+ and 61. b6 look like winners but White chose:
61. f6+! Kxf6 62. c7, Black resigned.

Two connected passers on the seventh beat an army. How’s that for a rule of thumb? 🌟

USCF members: Don’t forget to register as a voting member at the following link: secure2.uschess.org/voter-registration.php so you can vote in next year’s executive board election.
THE 1973 LENINGRAD INTERZONAL WAS a very important event. The three top finishers would qualify for the Candidates Matches, and the one who survived those competitions, would earn the right to play a championship match with GM Bobby Fischer. (Little did we know at that point Fischer would not defend his title.) The eventual winners of the Interzonal were GMs Viktor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov, with GM Robert Byrne finishing third. An example of Korchnoi’s fighting qualities is this game against Miguel Cuéllar Gacharna (Black). Starting with a Queen’s Gambit Declined, Korchnoi built up an impressive position, with Black eventually running out of space and good moves. The game began:

Queen’s Gambit Declined, Tartakower Defense (D58)
Viktor Korchnoi (FIDE 2635)
Miguel Cuéllar Gacharna (FIDE 2400)
Leningrad Interzonal (2), 04.06.1973


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 awarded 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.

14. Rac1 Par Score 5
White gets the rook out of the corner, placing it opposite Black’s backward c-pawn. It’s also a waiting move to see where Black intends to put his queen bishop (on e6, f5, or g4).

14. ...

15. Qa4 Par Score 5
The queen is removed from the enemy bishop’s line. White also clears a path for b2-b4, clamping down on ... c6-c5. Add 1 bonus point if you also realized that the queen inhibits the development of the knight, 15. ... Nd7? 16. Qxc6.

15. ...

16. Bd3 Par Score 5
Korchnoi prepares to open the center.

16. ...

17. e4 Par Score 5
The threat is to gain a pawn by 18. exd5 cxd5 19. Nxd5.

17. ...

18. exd5 Par Score 5

18. ...

cxd5

19. Nxd5! Par Score 6
Wins at least a pawn: (a) 19. ... Rxc1 20. Nxc1 Nxf6+ and 21. Rxc1; (b) 19. ... Qxd5 20. Rxc8+ Bxc8 21. Re8 mate; (c) 19. ... Bxd5 20. Rxc8 Qxc8 21. Re8+ (accept 1 bonus point for each line).

19. ...

20. Bc4 Par Score 5
The knight comes out with a threat (20. ... Bxd5).

20. ...

21. Nxf6+ Par Score 5
Accept only 3 points part credit for 20. Nxf6+ Nxf6, simplifying in a way that improves Black’s pieces. The text guards the attacked knight, while threatening 21. Nxf6+ Nxf6 (21. ... Qxf6 22. Bxe6 Rxc1 23. Bxf7+ 22. Rxe6, gaining a second pawn (2 bonus points).

21. ...

22. Ne5 Par Score 5
White takes the opportunity to centralize and improve the position of the knight.

22. ...

23. Qd1 Par Score 5
This defends against a possible queen invasion at d2.
**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.

**November Exercise:** It’s time once again to use the new tools. Let’s start by finding ten of the most famous chess games of all time, all of which must be fully annotated. Input those games into software, using at least two different evaluative systems for comparison. Then play through the games, note for note, weighing assessment to assessment. At least three things should happen. One, you’ll get to interact with some great chess thinking. Two, you’ll become more familiar with critical reckoning utensils for our age. And three, you should finally start to realize that even the greatest thinkers don’t see everything.

23. ... **b5**

Black is trying to change the course of the game by tactical trickery.**

24. **Bxe6**

*Par Score 5*

*Deduct 1 point* for 24. Bxb5; 24. ... f6 gives White some problems.

24. ... **Nxe6**

Korchnoi stops Black’s threat, in turn threatening 26. d5 N8 B 27. Ne7+, forking king and rook (*1 bonus point*).

25. **Nc6**

*Par Score 5*

26. **Qf3**

*Par Score 5*

By stopping the mate at g2, Korchnoi renews the threat of Nc7+.

26. ... **Re8**

So Black evades the threat and challenges for control of the e-file.**

27. **h4**

*Par Score 6*

Of course, not 27. Rxe8+ Rxe8 28. Nxa5? because of 28. ... Nh3+ 29. Qh3 Qxc1 mate. Add *1 bonus point* if you saw this before making a mistake. Receive only *2 points part credit* for 27. Ne7+, hoping for 27. ... Rxe7? 28. Qxa8+. Here, Black moves his king, say 27. ... Kh7, and it’s not clear what the knight check has accomplished.

27. ... **Qf6**

On 27. ... Qxh4?, then 28. g3 puts two pieces under attack, and nothing changes after 28. ... Nh3+ 29. Kg2. Add *1 bonus point* if you saw it when playing 27. h4.**

28. **Re5**

*Par Score 5*

White strengthens control of the center and the e-file.

28. ... **Kf8**

If 28. ... Rxe5?, then 29. dxe5 wins at least the knight: 29. ... Qf5 30. Ne7+; or 29. ... Qxh4 30. g3.**

29. **g3**

*Par Score 5*

Now the knight gets pushed back as well.

29. ... **Ne6**

If 29. ... Nh3+, then 30. Kg2 Qxd3+ 31. Kxf3 leaves the knight trapped (*1 bonus point*).**

30. **Rf5**

*Par Score 5*

Receive only *3 points part credit* for 30. Qxf6 gxf6 31. Rxb5, which is small potatoes.

30. ... **Qg6**

The try 30. ... Nxd4 fails to 31. Rxf6 Nxf3+ 32. Rxf3 (*1 bonus point*).**

31. **h5**

*Par Score 4*

With this the queen is pushed to the edge of the board.

31. ... **Qh7**

No choice; the queen has to abandon control of f7.**
Playing with house money (the former world champion had already qualified for the next candidates cycle), GM Vladimir Kramnik felt little pressure, helping him to win the World Cup.
After almost a month above the Arctic Circle in Tromsø, Norway, Vladimir Kramnik added a World Cup win to his lengthy resume, defeating Dmitry Andreikin 2½–1½ in the final. Yet, despite surviving three rapid tiebreakers in seven rounds to win the $96,000 first prize, the former world champion admitted that he hardly felt the pressure at all.

“I don’t feel exhausted—tired, but not exhausted,” said Kramnik. “However then there was less pressure on me than on [many] others,” he added, referring to the fact that he had pre-qualified for the next world championship cycle and did not need to reach the final to take a place in the next candidates’ tournament.

Kramnik fully expected to be on a plane back to Paris sooner rather than later—which explains why he was constantly rebooking his air tickets after the early rounds. “I don’t have any experience at all [in these tournaments],” he admitted. “It is only my second knock-out [KO].” (Kramnik played in FIDE’s KO World Championship in 1999 and then stayed away from similar tournaments.)

“If I had to be eliminated, I wanted to be eliminated quickly,” Kramnik confessed. “The second or third round would be best—losing in the first would be a bit embarrassing.

“By the time of my [fourth round] match with Ivanchuk I was beginning to get the feeling that things were going my way. My head was working properly.”
Kramnik has maintained slight winning chances but “it is still very much in the drawing zone, so I don’t know why Vassily was getting so nervous,” said Kramnik.

40. f4?

On the final move of the first time control, Ivanchuk dangerously weakens his king—“an awful move” said Kramnik. “Still after 40. h4 h5 41. Kh2 Black can try 41. ... Qa8!? and I am not sure it is so easy to draw if he exchanges queens as his king is very far away. But he can keep queens on and with [a safe] king it is a totally different story to the game.”

40. ... h5 41. h4

“At first I was worried about 41. f5!? gxh5 (41. ... Rxe5 42. Qxa4 Re2+ 43. Kh3 is nothing,) 42. Qf4!?,” said Kramnik, “but then I saw 42. ... Qc6+ 43. Kh3 Qg6!, a very strong move because 44. Rxa4? loses the rook after 44. ... Qg4+!”

41. Kg7!

(See diagram top of next column)

“I like this move,” said Kramnik. “After 41. ... Qd7 he has 42. e6! so I need to protect the g6-pawn.”

42. Qb4?

“With an exposed king, blunders are easy to make. After 42. Kh2 there is no longer a clear draw for White any more,” said Kramnik. “In fact he is in a kind of Zugzwang and I am threatening to [invade] with my queen.”

42. ... Qc6+! 43. Kf2 Rb5!

Suddenly Black has a winning attack.

44. Qd4

“I thought he should have played 44. Qxa4 Rb2+ 45. Ke3 and prayed,” said Kramnik, “though 45. ... Qc5+ 46. Kd3 Rg2! seemed quite clear-cut to me because 47. Ke4 loses to 47. ... Re2+.” Impressively, given the multitude of checks, Kramnik’s choice is also the top computer line.

44. ... Qc2+ 45. Kf3 Rb2, White resigned.

In the semi-final Kramnik was paired against French star Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, who had started the tournament with five consecutive wins and then beat heavyweights Boris Gelfand and Fabiano Caruana in rapid tiebreakers. Kramnik, however, proved to be a step too far and Vachier barely survived the classical games before losing without a chance in the tiebreakers.

49. Ne4?

“Awful,” said Kramnik. “Black should just [do nothing] and it should be a draw.”

50. Rb4! Re8 51. g5 Nd6 52. Rb6 Nf7 53. Rb5 Re1?!?

“I had missed that after 53. ... Nh8 54. Ne5 hxg5 White can simply recapture with the pawn when I am lost,” admitted Vachier. So in desperation Vachier lashed out, when sitting tight with 53. ... Nd6 was still an option.

54. Nf8+ Kg8 55. Rb8 hxg5+ 56. fxg5 Rh1+ 57. Kg3 Rg1+

57. ... Rxh5 loses to 58. g6!.

58. Kf4

“I can take an Exchange with 58. Kf2 Rxe5 59. Ne6+ but I think it is then a dead draw,” opined Kramnik and Vachier concurred.

58. ... Rf1+!

“I couldn’t see a win after 58. ... Nd6! 59. Ng6+ Kf7 when Black is still in the drawing zone,” said Kramnik. “I looked at 60. Ne5+ Ke6 61. Rb6 when it is still very difficult for Black.”

59. Ke3

Just do nothing ...

GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2784, RUS)
GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FIDE 2719, FRA)
World Cup 2013 (6), 08.27.2013, Tromsø, Norway

Head in the game
GM Vassily Ivanchuk (FIDE 2731, UKR)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2784, RUS)
World Cup 2013 (4), 08.20.2013, Tromsø, Norway
59. ... g6!!

“I had thought that 59. ... Nd8 was his last chance but then White plays 60. Ne6! Re1+ 61. Kf7 63. g6+! and White wins the g-pawn,” said Kramnik, adding that 59. ... Nxg5 60. Ng6+! was an immediate loss for Black.

60. hxg6

“I almost played 60. Nxg6+ Kg7 61. Rb7,” said Kramnik, “but then I thought after 61. ... Kg8 (Not 61. ... Rf5 62. Nf4! with the important point that after 62. ... Rxg5 63. Ne6+ Kh6 64. Nxf5 Nxg5 65. Rb5! Black cannot take the h-pawn,) that there would be some chances for Black, e.g. 62. h6 Nh6!? with some rook checks.” “Of course this doesn’t work,” added Vachier. “Yes,” agreed Kramnik, “and I thought what I played was even simpler.” However 62. Ne7+! Kf8 63. g6 was a ‘normal’ way to win slowly—Black can only blockade the pawns temporarily.

60. ... Kg7!! 61. gxf7 Kxf7

62. Ke4?

“All of a sudden, I couldn’t believe that this position was not totally winning,” said Kramnik. “But I spent all my time and couldn’t find anything.” Kramnik looked at 62. Nd7! Rf5! 63. Rb6+ Kg6 but missed that after 64. Rg8+ Kf7 (64. ... Kh7 meets the same response,) White has 65. Ke4! Ra5 66. Nf6 “and it is over,” said Kramnik. Vachier also had not seen the 65. Ke4 resource—though he saw it far sooner than Kramnik when told that 62. Nd7 was a winning move.

62. ... Rf1+ 63. Kf3 Rf3+ 64. Kg3 Rg1+ 65. Kf4 Rf1+ 66. Ke3 Re1+ 67. Kf3 Re1+ 68. Kg2 Rf5! 69. Nh7 Kg6 70. Rb7 Rf4!, Draw agreed on move 125.

Now White can make no progress without losing his g-pawn, after which Vachier had no difficulty holding the rook plus knight versus rook endgame and the game was drawn on move 125.

Kramnik had lost two games to fellow finalist Dmitry Andreikin in the past year but chose game one of the final to play the best game of the tournament, a loss from which Andreikin was unable to recover.

Queen’s Gambit Declined,
Tartakower Defense (D58)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2784, RUS)
GM Dmitry Andreikin (FIDE 2716, RUS)
World Cup 2013 (7), 08.30.2013, Tromsø, Norway


Kramnik’s modest eighth move had clearly come as a surprise for Andreikin who had already used more than 40 minutes to reach this standard position.

12. Rfd1

12. ... Nd5!?

“The first new move. 12. ... b5 13. Bd3 Qe8!? followed by ... c5 is considered Black’s most reliable continuation.

13. Bg3 Nxc3 14. bxc3 Bd6 15. e4

“Maybe I should have started with 15. a4,” mused Kramnik. “I thought he would play 15. ... Bxg3 16. hxg3 Qe7 but after 17. e4 (and if 17. ... e5?! 18. Nh4), the position is quite unpleasant for Black because of the pawn on a6—if it was on a7 the position would be quite equal.”

15. ... Bxg3 16. hxg3 b5 17. Bd3 Nb6 18. Qe3

“Maybe he missed 31. ... Qb6?! 32. Rxb5!—a very important tactical idea.”

18. ... Na4?!

“I am not sure this is a good idea,” said Kramnik. “Probably 18. ... Qe7 is better.”


“Now he cannot stop a2-a4,” said Kramnik.

21. ... c5 22. a4 cxd4 23. cxd4 Rc8 24. axb5 axb5 25. Qe1!

“Without this move I would have no plus,” said Kramnik, “because 25. Rxb5 is met by 25. ... Nd6 and if 25. Qd1 he has 25. ... Nd6 26. e5 Ne4 because if 27. Rxb5? he is just in time with 27. ... Nc3 28. Qd3 Be4.”

25. ... Bc6 26. Rb4 Ra8 27. Rd1 Ra3
32. Rxb5

“I spent a lot of time here because at first I thought 32. Rd7 Qc8 33. Bf5 was over, because 33. ... g6 loses to 34. c7!,” said Kramnik. “But he has a miraculous defense with 33. ... Ra1! 34. c7 Rxex1+ 35. Kh2 Re8 36. Rxb5 and now he is just in time with 36. ... g6 37. Re7 Rxex7 38. Bxc8 Rxc7. It is millimeter close.”

32. ... g6 33. Rc5 Ne5 34. Be4

“I wanted to play 34. Nf3 but it seems that after 34. ... Nxf3+ 35. gxf3 Rxf3 he holds because after 36. Rd7 Qb6 and f2 will be hanging,” explained Kramnik.

34. ... Ng4

“I found this strange,” said Kramnik. “At least he should play 34. ... h5 first.”

35. Nd3 Kg7 36. Bf3 Nf6

“If 36. ... Qd6 I have 37. Rcc1! and 38. c7,” said Kramnik.

37. Nd4 h5 38. Rdc1

“I had a feeling that this position should be close to winning,” said Kramnik, “but it is not easy to play it precisely. I wanted to get my knight to b5 but after 38. Nc2 Ra2 39. Nd4 Qb6 he has some tricks, e.g. 40. Rdc1 Rae1.”

38. ... Ra7 39. Nd5 Nxd5 40. Bxd5

40. ... Qd8

“If he does nothing then I will just put my bishop on f3 and bring my rook to b7,” explained Kramnik. “Now I was hesitating because maybe 41. Rb5 Rc7 42. Rb7 is winning but it is not easy.”

41. c7 Rxc7 42. Rxc7 Qxd5 43. Re1

“Now I was sure that I would win a pawn and my main concern was that some of the pawn endgames might be drawn, though I didn’t see exactly how, unless I put my pawn on f4 [too early],” said Kramnik.

43. ... Kh6

“ Forced—if he loses [the f7-pawn] then he is simply lost,” said Kramnik.

44. Ree7 f6 45. Red7 Qa5

“I thought that 45. ... Qe4!? was the...
THE AMERICAN CONTINGENT

Not surprisingly, Hikaru Nakamura (round of 16) and Gata Kamsky (quarterfinals) had the best results. Here is a selection of games from the Americans. More can be seen in the August archives of Chess Life Online at uschess.org. For Kamsky, see the sidebar “Kamsky’s Brilliance.”

King’s Indian Defense (E60)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2772, USA)
GM Eltaj Safarli (FIDE 2660, AZE)
World Cup 2013 (2), 08.14.2013, Tromsø, Norway

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 e6!?  
The latest attempt to try to defuse White’s anti-Grünfeld system, one which has worked well for Maxime Vachier-Lagrave but looks simply weird.

Preparing 9. e4, which if played immediately could have been met with 8. e4 Nxe4!

8. ... c6  
Now White gets the big center he wants, but 8. ... 0-0 allows 9. Qxh6— the defect of having an extra ... g7-g6 in a Queen’s Gambit position, while 8. ... c5 is well met by 9. Nb5; however the text move is inferior to 8. ... a6 (or 8. ... dxc4 and then 9. ... a6), preparing ... c5 or ... dxc4 and ... b5.

(See diagram top of next column)

Black had relied on this tactical idea for relief but after Nakamura’s simple reply, Black will have problems with his e5-pawn.

15. b4! Nxd3+  
15. ... Nb3 16. Qb2 Nxa1 17. bxa5 is dreadful for Black; as usual two pieces are far better than rook and pawn in a middlegame position.

16. Qxd3 Bb6  
Deciding to sacrifice the e-pawn, a brave and probably correct practical decision given White’s coming king problems.

17. Nf3 0-0 18. Nxe5 a5  
The main alternative was 18. ... Re8 19. 0-0-0 Nh5 but there does not seem to be an obvious follow-up after 20. Nc4.

19. b5 a4 20. Nc4 Bc5 21. 0-0-0 Bg4 22. Rd2 Qe7  
The continuation 22. ... Rc8 23. Kb1 is safe enough for White.

Black is already regretting his 27th move, but this is pure desperation. In any case 30. d7 followed by 31. Bc7 was a winning threat.


Not too early—37. Rxh4-a8 was a winning threat. The next day Nakamura gave Safarli no chances at all, as the draw sent the American number one through to the third round.

Queen’s Indian Defense (E16)
GM Alexander Onischuk (FIDE 2667, USA)
GM Eduardo Iturrizaga (FIDE 2660, VEN)
World Cup 2013 (1), 08.11.2013, Tromsø, Norway

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 c5 4. Nf3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. d5! exd5 7. Ng5?  
For many years 7. Nh4 was considered de rigeur here but recently 7. Ng5 has become popular at high levels, intending to reposition via h3 and f4.

7. ... h6 8. Nh3 b5  
In qualifying for the World Cup through the Continental de Las Americas 2013 in May, Iturrizaga had found difficulty playing against this move with white and so decides to try it against Onischuk. He is in for a rude shock ...

(See diagram top of page 25)
GM Gata Kamsky was involved in some wonderfully exciting games, although eventually excessive ambition cost him dearly against GM Evgeny Tomashevsky.

Kamsky’s King’s Gambit blunderfest against GM Aleksandr Shimanov would have been entirely appropriate in the 1895 World Cup but his brilliancy which knocked out GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in the fourth round was a more modern spectator-pleaser.

8. Qf3

A system popularized by the top Hungarian players in the 1980s. Previously Kamsky had tried a standard 8. Be2 and 9.0-0 Scheveningen set-up against Mamedyarov but lost badly.

9. a6 9. Bd3?

0-0-0, intending g2-g4-g5, is a more aggressive method.

9. 0-0-0, intending g2-g4-g5, is a more aggressive method.

9. Be7

10. 0-0 0-0 11. Kh1


11. Bd7 12. Rae1 b5 13. a3 Rab8

... An artificial move, but a more standard play such as 13. ... Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Bc6 would leave Black a move down in a main line after 15. Qg3. (The tempo has been lost because in a standard Scheveningen line, where White plays Qe1-g3, the white light-squared bishop takes two moves to get to d3.)

14. Nxc6 Bxc6 15. Qh3 Rfd8?!

15. ... Rdb8 is much more solid.

16. Bd2?!

The start of an amazing concept, but it is not clear why White should not strike immediately with 16. e5! dxe5 17. fxe5 Qxe5 18. ... Kxh3. (17. ... Rxd3 18. cxd3 Nd7 19. d4 should not be enough for the Exchange in the long run.) and now 18. Rxf6 Bxf6 does not lead anywhere but 18. Bf4! (18. B7 Qc7 19. Bxb8 Rxb8 is not so clear) forces Black into an unpleasant endgame with 18. ... Qh5 because 18. ... Qd4? 19. Bxb8 Rxb8 20. Rxf6 wins immediately for White because the rook on b8 is undefended (after 20. ... Bxf6 21. Qxh7+ Kf8 22. Qh8+).

16. ... d5! 17. e5 Ne4

Normally such central counterplay would solve all Black’s problems, but Kamsky has a surprise in store ...

18. f5! Nxd2

Mamedyarov has no choice because 18. ... exf5 19. Qxf5 wins a pawn for White in all lines, e.g. 19. ... Bh4 20. Nxe4! dxe4 21. Rxe4 g6 22. Rg4.

19. fx6!

"Normally I play solid positional chess," said Kamsky, "but in this case I was forced to sacrifice a piece (with 18. f5)—something new!" This must rank as a slight exaggeration, but against any move apart from the piece sacrifice, Black is fine.

19. ... Ne2 20. exf7+ Kh8 21. Nxd5! Bxd5 22. Rxe6

Completely awful is 22. ... Bxe4 23. Bxe4 leading to immediate mate.

23. Ref4 Kg7?

"My opponent helped me a lot with [this move]," said Kamsky. "He missed 23. ... Qc6!" The point is that after 24. Rf6 (otherwise Black blockades on e6) 24. ... Bxf6 25. Rxf6 Qb7.

White has nothing better than 26. e6 Kg7 27. Re7 Qe7 28. Qe3 Qxe6 29. Qd4+ with a perpetual check but nothing more.

24. e6 Rf8 25. Qe3 Bc5 26. Qe1! Bd6

On 26. ... Be7 then 27. c4! followed by 28. Qc3+- wins.

27. Rh4! Be7 28. Qe3! h5

The rook must be declined because after 28. ... Bxf6 29. Qd4+ Kh6 30. Qh4+ Kg7 31. Qf6+ Kh6 32. Rf4 mates or wins lots of material.


A snappy finish, Mamedyarov resigning because 30. Rhx5+ wins after both 30. ... gxh5 (30 ... Kh5 31. Qxd5+! Amusingly, the live commentators were so busy looking at Houdini’s opinion that their first suggestion was the decidedly non-human [but decisive] 31. Qg7! as opposed to the simple text move. 31. ... Kh6 32. Qe4 when Black must return the rook with a hopeless position.) 31. Rh6+ Bxf6 (31 ... Kg7 32. Rg6+ Kh7 33. Qg7 mate) 32. Qxf6 matel, which might have been a fitting finish to a spectacular game. “I am an old person,” said Kamsky. “I should be playing positional chess—not this swashbuckling stuff!”
9. Nc3!

Iturrizaga had played the more ‘normal’ 9. cxd5 but Onischuk’s move is much stronger.

9. ... Qb6

9. ... bxc4 would allow 10. Nf4 so by protecting the bishop Black forces White to capture on d5 immediately.


At first sight this is desperation, since otherwise 14. Bxc4 and 15. Nd5 would follow. However tactically 13. ... g5 holds everything together for Black so it is hard to condemn. Iturrizaga’s problem is long-term; the black king will never have a safe home.

14. Ng2 Nd4 15. Ne3 Bxd5 16. Nxd5 Qc6 17. e4 0-0 g5

Now Black will be unable to back up the knight with ...Bg7, but the immediate 17. ...Bg7 is met by 18. f4 when the position opens up in White’s favor.


24. Qa3!

With Black having a number of loose pawns and an airy king, one would expect White to win this position 90 percent of the time, even if a perfect computer defense might hold.

24. ... Rf8 25. Rd1

Perhaps a slight misstep—one would expect White to want one rook on d1 and one on b1 and therefore use the king’s rook here.

25. ... Qa8?!
Approaching the first time control of a hard-fought game where Vitiugov managed to find counterplay every time Holt seemed to be consolidating, Holt has some weak pawns to worry about but the natural move he chose ...

38. ... Nd4?

... turned out to be fatal. Instead 38. ...

Nf4! intending to meet 39. Nxc6 with 39. ...

Bd5, would have left White with only a miniscule advantage.

39. Rf1!

Now, however, White has a worrying number of attacking pieces pointed at the black king.

39. ... Rb4 40. Nd6! h6 41. Nd3! Rb3 42. Re7+

Kg6

From here the king will be hunted to extinction but on 42. ... Kh8 43. Ne5 Bd5 44. Ne8! would end any resistance.

43. Ne5+ Kh5 44. Rg7 Bb6 45. Ne4 Ne2+ 46. Kh1 Rb8 47. Nf6+ Kh4 48. Ng6+ Kg5 49. h4 mate.

16. b3!

Effectively the refutation of Black’s setup. The Exchange sacrifice is amply compensated by the holes around Black’s king’s position.


An automatic recapture, especially with both players running short of time, but the silicon oracle informs us that 21. c6!, with d6+ soon to follow, would have been devastating.

21. ... Kh7 22. Nd4 Qe8 23. e3

Now Black is living in a counterplay-free zone, and Ivanchuk’s only problem is how best to improve his position.

23. ... Qh5 24. Bf3 Qg6 25. Qb5


25. ... Bxd5!

Resourceful defense, losing a pawn but eliminating one pair of pieces.


32. ... Ra8

“I might have been able to hold a draw after 32. ... Rb2,” said Robson, “but of course that would not have been enough anyway.” Play could continue 33. Qd4 Qh5! 34. Qxb4 Qxd1+ 35. Kg2 Qd5+ 36. f3 [36. Kh2 Qg5] 36. ... Rg8 when White’s king is too exposed for him to make progress.


“I didn’t have too many chances—that’s why he’s a top player,” said Robson. “He’s hard to beat,” sympathized the press room chief. “Actually, he’s hard even to draw with!” Robson responded with a rueful smile.

An automatic draw?

GM Gregory S. Kaidanov (FIDE 2574, USA)
GM Alexander Areshchenko (FIDE 2709, UKR)
World Cup 2013 (1), 08.11.2013, Tromsø, Norway

(see diagram top of next page)
Kaidanov cost himself the match against the Ukraine’s Alexander Areschenko by losing this endgame, which is not quite as trivially drawn as it looks.

49. ... h5! 50. gxh5+ Kh6 51. h4 Re5 52. Kg3 Rxh5 53. Ra8 Rb5

The liquidation has led to another drawn rook ending, but this is one which Carlsen famously lost to Aronian in Linares 2009 —just before Carlsen started working with Kasparov and his endgame knowledge improved exponentially.

54. Rc8 Kh5 55. Rh8+ Kg6 56. Ra8 Kf5 57. Ra3 Rd4 58. Ra5+ Kg6 59. Rc5 f5 60. Ra5 Rb3+ 61. Kg2 Re5 62. Kg3 Rd5 63. Kg4 Re5 64. Kg5 Rb5+ 65. Kh3 Rd4 66. Kg6 Re5 67. Ra7 Rh4 68. Kg7 Re7 69. Ra8 f5 70. Rf8 Rb4 71. Kg8 Kg7 72. Kg2 Rf4 73. Ra5 Rg3+ 74. Kh2 Kg6

Carlsen’s technique, which involved repositioning his rook along the lines of 75. Rb5 Re5 76. Rb1 Kf5 77. Kh3 Re3+ 78. Kh2 Kg4 79. Kg1+, should also be sufficient for a draw.

75. ... Re5 76. Ra8 Kf5 77. Rd8 Re2+ 78. Kf3 Re3+ 79. Kg2 Rg3+ 80. Kf2 Rh3 81. Rh8 Kg4

Now the white rook cannot prevent Black from either winning the h-pawn or advancing his king and f-pawn.

86. Rf8 Ra2+ 87. Ke1 Kf3

The computer, with tablebases guaranteeing perfect chess with limited pieces, wants to play 87. ... Kxh4 88. Rxh4+ Kg3 when apparently Black is winning. Areschenko prefers a more human method of converting his advantage.


Black will play ... f3, exchange the h-pawn for the g-pawn, and then reach the classic Lucena position. The following day Kaidanov could make no impression with black and so was eliminated.

Haywire
GM Evgeny Tomashevsky (FIDE 2706, RUS)
GM Alejandro Ramirez (FIDE 2588, USA)
World Cup 2013 (1), 08.13.2013, Tromsø, Norway

Black has emerged from the opening in reasonable shape but soon the game goes haywire.


Apparantly a winning move, but in fact 23. Nc6! was a much better way of achieving the same goal.

23. ... Qxd1+?

Desperation, since 23. ... Qa4 24. Nxe7 Nxe7 25. Qe1! looked even more disastrous. However the unlikely 23. ... Nf4!! would have saved the day—“at least that’s what they tell me,” said Ramirez after the game. Black resigned on move 36.

ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ
Knocked out in round one by GM Evgeny Tomashevsky.

Making a break for it
GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FIDE 2719, FRA)
GM Alexander Shabalov (FIDE 2546, USA)
World Cup 2013 (1), 08.11.2013, Tromsø, Norway

Shabalov has been suffering pressure in the endgame and, with the time control approaching, he decides to make a break.

32. ... Bxc3+!? 33. bxc3 e5! 34. f5 Rd7 35. Re6

35. Bh5+ is tempting but after 35. ... Kg8 (35. ... Kf8? 36. Bc5! is unpleasant for Black.) 36. Rxc6 Bxh5! Black has good chances to hold the resulting opposite bishops endgame.


At first sight the black rook is completely trapped—and here the game ended—but it turns out that Black could possibly save the game after 39. ... Nd4!! e.g. 40. Kxc3 Nxe2+ 41. Kd2 Nf4, winning a kingside pawn with excellent drawing chances. ♦
he front-runner in a race generates excitement. Can he build enough of a lead going into the stretch to stave off the closers coming up fast from behind? Of course chess is stationary, but the annual U.S. Open Chess Championship is still a race, in nine sets of hurdles we call games. On Friday night, GM Alex Lenderman (NY), made his score a perfect 7-0 with a victory over GM Josh Friedel, who had made a charge to be the first Wisconsinite ever to win USCF’s venerable “big show.” Lenderman was alone in front.

But between Lenderman and another national title stretched the weekend. On Saturday evening, he was nicked for a draw by GM “elect” Mac Molner (AZ). Suddenly that pack of hungry closers was just a half-step behind—with seven points to Lenderman’s seven-and-a-half—going into Sunday afternoon’s last round. At the end, it was hard-charging GM Julio Sadorra (TX), who finally upset Lenderman at the very last opportunity, winning with a creative Exchange sacrifice followed by an immediate transition to an endgame. (See sidebar.)

But two others who had hung tough also finished with wins, tying Sadorra’s eight-out-of-nine score. Fittingly, it was Molner, who had slowed Lenderman’s pace and, in a sardonic twist, Friedel, who won all his games save his loss to Lenderman. Each of the three won $4,182—and there was a chance for more.

The final showdown
The rules called for the two players with the best tiebreaks in the top score group to contest a single-game playoff. Ironically, that left out Sadorra. And because Molner had the very best tiebreaks, he had the right to choose between white and black in an Armageddon game, in which Black gets draw odds (if he draws, he wins!) but a reduced amount of time. In this instance, the U.S. Open rules give white five minutes and black only three—a hefty difference since no increment or delay was used. Molner bet on black. There was more at stake than an impressive trophy and the extra $200 the winner would add to his payday. A spot in the 2014 U.S. Invitational Championship was also up for grabs.

The game got tactically perplexing early—both to the crowd of spectators lined up a half-dozen-deep behind the cordons and to the players.
under enormous pressure—and Molner had to be very time-conscious!

There's no argument that big chess tournaments have to be brought to a conclusion somehow, and probably anything “chessic” is better than a coin-toss or a roulette-wheel spin for black or red. (Both “solutions” have actually been used abroad.) Generally a single time-odds contest is OK with perhaps a few-hundred-dollar bonus and a loving cup up for grabs in the scramble. But with a seat at the invitational championship table on the line, it seems to me that a system with more than one strike-and-you’re-out could be arranged. A two-game blitz match would take 20 minutes of clock time. Then we could have that Armageddon shootout if necessary. What do CL readers think?

Lots of other winners

A half-point off the pace, Lenderman finished tied for fourth-seventh with three other grandmasters: Fidel Corrales Jimenez (MO), Ioan-Cristian Chirila (TX), and Robert Hungaski (NY). Hall of Famer GM John Fedorowicz returned to the Open after a considerable absence, finishing very respectably in the next score group with seven points.

Six tied for the under-2400 prize: Popular author and teacher IM John Watson (CA), former U.S. Women’s Champion WGM Camilla Baginskaite (SD), Sam Schmackel (IL), Kevin Mo (PA), William Aramil (IL), and Ruifeng Li (TX). Two Wisconsinites won clear first in their categories: Scott Haubrich was top expert; Karl Kurth was best among those under 1200. For complete prize lists and cross-tables of all the events, go online to www.alchess.com/chess/13/usopen.

The 114th was a charm!

“The Open” is USCF’s flagship held every single year since 1900. It’s a festival of competitions (see sidebars) and meaty workshops folded within the main, nine-round, one-game-per-evening, single-section championship. On the last weekend, USCF holds its annual Delegates’ meeting, which this year was run so smoothly that it was finished in one day for the first time since the 1998 meeting in Hawaii.

Chess heads of all ages and sizes became pampered cheese-heads for the nine days from July 27-August 4 in Middleton, an inviting and accessible suburb near Madison, Wisconsin, an area the annual U.S. Chess Open Championship had never before called home. The Open had previously been held only twice in the Badger state, both times in Milwaukee, in 1935 when Reuben Fine won the championship, and in 1953 when IM Donald Byrne—GM Robert’s brother—took top honors. It was a “lifetime dream” for organizer and Madison resident Mike Nietman to bring it back to the state. A USCF executive board member and a veteran of 19 Opens, Mike gives most of the credit to USCF’s Chief Operations Officer Pat Smith and Mike’s fellow Wisconsin organizers, along with the staff of tournament directors, headed by Franc Guadalupe, Bill Snead, and Phil Smith. The event will be a lifetime memory for the more than 500 who played, including 137 Wisconsin state residents, together with the one who took home the glory—or should we say, kept much of the glory in Wisconsin—GM Josh Friedel.

On the following pages: Games section featuring the top players’ annotations and reports on the Denker, Barber, and National Girls’ Invitational.
Three U.S. Open winners share their over-the-board thinking.

Players who've reached grandmaster-status have studied thousands of hours just to know what to think about during a game. This month Chess Life readers have an exclusive opportunity to learn from two hair-raising battles that helped determine a pair of winners at this year’s U.S. Open. GMs Friedel and Sadorra take us candidly through their thought processes in a way we can all learn from.

A brushfire of tactics
This sixth-round match-up of tournament leaders became a spectator favorite as the players seemed to throw a new log on the fire with each move. Perhaps only a computer would be confident of Black’s victory after Friedel found 31. ... Nxd3!

English Opening [A13]
GM Julio Sadorra (2655)
GM Joshua Friedel (2595)
2013 U.S. Open (6), Middleton, Wisconsin, 08.01.2013
Notes by Friedel

Julio and I were both 5-0 going into this round, so to say this was a crucial game would be a bit of an understatement!

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Bg2 dxc4 5. Qa4+ Nbd7 6. Qxc4 a6 7. Qb3 Rb8 8. a4

I had studied this line fairly recently, but I was already hazy on what to do against this a4-move!

8. ... Bd6

This move is a novelty, though I don’t think it is a very important one. The alternatives are 8. ... b6 and 8. ... c5, both of which look like fine moves.

9. 0-0 0-0 10. Nc3

Of course this move cannot be bad, but I believe it is slightly imprecise. 10. d3 is more accurate in my opinion, since now White can play Na3/d2–c4. Then 10. ...

b6 11. Nbd2 c5 12. Nc4 Bc7 would be a logical continuation.

10. ... c5

10. ... b6 is the main alternative, but I wasn’t sure what would happen after 11. Nd4 Ne5.

11. d3 b6 12. Ng5?! I prefer 12. Nd2, as now the knight can go to c4 as well as e4.

12. ... Bc7 13. Be3 h6 14. Nge4 Ng4!

This is a key idea for Black. The point is that White’s knights are severely tangled up in the center. The moves 14. ... Nxe4 15. Nxe4 only help White, although Black’s position is still solid.

15. Bd2 Bb7

Originally I was trying to find a way to punish White’s unstable knights, but I was unable to find anything convincing and therefore decided just to finish my development. I considered 15. ... Qe7, threatening ... f7-f5. After 16. h3 Nge5, play would continue very similarly to the game.

16. Rad1 Qe7 17. h3 Nge5 18. f4

I anticipated 18. Bf4, and now 18. ... Rfc8 was my plan, to be followed by ... Nc6. After 18. ... g5, 19. Bxe5 Nxe5 20. d4 is slightly annoying because I don’t want the center to open up if I’m planning a kingside attack. And 18. ... f5 19. Nd2 Bxg2 20. Kxg2 g5 21. Bxe5 Nxe5 22. Nf3 didn’t look super-clear to me.

18. ... Nc6

Now I was very happy with my position.

19. e3 f5 20. Nf2 Nf6

White’s position is very unpleasant now. My plan is to play ... Kh7-Rg8 followed by ... g7-g5.

21. Rde1

I expected 21. Ne2, preparing e3-e4 next move. This looks like the toughest defense.

21. ... Kh7 22. e4

22. ... Nh5?!

For some reason, during the game I was attracted to this idea of going after the weak g3-pawn with the knight. In practice, however, it is rather ineffective. Best was 22. ... Nd4! My immediate instinct was that this had to be the right move. I should have gone with it! After 23. Qd1 Qe8 (23. ... Qd7 might be even simpler.) 24. Ne2 Nxe2+ 25. Rxe2, White has to capture with the rook, otherwise the a4-pawn hangs. (I failed to notice this detail when calculating 22. ... Nd4). 25. ... Qg6 26. Kh2 Nh5 27. Nh1, when White is on his heels, although there is still much work to be done.

23. Ne2 Qd7 24. Qd1?

This move shocked me during the game, and it isn’t very good because the queen is useless here with the knight stuck on e2. Instead 24. Qc4 is apparently best, which I didn’t consider at all. The idea is to discourage ... Nc6-Nd4 and threaten a4-a5 in some positions; 24. Bc3 isn’t a bad move either.

24. ... b5?

I didn’t find anything on the kingside, so I decided to improve slightly on the queenside and give the dark-squared bishop the b6-square in the case of e4–e5. It turns out, however, that I should have looked harder! Apparently, 24. ... e5 works: 25. Bf3 exf4 26. Bxf5 Bxf5 27. Nh1, but here I didn’t find anything, which it was silly, since Black has many strong moves! For example, 27. ... fx4, with a great position (27. ... Ne5 is strong as well): 28. Bq4 (28. Nxe3 exd3 is simply bad for White) 28. ... Rxf1+ 29. Rxf1 Qxd3, and Black is much better.
25. axb5 axb5 26. Kh2

This move looked terribly provocative during the game, but in fact it is not so bad. After 26. e5, then 26. ... g5 is a killer: 27. fxg5 Nxe5 28. Bxb7 Rxb7, and White’s pieces lack any coordination; ... Nf3+ is a powerful threat, and stopping it isn’t trivial! I anticipated 26. Be3, though now I have the strong move 26. ... Nd4. The point is that 27. Nxd4 cxd4 28. Qxh5 dxe3 29. Rxe3 Bb6 30. Ree1 Qxd3 is great for Black.

26. ... e5

I decided to take up the gauntlet for a couple reasons. First, my opponent was already in some time pressure, and I knew it would be difficult to handle this position. Second, I thought the king on h2 was taunting me. After 26. ... g5 27. fxg5, I couldn’t find anything; 26. ... Nf6 was the safer alternative, when Black would be a bit better.

27. exf5

This move surprised me, but in fact it is best. I expected 27. Bf3, and after 27. ... exf4, I was torn:


B) After 28. gxf4, I was planning to go back to f6, but here I have 28. ... Nxf4! (28. ... Nf6 29. exf5 and life isn’t so clear) 29. Nxf4 (No better is 29. Bxf4 Nd4!) 29. ... Nd4! with ... g7-g5 to come, and White is powerless to stop Black’s threats. A sample variation: 30. Kg2 (30. h4 is best according to the computer, but this is a tough move to find) 30. ... g5 31. hxg5 hxg5 32. Bh1 and White has some chances of survival.) 30. ... g5 31. Nbd5 Bxd5 32. exd5 Qd6 33. Kg1 g4 34. hxg4 fxg4 35. Be4+ Kh8, and Black’s attack is killing.

27. ... exf4

(see diagram top of next column)

28. Ne4?

Julio tries to complicate the game, but this move simply loses. After 28. Nxf4 Nxf4 29. Bxf4 Bxf4 30. Qxf4 Nd4 31. Be4 Nxe4, White’s position is less pleasant to play, but I doubt he’s much worse here.

28. ... fxg3+

28. ... Nxe4 29. Nxe4 Nxf4+ 30. Kg1, and I didn’t like that White’s queen could get out.

29. Kh1

29. ... Kg1 is probably better, though White is still in trouble after 29. ... Ne5.

29. ... Ne5 30. Nd4

This move is an excellent practical try. (The alternate line 30. Nf4 Nxe4 31. Bxf4 Nxd3 32. Bxc7 Bxe4 is hopeless.)

30. ... cxd4 31. Qxh5 Nxd3!

Not in the original plan, but after calculating, I discovered it was the only good move!

32. Qg6+ Kh8

Or 32. ... Kg8.

33. f6

Objectively, this attack should fail miserably. However, in a real-life game, with the clock getting low, things are not so simple. I had almost 10 minutes left, just enough to work out the complications.

33. ... Nxe1 34. Bxe6 Rxf6

It turns out that 34. ... gxf6 also wins. After 35. f7, I thought I had troubles, but I can defend with 35. ... Qc6 36. Rf6 Qc1, and White has nothing: 37. Re1 Be5 to get some cover back to my king, which gets rid of any swindling chances.

35. Rxf6

35. Nxf6 Qxh3+ is the trick.

35. ... Nxa2

A bit easier was 35. ... Bxe4 36. Bxe4 Qxh3 37. Kg1 Qxh6, but the game continuation is quite sufficient.

I’m going to queen the d-pawn. While not a perfect game, I was rather happy with my play, and I think I handled the critical moments quite well. This game didn’t discourage Julio. He went on to win his final three games to tie for first, including a stylish victory over Lenderman in the last round. (See below.) Congrats to him as well as my other co-champion Mac Molner, who also showed excellent chess this tournament.

Steely last-round nerves

The spectators gawked at this last-round game between GM Julio Sadorra and tournament-leader Alex Lenderman. Sadorra sacrificed an Exchange (even allowing check against himself as Lenderman took the rook) on the 18th move, then quickly forced an endgame material down! In the final stage, a knight-versus-rook ending with an equal number of pawns, Sadorra sauntered his king up the board to the seventh rank, forcing Lenderman finally to give back the Exchange, conceding to a lost king-and-pawn endgame. As a result, Sadorra joined the triumvirate at the top with eight points out of nine, while Lenderman fell into a tie for fourth place. (see next game, top of next page)
Notes by Sadorra

Alex was half a point ahead of the field, and I had just bounced back to the top board after a loss in the sixth round. We had played a couple times before and knew him as a positionally sound and well-prepared player. Therefore, I decided to play a rare variation to catch him off-guard and give him problems starting from the opening.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bg5

This is the Leningrad Variation of the Nimzo-Indian. Leningrad (currently St. Petersburg) is the hometown of Boris Spassky, the world champion responsible for developing and popularizing the line in the 1950-60s. It's a solid line that leads to many closed, equal positions if Black knows what he's doing. But if not, it can be a poisonous weapon, as Spassky proved in his time!

4. ... c5 5. d5 h6 6. Bh4 d6 7. e3 Bxc3+


8. bxc3 Qe7 9. Nf3 e5 10. Qc2

The line that gives Black most headaches. It’s important not to let Black develop his bishop to f5, where it would control the important squares e4 and b1.

10. ... g5 11. Bg3 e4 12. Nd2 Bxd7

The move 12. ... Bf5 is not as strong now. It serves only to defend the e4-pawn. It’s connected with a plan to castle kingside, as it leaves the b-pawn vulnerable. See Spassky-Brunner, German championship, 1989, for a masterful example of how to pressure Black’s position.

13. Be2 Kd8?!
If 13. ... Nf6 14. h4 Rg8 (14. ... Ng6 is also possible) 15. Rb1 (15. hxg5 hxg5 16. Rb1 Ng6) 15. ... Kd8?, and there have been several games played here in which Black is doing okay; for example, Rubinetti-Polugaevsky, Mar del Plata, 1971.

14. a4!?}

Apparently a novelty (if 14. h4 Rg8 or 14. ... Re8?). It’s a flexible move that allows me to preserve both ideas of opening the h-file, followed by castling queenside, as well as castling kingside. Therefore I proceed by provoking a weakness on his queenside and waiting to see how he deploys his pieces.

14. ... Ne5

Played with the idea of developing his bishop to a good square (f5), and creating some play on d3 and kingside.

15. 0-0

Now I can choose where to place my king according to the weakness of his set-up. The move 15. Nxe4? I didn’t appeal to me, as it gives Black options and unnecessary counterplay.

15. ... Bf5 16. f4!?

I wanted to create an imbalance and give him more chances to go wrong.

16. ... exf3 e.p. 17. Qxf5 fxe2

18. Bxe5!

... not giving my opponent a chance to opt out of the position I’m aiming for. If 18. Rf2, then 18. ... Nd7 19. Rxe2 Kc7, and Black is solid.

18. ... exf1=Q+ 19. Rxf1 Qxe5 20. Qxe5 dxe5 21. Rxf6 Ke7 22. Ne4

This is the resulting position I envisioned before playing 16. f4. While taking stock of it in my mind’s eye, I felt the sacrifice to be positionally sound as I have a strong blockade on e4, and also on f6 especially useful if I get my king to f5 in time. In addition, I have immediate threats on c5 and e5 (after Rf5), which will give me time for a king walk. After making sure that Black has no tactical retorts or direct way to activate his rooks, I then understood that this is actually a safe way to fight for an advantage.

22. ... b6 23. Kf2 Rcg8

24. Kg3!


24. ... Rg6?!

... too cooperative. After the game, we thought that it was better not to let my king in by controlling g4 with 24. ... h5!
25. d6+ Kf8 26. Kg4 Rhg8

Also good for White is 26. ... Kg7 27. Kg5 Rxg6+ (No better is 27. ... Re8 28. d7 Rd8 29. Kg6 f9= 30. Ke6 Kf8 31. Nd6; or 27. ... Rd8 28. Kg6+ Kg8 29. Ke6 Kf8 30. d7) 28. Nxf6 Rd8 29. Kxe5 Kg8 30. g4 a6 (The alternative line 30. ... Kg7 31. d7 Kg6 32. e4 Kg7 33. Kd6 Kxf6 34. e5+ Kg6 35. Ke7 Rxd7+ 36. Kxd7 leads to a winning king and pawn endgame.) 31. e4, and White wins by taking his king to d5-c6-c7, and supporting the knight with e4-e5 in case of ... Kf8-g7.

27. h3

Prophylaxis. If 27. Kf5?, then 27. ... g4, giving Black's rooks more room: 28. Kxe5 Rxf6 29. Nxf6 Rg5+ 30. Ke4 Rg6 31. Ke5 Rg5+, and I thought that this was a draw at best.

27. ... h5+ 28. Kf5 Ke8 29. Kxe5 R8g7 30. Rxg6 Rxg6 31. Nf6+ Kd8

I will go after his rook with Kf7–g7 next move, after which an exchange on f6 will lead to a winning king ending for me, so Black resigned. My opponent was such a good sport that he even congratulated me for winning the event and playing well recently. Thanks, Alex, for playing an exciting and entertaining game with me!

32. Kf5?

Only after making the move 32. Kf5 did I notice that it allows counterplay! The best way to win was 32. g3!, intending to incarcerate his rook for life: 32. ... g4 (32. ... h4 33. e4 33. h4, after which I can proceed with my plan Kf5, e4, e5, etc.

32. ... g4?

The best way to resist was set an open line for the rook with: 32. ... h4! 33. e4 g4 34. hxg4 Rh6 35. e5!, the only route to win (Less effective is 35. g5 h3 36. gxh3 Rhx3 37. e5 Rh3+ 38. Kg4 Re3 39. Kf4 Re1; when the exposure of White’s king to checks from the rear enables Black to hold the draw) 35. ... h3 36. gxh3 Rxh3 37. e6! Rh3+ 38. Ke5 fxe6 (Worse is 38. ... Re3+? 39. Ne4 fxe6 40. g5 Re1 41. g6 Rg1 42. Kg6. 39. Kxe6 Rg3 40. Kf5 Re3+ 41. Kg6, and although White may still be winning, I would have to exercise precision. Unfortunately, my opponent was probably tired from solving problems since the early middlegame and missed this resource.

33. h4 g3

Desperation. Black’s rook can’t get out and he can only wait for me to carry out my winning plan.

34. e4 Kc8 35. e5 Rh6 36. fxe6+ 37. Kxe6 Kd8 38. Kf7, Black resigned.

Huddle before the big play

IM Mackenzie Molner (2579)
Sam Schmakel (2361)
2013 U.S. Open (9), Middleton, Wisconsin, 08.04.2013
Notes by Molner

GM “elect” Mac Molner (AZ) was the only eight-pointer to go all nine rounds without a loss. His last-round win against Sam Schmakel (IL) put him in the three-way tie with Sadorra and Friedel and produced this problem-like position, with Mac’s white pieces huddled in a corner. Molner annotates:

(see diagram top of next column)

A very fun way to end the tournament! When Black captures, 45. Rd7 will be mate.

I can honestly say that the U.S. Open was one of the most fun and successful tournaments that I’ve ever played in. I played some very tough opponents and caught a few breaks. It felt tragic to lose the Armageddon blitz game, but I was proud of the way I played up until that point. I was happy, sad, and a bit relieved once the tournament was all over. It capped off a great run of tournaments that I had during the summer, which included earning my final grandmaster norm. I’d like to congratulate Josh Friedel for winning the whole thing and Julio Sadorra for tying with us. They both had incredible tournaments.

See more at uschess.org, Chess Life Online, August archives.

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Plenty More Chess “On the Side”

Besides nine-day, six-day, and three-day schedules of the U.S. Open Championships that finally blended into one big tournament for round seven on Friday night, the organizers hosted lots of “side events” in addition to the three youth championships. (See sidebar.)

IM Ron Burnett (TN) took the Weekend Swiss, the kick-off satellite event, with a 5-0 sweep in a field of 58. On the first Saturday night, the team of Zachary Chua (WI) and Jonathan Tan (IL) took top honors at the Bughouse event. Brian Lou (WI) won Sunday’s four-round Scholastic.

GM Manuel Leon Hoyos (MO) edged out Burnett by a half-point in Wednesday’s Game 15. Saturday’s pre-Open action featured a 14-round Blitz Championship at high-noon. Hoyos this time outdistanced fellow grandmaster and Webster University teammate Fidel Corrales Jimenez (MO) by a point and a half. Prathiba Yuvarajan (NJ) won the five-round, one-game-a-day U.S. Women’s Open Championship, held Wednesday through Sunday. Yuvarajan scored 5-0, beating Ramya Inapuri, who came in clear second, in the next-to-last round.

Although its score was tallied from the main U.S. Open tournament, we should also mention a relatively new special prize that is becoming popular—the Mixed Doubles. This year the male and female who teamed up to total the most points, with tiebreaks, were Tej Rai and Miranda Liu, both of Illinois who scored five points each.

Quads, four-player round robins, are always a popular daytime event before the main evening round of the Open. They were held each weekday in multiple sections. In the Monday Quads, Jeff Haskel (FL) took the top section. On Tuesday, John Carr (TX) and Charles Yang (MD) shared first in the top section. Kevin Mo (PA) won the first section on Wednesday. Thursday saw Justin Brown (MI) take top honors. Friday saw no sign of any let down in interest, with another five sections signing up. Brown took top honors again.
138 Vie for Three Youth Crowns

More than 400 crowded the room in Middleton for the opening ceremony kicking off the three prestigious youth championships that take place annually during the first three days of the U.S. Open. Each tournament invites a representative from every U.S. state plus Washington, D.C.

The Denker

Kapil Chandran, Safal Bora and Michael Brown topped the field of 48 players at this year’s Denker Tournament of High School Champions, named after its founder, GM Arnold Denker. Although all top scorers were named co-champions (the tradition at all three competitions), Chandran, a sophomore at Pierrepont School in Westport, Connecticut, captured the University of Texas at Dallas full scholarship on tiebreak.

The original contest of the three, “the Denker” goes back to 1985. In recent years, Arnold’s son Mitchell has been a popular and supportive figure at the event. Sadly, he suddenly passed away only weeks after being a lively presence at this year’s festivities.

Virginia’s Kevin Zhou (USCF 2079) created a cunning checkmate combination in round six to upset Dipro Chakraborty (2309, AZ) and put himself in a tie for places four-six.

Recent Denker Champions

2013: Kapil Chandran (CT), Safal Bora (MI), Michael Brown (CA)
2012: Atulya Shetty (MI), Darwin Yang (TX)
2011: Michael Vilenchuk (OH)
2010: Steven Zierk (CA-N)
2009: Abby Marshall (VA)
2008: Daniel Yeager (TX), Julian Landaw (CA-S), Scott Low (MD)
2007: Warren Harper (TX)
2006: Nelson Lopez (TX)
2005: Trevor Jackson (IN), Zhi-Ya-Yu (MD), Josh Bakker (MA)
2004: Mackenzie Molner (NJ), Pieta Garrett (AZ)
2003: William Aramil (IL), Ryan Milisits (PA)

AFTER 20. ... Qxe7

21. Rxd7! Qxd7 (Maybe better is 21. ... Bxd7.) 22. Rh3 h6 23. gxf6+ Bxf6 24. h7+ Kh8 25. Qf6+ Kg8 26. Bh6! Bxf6 27. exf6 Qa7+ 28. Kf1 Rg8 29. Bg7+, Black resigned. (Because of 29. ... Rxg7 30. fxg7+ Kxg7 31. h8=Q mate).
Chennis at the Open

The U.S. Open has long held a golf tournament in conjunction with the event, but on Saturday, August 3rd several chess players decided to forego the Blitz tournament and picked up their tennis racquets instead to play a side event that also included chess. Billed as the 1st annual “Chennis” (CHEss—teNNIS) tournament sponsored by Chess-Now Ltd. participants played a 10-point super tennis tiebreaker and a game-in-10 chess match against everyone in their section. The winner had the most points after all the matches were played. Patrick & James Rollins, Art & Audrey Zhao, Rohan Mhaskar, Ryan Swerdlin, Duane Catania and Alexander Velikanov all had a competitive afternoon.

Patrick Rollins took it on the chin in chess but then beat all of his tennis opponents showing his 4/5+ tennis ability. Art, Rohan, Ryan and Alexander were in a very competitive group as well. Audrey, Duane, Rohan and Alexander made it to the final four and Rohan and Alexander played a five-minute blitz chess game to determine the winner.

In second place beating his opponent at tennis but losing on time with 13 seconds left for his opponent was Wisconsin native Rohan Mhaskar. The 2013 U.S. Open Chennis champion is also a Wisconsin native, Alexander Velikanov. We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2nd Annual Chennis Tournament in St. Louis next year.

Chennis is a trademark of Chess-Now Ltd. ~Jim Egerton
National Girls’ Invitational Tournament
Ten-year-old Akshita Gorti (VA) and Apurva Virkud (MI) tied for first place among the 40 representatives vying for the National Girls’ Invitational Tournament (NGIT). Gorti, who overtook leader Michelle Chen (MA) by beating her in the last round, won both best game prize and the right to represent the U.S. at the World Youth.

The Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions
The Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, named after Dewain Barber, the impresario who’s the driving force behind all three youth championships, hosted 50 competitors from all over the country. Andrew Liu (MA), Andrew Tang (MN), Vignesh Panchanatham (CA) and Craig Hilby (CA) tied for first. Liu, a freshman at Westborough HS in Massachusetts, won the spot to the World Youth on tiebreaks.

U.S. OPEN AT A GLANCE
1st-3rd, 8 points: Joshua Friedel (clear winner), Mackenzie Molner, Julio Sadorra; 4th-7th, 7½ points: Aleksandr Lenderman, Fidel Corrales Jimenez, Ioan Cristian Chirila, Robert Hungaski; 8th-14th, 7 points: Conrad Holt, Alexander Ivanov, Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, John Fedorowicz, Roberto Martin-Del-Campo, Michael Mulyar, Eric Rosen; Master, 7 points: John Watson, Camilla Baginskaite, Sam Schmakel, Kevin Mo, William Aramil, Ruifeng Li; Expert, 7 points, 1st: Scott Haubrich; 6½ points, 2nd-15th: Michael Auger, Prathiba Yuvarajan, Dane Mattson, Uri Andrews, Steven Cooklev, Andrew Rea, Bryce Tiglon, Mark Dejmek, Aaron Jing, James Ukoli, Jonathan Cohen, Brian Luo, Jose Gatica, Zach Stuart; Class A, 6½ points: Gabriel Ewing; 6 points: Connor Quinn, Frank Johnson, Jeremy Madison, Jason Zhou, Stephen Wharry, Duncan Shepherd, Hongbiao Zeng, Arthur Antler, Kenneth Pearson; Class B, 5½ points: Oliver Natarajan, Adam Drurth; Class C, 5 points: Gokul Thangavel; 4½ points: Karl Kurth; 4 points: Sudhakar Avineni, Tony Tu, Ethan Li; Under 1200, 4½ points: Volodymyr Opryshchenko, Benjamin Yingling; 2 points: Brian Spaeth.

Women’s Chess Committee chair Jennifer Skidmore (left) and Chess Life Online editor Jennifer Shahade (right) with some of the participants, who are holding their copies of Shahade’s book, Play Like a Girl. Akshita Gorti is kneeling, second from left.

From left to right: Dewain Barber, Craig Hilby (CA), Vignesh Panchanatham (CA), Andrew Tang (MN), Andrew Liu (MA)
A recent article by Jerry Honn published on RedHotPawn.com discusses computer cheating, revealing an interesting comparison between correspondence chess champions and world over-the-board (OTB) champions. Honn used the “top 3” technique of comparing the player’s choice of moves—that is, was the move played by the human in the top 3 choices of Fritz 11?

Honn’s research determined that in the Alekhine-Capablanca match of 1927, Alekhine’s moves matched Fritz 80 percent of the time; that is, Alekhine’s move, four out of five times, was either Fritz’s first, second, or third choice. Capablanca produced a top-three agreement 82 percent of the time. In the Fischer-Spassky match of 1972, Fischer brought home an 86 percent top-three agreement. Spassky produced an 80 percent pairing. Finally, the article looked at Kramnik-Topalov 2006 where Kramnik scored 83½ percent and Topalov 80½ percent.

As could be expected, the correspondence world champions did well, too. Jacob Estrin (in nine games) from 1972-1975 scored 82 percent. World champion from the USA, Victor Palciauskas scored 82 percent. After reading these limited statistics I wondered, how would a player in the distant pre-computer past rank? How would Paul Morphy fare?

I decided to select three games for computer analysis using Rybka. I wanted to choose some relatively random games, but I wanted the opposition to be strong. I chose Louis Paulsen and Adolph Anderssen as Morphy’s strongest opposition, and chose John Schulten as the third opponent as Morphy faced him in a series of 15 games. I wanted neither a short or prolonged game so I decided on games of less than 30 moves or so. It did not matter to me whether it was a Morphy win or loss, but of course Morphy had a huge win ratio so it turned out to be three wins.

The opening was another issue. Morphy was considered to be well-booked by his contemporaries, but opening theory has advanced so far it seemed unfair to have Rybka evaluate 150-year-old opening play by present-day standards. Therefore, I decided to start the evaluation when Morphy left book.

Ruy Lopez, Classical Defense (C64)
Louis Paulsen
Paul Morphy
New York, 10.10.1857

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3

3. ... Bc5

Morphy was known to be very booked-up, but the standards of the time are different than today’s theoretical player. The precedent is Staunton-Cochrane, London 1841.

4. Bb5 d6

4. ... Nf6 is best. Morphy followed Cochrane’s choice with 4. ... d6 which did not make the top three Rybka choices. (-0.28 = White’s favor)

To help you follow the three games that I chose mostly at random but fit the standards listed above, I used the following annotation system; #3 (0.20) would mean Morphy’s move was Rybka’s third choice evaluated as (0.20) in Morphy’s favor, roughly equivalent to ½ of a pawn. A negative number favors the opponent regardless of color. A winning position, for the most part, is an evaluation of (1.00) or more. I let Rybka analyze to a depth of 17 ply, which is 8½ moves. I am sure Morphy could, in many positions, see deeper than that, but so could the other great players mentioned above. The games are listed in chronological order.
Morphy’s move did not make the top three, but it scored in as [0.60] which made it competitive with 16. ... Rab8 and 16. ... Qg6 at [0.75].

17. Nf2 Rg8 #1 (0.75) 18. Nd3 g4 #1 (1.20) 19. Nxe5 dxg5 #1 (1.20) 20. hxg4 Bxg4 #1 (1.47) 21. Qf2 Rg6 #1 (1.58) 22. Qxf7 Bc6 #1 (2.22) 23. Qxc7, White resigned.

Morphy announced mate in five—23. ... Rgxg2+ 24. Kxg2 Rg8+ 25. Kf3 Qh2 + 26. Ke2 Qf4#.

11. ... Bd6

This apparently is a Morphy theoretical novelty. In the next match game Anderssen would try the same against Morphy who would vary with 6. ... d5. It is Rybka’s #2 choice with [0.46] while 6. Bc4 is #1 at [0.00].

6. ... Nxe4 7. d3 #4 (-0.10)

Best by Rybka was 7. Qe2 (-0.58).

7. ... Ng3

Rybka now gives mate in 14 starting with 24. ... Qe5+.

20. dxc6 Bxe2 #1 (2.36) 21. Rxe2

White had to give up his queen to keep on fighting.

21. ... Qxd4+ #1 (2.80) 22. Ke1 Qg1+ #1 (-0.15) 23. Kd2 Rd8+ #1 (1.79) 24. Kc3 Qc5+ #1

Rybka now gives mate in 14 starting with 24. ... Qc5+.

25. Kb2 Na4+, White resigned. #1 Mate in 13

Out of 25 moves Morphy’s moves were in the top three 22 times for an 88 percent.

The final game to take a look at was Morphy’s game against Adolph Anderssen. Morphy usually preferred to play 1. c4 e5 2. c5 Nc6 3. Nf3 when playing White, but against the great attacking master Anderssen, Morphy aimed to be very aggressive.

King’s Gambit Accepted (C39)

Paul Morphy
Adolph Anderssen
Paris, 1858

1. e4

Rybka doesn’t like this move, giving 1. Nc3, 1. Nf3 and 1. d4 preference when analyzing without an opening database.

1. ... e5 2. f4

And now Rybka on my home computer gives Anderssen the edge at [0.18].

2. ... exf4 3. Nf3

And here a laboratory Rybka, using 3000 processor cores running for four months determined that only 3. Be2 holds and all other white moves lose. My home computer gives a value of #1 [0.19].

3. ... g5 4. h4 g4 5. Ne5 Nf6 6. Nxe4

This apparently is a Morphy theoretical Vienna Game (C29)

John Schulten
Paul Morphy
New York, 1857

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Bc4 d5

A nice idea introduced by Staunton to give back the pawn to blunt White’s initiative.

4. exd5 Nf6 5. Nc3 Bd6

Staunton announced 5. ... c6 here which Rybka prefers [0.14]. Morphy’s choice ranks #3 with [0.12].

6. d4 0-0 #1 (0.03) 7. Nge2 f3

Aggressive, typical Morphy, but not in Rybka’s top three. #1 was 7. ... Ng4 even. 7. ... f3 scored [-0.13].

8. gxf3 Nh5

Rybka also doesn’t like this move, giving 8. ... Re8 as #1 [0.07]. Morphy’s move is best answered by 9. 0-0 [-0.31].

9. h4 Re8 #1 (-0.03) 10. Ne4 Bg3+

Rybka likes the developing move 10. ... Nd7 (à la Morphy!), ranking it as #1, but how will Morphy resist White’s best move, played now by Schulten?

11. Kd2

---

8. Bxf4 #1 (-0.14) 8. ... Nxf1

Black should play 8. ... Qe7+ here.

9. Qe2+ #1 (0.03) 9. ... Qe7 10. Ne6+ #1 (-0.15) 10. ... Kd8 11. Bxc7+ #1 (-0.20) 11. ... Rxc7 12. Nxe4+ #1 (-0.21) 12. ... Kd8 13. Nxe4 #1 (-0.24) 13. ... Bxe7 14. Qg4 #3 (-0.24)

Better was 14. Qf3.

14. ... d6 15. Qf4 #2 (-0.22) 15. ... Kg7 16. Qe3 Qxe3 #3 (2.27) 16. ... Bxe4+ 17. Kd2 #1 (-0.10) 17. ... Re8 18. Na3 #1 (0.00) 18. ... Nae6 19. Qh5 #3 (0.25)

Better was 19. Qf4.

19. ... Bf6 20. Qxh1 #2 (0.36)

Rybka likes 20. Re1!

20. ... Bxb2

20. ... Bg5+ keeps Black in the game though White is clearly better.

21. Qh4+ #1 (2.80) 21. ... Kd7 22. Rb1, Black resigned. #2 (2.72)

Against Anderssen who would generally be considered the strongest player in the world after Morphy, Morphy delivers an impressive 94% percent agreement of top three Rybka choices. 10 of Morphy’s 17 ranked moves were the #1 pick, four were #2 and two were #3 and only one move early in the game was not in the top three.

Overall, out of the 69 moves looked at in these three games, Morphy’s choice matched the top-three Rybka choices 61 times—an 88% percent agreement—higher than Capablanca, Alekhine, or Fischer. What does that mean? I realize that this was a limited choice of games. I will let the chess philosophers and mathematicians argue that point. For now you can give Morphy the respect he deserves. After 160 years the computers are only 11 percent better than Paul Morphy.
2013 Chess Journalists of America Awards

By JOSHUA ANDERSON

The Chess Journalist of America (CJA) awards have been decided. Jamaal Abdul-Alim won this year’s award for Chess Journalist of the Year. His many diverse articles, ranging from tournament reports to articles on the social and cultural aspects of chess, can often be found in Chess Life. Amateur to IM, by Jonathan Hawkins and published by Mongoose Press won in the Best Book category. A review of Amateur to IM by Howard Goldowsky, won for best review.

This year even more individuals and organizations entered than last year. With new entries from the Pacific Northwest, Louisiana, Ohio, and the East Coast, the whole of America was truly represented. I would like to thank all the individuals and groups that entered. We look forward to receiving their work again next year along with new publications and Internet entries. Just as we had a growth of organizations involved, I was fortunate enough to have every judge return to help again and several new judges volunteer their wisdom and experience.

Though the next call for entries will go out in the spring of 2014, I encourage anyone potentially interested in entering the event to visit the CJA’s website, www.chessjournalism.org to get a better understanding of this competition and the CJA as a whole.

JAMAAL ABDUL-ALIM, 2013 CHESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

From the nominating application submitted by Daniel Lucas and Jennifer Shahade:

Jamaal Abdul-Alim has written for Chess Life magazine and Chess Life Online (CLO) as a freelancer since 2010. We have hired him repeatedly not only because of his professionalism but also because of his ability to take large, sometimes unwieldy, subjects and deliver compelling copy on time and on word budget.

Shahade has regularly relied upon Jamaal for insightful coverage about several of the nation’s premier opens, namely, the Chicago Open, the World Open, the Atlantic Open, and the North American Open. When it comes to coverage for CLO he consistently produces stories that are ready to be published just hours after the conclusion of the event, certainly by the next day.

Abdul-Alim has been accepted into the Spencer Education Journalism Fellowship at Columbia University. His Chess Life feature “The Great Equalizer” won the “Best International Article” award in the magazine category of the 2013 National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Awards.

BEST CHESS ART
RHINO CHESS
BY FRANKIE BUTLER
The CJA awards for 2013:

**Best Story of the Year**
- The Resolute Grandmaster (Mike Klein, Chess Life, April 2013)

**Best Chess Column**
- My Best Move (Mark Taylor, Chess Life, December 2012)

**Best Book (In Print Only)**
- Amateur to IM (Jonathan Hawkins, with Mongoose Press, 2012)

**Best Features Article**
- The White Collection: Exploring the largest chess library in the world (Mark N. Taylor, Chess Life, December 2012)

**Best Tournament Report Article**
- Two Weeks of Theater (Mike Klein, Chess Life, August 2012)

**Best State Magazine/Newsletter**
- Georgia Chess (Published by the Georgia Chess Association and edited by Mark Taylor, Georgia Chess)

**Visual Arts**
- Best Chess Magazine/Layout
  - Georgia Chess, May/June 2013

**Best Chess Photojournalism**
- Chess Life, November 2012 front cover, of the Queen of Katwe
  - This is quickly becoming a favorite chess photo, receiving high marks from many of the judges.

**Best Chess Art**
- Rhino Chess (Frankie Butler)
  - Chess Life, April 2013, barely edged out several other fine entries in this extremely close competition. Georgia Chess’ September 2012 cover received an Honorable Mention.

**Newspaper Media**
- Best Regular Newspaper Column
  - Peter Henner’s fine article on Magnus Carlsen led to Mr. Henner’s column winning this year’s award. Past winner Bill Cornell received an Honorable Mention for “Karpov Wins Karpov Trophy.”

**Best Regular Newspaper Article of Local Interest**
- Power Moves in Politics and on the Chessboard (David Sands)
  - This well-researched article scored well with every judge and easily won the category.

**Proper News or Features**
- Best Instructive Lesson
  - Stay on the Attack (Todd Andrews, Chess Life, December 2012)

**Best Review**
- Making the Leap (Howard Goldowsky, Chess Life, January 2013)

**Best Humorous Contribution**
- Queen Interview (Matt Traynor)
  - This entry almost tied with Matt Traynor’s companion piece, “King Interview.” The “Queen Interview” can be found at www.chessreporter.com/HanginKingLive/QueenInterview.html

**Electronic Media**
- Best [USCF] State Chapter Website
  - Northern California’s calchess.org, which did earn an Honorable Mention.

**Best General Chess Website**
- USChess.org
  - The United States Chess Federation’s website easily won for best general website.

**Best Chess Blog**
- ChessbookReviews.Wordpress.com
  - This entry impressed many of the chess journalists at the U.S. Open.

Join the CJA!

The CJA offers three types of membership: Regular Membership ($10 per year) for active chess journalists; Associate Membership ($10 per year) for others interested in chess journalism; Foreign Membership ($15 per year) for non-USA residents. See chessjournalism.org.
REGARDING HIS SEVENTH MOVE, GARRETT THOMPSON, winner of this month’s award, recalls: “When I saw this possibility to complicate, I jumped on it.” Was he right to do so? We’ll see.

Wrote Mr. Thompson: (my future notes are in italics)

In chess, psychology plays a large role, especially for me. In chess tournaments, my overall standing and my chance for a prize mentally effect how I play. When I’m doing well, I play positionally and slowly crush my opponent’s position inward. I think I’m not trying to take risks. But if I’m doing poorly, I find I can play beautifully. Here’s a good example:

Bird’s Opening (A03)
Nathan Palmisano (1094)
Garrett Thompson (1626)
SCC May Swiss (1), Chaffee, New York, 05.04.2013

1. f4
Well, I wasn’t expecting the reversed Dutch this led to. But I’m a Dutch player, so this was going to be interesting.

1. ... d5
Of course.

2. e3 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. Be2

4. ... Nf6

In this position Dzindzi, in Chess Openings for Black Explained, recommends the subtile 4. ... Nh6.

5. 0-0 0-0 6. d3

Or 6. d4, à la the Stonewall Dutch. Black is at least equal here, despite the “missing tempo”; possibly even better.

6. ... c5 7. Bd2

In addition to moves preparing e3-e4, here I’d consider 7. Ne5.

7. ... Ne5

Much stronger was the “normal” 7. ... Nc6, with advantage.

8. Bc3


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

With chances for both sides. His move keeps it calm, for now.

Two Minors versus Rook and Pawn(s)

Imbalances favor the strongest

By GM LEV ALBURT

Table of Values

- Two knights ≤ rook plus two pawns in the middlegame
- Two knights ≤ rook plus one pawn in the ending
- Bishop plus knight ≥ rook plus two pawns in the middlegame
- Bishop plus knight ≥ rook plus one pawn in the ending (ergo, exchange of queens de facto adds a pawn to the rook’s side)
- Two bishops > rook plus two pawns in the middlegame
- Two bishops ≥ rook plus two(!) pawns even in the ending. In short, the bishop pair reigns supreme! (perhaps due to wider-open diagonals).

A few more Rules of Thumb

- The more “middlegamish,” the merrier for the side with pieces.
- The presence of two bishops—even if one of them is opposed by his counterpart, as in our game—another plus for “minors.”

Now, let’s take a look at the analysis diagram, foreseen by Garrett.

After 11. Nf5, or even simpler, 11. Qxd8 Rxd8 12. N5g, winning a pawn, White is clearly better, not surprisingly as not only bishop plus knight trumps rook plus pawn in the endgame, but other key factors also favor White: the presence of the “unique” white rook (compare with two somewhat redundant black rooks) and the strong unopposed dark-square bishop.
Even stronger was (see diagram after 7. Bxd2), after 7. ... Ne4?! 8. dxe4! Bxb2 9. Nc3!, preserving queens (yes, the presence of both queens, somewhat complicates issues, but the reward, de facto, is an extra pawn for White—see the Table of Values: in the middlegame, bishop plus knight ≥ rook plus two (!) pawns). Still, playing almost 500 points down, the risk-taking could have been somewhat justified for Garrett.

To conclude: one can understand (not excuse) why Nathan rejected 8. dxe4. But 8. Bc3 gives Black a clear edge (see comments to 9. ... Bxc3, below). Thus—why not reject complications, if that’s what you want, by 8. Bc1, inviting the repetition after 8. ... Nf6, while another knight’s retreat, 8. ... Nd6 9. Nc3, looks okay for White.

8. ... Nxc3 9. Nxc3 8. ... Bxc3?!

I probably could have accepted having the bishop pair and strong center, but I saw something else to complicate.

Garrett is right that giving the bishop for the knight isn’t good. And complications were not in Black’s favor.

A Chessplayer Should Understand His Opponent In Order to Handle Him Better—and Understand Himself, To Improve Faster.

12. ... Qc7

I wasn’t trading queens like I normally do. I needed to apply pressure on the c-file as soon as possible.

Correct.

13. Nd2

Why such a passive posture? After 13. Qe2, the game is close to even, but sharp —so that I’d definitely bet on a higher-rated player.

13. ... Rd8 14. Qe1

Breaking the pin.

14. ... Nc6

I would prefer 14. ... Nd7 (also possible is 14. ... Rxd2), followed by ... Nb6.

15. Nb3 e5

(see diagram top of next column)

After the simple 12. Qxd8 Rxd8 13. Bxc4 White is up a pawn (yes, a defective one, but still a pawn) and enjoys the initiative —threats like Ne5 or Ng5. Why did both players overlook or disregard such a simple line, and such a clear edge? Perhaps they thought that 12. Qxd8 Rxd8 helps Black to develop, when in reality Black’s rook was better placed on f8, guarding the f7-pawn.

As Garrett wrote in the beginning of his letter, psychology plays a large role in chess.

What passive defense? After 11. dxc4 White is definitely not worse.

11. dxc4 12. Bxc4

(see diagram top of next column)

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(see diagram top of next column)
THE ROLE OF THE KING IS OFTEN DECISIVE not just in rook endings (see page 42 in the October issue) but in other endings as well. In the three examples this month, the winners all intentionally sacrificed material then won by playing with superb accuracy, including harnessing the king’s power. “He who laughs best, laughs last.”

Exchange sac
GM Boris Gelfand (FIDE 2739, ISR)
GM Michael Adams (FIDE 2727, ENG)
Alekhine Memorial 2013

White is a pawn up with a more active king.

55. ... Bc3 56. f4 f6?!

Black makes a grab for the rook, but White pretends not to notice:

57. Nf2! Kc6 58. Ne4 a6 59. Nxc3 axb5 60. axb5+ Kd6

Even worse is 60. ... Kc5 61. Ne4+ Kxb5 62. Nxf6 Kb4 63. g5 because the white pawns have too much speed.

61. Ne4+ Ke7 62. Nxf6
(see diagram top of next column)

62. ... Rd1

After 62. ... Rb1, then 63. Kg6 Rxb3 64. f5 Rxb5 65. Nh7 wins.

63. Kg6 Rd3 64. f5 Rd6 65. g5 Kf8 66. b4

Even quicker is 66. Kh7 and then after 66. ... Rxf6 White wins with 67. gxf6 Kf7 68. b4 Kxf6 69. Kg8.

66. ... Rd4 67. Kh6 Rh4+ 68. Nh5 Rxb4 69. g6 Rg4 70. f6 Rg1 71. Nf4 Re1 72. Nd5 Rf1 73. Kg5 Rg1+

Because of the Ne7 threat followed by g6-g7-g8=Q, the rook is forced to chase the king to an optimal placement.

74. Kf5 Re1+ 75. Ke6 Re6 76. Kf7 Kc3 77. Kg6, Black resigned.

Attack from behind
GM Aleksei Pridorozhni (FIDE 2523, RUS)
GM Alexander Riazantsev (FIDE 2674, RUS)
Aeroflot rapid swiss, Moscow, Russia, 02.12.2013

Black must be better simply by virtue of the dark-square control that will allow a deep king intrusion.

41. ... Kc5 42. Kh2?

Slightly better is 42. e6 Re7 43. Kf2.

42. ... Kb4 43. c4 Nc7 44. Rxd4 Kxb3 45. Bh3 Re7

More accurate was first playing 45. ... Kc3!, and then easily winning is 46. e6 Nxe6 47. Bxe6 Kxd4 48. Bxf7 a5.

46. e6 Nxe6 47. Re4 Kc3 48. Rxe6?

There was no urgency to play this move. Instead, 48. c5 would have yielded better escape chances. Taking on e6 with the bishop would have been better than with the rook.

48. ... Rxe6 49. Bxe6

49. ... c5

Quicker was 49. ... b5, but even 49. ... a5 is winning for Black now. The bishop itself is impotent against the passed pawns and their king’s support.

50. Kh3 Kxd3 51. Kg4

No better is 51. Kg2 a5 52. Bd7 Kxc4.

51. ... a5 52. Kf5 a4 53. Kg6 a3 54. Kxg7 a2 55. Kxh6 a1=Q 56. Kg6 Qe1 57. Bf5+ Kxc4 58. h5 Qxg3+ 59. Kf6 Qf4 60. Kg6 Kd4, White resigned.

Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defense (C67)
GM Fabiano Caruana (FIDE 2796, ITA)
GM Michael Adams (FIDE 2740, ENG)
Dortmunder Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2013 GM-Turnier, Dortmund, Germany, 07.25.2013


An aggressive continuation, seemingly unafraid of opening the h-file. Earlier
games have had varying success.

11. ... Ne7 12. Ng5 Be8 13. f4 h5!

14. Kf2

More cautious was 14. Kg2!?

14. ... b6

Black prefers developing first instead of the dubious adventures that follow an early 14. ... hxg4.

15. f5 Kb7 16. Nc3

Necessary was 16. Kg3, or even 16. c4, keeping the material balanced.

16. ... hxg4! 17. hgx4 Rh2+ 18. Kg3 Rxc2

Black accepts the poisoned pawn and the resulting, required, piece sacrifice.

19. Nh7 c5 20. Nxf8 Bc6

The game has become complicated. White has several options, but his unsafe king-position and having an underdeveloped queenside suggests playing for equality.

21. f6?

A dangerous opening of the file. Other alternatives are 21. Nh7 (21. Nd7!??) 21. ... Rg2+ 22. Kf4 Rh8 23. Ng5 Rh4!, losing for White, but 21. Bg5 Rg2+ is equal.

21. ... Rg2+ 22. Kf4 gx6 23. exf6 Rf2+ 24. Ke3

Otherwise, 24. Ke5 Re8 leads to mate, or 24. Kg5 Rx8 25. fxe7 Rg8+ 26. Kh4 Rg2 creates the mating net.


21. ... Rg2+ 22. Kf4 and White is winning.

24. The king cannot find a satisfactory square. If 27. Ke2, 27. ... Rh8 wins. Now a neat combination decides the game.


White postpones resignation until after the time control.


King chase

GM Leinier Dominguez Perez (FIDE 2734, CUB)
GM Evgeny Alekseev (FIDE 2685, RUS)
St. Petersburg Rapid Cup 2012 Final, 10.05.2012

Black must be very careful. So, 73. ... Kf1? 74. Kg3! Ke1 75. Bf4 and White is winning.

74. Kf4 Re8 75. Bc3+ Kd1 76. Kf3 Re6 77. Bd4 Ke1 78. Bc3+ Kb1

Not 78. ... Kd1? 79. Rd2+ Ke1 80. Rd5 wins (but not 80. Rc2 Rd6 with equality).


There is also 83. ... Rh2?, but a safer drawing plan arises from 83. ... Rc8, controlling the c-file and keeping the white king locked out.

84. Rb1+ Ka2! 85. Rb8 Rg3+?

Simply losing. The only saving move was 85. ... Rg6! then after 86. Kc2 Ka3 (86. ... Rg2?) 87. Bc3 Rg4 the well-known Szen position, a book draw, appears.

86. Kc4 Rh3 87. Rb2+ Ka3 88. Rb1 Rh2 89. Rb8 Ka2 90. Ra8+, Black resigned. 🤖
54th Mid-South Open
NOVEMBER 23-24, 2013

FOR 53 YEARS EACH NOVEMBER THE MEMPHIS CHESS CLUB HAS HOSTED THIS important and attractive tournament. This year’s tournament site, Hyatt Place at 1220 Primacy Parkway, in Memphis, Tennessee, is only 203 miles from Nashville, Tennessee, 154 miles from Little Rock, Arkansas, 214 miles from Jackson, Mississippi, and 299 miles from St. Louis, Missouri, making the Mid-South Open this year’s central chess event for the South.

This year the Mid-South Open, a Heritage Event, for the first time since its genesis in 1960, will take place the weekend before the traditional Thanksgiving holiday. The tournament, on November 23rd and 24th, will give chessplayers the chance to warm up for the next week’s tournament offerings, or it will give all of those family, chessplayers a chance to participate in one of Memphis’ major tournaments, leaving the next week’s holiday free for other activities.

A few past Mid-South Open winners include Milam Momic, from Alabama, Jude Acers, from Louisiana, Steve Malsia, from Arkansas, Elliott Winslow, from California, John Ragan, from Illinois, Arthur Bisguier, from Massachusetts, Ron Burnett, from Tennessee, and last year’s winner Kenneth Turner from Mississippi.

The 54th Mid-South Open is offering a five-round Swiss System, game in 120 minutes with a five second delay. Prizes are based on 60 entries with $500 for first, $250 for second, $150 for third, $100 for fourth, and $75 for fifth. Prizes are $100 and a plaque for each class A, B, C, D, with $75 and a plaque for top E. There is also an unrated award consisting of a $50 dollar gift prize from ChessCentral.com!

Check the Memphis Chess Club Inc.’s website, www.MemphisChess.com, for entry fee, registration time, tournament rounds, and other information.

—Dwight Weaver, Memphis Chess Club Historian
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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 October 1 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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GM-ELECT MACKENZIE MOLNER finished in a tie for first at the U.S. Open, keeping him in the mix in the 2013 Trophies Plus Grand Prix race. See page 28 in this issue for a full report.

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!

2nd: $2,500 | 3rd: $1,000
4th: $900  | 5th: $800
6th: $700  | 7th: $600
8th: $500  | 9th: $300
10th: $200

Trophies Plus:

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IT’S THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT.

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315 W. 1st St., Templeton, Iowa 51463 | 800.397.9993 | www.trophiesplus.com
2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by October 9, 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.

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

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KOBBA, VISHAL VA 5019
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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO U.S. CHESS AND MAIL TO: JOAN DUBOIS, USCF, PO BOX 3967, CROSSVILLE, TN 38557

CHECK OUT USCF’S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

**2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship**

*USCF’s 66th ANNUAL*

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

(PLUS TITLE OF USCF’S GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25

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. These 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.

**2013 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship**

*USCF’s 10th ANNUAL*

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

(PLUS TITLE OF USCF’S ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25

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.

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**Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)**

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

- WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY
  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.
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USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

2013 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship  December 27-30 • Lubbock, Texas
2014 World Amateur Team & U.S. Team East - 44th Annual  February 15-17 • Parsippany, New Jersey
2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress  February 28-March 2 • Irvine, California
2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC)  June 12 • Las Vegas, Nevada
2014 U.S. Women's Open  June 12-13 • Las Vegas, Nevada
2014 National Open  June 13-15 or 14-15 • Las Vegas, Nevada

FUTURE EVENTS  (Watch for details)

2013 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship  December 27-30 • Lubbock, Texas
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2014 National Open  June 13-15 or 14-15 • Las Vegas, Nevada

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. Game/15 Championship

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:
2014 U.S. Amateur Teams (South, West)
2014 U.S. Amateur (East, North, West)
2014 U.S. Cadet
2014 U.S. Game/15 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/30 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/60 Championship
2014 U.S. Junior Closed
2014 U.S. Masters Championship

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 2013:
2014 U.S. Junior Open
2014 U.S. Senior Open

For the expanded list of national events available for bid, see: www.uschess.org/content/view/12116/705/.

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.

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.

www.uschess.org  51
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the USCF Chess Federation nor the Tournament Director is responsible for the accuracy of any information contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-commercial ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TLs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control rating or time delay even if delay is zero (0).

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix: A Junior Grand Prix event must have four or more rounds with a time limit equal to or greater than 60 min. Please see www.uschess.org/data/page/PG-Rules.php for complete rules.

SUBMISSIONS: E-mail your tla to: tla@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 Cl pg. 50 and 51 or check uschess.org/go/tfla. Payment can be done online through the TDAffiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 39967, Crossville, TN 38657.
2014

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FEBRUARY 15-17, 2014

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Come celebrate Country Music and USCF’s 75th anniversary
Enjoy the picking and grinning and do a little moving and checking!
For complete details see our TLA under National Events.
Sponsored by USCF and New Jersey State Chess Federation.
You don’t have to wear your Sunday-go-to-meeting-best, but please bring your set and clock!

A HERITAGE EVENT  USCF  A NATIONAL EVENT
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**NOV. 17-18 OR 16-17, CONNETICUT**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)**

4th Annual Hartford Open


**Trophies for 1st & 2nd, $50 & $30.**

For more information, please visit chessmagnet.com or contact Thad Rogers: (478)-742-5607, cell (478)-973-9389 or therogers@charter.net. Enter: American Chess Promotions, 3055 General Lee Rd., Macon, GA 31204, or go to PayPal and use info@americanchesspromotions.com. NS. NF. FIDE.

**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, OHIO**

2nd annual Kings Island Open

SS5, $40/50, SD/30 (2-day option), Kings Island Resort, 5691 Kings Island Drive (I-71, 6 miles north of I-75), Mason, OH 45040. Free parking. $35,000 (based on 350 paid entries) (re-entries & U1000 Section count as half entries); minimum $54,000 (80% of each prize) guaranteed.

In 7 sections:

- Open $3000-1500-750-300-100, 1st $1000, 2nd $750, 3rd $500, 4th $250.
- Under 1200: $1100-550-300-150.
- Under 1000: $800-400-200.
- Under 800: $600-300-150.
- Under 600: $400-200-100.
- Under 500: $300-150-75.
- Under 400: $200-100-50.

**All prizes 60% of entry fees.**

**- Online entries posted instantly.**

3-day schedule: Registration ends 7 p.m. Rounds: 7:30-2-9:30. 2-day schedule: Registration ends 9:30 a.m. Round at 10 a.m., then merges with 3-day first round. All prizes in Sections 1-6 split in half in Championship. NCMA membership required, other states OK. Byes: available in any round, limit 2, must commit before 1st round. GM: $399 single or double. Mention Chess Tournament Reserve each time you book a room. Cut-off date 11/1. Info: Thad Rogers: (478)-742-5607, cell (478)-973-9389 or therogers@charter.net. Enter: American Chess Promotions, 3055 General Lee Rd., Macon, GA 31204, or go to PayPal and use info@americanchesspromotions.com. NS. NF. FIDE.
Chess Magazine School Junior Grand Prix!  
**NOV. 22-24, 2013**
**Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, AL**

**TOURNAMENT**
- **Categories:** FIDE Open (rated), U1800, Under 1600. 
- **Prize:** $1500 b/o 80. 
- **Trophies:** Top 22 (open, Under 1800, and Under 1600). 
- **Website:** http://www.chessmasterbob.com.

**ENTRY FEE:**
- Open: Free entry. 
- Under 1400-1300: $50. 
- Under 1200-1100: $25. 
- Under 1000-900: $15. 

**REGISTRATION:**
- **Online:** $25 by 11/15; $30 later. 
- **On-Site:** $30.

**ADVANCE ENTRIES:**
- **Site:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 24000 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL 36561. 
- **Info:** 251-963-6550. PH: 920-725-8441. HR: $79 for 1-bed King or 2-bed dbl. Must mention chess!

**Website:** www.chessmasterbob.com. 

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**Website:** www.chessmasterbob.com. 

**An American Classic!**

**A Heritage Event!**
Chess Magazine School Junior Grand Prix!  
**NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 2, 2013**
**HARRISBURG, PA**

**TOURNAMENT**
- **Categories:** FIDE Open (rated), Under 1800, Under 1600. 
- **Prize:** $300 b/o 80. 
- **Trophies:** Top 10. 

**ENTRY FEE:**
- Free for GMs and IMs (EF deducted from winnings). 

**REGISTRATION:**
- **Online:** $200 by 11/15; $225 at site. 
- **On-Site:** $200.

**ADVANCE ENTRIES:**
- **Site:** Renaissance Harrisburg Hotel, 1100 First Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17102. 
- **Info:** 717-233-4000. PH: 717-233-4000. HR: $149 for 1-bed King or 2-bed dbl. 

**Website:** www.chessmasterbob.com. 

**An American Classic!**

**A Heritage Event!**
Chess Magazine School Junior Grand Prix!  
**NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 2, 2013**
**HARRISBURG, PA**

**TOURNAMENT**
- **Categories:** FIDE Open (rated), Under 1800, Under 1600. 
- **Prize:** $300 b/o 80. 
- **Trophies:** Top 10. 

**ENTRY FEE:**
- Free for GMs and IMs (EF deducted from winnings). 

**REGISTRATION:**
- **Online:** $200 by 11/15; $225 at site. 
- **On-Site:** $200.

**ADVANCE ENTRIES:**
- **Site:** Renaissance Harrisburg Hotel, 1100 First Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17102. 
- **Info:** 717-233-4000. PH: 717-233-4000. HR: $149 for 1-bed King or 2-bed dbl. 

**Website:** www.chessmasterbob.com.
**CHess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix**

**NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV 30-DEC. 1, PENNSYLVANIA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)

48th annual National Chess Congress

NOV. 29, 40/20, 50/30 2-hour (4-day option, rds. 1-3/5, 90/20)

Trophy sections play separate 2-day schedule only, 01/12-1/13, 50/20. At the upscale, luxurious Loews Philadelphia Hotel, rated 4 diamonds by AAA, 1200 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. $35,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND.

In 10 sections.

Premier, open to all rated 2000+ above and juniors at 18 rated 1800/above. $3000-1500-800-300-200, Under 2000: $2100-1000-500-300-200, Under 1800: $1600-900-400-200-100, Under 1600: $1200-800-400-200-100. $15,000, 1000-600-400-200-100. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections but must register the same team. No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.

No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.

No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.

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No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.

No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.

No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.

No Re-Entries Allowed. U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, Under 600.
2nd annual BOSTON CHESS CONGRESS

Jan 11-12 or 11-12 at luxurious Hyatt Harborside
$12,000 projected prize fund, $800 minimum

Special $79 room rates, free parking, free airport shuttle! Beautiful view of Boston harbor and downtown! In 6 sections:

Premier: Open to 2000 or over life title First Category or over. Prizes $1000-500-300-200, clearie/break/eat $100 bonus, Top Under 2300 $600 minimum.
Under 21/U18: $800-400-200-100.
Under 1900/U15: $800-400-200-100.
Under 1700/U12: $800-400-200-100. Unrated limited $600.
Under 1500/U10: $700-400-200-100. Unrated limited $400.
Under 1300/U8: $400-250-150-100. Unrated limited $200.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections.

BLITZ TOURNAMENT Sunday 8:30...

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prize” in this issue or chessstour.com.
97th Annual Marshall Chess Club Championship! 9-5-13, 40/120 d5, 50/60 d4. Marshall CC, 23 W 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716. Open to members and nonmembers rated 2200+ (currently in the past), FIDE title holders, qualifiers from Marshall Amateur Championship Dec. 6-8, and seeded players. $450000 G/5, 15 % owned by site, $450000. Reg.: 4:30-5:30 pm 12/14; rounds 6pm 12/15, 1.5pm 12/14/15, 12/17, 12/22. Two byes available, must request at registration, no byes on 12/22. FIDE GM norms may be possible, no byes for norm aspirants. www.marshallchessclub.org.

A Heritage Event! Chess Magazine Junior Grand Prix! DEC. 15, MASSACHUSETTS

Harry Nelson Pillsbury, 1867-1932, 4SS, G/65, G/5. Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA (I-95, exit 24, Rte. 28, one mile from exit) 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9503. $3 1,000 in 25 paid entries $25 off entries count half, 75% G, 4 sects. Open: $330-150, Top U2000 $150. U1900: $100- 100, Top U1750 $100. U1600: $75-75, Top U1550 $75. U1500: $60, trophies to top 3, top U1000, U900, U800, unrated. Unrated prize limits: $50 in U1350, $75 in U1600, $100 in U1900. Ent: $39 if mailed by 12/9 or online by 12/15, $45 if at site, GMs and IMs free. $20 discount to players in U1350 sect. Reg.: 9:30-9:45 am. Rds: 1-2-3-4-5-6. Bye odd, all limit 1, must commit before round 2. Ent: payable to MAC and mail to Robert Messenger, 4 Hamiliton Dr., Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062 or enter online at www.MassChess.org. Info: send email to info@masschess.org or phone 603-891-2484. NC. N. W.

DEC. 17, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)


DEC. 20, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Marshall Chess Club Champion to highest-scoring Club member . www.marshallchessclub.org. info@marshallchessclub.org. Eff: $1,000-600-300, top U2050/Unr $600-300. Open to players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring over 50% in any MCC Open or U2300 event since the prior month's Masters). 212-477-3716. Open to players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring over 50% in any MCC Open or U2300 event since the prior month's Masters). Fee: $40, members $30. $75 membership includes the FIDE Blitz Rated prize. $325 to U2400, U2300 and biggest upset. FIDE rated. $500-250-U2000, $100-U1500. U1400: $80, U1300: $65, U1250: $50, U1200: $40, U1150: $30, U1100: $20, U1050: $15, U1000: $10, U950: $5. U900: $2. Unrated. Ent: $25 for all entries, $20 for members. Reg.: 6:15-6:45 pm. Info: send email to info@masschess.org or phone 603-891-2484. NC. N. W.

A Heritage Event! Chess Magazine Junior Grand Prix! DEC. 26-29 OR 27-29, NEVADA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

40th Annual Eastern Open in 6 Sections Over $17,500 prize fund 50 prizes! Class prizes for 150-point intervals within each section! Convenient New Location: Doubletree Hotel, 1201 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015-1809. For entry forms and info, www.eastchess.org. Info: send email to info@masschess.org or phone 603-891-2484. NC. N. W.

Tournament Life / November

7 rounds, 40/110, SD/30, d10 (3 day option, rnds 1-2 G/70, d10; 2-day option except Open Section, rnds 1-4 G/30, d10). Blitz tournament 1/20 8:30 pm. At Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord CA 94520. Free parking, free BART shuttle.

In 6 sections.

Open: $3000-1500-1000-600-400-200. Top U2450/Unr $1000-500. FIDE rated, 150 GPP.


Unrated prize limits: U1000 $150, U1300 $400, U1600 $600, U1900 $900.

Mixed doubles: $600-300. See TLA or chessotour.com for details.

Entry fee: $133 online at chessaction.com by 1/15, $140 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 1/15 (entry only, no questions), 4-day $139, 3-day $138, 2-day $137 mailed by 1/17, all $150 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. Under 1000 Section entry fee: $53 online at chessaction.com by 1/15 or mailed by 1/17, $70 at site or online until 2 hours before round 1. Under 1000 Section entry fee: $53 online at chessaction.com by 1/15 or mailed by 1/17, $70 at site or online until 2 hours before round 1.

Choice of schedules: All merge & compete for same prizes: 4-day reg ends Fri 6 pm, rnds 7 Sat, 12 noon & 6 pm, Sun 12 noon & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 3:30 pm. 3-day reg ends Sat 10 am, rnds Sat 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, Sun 12 noon & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 3:30 pm. 2-day reg ends Sun 9 am, rnds 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30.

Byes: OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, other before rd 4.

January official USCF ratings used; unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Bring set, board, clock if possible—none supplied.

5-day reg.

1900:

EVENTS Fri., 12/27:

DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. $15 service charge for refunds.

and are eligible for full prize fund. Plaque winners determined by USCF-U1200: $200-100; *. Unrated players may only win 50% of the prize fund

5SS, (Open Sect: G/90, i30; Other Sects.: G/120 d5)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chesstour.com, 347-201-2269). $15 service fee for refunds. Advance entries posted at www.chessaction.com (online entries posted before rd 1. GMs free; $90 from prize.

3:30.


3-day reg.

2, others before rd. 4.

Half point byes

All:

PRIZES:

3:00, 2-day $60. Other sections: G/120 d5. 2-day: G/90 d5.

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

North American Open Blitz (BL2)

S5, S7, S9, double round, 10 games. Ballys Casino Resort (see North American Open, Dec 2013, #89). Contacts: GMs free; $150 from prize.

TIME:

RE-ENTRY FEE: $120; not available in Open Section. GMs free; $150 from prize.

no longer apply, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.


Entry Fees:

5SS, North Dekalb Mall, 2050 Lawrenceville Highway, near Ross for Less, Decatur, GA 30033. $1000 b/140 full-pd. ent.

S. NS. NC. FIDE.

www.uschess.org

Online Registra-

CONTINENTAL CHESS SCHEDULE

see future issues or our website.

New Year Action Grand Prix


7:45 am, Mon 11/18, Standard Time. 2 day/ 2-9/15. Re-entry $120; not available in Open Section. GMs free; $150 from prize.

www.chess.com

www.marshallchessclub.org. Info: Ken, acn@goes.com, 908-619-8621. NC. W.

starting. Open to All. 5SS. Reg. Fri. until 1:30pm.

$105 online at www.chessaction.com by 12/24,

www.easternopenchess.com for details.

FIDE or 2200 USCF reqd. 

FIDE. Chief T.D.: Thad Rogers, NTD. American Chess

www.americanchesspromotions.com or (478)-973-8899. Chief T.D.: Thad Rogers, NTD. Assistant TD: Joe Covulion. Hotels: See Info. Enter Continental Chess Promotions, 3059 George Lee Road, Macon, GA 31204 or info@americhesspromotions.com at PayPal. W. NS. NC. FIDE.

15: North American Open Blitz (BLZ)

Also, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org.

1:15: By1. Blitz rated, but higher of regular or blitz used for pairings and prizes. See Open Eastern TLA this issue or www.easternopenchess.com for details.

Tue. 12/24, 2pm-5pm.

5:00 pm, 2-day $40.

$105 online at www.chessaction.com by 12/24,


Visiting chess.com for latest news, results, games, minimum ratings, entries, etc. To be added to Chess com's chess Email List, send email to chessmaster@chesstour.com.

Most tournaments have alternate schedules playing less or more days than listed below.

Asterisk means full details in this issue--otherwise, see future issues or our website.

Events in red offer FIDE norm possibilities.


11/15-17: Kings Island Open, Mason OH*

11/17-19: Hartford Open, Windsor Locks CT*

11/12-14: National Chess Congress, Philadelphia PA*

12/4-6: Mid-America Open, Saint Louis MO

2/28-30 (new date): Southern Class, Orlando FL

11/29: Northern Chess Blitz, Las Vegas NV*

10-12, 11-12, MASSACHUSETTS

3/7-9

3/21: Mid-Atlantic Open, Washington DC

4/16-20: Philadelphia Open, Philadelphia PA

2/4-5: Liberty Bell Open, Philadelphia PA


5/2-14: 50% to first 5 individuals in each section. All non-trophy winners determined by USCF-$1000, u2500 $$1000, u2300 $$1000. Mixed doubles bonus prizes:

Intercollegiate Chess Association rate. Enter at www.chessaction.com for details.

50% to first 5, top U1000, U800, Unr.

1:25: $60, members $40.

17/20, 21/23: 32nd annual Empire City Open

4/10-12:

17/20, 21/23:

2/4-5:

2/26-28: Continental Chess Schedule

7:30 am, Sat 12/28 5-9:15 pm.

Bye: 1.

$105 online at www.chessaction.com by 12/24,

www.chessaction.com or Continental Chess,

$250. No pooling /duplicate prizes.

$1000+plaque-800-500; top U2000: $400-200; top U1400 $60.

$1000+plaque-800-500; top U1200: $600-300-150.

ENTRY:

59

9:30-10:30, 11:50-11:45, 11-12, 1:51, 1:50.


EVENTS Fri., 12/27:

New Orleans Open Scholastic Chess Championships, 453, 60-60, Simul by IM Danny Fernandez, Boudreaux House & Blitz (Simul, Bug & Blitz open to all). Entry closes 12/20. GMs free; $250 from prize.

www.chess.org

5:00-6:00 pm

9:00-10:00 am, 10:00-11:00 am, 11:00-12:00 am.

Open 2-day option, rds. 1-3 G/40 d10. New Yorker

1/10-12:

North American Open Blitz (BL2)

www.continentalchess.com

www.marshallchessclub.org.

5:30 AM.

Open 2-day option, rds. 1-3 G/40 d10. New Yorker

50% to first 5, top U1000, U800, Unr.

4/4-6:

FIDE. Chief T.D.: Thad Rogers, NTD. American Chess

S5, S7, S9, double round, 10 games. Ballys Casino Resort (see North American Open, Dec 2013, #89). Contacts: GMs free; $150 from prize.

2/24-26: Queens City Open, Elmont NY

6/26-30: DC International, Arlington VA

2/24-29: $20 by 12/20; $25 thereafter and at

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

American Chess

56, 60-60, Simul by IM Danny Fernandez, Boudreaux House & Blitz (Simul, Bug & Blitz open to all). Entry closes 12/20. GMs free; $250 from prize.

www.chess.com

www.marshallchessclub.org.

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New Orleans Open Scholastic Chess Championships, 453, 60-60, Simul by IM Danny Fernandez, Boudreaux House & Blitz (Simul, Bug & Blitz open to all). Entry closes 12/20. GMs free; $250 from prize.

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Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JAN. 11-12, WISCONSIN
Site: Deluxe All Suite Holiday Inn, 1226 N. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203.
REGISTRATION: On site at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; team pairings avoided but possible. All. $300 online at chessaction.com by 1/15, $350 phoned by 1/20 (414-962-3068, entry deadline). Free to disclose foreign or FIDE ratings may be expelled. 5) No unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) can-enter any sections but may not win over $1000 in U1300, $500 U1500, $300 in U1800 or U2000. Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player team "team" combined score among all sections: $1000-600-400-300-300. Top 2 players in each category get free room at 2015 Foxwoods Open, if held (if not held, prize $100 deducted from prize at chessaction.com by 1/20, $235 phoned by 1/20 (414-962-3068, entry deadline). Entry fee: $100, no re-entry. 3) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) can-enter any sections but may not win over $1000 in U1300, $500 U1500, $300 in U1800 or U2000. Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player team "team" combined score among all sections: $1000-600-400-300-300. Top 2 players in each category get free room at 2015 Foxwoods Open, if held (if not held, prize $100 deducted from prize at chessaction.com by 1/20, $235 phoned by 1/20 (414-962-3068, entry deadline). Entry fee: $100, no re-entry. 3) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) can-enter any sections but may not win over $1000 in U1300, $500 U1500, $300 in U1800 or U2000. Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player team "team" combined score among all sections: $1000-600-400-300-300. Top 2 players in each category get free room at 2015 Foxwoods Open, if held (if not held, prize $100 deducted from prize at chessaction.com by 1/20, $235 phoned by 1/20 (414-962-3068, entry deadline). Entry fee: $100, no re-entry. 3) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) can-enter any sections but may not win over $1000 in U1300, $500 U1500, $300 in U1800 or U2000. 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Land of the Sky XXVII
SSS, 40/1200-50/100 (u2 in G/60-d5). Creme Place Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. $200,000 b/120 $110,000 gd. OPEN (FIDE-rated, 2/3 gtd): $2400-1200-600-500-400. U2000, $1200-600-200-100-50, Under 10 lifetime titles if of U1441 list or not limited. Top 808, 1999-1889-1800, U1800 $600-360 each; rated. 7th: Bunce.

(Trophy

Spring 2013, 40/1200-50/100 (u2 in G/60-d5). Creme Place Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. $200,000 b/120 $110,000 gd. OPEN (FIDE-rated, 2/3 gtd): $2400-1200-600-500-400. U2000, $1200-600-200-100-50, Under 10 lifetime titles if of U1441 list or not limited. Top 808, 1999-1889-1800, U1800 $600-360 each; rated. 7th: Bunce.

(Trophy

Spring 2013, 40/1200-50/100 (u2 in G/60-d5). Creme Place Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. $200,000 b/120 $110,000 gd. OPEN (FIDE-rated, 2/3 gtd): $2400-1200-600-500-400. U2000, $1200-600-200-100-50, Under 10 lifetime titles if of U1441 list or not limited. Top 808, 1999-1889-1800, U1800 $600-360 each; rated. 7th: Bunce.

(Trophy

Spring 2013, 40/1200-50/100 (u2 in G/60-d5). Creme Place Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. $200,000 b/120 $110,000 gd. OPEN (FIDE-rated, 2/3 gtd): $2400-1200-600-500-400. U2000, $1200-600-200-100-50, Under 10 lifetime titles if of U1441 list or not limited. Top 808, 1999-1889-1800, U1800 $600-360 each; rated. 7th: Bunce.

(Trophy

Spring 2013, 40/1200-50/100 (u2 in G/60-d5). Creme Place Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. $200,000 b/120 $110,000 gd. OPEN (FIDE-rated, 2/3 gtd): $2400-1200-600-500-400. U2000, $1200-600-200-100-50, Under 10 lifetime titles if of U1441 list or not limited. Top 808, 1999-1889-1800, U1800 $600-360 each; rated. 7th: Bunce.

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Spring 2013, 40/1200-50/100 (u2 in G/60-d5). Creme Place Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. $200,000 b/120 $110,000 gd. OPEN (FIDE-rated, 2/3 gtd): $2400-1200-600-500-400. U2000, $1200-600-200-100-50, Under 10 lifetime titles if of U1441 list or not limited. Top 808, 1999-1889-1800, U1800 $600-360 each; rated. 7th: Bunce.
23rd annual NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

Dec 26-30, 26-29 or 27-29, Bally’s Las Vegas - GM/IM norms possible $120,000 projected prizes, $90,000 minimum guaranteed.

Open Section: 9 rounds, Dec 26-30, 40/2, SD/30, d10. Other sections: 7 rds, 40/2, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2/3/4). Bally’s Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking. 7 sections. Prizes $120,000 based on 600 entries (seniors, re-entries, GMs, IMs, WGMs & U1250 count half), else proportional; minimum $90,000 (75% each prize) guaranteed. FIDE ratings used in Open, Dec. official USCF in other sections. Junior GP pts available.


Other sections: 7 rds, 40/2, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2/3/4). Bally’s Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking.

7 sections. Prizes $120,000 based on 600 entries (seniors, re-entries, GMs, IMs, WGMs & U1250 count half), else proportional; minimum $90,000 (75% each prize) guaranteed. FIDE ratings used in Open, Dec. official USCF in other sections. Junior GP pts available.


Other sections: 7 rds, 40/2, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2/3/4). Bally’s Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking.
Players will be divided into sections by rating – top 2 sections are 4 play-tournament/side-event.

streets & basement.

Info:


Info: (310) 795-5710 or www.LAClubChess.com or Mickey@LAClubChess.com.

CA 92868. Phone (719) 685-1984 or e-mail buckpeace@汉利国际学院.com.

Entry Fee: $35 if received by 12/5, $40 at site. $9 off EF for Juniors, Seniors, Unrated. Additional $55 discount for Supporting Members of the Colorado Chess Club. CCAA membership required ($50, 10 for juniors, seniors). Cash prizes per entries. Register: 10:30-9:30 AM. Rds. schedule: 1-4, 9-3, 10-2 hrs. Enter to: Richard Buchanan, 1 Sutherland Rd., Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Phone (719) 685-1984 or e-mail buckpeace@汉利国际学院.com. Colorado Tourney Event.


5-RR, G/75 d5 (top 2 sections 3-RR, G/120 d5).

*2 sections:

12:30-2:30 pm.

Free in basement.

U1800: $100–50-$25; U1600 $100.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 44th annual National Chess Congress (PA) See Grand Prix.

CD 27-28 OR 29-30, 32nd annual Empire City Open (NY) See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.

See Grand Prix.
Kentucky

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, 22nd annual Kings Island Open (OH) See Grand Prix.

NOV. 17, Kings Island Open Blitz (BLZ) (OH) See Ohio.

DEC. 7, Lexington Monthly (1st Saturday G/60) 2SS, G/40 d5. Expensive Art, 125 E. Reynolds Rd., Lexington, KY. Director: Ben New Circle Rd. to Nicholasville Rd. Head towards the Mall/Best Buy, turn left at E. Reynolds Rd. Shop is on the Crossroads shopping cen-
ter. Prizes: Class Prizes with 90% of entries returned. Reg: 11:45 noon. Rds: 1st Rd. at noon, subsequent rounds ASAP (you have some to get something to eat). EF: $50. Contact: Matthew Garley (502) 537-1060, mgarley@gmail.com.

Louisiana

NOV. 22-24 OR 23-24, 1st annual Holiday Open (TX) See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

DEC. 7-8, Lafayette Open 2013 5SS, G/135 d5, except for F1, which is G/75 d5. Web: Complete details at www.lafayettedawgs.org. Site: Clarion Inn, 1241 SE Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501. Sat: 8:30-9:15am. Rounds: Sat: 10am, 1:30pm & 6pm. Sun: 9am, 1pm. Byes: One 1/2 pt bye available if requested after rd 2, except for last round. Prizes: $700 returned; 1st 200, 2nd 150, U1200 $100, U1000 $75, U1500 U1200 $50, 3 persons in each class or com-

DEC. 27-29, New Orleans Open See Grand Prix.

Maryland

Maryland Chess Association

Open & scholastics tournaments in Maryland listed at www.msdchess.com.

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 44th annual National Chess Congress (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

DEC. 26-29 OR 27-29, 40th Annual Eastern Open in 6 Sections See Grand Prix.

DEC. 28, Eastern Open Blitz Championship (BLZ) See Grand Prix.

DEC. 28, Party-On Open See Grand Prix.

JAN. 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 46th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA) See Grand Prix.

Massachusetts

NOV. 9, 2nd Elaine Kahn Memorial See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

NOV. 13, 24, 27, DEC. 1, 11, 14, George Sturgis Memorial 5SS, G/135 d5. Washuett CC, 405 Maple School Road, Room 215, Fitch-
burg State University, 67 Ridge Rd, Fitchburg, MA 01420. EF: $1 per game played. Reg: 6-7:15 pm; Rds: 7:30 pm each Wed. Web: (857) 353-2511. Prize list. chess books. Info: George Mirijanian, 176 Oak Hill Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420, miriling2@aol.com, 978-345-5011. Website: www.washuettchess.org. Online ratings as of Nov 13 will be used. W.

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, 4th annual Hartford Open (CT) See Grand Prix.

DEC. 15, Harry Nelsen Pilbrow Memorial See Grand Prix.

JAN. 10-12 OR 11-12, 2nd annual Boston Chess Congress See Grand Prix.

JAN. 12, Boston Chess Congress Blitz (BLZ) 4SS, G/5, d4, double round, 8 games. Hyatt Harrises Hotel (see Boston Chess Congress). Prizes $200 based on 20 entries, prize in proportion: $100-50, U2000 $60, U1800 $50, U1600 $45. $20, at only, no checks. Reg: ends 11/5 pm, $35, 9-9. Bl1. Blitz rated, higher than regular or higher for blitz used for pairings & prizes.

JAN. 22-26, 23-26 OR 24-26, 12th annual Foxwoods Open (CT) See Grand Prix.

JAN. 26, Foxwoods Open Blitz (BLZ) (CT)

MAR. 1-2, 47th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (NY) See New York.

Michigan

NOV. 29-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 30-DEC. 1 NOT NOV. 22-24, 2013 Motor City Open – NOTE DATE CHANGE (MI) See Grand Prix.

NOV. 8-10 OR 9-10, 1st annual Bloomington Open See Grand Prix.

Mississippi

NOV. 22-24 OR 23-24, 1st annual Holiday Open (TX) See Grand Prix.

Missouri

Nov. 23, Western Missouri Open See Grand Prix.

DEC. 30-31, 4th annual Thanksgiving Open See Grand Prix.

Montana


Nevada

NOV. 28-DEC. 1 OR NOV. 29-DEC. 1, 49th annual American Open (CA-S) See Grand Prix.


DEC. 29, North American Open Blitz (BLZ) See Grand Prix.

JAN. 17-20 OR 18-20 OR 19-20, 50th Golden State Open (CA-N) See Grand Prix.

FEB. 27-28, Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational-CAS (CA) See Grand Prix.


MAR. 7-9 OR 8-9, 21st annual Western Class Championships (CA-S) See Grand Prix.

JUNE 12, 2014 U.S. Game 10 Championship (NC) See Nationals.


New Hampshire

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, 4th annual Hartford Open (CT) See Grand Prix.

JAN. 10-12 OR 11-12, 2nd annual Boston Chess Congress (MA) See Grand Prix.

JAN. 22-26, 23-26 OR 24-26, 12th annual Foxwoods Open (CT) See Grand Prix.

New Jersey

The NJ Players Chess Club Monday League Mondays – Sept. 23 to Dec. 30, 2013 Community Center, 203 Main St., Hackettstown, NJ. Play one game on Monday of 7:30pm. Just show up from Sept. 23 to Dec 30, and play a rated game. Ok to skip a round. EF: $3 to enter playing hall. Multi TCS’ $20/50 or $40/100 or $60/150. Players choose TC by agreement. T-D assigns pairings. 4-8 players welcome. Info: Ken at Chess@goes.com or 908-619-6021. Web.

NOV. 15-17 OR 16-17, 4th annual Hartford Open (CT) See Grand Prix.

NOV. 16, 24, 32, Saturday Quads ICA, 3-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 1R, 6/6/6/6. EF: $25. Prize: $50 for 1st place in each quad. Reg: 12:30-1:15 PM, $3-4, 6:00. Entry: Diana 233-709-3383, Diana@icanet.net; ICA provides lunch.

NOV. 17, Westfield Octos 3-5SS, G/40 d5. Westfield Y, 230 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. Prizes per 8-player section: 1st $50, 2nd $30, Under prize $20. Under numbers determined by the rating of each section’s 4th entry. EF: $20, $15 Mem-

DROPPING OUT?

Have to miss a round? It is very impor-
tant that you NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR
before pairings are made, so no one is
deprived of a game! If you forfeit
without notice, you may be FINED up to
the amount of the entry fee!
NOV. 23, 2013, New Jersey K-12 Grade Championship
ICA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3 RR, G/60 d0. EF: $25. Prize: $50 to first in each quad. Reg.: 12:45-1:15 PM. Rds.: 1:30 PM, 3:45, 6:00. EDT. Info: Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

NOV. 24, 2013, Hamilton CC Saturday Quad
3RR, 40/40 15/15 10/10 15/10. Full K. New Location: McMannen Hall, 320 Souly Ave., Hamilton, NJ. NOV. 8810. Quads open at 10. EF: $11. Prizes: $5 per quad. Reg.: 9:30-10:30 AM. Rds.: 10:30-1:30 pm 3:45-6:30 PM. NJ State Chess Federation, no dues magazine Subscription per year. OSA. Contact: email hamiltonchessclub@gmail.com. NS. NC. W.

NOV. 24, 2013, First Annual Friends of Steve Ferrero Grand Prix (non-profit)
See Grand Prix.

A State Championship Event!
NOV. 24, 2013, New Jersey K-12 Grade Championship
SSS, G/30 d5. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ 07738. Student Life Center, use Parking Lot #7 or #6; 4 miles from Gar-

NOV. 24, 2013, First Annual Friends of Steve Ferrero Grand Prix (non-profit)
See Grand Prix.

DECE. 8, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Early Winter 2013 National Chess Congress BLITZ (BL) (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

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See Pennsylvania.

DECE. 8, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Early Winter 2013 National Chess Congress BLITZ (BL) (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

DECE. 8, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Early Winter 2013 National Chess Congress BLITZ (BL) (PA)
See Pennsylvania.
32nd annual EMPIRE CITY OPEN
Dec 27-29 or 28-29 at New Yorker Hotel
6 rounds, $12,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND!
8th Ave & 34th St, across from Penn Station, NYC. Choice of 3-day or 2-day schedule. In 5 sections:

Open Section: Prizes $1200-$600-$300-$200, clear/tiebreak win $50 bonus, top U2300/Unr $500-$250. FIDE rated, 60 GPP (enhanced).
Under 1900 Section: $800-$400-$200-$100, top U1400 $300-$150.
Under 1300 Section: $300-$200-$100, prizes to top 5, others. Unrated limit $150 in U1300, $300 in U1600, or $500 in U1900.
MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $600-$400-$200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chesstour.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  

DEC. 6-8, 14-16, 22-24, Marshall Amateur Championship/Jerry Simon Memorial! FIDE rated!  
550, 30/90, 35/60, 20/30 Open to U2000 (except former masters, FIDE titled or 2012 qualifiers who scored 50% or higher in the 2012 Championship). Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716.  
FS: $30, members $30. 1st-3rd, Top U1000: Free Entry into GCC Championship (prizes for plus scores will be eligible to pay for and enter the Marshall Chess Championship beginning December 13.  
Reg.: 6:15-6:45 pm. 2 options: 3-day: rds 7pm Fri., 12m, 5pm Sat., 12m, 5:30pm Sun.; 2-day (rd 1, 1/6045), Reg.: 9:15-9:45am, Rd. 1 10am Saturday, merge 2. 1 one bye available, request by rd. 3. FIDE rated (4/0 d5 not FIDE rated), www.marshallchessclub.org.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  

DEC. 7, Syracuse University December Open  
Minimum Rating: 2100 FIDE, no GMs, $150, members $100. Top two finishers will receive invitation and free entry to April-4-6-8-10 Marshall GM Norm Invitational! Reg.: 10:15- 
10:45/15-1:15. 1st-3rd: 11am/5pm daily two byes available, request at entry. FIDE & USCF rated. FIDE ratings used for pairings.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!  

DEC. 7-14, 21, 28, Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments!  
3-5:50, 6-8/90, (Rochester, NY 14607).  
Rds. (by Fri 8 PM). Check-in by 9:15. Rd. 1 at 10:00.  
Rds.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 7</td>
<td>3-5:50</td>
<td>Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716</td>
<td>Tom Warner 716-572-1443, <a href="mailto:warner689@roadrunner.com">warner689@roadrunner.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 14</td>
<td>3-5:50</td>
<td>Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716</td>
<td>Joe Ball 315-436-1297, <a href="mailto:JoeBall530@gmail.com">JoeBall530@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 21</td>
<td>3-5:50</td>
<td>Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716</td>
<td>HR: 8:30-9:15, PM: 10:00-11:45, 12:45-2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 28</td>
<td>3-5:50</td>
<td>Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC, 212-477-3716</td>
<td>HR: 8:30-9:15, PM: 10:00-11:45, 12:45-2:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fees: $25, members $25, GMs free. $530 based on 32 paid entries. $200-$530. Top 76% of entries awarded, plus free entries for NY players! Reserve hotel room by Feb 14 (earlier is better as it is likely to sell out).

See TLA under “New York” for full details.
46th annual LIBERTY BELL OPEN
7 rounds, Jan 17-20, 18-20 or 19-20, Philadelphia
$20,000 projected prize fund, $14,000 minimum

This traditional Martin Luther King weekend event has paid MORE than its $20,000 projected prize fund every year since 2006! In 7 sections:

Open Section (no 2-day): $1700-1000-500-400-300, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr $800. FIDE rated, 80 GPp (enhanced).
Under 2100 Section: $1000-600-400-300-200.
Under 1900 Section: $1000-600-400-300-200.
Under 1700 Section: $1000-600-400-300-200. Unrated limited $700.
Under 1300 Section: $800-500-400-300-200. Unrated limited $500.
Under 1000 Section: $300-200-120-100-80, trophies. Unrated limited $200

DOUBLE DICE BONUS PRIZES: $1000-600-400.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chessotour.com.
TOURNAMENT LIFE ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised by S and/or C (see below for explanations).

BLZ: Blitz rated.
QC: Quick Chess events.
SGtd: Guaranteed prizes.
$Sb/c: Based-on-prizes, x = number of entries needed to pay full prize fund, at least 50% of the advertised prize fund of $501 or more must be awarded.

Bye: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take ½-point bye instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means ½-point bye are available in Rounds 1 through 3.

CC: Chess club.
dx: Time delay, n = number of seconds.
ENE: Entry fee.
Ent: Where to mail entries.
FIDE: Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.
g/1: Game in. For instance, G/75 means 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.
GPP: Grand Prix Points available.
HR: Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means $60 single, $65 twin, $70/3 in room, $75/4 in room.

JGP: Junior Grand Prix.
MEMB req’d: Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.
Open: A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some are eligible for lower sections. May be section for the learning experience.
Quad: 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.
RBO: Rated Beginner’s Open.
Rds: Rounds; scheduled game times follow. For example, 11-5-9 means games begin 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the first day, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the second day.
Reg: Registration at site.
RR: Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).
SDJ: Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/90, SDJ/1 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.
SS: Swiss-System pairings (preceded by number of rounds).
Unr: Unrated.
W: Site is accessible to wheelchairs.
WEB: Tournaments that will use a player’s online rating.

www.uschess.org 69

See previous issue for TLAs appearing November 1-14
Capitol Area Chess

**Tournament Life / November**

Capital Area Chess

Weekend Scholastic & Open Tournaments, Weeknight Events (Monday Night Quick & Friday Night Blitz Tournaments), Small Group Lessons for Children & Adults, Lectures & Simuls and more. Visit our website at www.capitalareachess.com for event schedules or contact by email at info@capitalareachess.com. Location: Capital Area Chess, Inc., 4451 Broadfield Corporate Dr., Suite #201, Chantilly, VA 20151.

VA Chess Federation Tournaments for Adult tournaments every month from Sept to May, see www.vachess.org and www.vchessess.org.

Maryland Chess Association (MD)

See Maryland.

NOV. 16, Arlington Chess Club’s Saturday Action-Plus
See Grand Prix.

NOV. 16, SAC Saturday November Swissee
See Grand Prix.

NOV. 16, Kingstowne Quad #96/Action-Plus #96
Kingstowne Thompson Center, 6090 Kingstowne Village Pkwy., Alexandria, VA 22315. 2 events. Quad #96: 380, G/100. DS. $10 if received by 11/13, $15 if received by 11/11, $20 at door. Prizes: medals to 1st and 2nd in each quad; gold to 1st if 3 or more score; else silver; bronze to 2nd. Rds: 11-3-7. Action-Plus #96: $55, G/45. DS. $13 if received by 11/13, $20 at site. Prizes: $250/200/100. 11/10-11/15 Unr-100 Unr-100. Each $10. Rds: 11-3-5-7. Both: Reg. 9-10:30. Entry (checks payable to): Dan W. Millican, PO Box 151, Newington, VA 22122. E-mail (info only): dm07,92@hotmail.com. W (please give 48-hour notice).

NOV. 17, SAC Sunday November Swiss 4 Youngsters

NOV. 22-24 OR 23-24, 2013 CAC FIDE Open III
See Grand Prix.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

NOV. 23-24, 21st Annual David Zochick Memorial
5SS, G/10. First: $1,900. 2nd: $900. 3rd: $500. 4th: $250. 5th: $100. 6th: $50. 7th: $25. 8th: $15. 9th: $10. 10th: $5. 11th: $2. No clocks supplied. No telephone orders. Rates (per word, per insertion): 1-2 insertions $1.50, 3-6 insertions $1.25, 7+ insertions $1.00. Affiliates pay $1.00 per word regardless of insertion frequency. No other discounts available. Advertisements with less than 15 words will cost a minimum of $15 per issue. Post office boxes count as two words, telephone numbers as one, ZIP code is free. Full payment must accompany all advertising. All advertising published in Chess Life is subject to the applicable rate card, available from the Advertising Department. Chess Life reserves the right not to accept an advertiser’s order. Only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance. For a copy of these complete set of regulations is a schedule of deadlines, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Chess Life Classifieds, PO Box 1967, Crossville, TN 38557.

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**WORLD’S FINEST CHESS SETS**

The House of Staunton, produces unquestionably the finest Staunton Chess sets. PayFull and Major Credit Cards accepted, The House of Staunton, Inc., 1021 Production Court; Suite 106; Madison, AL 35758.

Website: www.houseofstaunton.com; phone: (256) 858-8707; sales@houseofstaunton.com

845 USED CHESS MAGAZINES
(D. Dec 1942 to present) and 80 USED BOOKS (74 titles). 413-443-4296 or cagedan@berkshire.com for lists.

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Classifieds

Chess Life accepts classified advertising in these categories: Activities, For Member of the Games, Instruction, Miscellaneous, Services, Tournament, WANTED. Only typed or e-mailed copy is accepted. Absolutely no telephone orders. Rates (per word, per insertion): 1-2 insertions $1.50, 3-6 insertions $1.25, 7+ insertions $1.00. Affiliates pay $1.00 per word regardless of insertion frequency. No other discounts available. Advertisements with less than 15 words will cost a minimum of $15 per issue. Post office boxes count as two words, telephone numbers as one, ZIP code is free. Full payment must accompany all advertising. All advertising published in Chess Life is subject to the applicable rate card, available from the Advertising Department. Chess Life reserves the right not to accept an advertiser’s order. Only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance. For a copy of these complete set of regulations is a schedule of deadlines, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Chess Life Classifieds, PO Box 1967, Crossville, TN 38557.

O R G A N I Z E R A N D D I R E C T O R S E M I N A R S

If you are a senior level TD or higher and willing to conduct a formal seminar about organizing/directing USCF-rated tournaments, please contact Joan Dubois at tia@uschess.org.
Problem I. Resigned. Kf5 42. e6 Kf6 43. c4 b5!).

Problem II. 1. ... cxd4

Problem III. 40. ... Bxc3 41. bxc3 b5!

Problem IV. Mating net: Black mates by 1. ... Rxe6+ 2. Qxe6 Bxh2+ 3. Kh1 Ne2#.

Problem V. Fork: Black wins a bishop by 1. ... Rxe6+ 2. Qxe6 Bxh2+ 3. Kh1 Ne2#.

Problem VI. Fork: Black gains a piece by 1. ... Rxe6+ 2. Kh1 Ne2#.

PAGE 45 / BENKO’S BAFFLERS

Problem I. 1. Re2! The only good square for the rook. 1. ... Rb8+ White sideslips the stalemate idea with 1. ... Kg2 2. N3+ Kh2 3. Qh7+ Kf8 4. Qg6+ Kg7 5. Kg4 Rb8+ 6. Kf4 and it is stalemate.

Problem II. 1. Ng5! and Black escapes with stalemate after 1. ... Nh2? 2. Bxh7#.

Problem III. Undermining: With 1. ... Nfx3+ Black wins a rook.

Problem IV. Mating net: Black mates by 1. ... Rxc1+ 2. Bxc1 Qe1 mate.

Problem V. Fork: Black wins a bishop by 1. ... Rxe6+ 2. Bxe6 Qh3+ 3. Kg4 Nxe5

Problem VI. Black gains a piece by 1. ... Rxe6+ 2. Bxe6 Qh3+ 3. Kg4 Nxe5.

Undermining: With 1. ... Nfx3+ Black wins a rook.

At the 2011 Colorado Closed Championship I was in a white-hot rage entering the final round. I had scored 1½ from four winning positions.

I channeled my fury into a Tal-like desire to sacrifice something on e6 when I saw the opportunity.

Caro-Kann Defense, Classical Variation (B18)

Brian Wall (2203)
Damian Nash (2049)
2011 Colorado Chess Festival (5), Manitou Springs, Colorado, 03.27.2011

1. Nc3

I played this because Damian plays it.


Tal played like this against Botvinnik, trying to sacrifice on e6.

9. ... Bh7 10. O-O Nd5 11. Re1 Be7 12. Ngh5 Rg8

13. Rxe6!!

The Hammer of Thor! Tal played like this against Portisch and *Chess Life* published a similar Larry Christiansen-Lajos Portisch game. I saw I was getting four pawns plus a safer king for a rook and that was good enough for me.

My computer refuses to admit I played the best move even after a day of thinking unless I help it along. I was proud that my Kirk-like intuition beat the Spock-like computer logic.

13 ... fxe6 14. Nxe6 Qc8?

I still have a good attack after the best defense, 14. ... Qd6 15. Nhxg7+ Kd7 16. Bd3 Bxd3 17. Qxd3 Kc8 18. c4 Nf6 19. Bxh6 but you can see that Damian’s move blocks the exit.

15. Nhxg7+ Kf7?

Farther and farther from his queenside pawns, the only possible temporary shelter. I have multiple winning paths available.


(see diagram top of next column)

“Everyone is invited to the party,” as Yasser Seirawan has written before.


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12th annual
FOXWOODS OPEN
January 22-26, 23-26 or 24-26, 2014

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Other Sections, Jan 23-26 or 24-26: 7SS, 40/2, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds 1-4 G/50, d10).

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SCHEDULES: 5-DAY (Open): Late reg. ends Wed. 6:15 pm, rds Wed 7:15 pm, Thu 1 & 7:15, Fri 12 & 6:15, Sat 11 & 5:15, Sun 10 & 4. 4-DAY (no Open): Late reg. ends Thu 6:15 pm, rds Thu 7:15 pm, Fri 12 & 6:15, Sat 11 & 5:15, Sun 10 & 4. 3-DAY (no Open): Late reg. ends Fri 7:30 pm, rds. Fri 8:30 pm, Sat 10, 12:45, 3:30 & 6:15, Sun 10 & 4. 4-day & 3-day merge & compete for same prizes.

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Jacob Aagaard

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In this book, the author presents the main principles of how to attack and defend in chess. By carving dynamic chess into separate areas of ability, he gives the reader a clear way to expand his or her understanding of this vital part of the game. The Grandmaster Preparation series of books are designed to change the ‘chess map’ in your brain, transforming the narrow path of finding good moves into a freeway where good moves flow!

Sacrifice and Initiative in Chess
Ivan Sokolov

B0133NIC
$29.95

The sacrifice is one of the most beautiful, rewarding and complex aspects of chess. During a game the decision to give up material in order to get an advantage is probably the most difficult one a player has to take. This book presents you with a set of practical tools that will help you to master the art of sacrifice. By concentrating on the aim you are trying to achieve, you will look at the art of risk assessment and how to trust your intuition.

Grandmaster Repertoire 14 - The French Defense - Volume 1
Emanuel Berg

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The French Defence is one of the most popular and reliable responses to 1.e4. Black invites his opponent to gain space in the centre, with the intention of undermining the enemy position and launching a counterattack. Volume 1 introduces the Winawer Variation and provides expert recommendations against all of White’s major possibilities, with the exception of the most critical 7.0-0 line which will receive special coverage in Volume 2.

60 More Memorable Games
Paul Powell

B0076OB
$24.95

The author explores the games of Bobby Fischer from a unique point of view. Focusing on his own personal journey, he continues the battle to help the average player become a chess master. What’s truly unique about these sixty games is they are the games the author came back to over and over as a young man studying the games of Bobby Fischer, and they are presented with the wonderment and lessons that he learned on the road from Patzer to Master.

Botvinnik - Move by Move
Cyrus Lakdawala

B0374EM
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Mikhail Botvinnik was a three-time World Chess Champion and possessed a universal, all-round style with an emphasis on logic and strategy. In this book, the author invites you to join him in a study of his favourite Botvinnik games. He examines Botvinnik’s renowned skills in the key areas of attack and defence, initiative, exploiting imbalances, accumulating advantages and endgame play.

Techniques of Positional Play
Bronznik & Terekhin

B0134NIC
$29.95

Opening preparation is useful, but understanding the middlegame is much more important. This book, an improved edition of a Russian classic, teaches amateur chess players 45 extremely effective middlegame skills. Quite a few of the ideas presented here will surprise the reader, because they offer solutions for problems the club player is only subconsciously aware.

Mastering Endgame Strategy
Johan Hellsten

B0375EM
$34.95

Mastering Endgame Strategy is a product of Hellsten’s many years’ work as a full-time chess teacher and is specifically designed as part of a structured training programme to improve strategic thinking. In addition to the many examples there’s an abundance of carefully selected exercises which allow readers to monitor their progress and put into practice what they have just learned.

Botvinnik - Move by Move
Cyrus Lakdawala

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$29.95

A Cunning Chess Opening Repertoire for White
Graham Burgess

B0184GB
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A good opening repertoire need not require an enormous amount of study to be highly effective. A cunning choice of lines and move-orders can steer the game to positions that favour white. This book presents a repertoire based on 1.d4 and Nf3 with precisely those aims. Black’s possibilities for counterplay — and sharp gambit play — are kept to a minimum with a focus on giving black exactly the type of position he DOESN’T want.

Pump Up Your Rating
Axel Smith

B0089QT
$29.95

The chess pieces knew how they moved. They knew what they wanted too. It wasn’t like school, where kids pretended they were masters of the teachers’ game. The adults didn’t know anything anyway. The real world was a big push to nothing. But Lisa escaped from all that. She found Igor Ivanov. He taught her how to play.

60 More Memorable Games
Paul Powell

B0076OB
$24.95

Everyone knows how to increase their physical strength, but how exactly does one increase their chess playing strength? The author’s tested training methods have guided his friends, teammates and pupils to grandmaster norms and titles. Hard work will be required, and it will take time, but it will Pump Up Your Rating. Every area of chess is covered — opening preparation, through middlegame play, to endgame technique.

Lisa - A Chess Novel
Jesse Kraii

B0077OB
$11.95

The chess pieces knew how they moved. They knew what they wanted too. It wasn’t like school, where kids pretended they were masters of the teachers’ game. The adults didn’t know anything anyway. The real world was a big push to nothing. But Lisa escaped from all that. She found Igor Ivanov. He taught her how to play.

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LETTER OF INTENT

A Promise For Tomorrow

In future support of the work of the U.S. Chess Trust, I want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of services by the U.S. Chess Trust.

Therefore,

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☐ creating a charitable remainder or lead trust naming the U.S. Chess Trust as a beneficiary

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☐ directing the trustees or directors of my foundation to continue beyond my lifetime making an annual gift to the U.S. Chess Trust

☐ Making an outright gift to the U.S. Chess Trust during my lifetime in the sum of $__________.

☐ This Letter of Intent represents my commitment to the work of the U.S. Chess Trust. It does not represent a legal obligation and may be changed by me at any time.

Whatever the amount of your gift, when you leave a legacy for the future of the U.S. Chess Trust, you are an important part of the Promise for Tomorrow.

Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information and email Barbara DeMaro at bduscf@aol.com (845-527-1167)

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor. Write or send an email to Barbara DeMaro, bduscf@aol.com for this amount. Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax-deductible. A 501(c)(3) organization. BD-08/03
Editor’s Letter: Through the Looking Glass

Last month I wrote how as a young Chess Life reader in the late 1970s I was reading about our top players for the first time. So you can imagine how strange it was for me to attend the Sinquefield Cup at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (our report starts on page 16). Being up close and personal with four of the top players in the world (and quite possibly the next world champion by the time you read this) was a chess fan’s dream come true. Meeting Magnus Carlsen was especially interesting—I could sense the magnetism emanating from him. Perhaps it is the aura of the “top dog”? This is helped a bit by the exquisitely tailored, sponsored clothing he wears, but mostly it comes from the confidence projected by a young man at the top of his game.

What is equally amazing about the wonderland that is chess in St. Louis is that merely having the strongest American tournament ever isn’t all they have to offer. Directly across the street is the World Chess Hall of Fame, yet another must-see for the chess fan (including getting your obligatory photo in front of the building with the Guinness Book of World Records-certified largest chess piece in the world). During the match, they had a preview exhibit of their now-open Jacqueline Piatigorsky exhibit. Most interestingly for me, this exhibit includes a number of Chess Life issues from the 1960s. It is both thrilling and a little sad that this issue you are reading now may someday be a museum piece itself.

You owe it to yourself to make a pilgrimage to St. Louis when you can. Keep an eye out for details on next year’s Sinquefield Cup; if you attend you will find yourself given the royal treatment. From grandmaster commentary in multiple locations, to the chess tables on the sidewalk, to being mere feet from your chess heroes as you hope to absorb through osmosis some of their genius, it will be an experience you will tell your grandchildren about, whether those children are decades in the future or by your side now. Here’s to your chess life.  

-Daniel Lucas, Editor

CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW: DECEMBER

Disney in December

It’s an early Christmas for chess kids. The National K-12 Grade Championships head to Lake Buena Vista, Florida near Disney World from December 13-15. The intense seven-round event crowns thirteen new national champions, one for each grade. Popular writer Melinda J. Matthews, and mom of 12th grade contender Nicky Rosenthal, will report for CLO.

PAN-AMs in Texas: Texas Tech will host this year’s Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship from December 27-30 in Lubbock, Texas. At last year’s “Pan-Ams” in Princeton, New Jersey, Program Director Al Lawrence talked about the incredible grandmasters that participate each year, “In the ’70s after [Bobby] Fischer, we had Pan-Ams with 100 teams, but nothing this powerful—these teams are Olympiad-level teams.”

World Youth in Dubai: Our World Youth delegation heads to Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates from December 17-29, right over the Christmas holiday. Root on our team online and look to CLO for reports on medal hunting and adventures.

Stuffed with Grand Prixs: Major tournaments held over the holidays (December 26-30), include the North American Open in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Eastern Open outside Washington, D.C. and the Empire City Open in New York, New York. Find games and stories on CLO and share your own chess holiday plans on facebook.com/uschess or twitter.com/uschess.

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

PAUL KARRER  
“The Game” author teaches fifth grade in Castroville, California, is a teachers’ union representative and negotiator. He writes the community column for the Salinas Californian and is the education commentator for The Monterey County Herald. He has been published in Education Week, Teacher magazine, New York Post, Christian Science Monitor and Chicken Soup among others. In 2009 he was chosen as teacher of the year by North Monterey League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). He lives in Monterey, California with his wife and daughter where he motorcycles, plays racquetball and shorter games of chess.

FM MIKE KLEIN  
The Sinquefield Cup report is by the director of content for Chess.com and the 2012 Chess Journalist of the Year. He also teaches, freelances, bikes and snowboards, though never more than any two at the same time.

GM JOSH FRIEDEL  
The U.S. Masters author is the 2007 Samford fellowship recipient and a frequent contributor for Chess Life Online. He represented the U.S. at the 2008 World Mind Sports Games, as well as at two Continental Championships (2009 and 2011). Also in 2009, by tying for sixth at the U.S. Championship in St. Louis, Josh qualified to compete at the World Cup in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia. His website is joshfriedel.com.
The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, host location of the Sinquefield Cup.

30 Personalities / Chess Changing Lives

THE GAME
BY PAUL KARRER
What event or events could lead one to play a single chess game for nearly three years? A chess game which had the potential to save a life. A chess game, which unbeknownst to one player would open up to him a soul-wrenching trek through the dark underbelly of humanity.

34 USCF National Events / 2013 U.S. Masters

MASTERFUL
BY GM JOSH FRIEDEL
Mamedov Wins the Masters.

ON THE COVER Four of the top players in the world converge in St. Louis, adding "St. Louis" to cities associated with chess like Linares and Lone Pine. Our cover story begins on page 16.

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THE DARK KNIGHT SYSTEM

I would like to thank GM Ben Finegold for his time and his opinions (October “Looks at Books”). I hope you will allow me to clarify a few matters that pertain to The Dark Knight System. Like GM Finegold, I would be very concerned about recommending a position with a computer evaluation of +.55 pawns advantage to White. That is why I selected a threshold of +.25 pawns, which corresponds to an evaluation of “plus over equal/equal,” which is the normal result of an opening. I broke this rule a few times, not because it was necessary, but because sometimes the computer assessments were contradicted in actual play. GM Finegold appears to have detected at least one of these exceptions (though he did not respond to my attempt to confirm this) which occurs after 1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 g6 5. d5 Nb8 6. h3 Bg7 7. Be2 0-0 8. 0-0 e5!? If White fails to free and develop Black’s knight-system-review.html

Despite my best efforts, those of 3100+ rated Houdini, and my GM editors, it is unlikely, to say the least, that I have produced a 200+ page chess book with no debatable conclusions or mistakes, which is why I welcome any substantive (meaning specific) comments and criticism.

James Schuyler via e-mail

I thought GM Ben Finegold’s October book review of James Schuyler’s The Dark Knight System was horribly unfair. GM Finegold believes that uncommon openings must be bad, that trying to entertain a reader must be an attempt to cover for other shortcomings, that repertoire books should not try to advocate their openings, and most importantly, that FIDE masters should not write chess books. These fallacies, which make up the bulk of the “review” are unworthy of refutation.

Where in a typical review there would be examples, here we have only rhetoric. Without ever referencing any specific position, he estimates a computer assessment of +.55. I’m not a grandmaster, but when I wish to speak of a computer assessment, I get it from a computer. Also, if I want to know whether a position plays better or worse than its computer assessment, I don’t speculate—I check my database.

It is fairly common to read reviews that say more about the reviewer than the book, but rarely do the reviewer’s criticisms apply so thoroughly to his own writing. Finegold’s “review” pontificates about objectivity but demonstrates none, and rails against style over substance without saying anything substantial. According to USCF’s website, when Finegold was asked which books he would recommend, he replied, “I’m not a fan of books.” Perhaps then not the best candidate to review one.

As it so happens, I have read the book and I find it to be excellent. It’s a great weapon for the club player as the positions are easy to play with the help of Schuyler’s lucid explanations. It’s always nice when the author actually plays the opening he’s writing about. GM Finegold is entitled to his opinion just as I am. The question is, why would Chess Life choose to publish a gleeful, self-indulgent tirade written with all the intellectual rigor of an Internet troll, in place of a fair and balanced review?

Glenn Bidari
Las Vegas, Nevada

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Seeing the article “Benko’s Ultimate Truth” (October 2013) reminded me of the fictional chess story I wrote over 20 years ago about computer analysis of Vladimir Vukovic’s analysis of the Emanuel Lasker-William Napier game in his book The Art of Attack, “The Ultimate Truth”: danheisman.home.comcast.net/~danheisman/Articles/Vukovic_story.html

Since in the early 90’s most players were more distrustful of computer analysis than they should have been, I put it into fictionalized setting to make it more interesting and palatable. Today no one would blink an eye if you told them precomputer analysis in a classic book was now shown to be incorrect, and it would not be news.
THE BEST IN THE U.S.
GM Gata Kamsky | 2013 U.S. CHAMPION
GM Irina Krush | 2013 U.S. WOMEN’S CHAMPION
GM Daniel Naroditsky | 2013 U.S. JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPION

THE BEST IN THE WORLD
GM Magnus Carlsen | 2013 SINEQUEFIELD CUP CHAMPION

Who will Reign Supreme in 2014?

2014 U.S. Championship
2014 U.S. Women’s Championship
2014 U.S. Junior Closed Championship
2014 Sinquefield Cup
Sunrise Over Scholastic Chess: A City Project

By MICHAEL RYAN, MAYOR OF SUNRISE, FLORIDA

The City of Sunrise, Florida is home to the 20,000 seat, world class entertainment venue known as the BB&T Center where the NHL Florida Panthers call home, one of the largest malls in the nation visited by millions each year, and headquarters for many companies in our bustling corporate park.

Sunrise, with 87,000 residents, is also home to 11 public schools where thousands of students are educated each day—eight elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. Our schools are part of the Broward County Public Schools, the sixth largest school district in the nation.

What’s missing? Scholastic chess.

There is no need to recite the mountain of literature supporting the direct correlation between scholastic chess and development of academic prowess in young students. We know the facts and it makes common sense. So we, in Sunrise, set out on a journey to bring chess to the community and classrooms.

One challenge, the City does not control the education of our children. Because there is a separately elected school board, the City does not designate where our children go to school, the curriculum or the budgetary priorities. Therefore, our plan to introduce chess would require a cooperative and grassroots approach. Fortunately, our superintendent of schools understands the academic benefits of scholastic chess.

Our journey began when, as a PTA president at an elementary school, I helped start a chess club. Even though I am a casual player at best, a dynamic teacher and I worked together to build a fledgling chess club for that particular elementary school. We were soon overwhelmed by the number of students who wanted to participate.

A couple of years later, after I was elected mayor, we began working on a plan to promote chess in our community. We made some important first moves to prove there is a strong interest from parents, students, teachers and schools in developing scholastic chess:

- Two years ago, each of the 11 public schools received 20 chess sets for the purpose of starting a chess club. Most schools started a chess club that first year. However, one limitation was that after-school clubs, by design, eliminate participation for many students who would otherwise be interested and who would benefit.
- After giving the chess clubs some time to grow, the City Commission held a year-end “Champions of Chess” tournament for the students and schools. Now into the third year, this fun and free “tournament” has prizes for the elementary, middle and high school winners.
- In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, Broward Chess Club and local restaurants, we developed “Family Fun Chess Nights”. Held at local restaurants, this has brought business together with players and families. When we introduced “bughouse”, we brought a new level of excitement to young players and families.
- Local organizations began “adopting” the after-school chess clubs. Building a bond between the community and the clubs has proven to be an important part of the grassroots effort.
- We invited additional schools outside the geo-
graphic borders of the city of Sunrise into our chess network.

- The City Commission created a free city program of open chess play every Saturday morning. This allows students (and adults) of all ages and talents to play in a fun and supervised environment. Importantly, our City staff has been quite enthusiastic about this program. We were amazed at the number of children who attended even though they did not know the first thing about chess, proving parents want their children to learn chess. We just need to give children exposure to the game and the opportunity to learn.

Then, with the building interest in our community, we pressed forward to bring chess into the classroom and curriculum.

Through a grant from the America’s Foundation for Chess “First Move” program and with gap funding from our police department, we initiated a pilot program for the first time in our school district—establishing chess classes in every second and third grade classroom for three of our eight elementary schools. The program is designed to track academic benefits and gains. We are confident once the other elementary schools, teachers and parents see the benefits of this pilot program, we will expand the program to more schools next year.

We keep looking for new ideas to expand the opportunity for chess. The United States Chess Federation staff and advisors have been a great resource to learn about successful strategies from other communities. While we have further to go towards the goal of putting chess permanently in our academic environment, we think we are making the right moves.

For more information on chess in Sunrise, go to www.sunrisefl.gov/chess or e-mail the mayor at mryan@sunrisefl.gov.

Adventures of the Mind Looking For More Chess Players

Adventures of the Mind is a different kind of summer camp—one that helps high-potential teens explore their futures, including career paths that stoke their intellectual and creative passions. For a student to be accepted to the program is to achieve de facto national recognition given the in-depth nature of the selection process, world-class stature of the mentors, and the intellectual rigor of the program. Next summer, gathering on the Los Angeles campus of our academic partner Occidental College, our 200 talented teens will meet dozens of adult achievers at the top of their respective fields, tour area colleges, go behind the scenes at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and explore their famed facility on Friday, June 20th while meeting their top scientists. Curiosity: The Mars Exploration Program is based at JPL.

Adventures of the Mind—often referred to as a mentoring summit because of the high ratio of mentors to students—happens June 15-22, 2014. Our students will investigate one of the major societal shifts shaping their futures: Now that technology has made information instantly accessible, what you know is not as important as what you do with it! As a result, young people need to think critically, collaborate effectively, and communicate persuasively. As they explore these skills, they will have at their sides an all-star faculty of mentors: tech entrepreneurs and Pulitzer-winning writers, astronauts and archeologists, Nobel-winning scientists and public servants, many of whom are also professors from leading universities.

In seminars, workshops and informal gatherings, these mentors will share their own triumphs, setbacks, and lessons learned, with the goal of inspiring and better preparing the next generation of thinkers and leaders. And we have seen how these messages are taken to heart. We need your assistance to ensure a diverse and talented class of 2014. Please nominate two students aged 15-18 whom you believe have the intellect and imagination to be worthy of this honor. Nominations must be completed on our website: adventuresofthemind.org. (Select the ‘Nominate’ button and log in with the e-mail address at which you received this letter and password mindtrek2222.)

We hope you will nominate students you feel will both benefit from this program and also contribute to this stimulating environment that inspires campers to achieve. We are especially interested in welcoming young people who may not fit the traditional standards of academic excellence. For students who qualify for financial aid, we offer full scholarships—covering lodging, meals, events, materials and books—funded by generous individuals and foundations. We also have transportation grants available. There are a limited number of scholarships and grants per state, so please submit your nominations at your earliest convenience.

Accepted students will receive a formal letter of invitation accompanied by general program information. We will select the first half of the class by December 15, 2013, and the remainder by April 15, 2014.
If you are a high school junior or senior looking for scholarship money, read on!
If you are also a current USCF member and have demonstrated outstanding merit in academics, sportsmanship, and chess, you are eligible to apply for a 2014 National Scholar-Chess Player Award.

A total of five scholarships are available at $1,500.00 each for a total of $7,500.00 in scholarship money. Previous recipients are not eligible.

These annual scholarships, awarded by the U.S. Chess Trust and the USCF, are intended to recognize and encourage high school students who promote a positive image of chess. Applications are available online.

Contact Susan Houston, Scholastic Associate, at the USCF office, (931) 787-1234 x136 or e-mail shouston@uschess.org with any questions.

Applicants: To apply, e-mail ONE copy of the following documents to shouston@uschess.org or mail FIVE copies of each document to the address on the right. We prefer e-mail submission.

1. Your application form;
2. Your high school transcript showing all courses and grades;
3. A letter of recommendation from a teacher in a current or former school you have attended;
4. A letter of recommendation from a chess coach;
5. Your essay of no more than 500 words describing the positive influence chess has had on your life;
6. A recent photograph of yourself—submit ONLY as a high quality jpeg photo.

Your application must be postmarked no later than February 1st, 2014. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Send your completed application to:
U.S. Chess Federation
Attn: Susan Houston, SCA
P.O. Box 3967
Crossville, TN 38557-3967

or e-mail—Attn: Susan Houston at shouston@uschess.org.

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**2014 Executive Board Election**

The USCF will hold an election in 2014 for three at-large positions on the USCF executive board. For full details, please refer to the call for nominations published in the November 2013 issue of Chess Life.
Writing on the theme of “the feeling for danger” in an early issue of New in Chess, Mark Dvoretsky mournfully noted that:

... [o]f utmost importance is to solve a series of problems on one’s own, but this is exactly where one is confronted with a basic problem. As far as I know, no chess reference book exists in which the problems are arranged according to the skills which could be developed by solving them. (85/8, p. 44)

I have always found it curious that Dvoretsky, a trainer whose methods revolve around the solving of carefully chosen positions by his pupils, did not confront this predicament in his many books. Certainly readers are faced with ‘exercises’ and ‘questions’ in most of his works, but the positions are comparatively few and they are given in the body text, making solving difficult. Dvoretsky was said to have commissioned a computer program in the mid-1990s that would feature his collection of problems, but to my knowledge, the program never gained wide release.

Now Quality Chess, the upstart publishing house founded by Jacob Aagaard and John Shaw, has stepped to fill this need with two series of books. The first, a nine-volume effort, was penned by Artur Yusupov, Dvoretsky’s pupil and collaborator. Designed for players rated 1400-2100, Yusupov’s ‘training course’ was widely praised and the just winner of the 2009 Boleslavsky Award for chess literature. The second, Jacob Aagaard’s Grandmaster Preparation series, is in the midst of its publication run, and its second volume, Positional Play, is the subject of this review.

The Grandmaster Preparation series is, as its title suggests, designed for would-be grandmasters and their ambitious friends. Of the six projected volumes—Calculation, Positional Play, Strategic Play, and Attack and Defence have been released thus far, with Endgame Play and Thinking Inside the Box (on chess philosophy and improvement) still to come—Aagaard rates Positional Play as least taxing, suitable for players roughly 1800 and above. Calculation, Endgame Play, and Attack and Defence are progressively more complex, and Strategic Play is rightfully said to be fiendishly difficult. If “improvement begins at the edge of your comfort zone,” as Aagaard (citing Rowson) has recently reminded us, then even we ambitious B players can feel justified in our study of Calculation or Positional Play.

All of the books in the Grandmaster Preparation series are workbooks. The chapters consist of short introductions to specific themes followed by dozens of illustrative problems to solve. Positional Play, Aagaard’s favorite in the series thus far, is unique in that it offers readers a training plan for improving positional awareness based on three questions: (1) Where are the weaknesses? (2) Which is the worst-placed piece? (3) What is your opponent’s idea? The first three chapters in the book (‘Weaknesses,’ ‘Pieces,’ and ‘Prophylaxis’) take up each question in turn, beginning with illustrative analyses of the questions at work, and followed by thematic problems for solving. The book concludes with 150 mixed problems and their detailed solutions.

While Aagaard claims that players of all strengths have found these questions helpful, there remains the potential for some misunderstanding of their utility. I do not understand Aagaard to claim that these three questions are ‘all you need’ (7) during over-the-board play; rather, much as professional baseball players hit off tees to hone their swings, chess players can use these three questions during training to sharpen their positional acumen. The questions can be used during the game, but the real aim of the questions and solving is training one’s focus and intuition.

Aagaard is an excellent writer and a skilled pedagogue. His examples clearly illustrate the themes he is trying to describe, and the solutions to the exercises are clear and comprehensive. In some cases, because what is obvious to stronger players is not always obvious to me, I had to work through small tactical nuances—why can’t she take that pawn?—glossed over in the notes. I saw this as a feature, not a bug; if the point of the book is to learn by doing, a little additional work is actually beneficial.

Positional Play, like all of the books in the Grandmaster Preparation series, is not a book for the faint of heart. Effort, however, will be repaid with increased understanding and perhaps even Elo points to boot. It can be warmly recommended to players over 1800 and those slightly lower if plucky and willing to work.
2013 Trivia Quiz

Yes, it’s trivia time once again.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

Once every 12 months we test readers’ knowledge of the ephemeral facts that may have gotten stuck in your long-term memory. These bits of information won’t boost your rating, improve your openings or make rook endgames any less confusing than they already are. Being somewhat sneaky, Chess to Enjoy has given some multiple-choice questions with multiple correct answers. When you’re ready to give up, the answers are on page 69.

1. Peter Millican is an international correspondence chess grandmaster. He made front-page news this year in a different realm. How?
   (a) His scientific research demonstrated a dramatic shift in global warming.
   (b) He swam from Cuba to Florida using the backstroke.
   (c) He used computers to identify “Harry Potter” authoress J.K. Rowling as the real writer of a detective novel.
   (d) He was elected to London’s city council.

2. Mikhail Tal, Leonid Stein and Yefim Geller were famous for it. Andre Lilienthal did it his entire life. Arnold Denker did it in a magazine ad when he was U.S. champion. But today Alexander Grischuk, Etienne Bacrot and Wang Yue are among the few world class players who do it. What is it?

3. True or False: A player born in the 21st century became a grandmaster this year, the first time this has happened.

4. And by the way, when the international grandmaster title became official in 1950, who was the world’s youngest grandmaster?
   (a) 17-year-old Boris Spassky
   (b) 19-year-old Tigran Petrosian
   (c) 21-year-old Larry Evans
   (d) 26-year-old David Bronstein

5. In the following position White blundered with 1. Kh2?? and was lost after 1. ... Kf2!, which threatens 2. ... Rh4 mate. (see diagram top of next column)

6. Which of these is the title of a published book?
   (a) Disney’s Chess Guide by Anatoly Karpov
   (b) Putin Must Go! by Garry Kasparov
   (c) Vegetarian Chess by Viswanathan Anand
   (d) Meditation and Chess by Vassily Ivanchuk

7. And which of these books was published in 2013?
   (a) Chess Devotionals, which explores the links between chess and religion.
   (b) A biography subtitled The Doctor Zhivago of Soviet Chess.
   (c) My Best Games by Magnus Carlsen
   (d) A biography subtitled The Doctor Zhivago of Soviet Chess.

8. Wilhelm Steinitz is buried in Brooklyn’s Evergreen Cemetery. What is unusual about his gravestone:
   (a) His birth date is wrong.
   (b) The inscriptions are in German.
   (c) It calls him “William” Steinitz.
   (d) There’s a chessboard on top depicting his most famous game.

9. What is distinctive about the final moves of this game:
   Distinctive?
   Roesch
   Willi Schlage, Hamburg 1910

   What was the significance of the game?
   (a) It overturned book theory of the king+rook+knight-versus-king+rook endgame.
   (b) It was Black’s 39th consecutive victory, a world record.
   (c) By winning it, Black became the world’s 1,000th grandmaster.
   (d) It was the longest decisive game played at a normal time control.

10. Lothar Schmid, the grandmaster and famed international arbiter who died this year, came from a family whose business was based on:
    (a) Publishing novels about cowboys and the American West
    (b) Currency speculation in post-World War I Germany
    (c) Publishing novels about cowboys and the American West
    (d) Currency speculation in post-World War I Germany

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What was this game’s significance?
GM Valeriy Neverov (FIDE 2515, UKR)
IM Stanislav Bogdanovich (FIDE 2567, UKR)
Ukrainian Championship, 06.19.2013
Nezhmetdinov Centenary

Rashid Nezhmetdinov, born 100 years ago this month, won no great tournament and never became a grandmaster. But his dazzling, original games show he was one of the greatest players of the 20th century. (He was also a great checker player.) The Russian’s combinations provide us with this month’s quiz. In each of the following six positions 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. But since this is Nezhmetdinov, keep an eye out for checkmates. For solutions, see page 69.

**Problem I**
Rashid Nezhmetdinov
Yuri Kotkov

**Problem II**
Evgeni Vasiukov
Rashid Nezhmetdinov

**Problem III**
Rashid Nezhmetdinov
Genrikh Kasparian

**Problem IV**
Lev Polugaevsky
Rashid Nezhmetdinov

**Problem V**
Rashid Nezhmetdinov
Alexey Suetin

**Problem VI**
Andre Lilienthal
Rashid Nezhmetdinov

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(c) Creating the first European TV network
(d) Uranium mining in Czechoslovakia

11. He popularized terms like theoretical continuation, blunder, hole, initiative, book position and transposition of moves. He was:
(a) Aron Nimzowitsch, in *My System*
(b) Wilhelm Steinitz, in the tournament book of New York 1889
(c) Alexander Alekhine in *My Best Games*
(d) Paul Morphy in his newspaper articles

12. Which event happened in 2013?
(a) An “Art of Chess” corner, packed with Bobby Fischer memorabilia, was opened at the Reykjavik, Iceland hotel that Fischer occupied during his 1972 world championship match.
(b) Magnus Carlsen signed a three-year deal to be sponsored by Nordic Semiconductor.
(c) A “Fischer Memorial” tournament was held in Sousse, Tunisia, where Fischer stormed out of an Interzonal in 1967 in a scheduling dispute.
(d) The World Junior Championship was moved from one Turkish city to another to shift it away from the Syrian civil war.

13. Who won a master tournament held in New York with a perfect 13-0 score?
(a) Bobby Fischer
(b) Jose Capablanca
(c) Emanuel Lasker
(d) Walter Browne

14. Before the first game of a world championship match, the champion’s supporters charged that the challenger’s “patrons” had “agreed with one of the big computing centers” to transmit “every move of the match as it is made” and analyze the best continuations for the challenger. This happened in:
(a) 1972
(b) 1978
(c) 1993
(d) 2006
(e) 2008

15. During World War II Reuben Fine:
(a) Finally won the U.S. Championship.
(b) Used his psychology training to predict where enemy submarines would strike.
(c) Wrote *Basic Chess Endings* and four other books.
(d) Worked in Washington as a government translator.

16. This position was notable because of a sacrifice, a blunder and a record:

**An I, a 7, and a !!**
GM Miguel Cuellar Gacharna
GM Jan Hein Donner
Skopje ol (Men) prel (2), 1972

---

White played 111. Qxd4! exd4 112. d7 and should have won after 112. ... Qa3+ 113. Kd5!. But he played 113. Kc6?? instead and Black drew after 113. ... Qa8+ 114. Kc7 d3! 115. Bxd3 d2!.

What was the record?
(a) It was the 37th time these two grandmasters had played one another.
(b) By drawing, Black earned a board prize for the ninth time.
(c) White was in time trouble a record-setting six times.
(d) It was the longest drawn game played in an Olympiad team tournament.

* *************************

GM Soltis had too many good questions for us this year and we couldn’t print them all. To see some bonus questions, go to Chess Life Online at uschess.org.

**Chess to Enjoy / Entertainment**

(c)2013 United States Chess Federation

**www.uschess.org**
The Gathering Storm

Before he was world champion, before the world was at war, Capablanca shows that he was already a potent force.

By BRUCE PANDOLFINI

IT WAS 1913. THERE WERE NO OFFICIAL grandmasters yet. Emanuel Lasker was chess champion. And the world was about to change for good (for bad?) and forever. To be sure, Lasker was the game’s top player, but with the gathering storm of world war on the horizon, another chess player, as bright as any star in the heavens, was on the verge of seizing Lasker’s mantle. That luminous force was José Raúl Capablanca, who in 1921 would finally dethrone the great Lasker. But it’s still 1913, it’s Berlin, and Capablanca’s opponent is the wily Jacques Mieses (Black). No matter, clever or not, Mieses was no match for the Cuban wunderkind, as the following game illustrates. It began:

King’s Indian Defense,
Classical Variation (E91)
José Raúl Capablanca
Jacques Mieses
Berlin, 1913
1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. d5 d6 4. c4 g6 5. Nc3 Bg7 6. e4 0-0

7. Be2 Par Score 5
White prepares to castle.
7. ... e6
8. 0-0 Par Score 5
Accept only 4 points part credit for 8. dxe6. Capablanca prefers to keep his cramping pawn on d5.
8. ... exd5
9. exd5 Par Score 4
Receive full credit for 9. cxd5, making it a full-fledged Benoni, with unbalanced pawn majorities for both sides. This is what Mieses was figuring on. Capablanca keeps the pawn structure balanced: four to four on the queenside, three to three on the kingside, but with a spatial advantage for White.
9. ... Ne8
As the game goes, Mieses has no luck with this knight. Probably best is 9. ... Re8, and then 10. ... Ne4, trading for White’s queen’s knight.**
10. Re1 Par Score 5
There’s only one open file, so that’s where “Capa” puts his rook.
10. ... Bg4
In his somewhat cramped position, Mieses sees no future for his queen’s bishop, so he sets about trading it off for White’s king’s knight.**
11. Ng5 Par Score 6
White crosses up Mieses. White has no objection to exchanging the light-square bishops, but he wants to keep his knight. It could then post up at e4.
11. ... Bxc3
Black makes this exchange to bring his knight to g7. But this is shortsighted. First, he can’t exploit the doubled c-pawns and, second, he leaves himself with dark-square weaknesses on the kingside.**
12. bxc3 Par Score 4
12. ... Bxe2
The plan was to trade this bishop for a minor piece, and so that’s what he does.**
13. Qxe2 Par Score 4
White commands the e-file.
13. ... Ng7
If 13. ... f6?, chasing White’s knight, Black runs into 14. Ne6, winning the Exchange (1 bonus point).**
14. Ne4 Par Score 5
White pressures d6 (if 14. ... Nd7, then 15. Nxd6—1 bonus point), but he mainly clears g5 for his bishop.
14. ... f6
Black stops Bg5. If 14. ... Re8, then 15. Bg5, followed by Nf6+, gains at least the Exchange (1 bonus point).**
15. Bf4 Par Score 5
The bishop develops with tempo on the d6-pawn.
15. ... Ne8
Black retreats to e8 to guard d6. After 15. ... Re8, White unpins with 16. Qf3, and Black is unable to save his d-pawn. Meanwhile, 16. ... Nf5 encounters 17. Nxf6+ (1 bonus point).**
16. Bh6 Par Score 5
And now the bishop comes to h6, with tempo on the rook. That’s why 15. Bf4 was better than 15. Bh6. Add 1 bonus point if you realized this ahead of time.
16. ... Ng7
So it’s back again to g7. But 16. ... Rf7?
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 69.

December Exercise: Once again you’re thinking of a new opening for white, or perhaps a new defense for black. So you get out the opening manuals and check out various offerings on the Internet. After spending some time learning the fresh ideas, you’re ready to complete the picture. Simply turn the board around and reconsider the same lines, this time from the point of view of your future opponents. From the new perspective, don’t be shocked if you get a whole new take on the opening arsenal you’re preparing. You may even, possibly for the first time, get to see who you really are.

Problem I

Fork

17. Rad1

Par Score 5

White plays this with the idea of bringing the rook into play by lifting it to the third rank.

17. ... Na6

Black has to connect his rooks, and 17. ... Nd7 is ruled out by 18. Nxd6. Failure to connect the rooks carries its own set of problems. For example, if 17. ... Re8, then 18. Nxf6+ Qxf6 19. Qxe8+ Nxe8 20. Rxe8+ Kf7 21. Rf8+ Ke7 22. Re1+ Qe5 23. Rxe5+ dxe5 (2 bonus points), and it’s hard for Black to untangle his queenside.**

18. Rd3

Par Score 6

Add 1 bonus point if you had this in mind when playing your previous move.

18. ...

f5

Black chases the knight from e4. On 18. ... Qd7 White triples major pieces with 19. Re3 and Black cannot compete for the e-file: 19. ... Rae8? 20. Nxf6+ Rxf6 21. Rxe8+ Nxe8 22. Qxe8+ Qxe8 23. Rxe8+ and so on (2 bonus points).**

19. Ng5

Par Score 5

No credit for 19. Bg5, when Black has 19. ... fxe4! 20. Bxd8 exd3.

19. ...

Nc7

Black brings the knight into play, where it guards e8 and e6. If 19. ... Re8, then 20. Re3.**

20. Qe7

Par Score 5

The invasion begins; there’s a mate threat at g7.

20. ...

Qxe7

Or if 20. ... Nce8, then 21. Rh3.**

21. Rxe7

Par Score 4

White’s command of the king-file is paying off. The rook replaces the queen with threats to c7 and g7.

21. ...

Nce8

This is the only knight move, since 21. ... Nge8 drops the Exchange.**

22. Rh3

Par Score 6

Receive only 3 points part credit for 22. Rxb7, which means White is getting sidetracked. The attack is on the kingside.

22. ...

f4

Black makes f5 available to his knight, but it doesn’t matter anymore.**

23. Bxg7

Par Score 5

True, 23. Nxe7 Kxe7 24. Bxg7+ is cute (3 points part credit), but not convincing because of 23. ... Rf7.

23. ...

Nxe7

24. Rxh7

Par Score 5

Once again, there’s a mate threat at g7.

24. ...

Nf5

The knight is tired of e8, so it moves to the square made available by Black’s 22nd move.**

25. Re6

Par Score 6

Accept only 3 points part credit for 25. Rxb7. Let’s repeat: the attack is on the kingside.

25. ...

Rfe8

The text vacates f8 for the black king and sets up a mate, if White’s rook leaves the e-file. But neither point alleviates Black’s problems.**

26. Rxe6+

Par Score 5

If 26. ... Kf8, then 28. Rf7 mate (1 bonus point); or 26. ... Ng7, then 27. Rhxg7+, and it’s mate next move (1 bonus point).

26. ...

Black resigned. ♦

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
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<tr>
<td>95+</td>
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<tr>
<td>81-94</td>
<td>2200-2399</td>
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<td>66-80</td>
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<td>1200-1399</td>
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“f you build it, they will come.” Substitute a posh chess club for an Iowan cornfield, a philanthropic investor for an impoverished farmer, and go a little farther down the Mississippi, and you have an apt description for what happened in St. Louis from September 9-15.

Like in that pastoral ballfield, chess fans came out in droves. But it was not ghosts of a distant past they were there to see. Instead, the top two players in the world and the top two U.S. players would play an intimate and historic double round robin. The inaugural Sinquefield Cup, which tournament and club patron Rex Sinquefield sponsored and reluctantly lent his name to, one-upped even the best of the various national championships that the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis had ever hosted. The number of superlatives was itself a superlative. Consider:

The Chess Club of Saint Louis takes the logical next step: the strongest-ever tournament on American soil.

BY FM MIKE KLEIN | Game annotations by GM BEN FINEGOLD
All photos courtesy of CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS
Highest average rating of any American tournament (2793); first time the highest-rated player ever, GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2862), played in the U.S.; seven grandmaster commentators on-site; a $170,000 total purse for only 12 games of chess. That is $14,167 per game, or $305 per move! Every time a player touched a piece, he earned more than most high-end chess sets cost.

Joining Carlsen was world number two, GM Levon Aronian, top American GM Hikaru Nakamura, and reigning U.S. Champion GM Gata Kamsky. The players came to play. Half of the games were decisive, all but one extended past the first time control, and Carlsen’s insistence on principles instead of sewing up first place (more on that later), all made for a rewarding week of chess.

Chess fans took the bait. At a rare autograph session, around 200 fans paid just to get their pictures taken and posters signed. Several fans drove hundreds of miles and lined up three hours early in the rain to secure their spot. The line rivaled the opening of a new Apple product, extending out the door for an entire block down Maryland Avenue. The sidewalk became so congested that the police ordered the queue to stay single-file.

“I’ve never done this before,” Kamsky said while the fans streamed by, one by one. “It’s pretty cool actually.” Which square did he prefer to sign? “If I’m Gata, I like to sign on the ‘g.’” Aronian entertained several contingents of Armenian families, all adorned with their country’s flag.

Unofficially, the tournament probably sold more tickets to a chess tournament than any time in American history. Eager enthusiasts plopped down $15 per day to see the action, or as much as $120 for the entire event, which included other perks. They got food and the players provided fireworks.

In the opening round, Sinquefield made the ceremonial first move 1. d4 in Carlsen-Kamsky. The top seed immediately returned the pawn to d2. Rex’s wife Jeanne Sinquefield opened Nakamura-Aronian with 1. e4. “You can take that move back,” Chief Arbiter Chris Bird instructed. “No, I’ll keep this one,” Nakamura said. In a little more than three hours, it would be Aronian who needed the takeback option.

In a completely equal position, Aronian inexplicably played 30. ... Qb5??, allowing an elementary tactic. “When he played it, I didn’t realize it was a blunder,” Nakamura said of his initial thoughts. “If he played ... Qc6 I was going to offer a draw. I think he thought it was way too simple. It was unfortunate for him but I’ll definitely take it.”
“I’ll take it.”
GM Hikaru Nakamura (2857)
GM Levon Aronian (2913)
Sinquefield Cup 2013 (1), St. Louis, Missouri, 09.09.2013

Carlsen had white. Curiously, Kamsky (and probably one of the few in the world) biggest rating difference on paper, and Kg3 g5 40. f5 was the only player in the Sinquefield Cup Nh4 36. f4 Rc6 37. Ree7 Rf6 39. Kxf7 45. Kxf5 is an easy win for White. 09.09.2013

A disappointed Aronian remained sanguine and philosophical after the loss.

"I'm not particularly worried about getting mated." Aronian paused, then finished his explanation. "It is humbling." He said that even in a short tournament, an opening round loss could be overcome. "I've lost many games and still won tournaments. Actually, I don't remember any single game. It's the typical mistake," he said. "You just look at one line, and then you proceed. That's one of those things they teach little kids. It is ridiculous.

"There is something nice about the game of chess." Aronian paused, then finished his explanation. "It is humbling." He said that even in a short tournament, an opening round loss could be overcome.

"I've lost many games and still won tournaments. Actually, I don't remember a tournament I won without losing a game." His prognostication proved true—going into the last round, he still had a chance to win the tournament.

Meanwhile, Carlsen-Kamsky was the biggest rating difference on paper, and Carlsen had white. Curiously, Kamsky was the only player in the Sinquefield Cup (and probably one of the few in the world) against whom Carlsen had a lifetime minus score (that would all change in a week's time). Except for drifting for a few moves in the middlegame, the style was vintage Carlsen, but represented a foun-

During the live commentary, Ian Rogers went for a break about three minutes before Gata played this move. I was in complete shock! When Ian came back, I asked what he thought, and he had the same reaction as I. Later that day I spoke to all the commentators, and they all felt the same way. Gata was certainly in an aggressive mood this event! This seems quite weakening, but Magnus’ slow and unsure play makes this move look great!

15. Ne5 Qc7 16. Nxd7 Qxd7 17. Qe2

The beginning of Magnus’ ineffective play.

17. ... Nf6 18. Rfd1 Qc7 19. h3 Rad8 20. b3 Rd7 21. Rc2 Qd8 22. Rcc1!

What? Magnus isn’t doing anything, and now Black is completely equal.

22. ... h4 23. Be1 Ne4 24. Qg4 g5

I think 24. ... f5 is more accurate, but Black should still be fine here.

25. cxd5 f5! 26. Qf3 cxd5!?

This is playable, but Black is at least equal after 26. ... Rxd5! and the “c” file is sealed off.

27. Rc2 Rg7 28. Rd1 Nf6?

Retreating the knight to a worse square! Now Magnus is clearly on top. Black was totally fine after 29. ... g4!

29. Qd1!

Magnus’ play was nothing special the first 28 moves. Now, however, he plays like a super machine on a good day! I have nothing but the highest praise for the way White plays the remainder of the game. The Qf3 retreats to d1 to prepare the later f2-f3!
29. ... g4 30. f3! gxh3

Now we see why 29. Qd1 and not 29. Qe2? The g2-pawn is defended by the Rc2.

31. Bxh4 Kf7 32. Qe1!

Very impressive. Defending a5, and now the white queen has access to either flank.

32. ... hxg2 33. Rc7+ Re7 34. Bxf6! Kxf6 35. Rc8 Qd6 36. Qh4+ Kf7 37. Qh5+ Rg6 38. f4! Qa3

Magnus thought Black would resign, but said he missed 38. ... Qa3. Now White can’t swing his c8-rook to g8 or h8 since the c1-rook hangs. Still, Magnus finds the win.

39. Qh8 Rg7 40. Qh5+ Rg6 41. Qh8 Rg7 42. Qf8+ Kg6 43. Kxg2!

Now the Rc1 has g1 and h1 to surround the black king.

43. ... Rgf7 44. Qd8 Rh7 45. Rg1 Qa2+ 46. Kf3+!

46. Kf1+? Kf6 is just a draw!

46. ... Kf6 47. Qg8 Rh3+ 48. Rg3 Rxg3+ 49. Qxg3, Black resigned.

Just incredible accuracy from Magnus once he was winning.

Kamsky had the bad fortune of getting black twice in a row to open the event, while Nakamura was white again. The two played for the first time in St. Louis since their dramatic 2012 U.S. Championship game, when Nakamura won late in the tournament to leapfrog Kamsky and eventually win the title.

A confident Nakamura played the first dozen moves in negative time, thanks to the 30-second increment. His teeth came...
out early, with the typical knight sacrifice on d5 and the less common early queen sortie to h5 (though not as atypical as his youthful experiences with 2. Qh5). Both players labored in the complicated middlegame. Nakamura had two minutes to play nine not-obvious moves to make the time control at move 40. One of the best blitz players in the world, he found the right path.

Nakamura’s on-the-spot analysis was that Kamsky’s activity again got him in trouble. He said that 27. ... e5 and 28. ... Qd6 is where Kamsky “probably went wrong.” He added that, like Carlsen in game one, he understood the desire to get activity, since White’s passed h-pawn will eventually become a nuisance. A few moves later, Nakamura said he became fully confident after the piece redirection 32. Be2.

Sicilian Defense, Kan Variation (B43)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (2857)
GM Gata Kamsky (2824)
Sinquefield Cup 2013 (2), St. Louis, Missouri, 09.10.2013


This is rare with 9. ... Bc5 being the main line. Who was the best player to play 9. ... Qb8 previously? Nakamura!

10. a4 b4 11. Nd5

Both players got to this position playing very rapidly. Now they start to slow down. White has to be better, with his more active pieces.

13. Nxe7 Bxe7 14. b3 a5

Ian and I did not like this move during our live commentary. This is slow, and gives White time to start a nice attack.


Black is in a lot of trouble.

17. ... Rg8 18. g3 Rg5

(see diagram top of next column)
19. Qh6!

This is much better than taking on h7. I thought Kamsky would lose quickly, but he is incredibly resourceful!

19. ... Rxe5 20. Qxf6 Rh5 21. Be4

Probably not the best. Simply bringing the a1-rook to the center with Rad1 gives White a clear advantage.

21. ... Qd8 22. Qf3 Rc5 23. Qe3?


23. ... Qe7?

The following line is equal 23. ... Re5! 24. Qd4 Rxe4 25. Rxh4 Bxe4 26. Qxe4 h6 according to the engines, but, for some reason, both players liked White here.

24. Bxh7 f5 25. Bg6+ Kd8

Also possible was 25. ... Kf8. Both sides are playing for a win!

26. Rac1 Kc7 27. Bh5 e5?

Time trouble was approaching, and even though Hikaru had less time, he was able to keep a cool head. Better was 27. ... Qd6.

28. f4?!

How about playing 28. c3! The point of Rac1!

28. ... Qd6 29. Rf1 exf4 30. Qxf4 Be4

30. ... Qxf4 31. Rxf4 Be4 32. Bf3 d5 should be a draw but Kamsky wants to win!

31. Qf2 Re3 32. Be2

(see diagram top of next column)

32. ... Kb7?

Played after long thought, but not a good move. Instead 32. ... Bb7 or 32. ... Qh6 should maintain a dynamic equality.

33. Rcd1 Qe6 34. Bc4! d5 35. Qc5!

Hikaru plays perfectly with little time on his clock!

35. ... Rd8?

Also winning for White is 35. ... Qc6 36. Qxd5!! Rxc2 37. Qf7+ Kb6 38. Rf2.

36. Qxa5!

(see diagram top of next page)

36. ... Rxb3 37. Rf2! Rxh2 38. Qxd8 Rg2+ 39. Kf1 Rb2 40. Bxd5+ Bxd5 41. Qxd5+ Qxd5 42. Rxd5, Black resigned.
Carlsen said. “And also my friend Jon Dutch haven’t been clearly impressive,” based on nationalism. “I thought Aronian's games with the Dutch a bit 10 years ago,” Carlsen said. “There was an IM [international master] on ICC [Internet Chess Club] who played Bf4 all the time, but I never could understand it.”

To remain coy before his world championship match, Carlsen played the Dutch, something he employs less than one percent of the time in response to 1.d4. Aronian attempted a line with 5. Bf4, which historically has not troubled Black. Nor did it this game, as a few moves later, the bishop dropped back to h2 and struggled for daylight all game. Carlsen owned the only open file but chose not to take any chances and the game petered out into a draw.

“The position that I received because of my brilliant variation wasn’t very good,” Aronian said, sarcastic of his choice of variations.

“I used to play the Dutch a bit 10 years ago,” Carlsen said. “There was an IM [international master] on ICC [Internet Chess Club] who played Bf4 all the time, but I never could understand it.”

To remain coy before his world championship match, Carlsen was expected to keep his secrets opaque and vary his repertoire. His choice of the Dutch was also based on nationalism.

“I thought Aronian’s games with the Dutch haven’t been clearly impressive,” Carlsen said. “And also my friend Jon Ludvig Hammer, he got beat by Kamsky with the Dutch in the World Cup. I thought, ‘Why not give it a try?’”

After only two rounds, the players were already on unique scores. Nakamura and Carlsen, arguably the most anticipated matchup, led with 2/2 and 1½/2, respectively, and would play in round three. Nowadays, when the two play, the subplot is always when will Nakamura break through against Carlsen? Going into the Sinquefield Cup, he was winless against seven losses and 13 draws lifetime. Aronian had a lone draw and Kamsky would try to get on the board with his first white.

Both Americans managed their time better in round three. Nakamura decided to wear sunglasses, in an homage to this magazine’s long-tenured columnist GM Pal Benko, who needed an edge when facing GM Mikhail Tal in 1959. Nakamura admitted that the day had special significance beyond his esteemed opponent. It was the 12th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on his home town, New York City, and also the 62nd birthday of his stepfather, FM Sunil Weeramantry (for more on the importance that he places on family, see the sidebar).

Though playing black, Nakamura took the initiative early and was the aggressor. GM Nigel Short, calling in to the live show, assessed him as a “phenomenally good tactician, whereas Magnus’ strength is a Karpovian strength. … Hikaru has not been able to land those tactical blows that he is able to against weaker opponents.” Once again, this proved true, as Carlsen found a fortress-like defense.

King’s Indian Defense, Fianchetto Variation (E62)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2790)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (2857)
Sinquefield Cup 2013 (3), St. Louis, Missouri, 09.11.2013

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. g3 0-0 5. Bg2 d6 6. Nc3 Nc6 7. 0-0 Rb8

Nakamura is never timid, and plays a sharp King’s Indian against Magnus. At this point, Hikaru was 2-0 in the event!

8. Bf4 a6 9. Rc1 h6 10. b3 g5?

Super sharp play from Hikaru. Magnus is up to the challenge.

11. d5

11. Bd2 leaves d4 weak, and 11. Be3 Ng4 looks good for Black, so Magnus more or less needs to play 11. d5.

11. ... gxd4 12. dxc6 fxg3 13. hxg3 b5?

Again, Hikaru plays the most challenging move. The engines like White, but as Shabalov would say ‘Black’s dynamic potential is through the roof!’

14. cxb5

Engines prefer 14. Qd3! trying to keep Black bottled up.

14. ... axb5 15. b4 d5 16. Qd3 Qd6

And Chess Life just asked me to review the book Pawn Structure Chess ... sigh. … [See January 2014 issue for this review. –ed.]

17. Nxd4 Qxb4 18. a4!

Many times during the event, the engines would suggest “computer” moves that humans would never consider ... then ... Magnus would play those moves!

18. ... Ne4 19. Nxb5 Nxg3 20. Nxc3 Bxc3!

Is GM Eddie Gufeld turning in his grave at this voluntary relinquishing of the King’s Indian bishop! But, again, the dynamism of the position demands calculation and the capture of many pawns!

21. Rxc3! Bf5

Hikaru thought Magnus’ decision to sacrifice the Exchange instead of trading queens with 21. Qxc3 was absolutely correct.

23. ... Rfd8 24. Bf3

Black has a very difficult task winning with his extra material. White is super solid and has a strong c6-pawn.

24. ... Ra8 25. Qe4 Qf6 26. Qb4 Ra7 27. Kg2 Rda8 28. Qg4+ Kf8 29. Qd7 e6 30. Rd1 Qe5 31. Rh1 Kg7

Better chances were offered by 31... Rxa4. Hikaru later said this was his last chance to play for a win. 31. ... Rxa4 32.

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Better chances were offered by 31... Rxa4. Hikaru later said this was his last chance to play for a win. 31. ... Rxa4 32.
“[Aronian is] playing so badly against [the Dutch], I think he's going to single-handedly revive it.”

CARLSEN
was just equal ... so ...

and trying to advance the c5-pawn. But
ideas of running around with his king
was visibly uncomfortable after 21. ... Bf5.

39. Kg2 f5 40. Qc8 Qd6 41. e3 Kf6 42. Kh2

Yasser Seirawan was quite perturbed
with Hikaru's draw offer here. He thought
Black had good winning chances. Yasser
and I looked at it the next day outside the
chess club, and I eventually agreed that
Black has chances. Black has a lot of
ideas of running around with his king
and trying to advance the c5-pawn. But Hikaru, like the chess engines, thought it was just equal ... so ...

42. ... h5, Draw agreed.

Nakamura could take solace in having
the better position for most of the battle.
For the first time all tournament, Carlsen
was visibly uncomfortable after 21. ... Bf5.
Not so for Nakamura, who spent much of
the game either nodding or turned away
from the board (though his gaze remained
mysterious, thanks to the Ray-Bans). Both
are typical for him when he believes in his
position. Had he been able to score his
first win against the world number one
on such a significant day, Nakamura said,
"That would have been really sweet."

I definitely suffered," Carlsen said. "At
some point I was burning a lot of time, but
still there was some kind of inherent
solidity when I gave up the Exchange." Carlsen said the decision tree after 18. ... Ne4 was exceptionally difficult. "There were so many possibilities, I couldn't calculate them all."

He added that playing an opponent in
shades was a first. "I didn't think too
much about it, his antics. People take
themselves too seriously, especially chess
players. You're never really disrespecting
your opponent by what kind of clothes
you wear."

On the other board, a gun-shy Kamsky
changed strategy from the first two games.
After 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5, he played the
timid 3. c3, looked over at the crowd of
spectators, and gave a sheepish smile.
"The last two games I realized I'm not
really in good form," Kamsky said. "I
needed to save my energy for the rest day.

I decided no more active chess. Draw, and
go home." He managed just that, despite
admitting that "I screwed up and Black was
even better."

During the rest day, all four players
and their small entourages went to the
St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. It was
not really a "Field of Dreams" moment,
since Carlsen had never been to a baseball
game before. But how many first-time fans
are on field before the game, recognized by
the public address announcer, get their picture on the Jumbotron, and sit in a
private luxury suite? Though the home
team lost, he got his sporting wish.

You don't have to be a baseball fan to
know a "home run." With two outs and
two strikes in the bottom of the ninth, the
260-pound and decidedly un-chess player
like Matt Adams crushed a pitch into the
Cardinal bullpen in right-center field.
Despite the excitement, Carlsen said he
liked football better (the players were also
guests of honor at the St. Louis Rams' opener, where they beat the other Cardinals, of Arizona, on a late field goal).

For the two players in the bottom half, the rest day energized Aronian, but did little for Kamsky. The next round also threw the leaderboard into disarray.

Aronian took white against Nakamura. Lately, when the two go head-to-head, it is more like baseball—ties are not possible.

Counting their first-round game, the two had played six consecutive decisive games in classical time controls.

Neither man had shaved since the
tournament began, and the game could
have produced some gray hairs for the
leader. Aronian played faster out of the
opening, choosing a quieter system than
Carlsen did against Nakamura's King's
Indian. White punched holes in Black's
king's shelter, prompting the second player
to sacrifice a piece to liquidate the center in
hopes of distracting White. "I'm just
much worse, maybe a computer could
hold it," Nakamura said of his position.

He succeeded in razing the queenside of
all pawns for the coming endgame, and
Aronian made life much more difficult by
exchanging queens, Still, Aronian convert-
ed with fine technique to earn his first
win and deal Nakamura his first loss of the
event. "I took too many risks," was the
American's assessment.

Too many risks
GM Levon Aronian (2913)  
GM Hikaru Nakamura (2857)  
Sinquefield Cup 2013 (4), St. Louis, Missouri, 09.13.2013

(see diagram top of next column)

44. ... gxh4 45. g3

Most things should win for White.
Nakamura, On the Record

Recorded 9/15/13 after the Sinquefield Cup ended; spurred by a desire to recognize the effort and contributions that his teammate, GM Gata Kamsky, has given to American chess, GM Hikaru Nakamura sat down to discuss this and other issues about his career.

“\"I feel like Gata’s given a lot to American chess over the years and I’m not sure he’s received the due gratitude that he deserves. I think he’s given a lot. At the end of the day, I hope his accomplishments, everything he’s achieved, is respected and appreciated.\" ~ Nakamura

On the 2012 Olympiad:
I view the last Olympiad as being our last opportunity to win a gold medal. It’s one of the few achievements that has eluded me thus far in my career outside of the individual world championship title. It was a great run (in 2012). In many ways I feel like I gave it everything that I had, especially in the match against Russia. Out of all the Olympiads, probably out of all the tournaments I’ve played, I’ve never felt greater joy from winning an individual game. It was truly an achievement when we won that match. I remember the team camaraderie after we won that match against Russia—Gata pulling through (against GM Alexander Grischuk) and myself winning that very long endgame against Vlad (Kramnik). It’s probably one of the top two or three highlights of my career thus far.

On the last round game:
You know, it’s strange, there have only been two moments probably ever in my life where ... well let me rephrase. There are moments in time where you feel like you just don’t have it. I very vividly recall a moment in 2006 in Turin where prior to our match against Israel, I remember IM John (Donaldson) coming to me and saying, ‘Gata is not feeling well. He doesn’t have a good feeling about playing against [GM] Boris Gelfand on board one.’ And I will always remember this, but both Sunil [Weeramantry], my stepfather, and I, we went to Gata and we said, ‘Relax, just play well. Play solid. Everything will be fine.’ Of course, Gata went on to lose the game. My win against [GM] Emil Sutovsky was very pivotal. I think we lost the match but it was still only 2½-1½ because of my victory. Eventually we recovered to win a few future matches and we got the bronze medal. But I just vaguely recall that because prior to my game against [GM Radoslaw] Wojtaszek in the last round I had this very unpleasant feeling. I have to say the only other time I felt that way was ironically when I played against [GM Antón] Korobov in the recent World Cup. Obviously we all have to play and deal with it. It just reminded me of that moment back in Turin where both Sunil and I, we had to convince Gata to play. I actually considered sitting (in the final round) to get the gold (individual) medal, but at the same time I felt like it was probably the last chance for [GM Varuzhan] Akobian to play in the Olympiad for the U.S. Team, being as how he would not qualify for the future teams. So it was a very difficult situation, but at the end of the day, I am still the number-one player and I had to do my duty. Unfortunately I lost my game, but based on that loss, Gata found a way to win on board two and he got a silver medal. I honestly felt, prior to that Olympiad, it was probably our last opportunity to win a gold medal. Having been given that second chance and opportunity to try and compete again— I am really, really looking forward to Tromsø and I am going to give it 110 percent.

On preparation for Tromsø:
It’s difficult to say, but I think Gata is kind of realizing he’s reaching the end of his career and I think ultimately the team aspect, the team perspective is more important. Certainly I hope we can work together prior to the tournament. Before the last Olympiad I was playing a tournament so it didn’t quite work out. For me at least, I think this is a golden opportunity. To not take advantage of the chance we’ve been given would be reminiscent.

On teammates he would prefer in addition to Kamsky:
I don’t think it’s about a “dream team.” When it comes to a team event, I’m just going to put everything on the line, win or lose. I’m just going to give it my all because there are many different teams—Russian, China, Armenia and so forth— where, as you go down the boards, they become stronger, and we become weaker. I feel both Gata and I, we are world-class players, and we can beat anyone on a good day. I’m just going to focus on my game and try to win. I feel like our strengths are on boards one and two. Both Gata and I are strong players. We’ve been around so long now. If Gata plays a good game and I play a good game, we really are unstoppable. As long as someone can find
a draw on boards three and four, then we will be unstoppable. I don’t mean it in a negative way, because both [GM] Alex Onischuk and [GM] Timur Gareev are very strong players, but I do feel Gata and I are in a different class. One of us will be able to carry the team.

On the Sinquefield Cup:
I’m actually very disappointed not to have won the tournament. In many ways I felt like I owed it to give it my all here. More so than perhaps in prior tournaments. It’s like going to the store, going to the supermarket on the rest day, or going before the round to buy some energy drink, having the everyday person come up to me and wish me luck, it meant a great deal. It gave me a lot of extra motivation to try and do my best because chess perhaps doesn’t get the appreciation or media coverage that it deserves. Having the average, everyday person in St. Louis come up to me and wish me good luck means a lot more than having some sponsor or someone who is in the loop on chess wish me good luck. It’s a bit unfortunate that I couldn’t pull through for the local people, but there will always be more opportunities.

On being an ambassador for chess in the U.S.:
There’s no greater feeling in the world than having people rooting for you. Certainly coming into the club and having people say good luck and hoping you do well, it means a lot. Especially in America. You look at [GM] Levon Aronian in Armenia or [GM] Magnus Carlsen in Norway, they have the support of their countries. Here in America it’s not the same. I’m certainly not a household name. I don’t have the same support; I’m not as well known. I have to say, that having people walk up to me when I entered the club, saying, ‘Good luck’ or, ‘All the best,’ meant the world to me. Certainly in Europe I don’t have that same reception. Just knowing that there are people that understand what I am doing for American chess and trying to compete against the best players in the world, it means a lot knowing that there are players following me. In the past there have been a lot of people who aren’t following me were saying negative things.

On having a manager:
At the moment there is not. Recently I was reading this book, as a tennis fan, called The Outsider by Jimmy Connors, of St. Louis. One of the things that I very strongly recall about reading his memoir was about his mother managing his affairs, keeping it in the family and keeping it loyal. In many ways you can’t buy that loyalty—people who will support you at any cost. I feel very strongly that I consult my family. My great mother, she is off in Tanzania climbing Kilimanjaro at the moment. Hopefully everything goes well as she approaches the summit in a few days. Without my mother and my stepfather Sunil, none of this would have been possible. I consult them on everything, and with my fiancée as well. I try to keep everything in house. Their loyalty, their support, is invaluable moving forward. I trust that when I keep it that way, everything will work out.

On having a chess player as a significant other:
I don’t know if there are any advantages but certainly I’d have to say that being engaged to someone who can understand chess, it means a lot. Whether you win, lose, or draw, you have someone who can understand it. In many ways I think it is similar to picking up a language. If someone doesn’t understand the language, they just do not understand it, plain and simple. I feel like I have someone who can understand the game and understand the ups and downs of winning and losing. I’m very lucky to have someone like that.

On the possibility of Rex Sinquefield bringing a Candidates tournament to the U.S.:
Rex has done a lot for American chess, I have to say that. As far as the wildcard or any of this, I’m just going to focus on my next tournament, play well and so forth. If I play well, I should probably solidify my spot as a potential wildcard. But it’s FIDE, there’s so much bureaucracy involved, it’s quite difficult to figure it all out. If I play good chess I believe that everything will work out. Hopefully I will have a chance to play for the world championship.

On world championship versus Olympiad goals:
Assuming nothing goes wrong in my personal life, I feel like I have another good 15 years to compete for the world championship. I feel like I have one final opportunity for the world team championship and for the Olympiad to go for gold. At the moment my main focus is winning the gold in the Olympiad.

On beating Carlsen in a match:
I just have to be Bobby Fischer, plain and simple. He did not beat [GM Boris] Spassky prior to their match and I view myself in very much the same way. I just have to focus on improving, and when I have a chance in a match against Carlsen, I just have to prove that I can play with him. If I can play well like I did here, I’m just going to keep the pressure on and eventually he will crack. I had two positions where I was a little bit better. I don’t see any reason why I can’t win.

On personal relationship with Carlsen:
To put it in the words of John McEnroe, ‘We don’t have dinner very often.’ He’s OK as a person, but he’s my competitor and I want to beat him. At the end of the day, chess is a competitive sport. If I stay true to who I am and my style of play, I will beat him.

On whether he is stronger psychologically than Carlsen:
That’s a very difficult question. About three or four months ago, I would have said no. Now I would certainly say that I am. I’m very proven, maybe not in matches, but in tournaments. I’m used to everything; I’ve seen it all now. I’m looking forward to playing better in the future.
The top of the tables then changed completely as Carlsen created complications despite Kamsky’s choice of the Exchange Ruy Lopez. Though he missed a relatively facile simplification for a super-grandmaster, Carlsen duly converted to push himself to 3/4, while Nakamura sat on 2½/4.

“Today in the fourth hour of play I was playing so badly,” Carlsen said. “The same against Levon the other day (round two)—hesitating and burning huge amounts of time.”

It was Carlsen’s first-ever win as black against Kamsky, who was experiencing his first period of extended hardship in St. Louis. In five previous tournaments there, all for the U.S. Championship, he had lost a grand total of once in 50 games. He had now lost three times in only four contests. Though he was the most buoyant of the quartet pre-tournament, Kamsky’s mood had shifted. “I’m still not over this game,” he said.

Although Nakamura surrendered his lead, he still controlled his own destiny with two rounds to go. Taking white against Carlsen in round five, he sought the elusive breakthrough against his toughest rival.

The game took place on a Saturday and the growing crowd was expected to be at its peak. With intermittent issues plaguing the live broadcast, the chess club was taking no chances. Thanks to a partnership with Fox Sports Midwest, they called in a satellite truck overnight, the last in the fleet (they are in high demand during college football season). The five-man production team now sounded like a NASA mission control center as they communicated with Fox’s uplink in Houston.

“Do we have Houston on the line?”

“We are for Houston. Power-up and hold for confirmation.”

The broadcast went smoothly, but for many, they preferred to attend in person. The fans turned out in droves and players had a hard time getting through the bodies just to reach their tables. The press corps tripped over each other while taking their pictures. “I wasn’t expecting so many people to come to watch chess,” Aronian said (he had played in the U.S. once before, at the 1999 FIDE World Championship in Las Vegas).

The sports bar next door was completely rented out—every one of the roughly two dozen televisions showed the day’s chess action (selling the game to unaware football fans that walked up was too much—most turned around to find a pigskin-friendly establishment).

Nakamura again amazed, though this time it was less of a spectacle. He said the only pity about the shades was that technology now exists to make “smart” sunglasses. “Of course, they’re just regular Ray-Bans,” he joked.

The day produced no winners, the only one of the six rounds to end in two draws. Nakamura surprisingly said, “I didn’t even prepare for this game. After yesterday, I didn’t want to play anything too crazy. I decided to play a quiet line in the Berlin.”

He had a few chances, but Carlsen was never in serious danger. Nakamura said he missed the final subtle queen maneuver that caused a repetition. “I was starting to think I was better at this point.”

“I was hoping that he would overpress and he would play for a loss,” Carlsen said. “But obviously he is much too good of a player for that.”

Meanwhile Kamsky played his best game of the tournament, as Aronian again got nothing in the 5. Bf4 line against the Dutch. The American pressed down the h-file, but it wasn’t quite enough to earn his first win. Aronian’s curious second usage of the sideline caused Carlsen to flippantly comment, “He’s playing so badly against [the Dutch], I think he’s going to single-handedly revive it.” Aronian reminded everyone that he had won many games in his career against the Dutch.

With one round to play, three of the four players still retained chances to win, but only Carlsen controlled his fate. If Aronian could beat the leader with black, and Nakamura drew with Kamsky, there would be an improbable three-way tiebreak!

That possibility nearly came into play. Kamsky took a perpetual against an uncastled Nakamura. Although the game was the only one of the entire tournament not to reach the time control, the play was sharp throughout, as Nakamura chose to play uncompromising, risky chess. “If I had won the game, I would have been number three or four in the world,” Nakamura said. “I have to take a shot.”

“At first it looked really good, but that’s why Hikaru is Hikaru,” Kamsky said of his position. The tournament having concluded for him, Kamsky reflected on his play. “I felt this tournament is for the fans. We don’t have to worry about the result. Sometimes the aggression doesn’t pay off.”

Having hinted in the past that his career will be coming to a close, Kamsky also pointed out that Carlsen will be 22 when he faces Viswanathan Anand in Chennai, just like he was in Elista in 1996. Back then, Kamsky challenged but ultimately lost to Anatoly Karpov for the world championship. Despite several more tantalizing chances, Kamsky never got that close to chess’ highest honor again.

So, like a golfer who has posted his round, Nakamura waited to see how the other scores would come in. “I would have liked to have paid some attention to [Carlsen-Aronian], but considering how quickly my game got out of control, I didn’t really have a chance,” he said.

Could Aronian transition his ineffective extra pawn and control of the d-file into a win? Would Carlsen lose as white in the last round, when only a draw was needed to clinch (exactly as happened at the Candidates tournament earlier in 2013)?

The tension reached its zenith when Carlsen, two moves before time control, was down to eight seconds. He picked up his h-pawn and fumbled it, quickly righted the piece and hit his clock.

Closed Ruy Lopez, Anti-Marshall System (C88)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2970)

GM Levon Aronian (2913)

Sinquefield Cup 2013 (6), St. Louis, Missouri, 09.15.2013


Levon played 10. ... Nxe5 against Hikaru in round one. Now he tries another method, which he has also played before. I think this way is the best.


Black has no difficulties at all. Unfortunately, he needs to win to hope for a tie for first! Magnus just wants to draw, and he wins the tournament.

18. Re1 Rab8 19. Nc4 RB5 20. b3 Bd4

White is stuck defending a5 and Black has possibilities to improve his position, and White has to just wait.


This move is OK, but the plan Leon starts is not. Best was 25. ... Nb5 and try to infiltrate on c3 and d4. The idea of winning the a5-pawn is bad, since Black gets completely tied down.


(see diagram top of next page)

Now Black has trouble moving his
29. ... h5 30. Rea1 Rd4 31. Ne1!

Magnus always finds these computer moves! Now White has no trouble at all, and the game should be a draw. But Levon needs to win, and as a result, goes too far!

31. ... Ke7

31. ... Rxe4 32. Nd3 Rb5 33. c4!! is the tactical justification of 31. Ne1!!

32. f3 Rd2

Gata came to analyze with us after his draw with Hikaru, and he opined here that he preferred White!


Ka7 40. Kg1 Kb6 41. Kf1 g6 42. Kg1 Kb7 43. Kf1 Kc8 44. Nf2 Rd8? 45. Ne3

White was content with a draw, and we could see from the last few moves, but after this voluntary rook retreat, Magnus started to play for a win!

45. ... Kb7 46. Ke2 Kb6 47. Ke3 Kb7 48. Nd1 Kc8 49. Nb2 Rd6 50. Ra1

50. ... Kd8?? 51. Nc4

50. ... Kd8?? trapped the rook on d6, and now Levon needs to go through contortions to avoid big material loss. Levon offered a draw (and clear first to Magnus) somewhere between moves 43–47, but Magnus wanted to win!

51. ... Nxc4+ 52. bxc4 Rb8 53. c5 Rd7 54. Rxa6

Black cannot avoid losing lots of pawns and/or a piece.

54. ... b3

No better is 54. ... Nd4 55. Ra8! Nxc2+ 55. ... Rxa8 56. Rxa8+ Kc7 57. Nxe5 Nxc2+ 58. Ke2 and the Rd7 has nowhere safe to go! 56. Kd2 Rxa8 57. Rxa8+ Ke7 58. Kxc2.

55. Rxc6 bxc6 56. Ne1 Ke7 57. Nxc2

Levon plays the rest out of frustration, but the result is no longer in doubt.


Though a draw was good enough, and the $70,000 first place was within reach, Carlsen rejected Aronian’s offer on move 48. “I had the better position and I wanted to use it. It was a little bit of a gamble, but I thought, ‘Winning the last game would be so sweet.’ ” Declining the draw made his father, Henrik Carlsen, proud. It was also consistent with Magnus’ previous comments about his general dislike of draws.

“I had a big advantage and then I played like an idiot,” a somber Aronian said. “I played all the wrong ideas. I felt like I had to win immediately. Losing that position is embarrassing.”

“He completely outplayed me in the middlegame,” Carlsen said. “All White can do is wait. Fortunately my position has some inherent solidity.” His plus-three score of 4½/6 put him a full point ahead of second-place Nakamura. “The final margin of victory is flattering.”

The push to win created one last superlative. Before the event, the USCF assigned him an estimated rating of 2970.
That was too conservative. Carlsen’s first six USCF games produced a typo-like provisional rating of 3004.

The tournament served as Carlsen’s final tune-up before his match with Anand. He said he was not worried about his openings, and he felt generally prepared. “Most of the games were decided in the middlegame and endgame, not in opening preparation,” he said. One of his main goals for the rest of September and October was rest.

As for the future of the tournament, all signs point to an impressive 2014 edition. The club announced its intentions to host again next year. The tournament may include more players—this first edition was mostly arranged to ensure Carlsen’s participation. “I want Linares, Wijk aan Zee, all the other cities around the world that you think of about chess—I want St. Louis to be the same way,” Club Executive Director Tony Rich said.

Carlsen hinted that he would like to return, schedule permitting. “I liked everything, except for the end of my game with Gata. They were playing music across the street. That was really annoying. If you could have a banner next time that says, ‘No Music Within a Mile,’ that would be great.” Club officials actually interceded during that game, pulling the plug on the street performance.

Nakamura relished the chance to play in front of his fellow Americans. Previously, he had stated that playing in your home city created distractions. This time around, he saw the support from fans and changed his tune. “I felt more comfortable here than in Europe generally,” he said. “There are lots of fans who were rooting for me, and that was really nice.”

Sinquefield’s Kevin Costner moment came five years ago, when he took a city not known for chess, erected the finest structure in the country, and waited to see what would happen.

For chess fans, you could ask, “Is this heaven?”

No, it’s St. Louis.”
What event or events could lead one to play a single chess game for nearly three years?

A chess game which had the potential to save a life.

A chess game, which unbeknownst to one player would open up to him a soul-wrenching trek through the dark underbelly of humanity.

BY PAUL KARRER
Year after year though I have to straighten out a few false assumptions on the kids’ part.

A. The game is not, nor will ever be referred to as CHEST!
B. Except for knights there is no jumping.
C. Those little twerps in the front lines are not PONDS.

Then I excite their little impressionable minds with juicy facts. Like the fact that the term “checkmate” is originally from the Persian term “shah mat”—the king (the Shah) is dead some say “trapped”. I tell them about the nearly eight-hundred-year-old Lewis (Uig chessmen) walrus ivory chess set found near Lewis Bay on the Outer Hebrides Islands in Scotland. And found by some kids no less. 78 lovely intricately carved pieces from the twelfth century. Usually by the end of that week the kids are telling me about Bobby Fischer, Deep Blue, etc. I’ve won them over to the game and they are researching the ins and outs of chess on their own.

One such little cherub was a kiddo I’ll call Rojelio Garcia. It’s not his real name for reasons which will become apparent. Rojelio was in and out of the hospital as a kid; asthma and stress were just a few of his issues. His mom had a heart of gold but really bad habits like: heroin, glue-sniffing, theft, an inclination towards aggression, poor choices in mates, and enough arrests to paper two cafeteria walls. Rojelio however was a bright, happy, charismatic, optimistic, always grinning little critter. My wife ran the latchkey program (kids who had no one home for whatever reason and they came to school early and stayed late) and Rojelio was in my wife’s class and she said of him, “When that boy enters a room he brings a smile and joy.”

A smile and joy ... Yes indeed. Well, he took to chess and it took to him. More than once I’d be on my way out the classroom door and he’d be sitting on the ground right outside my door with a trap laid for me. A STUDENTS’ FOOLS MATE. He was a tiny 10-year-old. He’d set up a chess game, turned the game sideways on the overhead projector and I let the kids watch me play the one or two sharp kids who already play the game. Usually by the end of the week the kids are begging to play chess and are doing a series of rain dances so they can stay in at recess time instead of going outside.

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He sat squarely on the ground, held up a hidden piece in each clenched fist. He smiled up at me and it melted my heart. Didn’t matter that I had a thousand things to do. The kid wanted to play chess.

“You’re gonna pick black ya’ know.”

He always said that. And sometimes he was right. At any rate, I’d sit and we’d play a few games. Rojelio still claims he won a few but I don’t recall that. Anyway, the year passed. Rojelio passed on to sixth grade and I got a new crop of fifth-graders. But my Rojelio would still show up now and again and he always brought his smile. We’d play a game for old-times sake. And one year he even gave me a chess set. Then he’d show up less and less, but I started to hear about him more and more. He’d been initiated into one of the local insidious, evil, gangs.

At age 13 my Rojelio Garcia was arrested for nine attempted murders, numerous assault charges, attempted felony flight for a grand tally of 23 felony charges. The laws in California were tightening up for juvenile crime and Rojelio was on the short list with the first few offenders to be charged as adults. He received a life sentence, which in California at that time translated to his being released someday on his 26th birthday.

Three years later, I walked into the school’s teachers’ lounge, stuck my hand in my mailbox and pulled out a letter and suppressed a desire to cry. The return address choked me up:

Rojelio Garcia / Inmate # Y70486
California State Prison 107
D.V.I.
Tracy, CA 95378

Best kid I ever had. Smart, kind, quick to laugh. Male teachers aren’t supposed to feel like crying, particularly this early in the morning.

Letter in hand, I rushed to my classroom. The bell would ring in about eight minutes. For better or worse, I would read the letter first.
whole car unloaded their guns on him. BUT see, they missed. But Mr. Karrer, that isn’t right. I mean it breaks the street code. You don’t shoot nobody in front of their family. So this guy I know real, real well got furious. And he knew who the shooters were. So he and another guy burned their house down. And their [sic] were nine people in it (But none of them got injured swear to God Mr. Karrer). Anyway this guy I know got an attempted murder felony charge for each person in the house. That’s the nine count Mr. Karrer, that’s why he got life. I swear on that chess game I gave you.

So, now I’m in S.H.U. [Special Housing Unit –ed.] (hole) You call it isolation. I don’t want to say what I’m in the hole for and scare you off or anything. But I feel that I can keep it real with you. I been wanting to write but I was embarrassed to let you know I’m in prison.

You ready? Here’s the proposal. (Your homework) You probably figured it out long ago on a count of the chess set in this letter. I sent you a prison made chessboard with pieces. ‘Cause me and you are going to have a game. Just read the instructions in back of the chessboard I made you with pieces! As you know we can’t get chessboards in isolation ’cause we can melt down the chess pieces and make knives or we could melt the pieces into liquid and make tattoo ink! Yeah, crazy huh! So since me and you are going to be writing each other we can play chess and write our moves every time we write each other. Usually in here we play chess with our “cellies” (cellmates), or in the vent (it’s above our bed area). We can play with our neighbors or upstairs, sometimes we play through yelling out the doors.

Anyways just look at the back of the chessboard and there should be another piece of paper with the chess pieces. Go ahead and cut them out. You can make another chessboard and pieces. But it has to be the same format and style. And no cheating!

Back to my story. So I messed everything up. These days I can’t even go back to school or trade school because I’m in the hole 23/1, seven days a week. Sometimes I don’t even get my hour in the yard. Just once a week the rest is in my cell. Don’t have a cellie. I’m doing the rest of my time in S.H.U.

I mostly read, read, and write.

Your friend, student ~ Rojelio

The Rules—Inmates’ Chess ...

Rojelio was transferred from Tracy, to Corcoran Prison. Because of his age, small size, and violent tendencies he was put in isolation. We played chess whenever we could. And as his rules stated one letter was a move. To make things easier I photocopied each game and sent it in my letter to him. My letters to him took between three to seven days. Rojelio’s letters to me took two to three weeks. The prison censors had to read his letters looking for gang code, secret messages, information, or ghost writing. Rojelio later informed me about ghost writing.

“Inmates write a letter on paper using citrus juice, lemon or lime is the best, but lots of other liquids work. Then write a regular ink or pencil letter over it. The person who gets the letter holds the letter near a lamp and the dried juice heats at a faster rate than the rest of the paper and it shows up brownish like a ghost just wrote it.”

Our game started fairly normally and cautious—we each inched the kings’ pawn out two spaces. Rojelio figured he was white since he initiated the whole idea. Unknown to Rojelio I set up a chess set on a regular three-dimensional set at home. My wife said I was cheating and had an advantage, but I countered, “He’s in total isolation. He has nothing else to ponder all day and he can get assistance from the inmates on the other side of his walls.”

Sometimes the prison guards messed with Rojelio because he had taken up an oppositional/defiant stance to them. Something which never endears those in power to those they often hold in contempt or are afraid of. This played itself out more than once when his letters showed up as empty envelopes. Or the envelopes contained letters addressed to someone else. The guards were saying, “Hi,” and letting him know they held sway over him and unfortunately our game.

One day I received a thick letter; inside it a newspaper had been folded many times. It was a Christian Science Monitor. Four completed Sudoku puzzles were folded inside the paper.

Rojelio’s accompanying note was brief.

“Mr. Karrer you might want to keep this paper and the puzzles
until you visit me. They are transferring me again—Salinas Valley State Prison. Check out the articles real good.”

The paper had two articles which had been circulated. I read them a few times and got no connection—nothing. Then I saw who the subscriber was and I felt sick. The address label on the top right corner of the paper made the hair on my neck stand up. Inmate # B33920, Corcoran Prison, Charles Manson. First of all I was stunned that I held in my hands the newspaper of Charles Manson. How does one even start to process that? That this once-upon-a-time sweet kid crossed paths with Charlie was not in any way a good thing. And the second part, visit him! Sure … why not?

Letters passed slowly and the game progressed. I applied for a security clearance and was finally approved to visit inmate Y70486 aka Rojelio Garcia. But the problem was he was in level-four maximum security, isolation. And he would only be allowed a 45-minute non-contact visit.

I had to check-in in the parking lot, check-in again in the visitor’s center, present myself to a guard, spread my arms out, empty my pockets, take off my shoes, take off socks. Have my inner wrist stamped with an invisible ultraviolet ink (to be checked on the way out to make sure I was a visitor not an escaping inmate) then I got three shots at passing through the mother of all metal detectors, failure a third time meant no visit. And a body cavity search could be requested, denial meant no visit.

I passed all requirements and passed through two sally ports (four-sided fenced enclosures with a sliding gate).

Once inside the prison, I walked by myself and noticed the lovely Gavilan mountain range loom in the distance. Finally in the prison in the visitor’s section I waited against a wall and absorbed everything. My God, these are inmates walking freely near me. I counted 12 of them. They’re all wearing denim shirts and pants with black and white tennis shoes. I couldn’t help but notice the two correction officers behind a podium—

Tape on the floor in front of their podium read: DO NOT ENTER CORRECTION OFFICER AREA.

An officer pointed at me and then a window. He mouthed the word, “YOU.”

The window had a phone near it and a metal seat attached to the floor. On the other side of the window a similar phone awaited. Behind the window a purely muscled Latino gangster stood and stared at me. He had no hair, Chinese tattoos from his ears to his collar bones. He was chained at the ankles, and stood and stared at me. He had no hair, Chinese tattoos from the mother of all metal detectors, failure a third time meant no visit. And a body cavity search could be requested, denial meant no visit.

I passed all requirements and passed through two sally ports (four-sided fenced enclosures with a sliding gate).

Eventually we got around to chess. “You got my last letter and move?” Rojelio asked.

“Yes, sorry about your queen.”

“Yeah, right. My bad.”

“I have a question for you.” I asked, “What’s the story on the paper you sent? And the Sudoku puzzles?”

“A present. You used to always bring cool stuff in to school. Thought you might like it.”

“Like it! Holy cow it scared me.”

“You keep it?”

“Of course.”

“Well ole Charlie Manson was on my tier. So we played a game.”

“Get out! You played chess with Charles Manson?”

“Swear on the Bible Mr. Karrer.”

“Jesus H. How do you do?”

“To be honest my … associates told me I couldn’t play with him. So we only played half a game.”

“Associates?”

“My crew.”

“Wow! His gang refused the right to play with Manson. Why?”

“He’s too evil. Hey, you know them word puzzles I sent?”

“They’re all wearing denim shirts and pants with black and white tennis shoes. I couldn’t help but notice the two correction officers behind a podium—

Tape on the floor in front of their podium read: DO NOT ENTER CORRECTION OFFICER AREA.

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The window had a phone near it and a metal seat attached to the floor. On the other side of the window a similar phone awaited. Behind the window a purely muscled Latino gangster stood and stared at me. He had no hair, Chinese tattoos from his ears to his collar bones. He was chained at the ankles, and at the waist with a connecting chain from his waist to his ankles. A thick Fu Manchu moustache hid any expression.

Wrong guy, Jesus H! The inmate backed into the door he had just come through watching me the whole time. He placed his hands behind himself and in a slot in the door. A guard must have unlocked his wrist chains. I turned to call a guard and a tapping on the window redirected me. The inmate smiled. It was a smile I recognized a once-upon-a-time-a fifth-grade Rojelio smile. My God it was HIM! Of course he’d changed. He was a young man! Not 10 any more.

We both picked up a phone.

“Hey, Jefe (boss) you made it. Lot’s of people say they will come but only you showed up. Thanks, Mr. Karrer.”

And so it went over the years. I visited as often as I could. We developed a routine on my visits, I’d tell him a joke, he’d tell me of outrageous incidents inside the prison, I’d tell him about his hood, he’d request some books and we’d end it with confirming the latest status of our game.

On a Friday in October I received a phone call.

“Mr. Karrer, it’s Rojelio. You aren’t gonna believe this. I’m out!”

“Mr. Karrer, it’s Rojelio. You aren’t gonna believe this. I’m out!”

“No chains on me. The sky is looking down on me. Want to meet? We got to finish our game?”

Rojelio had been early released. I met him and gave him a hug and pulled out our game. Our game was a month short of three years. We played, but to be honest it wasn’t a fair game. He was wired, filled with joy just to be out. Energy and life pulsed in him and the borrowed cell phone he had rang time and time again. He was distracted and I massacred him. But teachers get to do that.

As of this writing Rojelio at age 29 is free. But the odds are very much against him. 🕊️

Masterful Mamedov Wins the Masters

By GM JOSH FRIEDEL

The 2013 U.S. Masters was up for grabs until the very last moment, but in the end GM Rauf Mamedov of Azerbaijan emerged victorious. The event took place for the second year in a row in Greensboro, North Carolina. Walter High goes through great pains to organize a high-caliber event, and this year was no exception. The largely international field consisted of 21 grandmasters (GMs), several international masters (IMs) and FIDE masters, top female players (including current U.S. Women’s Champion Irina Krush), and many of the nation’s top juniors. Not only does this make for a strong and eclectic field, but it presents norm opportunities for those pursuing their titles. These opportunities certainly weren’t squandered, as there were a total of seven norms achieved! Justin Sarkar scored his second grandmaster norm. Damir Studen, Bradley Denton, Tatev Abrahamyan, and Denys Shmelov all scored IM norms. Sabrina Chevannes clinched her woman international master (WIM) title and scored a woman grandmaster norm, while Sarah Chiang captured a WIM norm. It should also be noted that Alex Ostrovskiy added a fourth IM norm to his collection just in case three don’t do the trick. There were several other strong performances as well, and with just a few changes in the wind I can imagine of even more norms being achieved.

The strength of the field, while impressive, isn’t the only aspect of the tourney that made it appealing. The playing halls were quite nice, with sets and clocks provided on all boards. While in Europe this is standard practice, it is a rare bird in American events, and it always increases my respect for the organizers. Players were well provided for off the board as well, with a VIP room with snacks and refreshments available for player analysis. This also gives the participants a good opportunity to socialize, and often people would hang around chatting long after the game analysis had dissipated. Another plus was that the hotel was quite upscale. All the rooms were large suites, and a complimentary breakfast was provided each morning. If I had a knock on the location, it would be the food situation. If you had a car there was no issue, but there was nothing within walking distance from the hotel, so an atypical percentage of the chess population tended to stick to the hotel restaurant. Despite this, I don’t think anyone had issues with starvation, and otherwise there was little to complain about.

I noticed that the organizers also paid attention to the minor details well. For instance, last year one of the playing rooms was a bit overheated to say the least. I debated with my roommate that year, Eugene Perelshteyn, about the effects playing in a sauna has on the brain. He felt that it fried the brain, whereas I was...
adamant that mine was being poached. In any case, this year they made sure the
temperature of the rooms was much
improved, and it is always refreshing when
details like this are attended to. Both
literally and figuratively.

The tournament itself had a somewhat
unusual start to it. While the number of
decisive upsets was low, there were a high
number of draws, and among them
involved three of the top four seeds!
German GM Georg Meier drew against
Bradley Denton, GM Bartlomiej Macieja of
Poland drew against the veteran WGM
Camilla Baginskaite, and eventual
tournament winner Mamedov drew a
marathon game with rising junior Adithya
Balasubramanian. In fact, Mamedov was
worse for a large portion of the game and
only barely managed to escape unscathed.

Now, for one round this isn’t that shocking,
even given that most outrated their
opponents by over 300 points. However,
not only did they give up draws in round
one, but in round two as well! It isn’t often
you see 2500+ players floating around in
the middle of the pairings after two rounds,
and it speaks to the strength of the event
as well as how many dangerous players are
out there in these Swisses. The days of
coasting for the first few rounds are over,
and a player has to remain vigilant from
the first game to the last. Towards the
end of the tournament, however, the top
players were able to show their class by
finishing at the top of the table.

The top seeded Azeri GM may have had
a slow start, but Rauf Mamedov concluded
his tournament with a flourish, defeating
strong GMs Alex Lenderman and Macieja
on the final day. This enabled him to take
clear first rather than having to share the
spoils, no small feat in a field that includes
so many strong players. Going into the last
round, he was half a point back from
Macieja, and thus he was forced to win in
order to leapfrog the strong Polish GM.

**Caro-Kann Defense, Two Knights Variation (B11)**
GM Rauf Mamedov (2726)
GM Bartlomiej Macieja (2556)
U.S. Masters Championship (9), Greensboro,
North Carolina, 09.02.2013

Rather than take a quick draw in the
last round and grab a beer, Mamedov
goes for clear first and manages to get
there after a long, grinding win. While Macieja had his chances to hold, it is
never easy to stand up to continuous
pressure, and Mamedov applied it
expertly.

1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Nc3 Bg4 4. h3 Bh5 5.
d4 e6 6. exd5 cxd5 7. g4 Bg6 8. h4 Bb4 9.
0-0-0 0-0-0 16. f4 Nfxd3 17. Qxd3 Rxh6 18.
Qe3 Rh6 19. Rh3 Kb8 20. Qe3 Ne5 21. Ne3
Nh5 22. Qf2 Rh8 23. Rg7+ Ke7 24. Re7
Kh7 25. Qe3 Nf6 26. Qf4 Nh5 27. Nc5
Re8 28. Kb1 Bf6 29. Re3 Ne5 30. Nxe5
Qc7 31. Nf7 Qa5 32. Na4 Kc7 33. Qe3
Re7 34. Qf4 Rg7 35. Kb2 Rd7

White has been pressing, but it looks
like the game should be heading towards
a draw at this point. However, as often
happens, one misstep can let it slip.

44. ... Rc7?! 
White doesn’t have much of anything
after 44. ... Re7.
45. h6! 
... and now Black has a slight piece
coordination problem. Note how there
are no good discoveries with the knight.

45. ... gxh6 46. Rhx6+ Ke7 47. Nc5

Now Black is in for a difficult defense.

47. ... Na7 
I prefer waiting with 47. ... Rc8 rather
than letting White’s rook in.
48. Kd3 Nc6 49. Kc3 Na7 50. Re6+ Kd8

The alternative 50. ... Kf7 51. Rb6 is
annoying, but perhaps it was still the

More accurate was 54. Kb3.

54. ... Kd6?! 

54. ... Rh3+ 55. Kb2 Nc6! and Black
has solved most of his problems. The
point is that 56. Rxb5+ is impossible
because of Ka6, and after 56. Ne6 Kb6
Black’s coordination has improved
significantly.

55. Rd6+ Kc7 56. Rd6 Kb7 57. Rd3 Rh3+ 58.
Kc4 Rh4+ 59. Kd5?

This completely natural looking move
gives Black a great chance. Errors like
this are hard to avoid late in the game
with little time on the clock, especially
in the last round of a long event.

59. ... Rh7? 
Stronger is 59. ... Nc8! and the threat of
... Nb6+ is actually really annoying.
Now, for instance, if 60. Rg7+ (60. Kc5??
Rh5+ would be rather embarrassing!)
60. ... Kc6 61. c3 Nb6+ 62. Kd6 Rh6+
63. Ne6 Nc4+ 64. Ke7 Rh3 and Black
has great drawing chances.

60. Nb3 Rd7+ 61. Rd6 Rh7 62. Nc5+ Kc7
63. Ne6+ Kb7 64. Kc5

Now White is in full control.

64. ... Nc8 65. Rd5 Nb6 66. Rg5 Ka6 67. Rg6
Nd7+ 68. Kd6 Kb6 69. Ng5 Nf8 70. Nhx7

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White calculates accurately that the b-pawn can’t be saved.

70. ... Nxg6 71. Nf6 Nh4 72. Nd5+ Kb7 73. Kc5 Nf3 74. c3, Black resigned.

The final touch.

GM Georg Meier of Germany, who is now a member of the powerful Webster University chess team, finished in the four-way tie for second. True to his style, he showed solid chess throughout, but somehow he wasn’t quite able to get enough wins to reach first place. He had some nice wins to his credit, however, and showed his strength with a savage beating of GM John Fedorowicz in round six with the black pieces. While Fed may not have the strength he once did, I can tell you from experience that beating the resourceful GM is never a simple task.

**Symmetrical English (A37)**

**GM John Fedorowicz (2490)**

**GM Georg Meier (2702)**

**U.S. Masters Championship (6), Greensboro, North Carolina, 09.01.2013**

1. c4 c5 2. Nc3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. 0-0 Bf5 7. d3 Qd7 8. Nd5 Nf6 9. Nh4?!

I really don’t care for this idea, as the knight becomes a source of mild embarrassment.

9. ... Bg4 10. f3 Be6 11. Nf3 d5!

I really like this move. While normally it is ill-advised to open the position against the two bishops, in this case it is the best way to take advantage of White’s awkward pieces.

12. Nxe6 Qxe6 13. f4 dxc4 14. f5 Qe5 15. dxc4 0-0 16. fxg6 hxg6

White has the two bishops in an open position, but due to White’s awkward pieces and weak pawns it is Black who is better.

17. e3?

This creates another weakness. 17.

Bxc6 It looks a bit crazy to give up the g2-bishop, but Black’s pieces are simply too good, so I believe this was White’s best bet. A likely continuation would be 17. ... bxc6 18. Nf3 Qe4 19. Qfd8 20. Qxe4 Nxe4 21. Rb1 and while Black is definitely better, there are some drawing chances.

17. ... Bh6 18. Kh1 Rad8 19. Qb3 Rd7

Despite not being down anything, White is totally lost here. There are simply too many weaknesses, and the c1-bishop isn’t coming out anytime soon.


Fed understandably decided to end the suffering.

**GM Bartlomiej Macieja, who earlier this year became the coach of the University of Texas at Brownsville chess team, was leading the tournament going into the last round. Had he not lost to Mamedov, clear first would have been his. As it was, he had to settle for shared second. This maybe wasn’t what he had hoped for, but still not too shabby. His round eight victory against GM Alojzije Jankovic was particularly nice.**

**Sicilian Defense (B53)**

**GM Bartlomiej Macieja (2556)**

**GM Alojzije Jankovic (2624)**

**U.S. Masters Championship (8), Greensboro, North Carolina, 09.02.2013**


(see diagram top of next column)

After the overly passive 25. ... Nb8, Black is against the ropes. In this position his sense of danger eludes him.

27. Kg7

Despite not being down anything, White is totally lost here. There are simply too many weaknesses, and the c1-bishop isn’t coming out anytime soon.


Fed understandably decided to end the suffering.

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**Sicilian Defense (B53)**

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**U.S. Masters Championship (8), Greensboro, North Carolina, 09.02.2013**


(see diagram top of next column)

After the overly passive 25. ... Nb8, Black is against the ropes. In this position his sense of danger eludes him.

27. Kg7
Black is busted.


White may have been able to finish Black off a bit quicker, but with technique the important thing is having it all under control, and from here on in the result was never in doubt.

39. ... Nxe5 40. Qxe5+ Rf6 41. Qd4 e5 42. Rd8 Qe6 43. Qd7+ Kh6 44. Qxe6 Rxe6 45. Rf7 b6 46. h4 Re8 47. Kg3 b5 48. cxb5 axb5 49. Ra7 b4 50. Rxe8 Rxe8 51. Kf4 Rb8 52. Kg4 Rb6 53. f4 Ra6 54. Kg5 Rb6 55. Ke5, Black resigned.

Gata Kamsky had to win an Armageddon game to stop the Costa Rican-born GM from becoming the U.S. champion. Since then, the Dallas-based Alejandro Ramirez has been racking up one strong performance after another, tying for first at the National and World Opens, as well as nearly knocking out Super-GM Evgeny Tomashevsky at the World Cup (who also was taken to an Armageddon). While his result here certainly can’t compare to all of that, he turned in a solid 6 1/2 /9 performance with no losses, including a long, grinding win against fellow second place finisher IM Justin Sarkar.

New York’s GM Alex Lenderman had a great event in his own right. He was leading for most of the tournament, as it seems he’s been doing a lot of lately, but just fell short of first due to his loss to Mamedov in round eight. Despite this, he bounced back and won his last round to finish with a solid six points. Alex has been knocking on the door of several big events lately, and he takes his chess as seriously as anyone I know, so I’d imagine it is only a matter of time until he finally breaks that door down with heavy explosives. His win from round three against IM-elect Aleksandr Ostrovskiy was a particularly brutal Caro-Kann (yes, I see the irony) that ended with a nice queen sacrifice.

Classical Caro-Kann Defense (B19)
IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy (2503)
GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2642)
U.S. Masters Championship (3), Greensboro, North Carolina (3), 08.30.2013


White doesn’t quite sense the danger yet.

22. Rh1 Nd5

White is already in trouble, but here he blunders.

23. Nf4

23. Nc1 is probably the best try, but after 23. ... Rdc4 White has a miserable position.

23. ... Qc6 24. Nxd5

24. ... Qxc2+! 25. Kd1 Qxd2+ 26. Kc1 Rxe4 27. Kb1 Rxf4

White has been under slight pressure, and here he just blunders.

22. Qh4??

22. Qh4?? Necessary was 22. Qg5, though I still prefer Black slightly after 22. ... Rab8.

22 ... Bxa2+!

Zapata doesn’t miss his tactical opportunity.

23. Kxa2 Rxe4 24. Kb1 Rxf4

White is lost.


... and White resigned, trusting Black to realize that the pin on the d-pawn is a sarcastic one.

See more games here:
www.unc.com/live/

Article continues on the next page.
Most of the upsets from the early rounds were pulled off by the same group of players. Bradley Denton drew GMs Meier and Mamedov, Damir Studen drew Meier and GM Alexander Fishbein, and Baginskaite also drew against two GMs. Denton and Studen ended up scoring norms, though unfortunately Camilla ended up falling off pace later in the event. The most notable round one upset was probably Jonathan Chiang’s win over GM Mikheil Kekelidze. Alex Ostrovskiy showed early on that he was not to be taken lightly by crushing GM Jankovic in round two. Dominique Myers, rated 2037, had an amazing start. He beat IM Nazi Paikidze rated 2378 in round one, and then drew GM Macieja in round two! Unfortunately, he was unable to continue his run, and managed only another point in the next seven rounds. Nevertheless, he is most certainly a player to watch for in future events. Wisconsin’s Awonder Liang, while not scoring any norms, had a very strong performance and gained 37 points. This puts this country’s youngest-ever master at well over 2300, and I’d advise everyone to be extremely wary of this young man. If I neglected any strong performances, my apologies, but there were so many that mentioning all of them would probably get me in hot water with the editor!

As was already mentioned, a whopping seven players earned title norms. While some I know rather well and others I’ve never met, here is my effort to introduce all of them:

**Justin Sarkar**

Justin has been a constant presence atop major Swisses in the U.S. for a long time now. He’s always worked hard on his chess, yet somehow the GM title has eluded him thus far. Happily, he made another major step towards it at the U.S. Masters. Justin showed good form and maintained it throughout, even scoring the necessary win as black in the last round. This enabled him to tie for second and score his second GM norm. His last round win against Denys Shmelov was a wild affair.

**Tatev Abrahamyan**

Tatev has been one of the top female players in the U.S. for awhile now, and in recent years has shown to be the biggest threat to the Krush/Zatonskikh stranglehold on the U.S. Women’s Championship. She’s been on a bit of a tear of late, turning in strong results in both the U.S. Women’s Championship (clear third with 6½/9) and the USA-China match (3½/5 in the classical games with a 2600+ FIDE performance). This tournament continued the trend, as she managed to clinch her IM norm with one round to spare. At this rate, the title itself won’t be far behind it.

**Denys Shmelov**

Denys, who hails originally from Ukraine, has been largely absent from major tournament chess in recent years in pursuit of a career in the actuarial field. Nevertheless, when he does find time to play, he seems to have a knack for finding his form. In 2011 he had a breakthrough performance at the Berkeley International, scoring a GM norm in the process. While his result here wasn’t quite as strong, he still managed to snag an IM norm rather comfortably. Not to imply that it was easy, as he had to defeat reigning U.S. Women’s Champion Irina Krush on the way. She’s been playing strong and solid chess as of late, and in fact it was the only loss of the tournament for her.

**Damir Studen**

The young master from Georgia won the state championship in 2009, and since then has been on the rise. He had a breakthrough tournament at the Masters, earning an IM norm and gaining over 40 points in the process.

**Bradley Denton**

Birmingham’s Bradley Denton, who coincidentally won the 2009 Alabama State Championship, also had a killer event. He showed some very solid chess, turning in an IM norm and crossing 2300 FIDE in one go. His solid draw as black against the 2600+ GM Meier in round one was a strong start to his tournament.

**Sabrina Chevannes**

The always upbeat Sabrina, who is based in London and has her own chess academy there, has played in several tournaments in the states over the last couple of years. While her results and tournament experiences here have been mixed, this one will almost certainly have her coming back. She gained almost 50 FIDE points (and well over 100 USCF!) and scored her first woman grandmaster (WGM) norm, thus completing her woman international master (WIM) title with a bang.

**Sarah Chiang**

At age 15, Sarah has already had quite a lot of experience playing on the big stage. Lately she’s had some rough first-time experiences, playing in both the U.S. Women’s and U.S. Junior Championships, and as the lowest-rated competitor in both. While she can’t be happy with how either of those tournaments went, I’m sure she gained a lot of wisdom, and she was able to use some of that here as she scored a WIM norm. This was very nice to see, as Sarah is one of the kindest young players you’ll ever meet, and she has an excellent attitude regardless of how her tournament is going.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank organizers Walter High and Gary Newsom, the tournament directors, and the other people who made the event possible. Your efforts didn’t go unappreciated. The great tournament experience is an elusive creature. Sleeping poorly, lack of time to eat or relax, and having poor playing conditions are only a few of the roadblocks. Even if none of those issues arise, there is nothing worse than playing poorly, and a chessplayer who is not in form is rarely in a good mood. Nevertheless, when the setting is pleasant and the tournament is a quality one, the opportunities for a great experience are there for the taking. I’ll almost certainly be going there next year to see if I can do it.
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OBJECTIVITY IS THE KING—but if you have to err, err on the side of over-confidence and over-optimism. The winner of this month’s award, Jonathan Ritter, did so with gusto. He banked everything and gave away everything on a chance to give a certain check. He gambled, and he won.

Writes Mr. Ritter (my further comments in italics):

I played this game at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City. It was round four of a FIDE event that the club was hosting every Monday night. I am rated 1585, although I only have played 12 over-the-board official tournament games. I do believe my playing strength is much higher than what my rating would reflect and wanted to see how I would fare against the high-level players that the Marshall Chess Club attracts.

Giuoco Piano (C50)
Jonathan Ritter (1585)
Edward Kopiecki (1981)
FIDEMON (4)—Marshall Chess Club, New York City, August 12, 2013


6. a3

This gives me breathing room for my bishop. If I do not play this move then after he plays ... a6 he can play ... Na5 winning bishop for knight.

ECO doesn’t mention this move, concentrating mostly on 6. Be3 and 6. Bg5. “Winning bishop for knight” isn’t a real threat here: for example, 6. Na4 Bb6 led to full equality in Pal Benko-Andrzej Pytłakowski, 1951. Note that the natural 6. 0-0 allows 6. ... Bg4!, ready to meet 7. h3 with 7. ... h5.

6. ... Bg4

Did Black, playing 6. ... Bg4, plan to play 7. ... Be6 after 7. h3—or did he plan to do something else (7. ... Bk5, 7. ... Bxf3) and change his mind later?

7. h3 Be6

In this position, if 8. Bxe6 fxe6 and my opponent has a better centralized pawn structure.

8. Nd5

I played Nd5 because I thought that my opponent wanted to play ... N(c6)e7-g6 with a very good game.

8. ... Ne7 9. Nxf6+ gxf6

This branch of the Giuoco Piano (The Quiet Game), as shown on our first diagram, indeed looks very quiet—unless the feisty cousin 4. c3 shows up. This quiet (or lull), could however be very misleading, as the imbalances, difficult to assess, can occur at any moment. Just in the last three moves we saw several important changes, and opportunities to make such changes, in the pawn structure—by capturing the opponent’s pieces or allowing capture of your own pieces. On his last move Black could, for instance, double-isolate White’s e-pawns: 10. ... Bxe3 11. fxe3 Bxc4—but would it really favor Black?

11. Qe2 Rg8 12. 0-0-0

Ignoring his threats and lining up my rook with his queen. I plan to bust open the center with d3-d4.

Some players would prefer 12. g4 here—but why even consider such a move when you are so convinced that 12. ... Rxg2 deserves a question mark?

12. ... Rxg2?

13. d4

13. Nh4 and later Rdg1—using the g-file, with Qh5 at some moment—may offer White even better compensation.

13. ... Qd7

He realizes that he needs to castle quickly but it is too little too late. Black holds with 13. ... exd4!.

14. d5
Forcing him to take the pawn on h3.

14. ... Bxh3 15. Bxb6 axb6

This gives him an open a-file, however I had a specific idea.

16. Qe3!

Setting up a tactical minefield. Bf1 is the threat so he has to move his rook away, which allows me to win back a pawn with Nxe5.

16. ... Rg8

17. Nxe5

While the pre-planned 17. Nxe5 looks nice, much stronger was 17. Ne1, with a big advantage for White, as the black bishop is doomed.

17. ... fx e 5 18. Rxe 5 Ng6

I decided that his knight on f4 looks much stronger than it really is as it is not near my king and doesn’t really have many targets on the kingside to attack.

I like the black knight on f4, and I’d prefer Black’s position. White’s “dream” here should be to exchange his not-so-good bishop for this great knight—and this is, alas, only a dream.

19. Rxe 7 Nf 4 20. Qb 3 Ke 7

He saw that I had plans to attack on the queenside so he decides to keep his king in the center and use the open a-file to attack. The only problem is that it is very easy to swing my queen back to the other side of the board and attack his king.

I think that both 20. ... Ke 7 and the more solid 20. ... 0-0-0 favor Black.

21. Rdh 1 Qa 4 22. Qc 3 Qa 5

Bb5, sacrificing the bishop and after 23. ... Qxb 5 I come crashing down on the c7-pawn with my queen and the game is soon over. However he correctly played Qa 5 keeping up the pressure and again offering to trade.

A very nice trap. Both players should be commended for seeing through it.

23. Qf 3

I have plans on sliding my rook over and placing my queen on h1 where it can later come to h4.

23. ... b5 24. Bb 3 b4 25. axb 4 Qxb 4 26. Kb 1 Ra 5 27. c4

Creating an escape square for my king as well as taking away the b5-square.

27. ... Qd 2

The sharp 27. ... b5 was even stronger.

28. Rd 1 Qe 2 29. Qh 1

29. ... Qxf 2 30. Rf 1 Qg 3

Houdini, guided by Roman Dzindzichashvili, suggests: 30. ... Qe 3, and on 31. Qh 4+, the calm 31. ... Ke 8, with White’s king being checkmated in a few moves.

31. Bd 1 Rg 8

My bishop now eyes the kingside and can soon join in on the attack. Both of our plans now come into fruition and it is time to see whose plan will prevail.

32. Rf 3 Ra 1+ 33. Kc 2 Qg 6

34. Qh 4+ Kd 7?? 35. Rxf 4!

This Exchange sacrifice simultaneously defends the e4-pawn so the queen cannot interpose with check. This also allows my bishop to come into the game.

35. ... exf 4 36. Bg 4+ Qxg 4 37. Qxg 4+ Ke 7 38. Qf 5+ Ke 8 39. Qg 8+ Kd 7 40. Rx f 7 mate.

Kopiecki immediately started analyzing the game and felt that after 34. ... Qf 6 he was winning.

(Black was much better, but the winning wasn’t easy—L.A.)

I think that this is an instructive game because it illustrates how important it is to formulate your own opinion about a certain position and trusting that opinion, especially when you are playing against a higher rated player. Sometimes you have to play defensively. Sometimes the best defense is a good offense. However, sometimes the best defense is to simply let your opponent go along with his plan as long as you calculate correctly and see that it is not dangerous and allow him to accomplish his plan. This game also illustrates how important it is to keep your concentration when you are in the “heat of the battle”. 34. ... Kd 7?? allowed me to win the game immediately with a tactical shot.

Jonathan made an excellent summary—except that he still doesn’t fully appreciate the powers of the f4-knight. In this game, his overconfidence in his position, well combined with tactical alertness, paid off. The strength of your beliefs and their usual companion, self-(over)confidence, are good things, as long as they are not going too far, as well as being checked by reality (Houdini? Dzindzi?) after each game.

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:

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GM Alburt will select the “most instructive” game and Chess Life 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!

www.ChessWithLev.com
I AM OCCASIONALLY ASKED WHERE I get my ideas for studies. For my last column, I thought it would be instructive to give my thoughts on this subject. Mainly, the ideas come from my own ideas, from games, and from other studies that contain ideas ripe for development or enrichment. However, lately original ideas are harder to come by. The computer has taken us in new directions and helps composers, but to a certain extent we lose human creativity—especially with miniatures.

My first serious study
GM Pal Benko
GM Aleksandar Matanovic
Belgrade, 1964

This position, where I had sealed my move, led to my first serious study. The main threat is 57. ... Bg3 (but not 57. ... Rxf2+? since after 58. Kxf2 Bg3+ 59. Kxf3! Bxe1 60. Kg2 and the position is drawn. I knew that without the h3-h4 pair of pawns it would be drawn. I acted according to that, but too early.

57. Rxe5+?!

A hasty sacrifice. Objectively 57. Bxh4 Bd4 58. Rd1 is stronger resistance. Because the white bishop can never get back to the vital a7-g1 diagonal, computers show this is winning after 40 more moves.

57. ... Kxe5 58. Bxh4 Kf4 59. Bf6 Rd2?

In case of 59. ... f2?, White can draw with 60. Kg2! Ke3 61. Bh4 Rb2 62. Bg3 f1=Q+ 63. Kxf1 Kf3 64. Be1 Rb1 65. h4.

60. Bc3 Rd5?

The shortest win here was 60. ... Re2.

61. Kf2!

The only drawing chance.


While analyzing the adjourned position, I began thinking about what would happen if Black succeeds in advancing his pawn to f2. I found a problem-like save.

Magyar Sakkvilág, 1964, first prize
Pal Benko

WHITE TO PLAY AND DRAW

1. Bd6! Kh3

If 1. ... Kg4 2. Kg2, or 1. ... Ra6 2. Bc7! Rf6 (2. ... Ra7 3. Bb6) 3. Bd8! draws. Black wins only if his rook gets behind his pawn.

2. Bc7!

Mutual Zugzwang (ZZ).

2. ... Rb2 3. Bd6! Rc2

If 3. ... Rb6, 4. Bc5 and this repeated motif assures the draw.


Holding on to the opportunity of always being able to move to an adequate square. 6. ... Ra2 can be answered by 7. Bc7! (not 7. Bc7? since 6. ... Ra2 would then win).

6. ... Re8 7. Bg3!!


7. ... Kxg3, Stalemate.

The profundity and special logic of this endgame started me on the path of composing studies and problems.

Naturally, published studies provide ideas. This usually takes the form of a correction or improvement. Here is the story of how one study developed from one I saw in André Cheron’s textbook.

After King and Horowitz
Henri Rinck, 1926

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN


But Cheron claimed it is a draw after 3. ... Rxh6 4. Qxh6 Rf6 5. Qe8 Kb7 6. Qe4! mates in 34 moves. The computer version (giving the estimated best moves only) starts with 7. Qe4 Kb6 8. Qd5 Rc5 9. Qd6+ Rc6 10. Qb4+ Ka6 11. Qb8 Ka5 12. Qb7 etc. Therefore Rinck’s study is correct.

With pieces on the board like this, it is hard to discover the full truth. Therefore I improved the study by eliminating the pawn and thus the doubt.

White to play and win
Pal Benko, 1999

(see diagram top of next column)

1. Qa1+ Kb5 2. Qb1+ Ka5

In the case of 2. ... Kc6, 3. Rh6+ Rf6 4. Qe4+ Kb5 5. Qf5 wins while after 2. ... Ka6, 3. Rh6+ Rf6 4. Qf1+ wins.

The Secrets of Study Composing
After 45 years, GM Pal Benko has decided this is his last “Endgame Lab” column. We hope that his well-earned retirement is long and fulfilling.

By GM PAL BENKO
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 69. Please e-mail submissions for Benko’s Bafflers to: pbenko@uschess.org


If we use the same motif multiple times during the course of a study it becomes thematic. A critic’s comment that this is a computer study stung me—at the time, I had no computer, and in any event the six-man endgame database did not yet exist.

Chess Clinic 1st Internet Tourney, 2000
First prize
Pal Benko


2. ... Rc4+ 3. Kd3 Rd4+ 4. Kc3


4. ... Qd6

Otherwise 4. ... Re4 5. Qxe4 Qc7+ 6. Qc4 wins for White.

5. Qe3+

The obvious 5. Qxd4? Qxg3+ 6. Qd3 Qe5+ only draws.

5. ... Rd2 6. Rb4!

Black arrives at a crossroads.

6. ... f5


This is a sharp dual with unexpected repositionings and quiet moves. The well-known IM V. Afek wrote that mine is “one of the best studies of all times”!

Magyar Sakkelet 1–2 Prize, 2000
Pal Benko
(see diagram top of next column)

1. Rg5+ Kf8

A pretty win follows 1. ... Kh8? 2. Qh1+ Rh7 3. Qa1! Rg7 (since after any Black checks would be answered by a winning discovered check.) 4. Rh5+ Kg8 5. Qa8+ Kf7 6. Rf5+ wins.

2. Qb4+

But not 2. Qf2+? Rf7 3. Qc5+ Re7+ 4. Kf6 Qh7 and Black escapes.

2. ... Re7+ 3. Kf6 Qe4

The best defense. In case of 3. ... Qh7?,
“IT’S LOOKING VERY BAD FOR YOU,” PROCLAIMS PATRICK, A CLUB REGULAR, to Poom, his Thai opponent, as he hovers over the board eagerly awaiting checkmate. A few moves later, Poom is beaten, and the two share a laugh over a table at Roadhouse Barbecue restaurant in Bangkok, where tables are prepared with chess mats and signs let patrons know this area is reserved for the Bangkok Chess Club.

The group had begun filtering in around 7 p.m., a mix of regulars and visitors, foreigners and Thais. The atmosphere is laid back as players wait for more to arrive for the tournament. Patrick, a pianist who has played with the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, uses the last of his iPhone battery to show everyone some piano humor from the piano comedy duo Igudesman & Joo. Reviews at the table are mixed and before long players have moved over to a long table for blitz.

The mood is light before the matches begin, but once the tournament starts up the room quiets down. Players focus intently on their matches and a serious blitz session is underway.

Eric, a professor from Vancouver, watches over his son, Max, as he makes his way through the tournament. The duo is in town for a few days and decided to stop in to find a few matches. Eric found the club online and in his second visit, Max is kept busy with a constant stream of matches.

Kai Tuorila, a Finnish expatriate and entrepreneur, founded the club in 1999 after having trouble finding matches in town. His mission was to create a regular meetup where regulars and travelers could stop by twice a week for a friendly game.

The club also hosts an annual tournament, the Bangkok Chess Club (BCC) Open, in April. “For us,” Kai explains, “it’s a combined vacation and chess.” The event is held in Bangkok every other year, and a new location otherwise, to give players a new experience in Thailand. This year’s tournament is in the beach town of Pattaya at the five-star Dusit Thani resort. The event boasts over 200 registered participants including some of the top players in the world.

Nearer to the BCC Open, some big names tend to stop by the weekly meetups. Nigel Short, last year’s champion, has been known to walk in unannounced to warm up in the days leading up to the event.

As the tournament has grown through word of mouth, Tuorila searches for bigger and bigger names. He talks wistfully as he remembers how close he came to attracting Magnus Carlsen and Garry Kasparov, who were looking for a place to train. They seemed headed for Thailand, and maybe a few appearances at the tournament, until a last minute schedule change sent the two to Hawaii.

The club, like chess, is a hobby for Tuorila. He’s built connections with players around the world and the club continues to grow through word of mouth.

Visitors to Bangkok of all skill levels are welcome to join the club every Tuesday at Roadhouse BBQ or Friday at Queen Victoria Pub.

If You Go

From travel.state.gov:

If you are a U.S. citizen tourist staying for fewer than 30 days, you do not require a visa, but your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your entry into Thailand. Thai Immigration officials may ask for your onward/return ticket, and airlines may ask for this information when you book or check in.

Thailand is a popular travel destination with tourist facilities available throughout much of the country. Political and civil unrest has at times been a problem affecting travel to Thailand, and political demonstrations take place with some frequency. Please review the Department of State’s Fact Sheet on U.S.-Thailand relations for additional information.
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<table>
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<th>1 month</th>
<th>3 months</th>
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Free to teachers/coaches of at least 5 students
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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 November 7 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.

OVERALL STANDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GM Aleksandr Lenderman</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>388.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM Mikheil Kekelidze</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>307.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Alexander Ivanov</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>213.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Sergey Kudrin</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>197.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Tamaz Gelashvili</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>154.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Melikset Khachiyan</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>154.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Zviad Izoria</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>152.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Alexander Shabalov</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>142.06</td>
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<td>GM Conrad Holt</td>
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<td>138.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>IM Justin Sarkar</td>
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<td>IM Ricardo De Guzman</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>132.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Mackenzie Moliner</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>131.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Varuzhan Akobian</td>
<td>KS</td>
<td>125.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM Enrico Sevillano</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>121.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM Alejandro Ramirez</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>112.63</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Though he only finished in a tie for 6th-11th at the U.S. Masters (see page 34), GM ALEKSANDR LENDERMAN still managed to put more distance between himself and his nearest competitor in this year's Trophies Plus Grand Prix race.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER

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.categories and prizes

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!

2nd: $2,500 | 3rd: $1,000
4th: $900 | 5th: $800
6th: $700 | 7th: $600
8th: $500 | 9th: $300
10th: $200
2013 CHESSMAGNETSCHOOL.COM JUNIOR GRAND PRIX TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

ChessMagnetSchool.com is the sponsor of the 2013 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by November 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 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.

### TOP OVERALL STANDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>PETERSON, GIA</td>
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<td>GORTI, AKSHITA</td>
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<td>SAINA, SAHIL</td>
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<td>DASKA, ARCHIT</td>
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<td>DASARI, SRINITHA</td>
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<td>ABAYANATHAN, SHRAJA</td>
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<td>PARKER, JACKSON BOGDAN</td>
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<td>YE, GRANT</td>
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CHECK OUT USCF’S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

### 2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

**$800 FIRST PRIZE**

(PLUS TITLE OF USCF’S GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

**2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25**

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. These 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:** below (beginner level).

**Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

**ENTRY FEE: $5.**

- **2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25**

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.

**ENTRY FEE: $10.**

- **2ND PLACE $500 • 3RD $300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE $100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: $25**

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.

**ENTRY FEE: $25.**

**USCF’s 66th ANNUAL**

**USCF’s 10th ANNUAL**

**CHECK OUT USCF’S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!**

### 2013 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

- **$800 FIRST PRIZE**

**ENTRY FEE: $5.**

**WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY**

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. 1st-place winner receives a trophy.

**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 $130.

**ENTRY FEE: $10.**

- **WALTER MUIR E-QUADS (WEBSERVER CHESS)**

Four-player, double round-robin webservice 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 past office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

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

Name: ___________________________  E-mail: ___________________________
Address: ________________________  State ____  ZIP: _______________________
Phone: __________________________  Est. Rating: ________________________
Credit card # (VISA, MC, Disc., AMEX) ___________________________  Exp. date ____________ __

Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated. [ ]

Check here if you wish 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:** below (beginner level).

**Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

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

www.uschess.org 47
USCF National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

SEE TLA IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

2013 K-12 Grade Championship  December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2013 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship  December 27-30 • Lubbock, Texas
2014 World Amateur Team & U.S. Team East - 44th Annual  February 15-17 • Parsippany, New Jersey
2014 (31st Annual) U.S. Amateur Team Championship West  February 15-17 or 16-17 • Santa Clara, California
2014 U.S. Amateur Team Championship North  February 21-23 or 22-23 • Schaumburg, Illinois
2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress  February 28-March 2 • Irvine, California
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
2014 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC)  June 12 • Las Vegas, Nevada
2014 U.S. Women’s Open  June 12-13 • Las Vegas, Nevada
2014 National Open  June 13-15 or 14-15 • Las Vegas, Nevada

FUTURE EVENTS  (Watch for details)
2014 All-Girls Championship  April 11-13 • Northbrook, Illinois
2014 U.S. Amateur Championship South  June 7-8 • Memphis, Tennessee
115th annual (2014) U.S. Open  July 26-August 3 • St. Louis, Missouri
2014 U.S. Class Championship  October 31-November 2 • Irvine, California
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
2015 National Open—TBA
2015 U.S. Game/10 Championship—TBA
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
2017 K-12 Grade Championship  December 8-10 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship  May 11-13 • Nashville, Tennessee
2018 K-12 Grade Championship  December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida

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.

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. Game/15 Championship

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2013:
2014 U.S. Amateur Team (South)
2014 U.S. Amateur (East, North, West)
2014 U.S. Cadet
2014 U.S. Game/15 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/30 Championship
2014 U.S. Game/60 Championship
2014 U.S. Junior Closed
2014 U.S. Masters Championship

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 2013:
2014 U.S. Junior Open
2014 U.S. Senior Open

For the expanded list of national events available for bid, see:
www.uschess.org/content/view/12116/705/.

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.
The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor the Chess Life guarantees the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the tournament organizer.

The tournament will require some time dedication, but you will have the opportunity to improve your chess game and performance.

Effective with TLA submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least $150. 2) No more than one prize under $100 may count toward the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control rating or time delay if even delay is zero (00).

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix: A Grand Prix event with a time control of 50 moves in 60 minutes. See www.uschess.org for more information.

**LOSS EVENTS**
E-mail your tia to: tla@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tia deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see January 2013 Cl. pg. 50 or 51 and check www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo. Payment can be done online through the T/Authorize area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

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**NATIONALS**

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! DEC. 3-15, FLORIDA 2013 National K-12 Championships 760, 6/0/7 (3-day rating list) Play only in your grade section. December rating supplement will be used. 1/2-point bye available (limit one) any round (except Round 7) if requested in advance of Round 1. Team score = total team score of all participants finishing a tournament in the same grade level. First place individual and team, including ties, will be named for each of the following National Championships by grade level. First place individual and team, including ties, will be named for each of the following National Championships:...

---

**DECEMBER 19-21, ILLINOIS 2014 U.S. Amateur Team North Open: 555, 6/0/7 (3-day rating list) 2-day $250 or $100 extra per player or team. Onsite or after 2/13: $25 extra per player or team.**...
WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THE TEAMS!

Come celebrate Country Music and USCF's 75th anniversary
Enjoy the picking and grinning and do a little moving and checking!
For complete details see our TLA under National Events.
Sponsored by USCF and New Jersey State Chess Federation.
You don't have to wear your Sunday-go-to-meeting-best,
but please bring your set and clock!

A HERITAGE EVENT   USCF   A NATIONAL EVENT

Come meet Garry Kasparov on Sunday, February 16
for a Q & A and book signing for USATE participants!
Clipped page from Chess Life magazine.

This page contains information about the 23rd annual North American Open chess tournament, which includes details about the tournament structure, prize money, and rules. The page also provides contact information for the Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

### 23rd annual NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

**Open Section**: 9 rounds, Dec 26-30, 40/2, SD/30, 9/10. **Other Sections**: 7 rounds, 40/2, SD/30, 10/3 (3-day option, 2-1-1). **Bally’s Las Vegas - GM/IM norms possible** $120,000 projected prizes, $90,000 minimum guaranteed.

**Players with under 26 games rated as of Dec 12/13 official list may not win over $1500 in U1250, $3000 in U1500 or U1700.**

**Online entry fee**: $245 at chessaction.com by 12/28, 2018, donated to ChessLife for juniors; $240 if mailed by Dec 15.

**Mail entry fee**: $225 (includes $45 processing fee).

**Special USCF dues refund**: $80 for USCF members who are or were rated in 2016-17, and did not renew before 2017.

**Additional Family Member** $55. Small appearance fee to the First three U2300 or under.

**TD may extend and USCF rated but uses FIDE rules. Will use USCF ratings and rules for GM & IM norms posted in Chess Life.**

**Reserves**:

- **Open Section, Dec 26-30**: $955, 40/2, SD/30 d10. GM & IM norms possible. $120,000 projected prizes, $90,000 minimum guaranteed.
- **Special ‘unofficial’ USCF ratings** normally used if otherwise unrated.
- **Special room rate at Bally’s $97 single or twin.**
- **Tourney entry**: 4-day reg. ends 12/24, 5 pm, 12/25 6, 4:30; 12/26 5, 4:30; 12/27 4:30; 12/28 4:30; 12/29 4:30; 12/30 4:30.

---

**Tourney Life / December**

### TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

Open Newport

Newport, Rhode Island, 25 December 2013, USA. TD: Alex Relyea, 3731 Kanawha St. NW, Washington, DC 20015. TD may extend and USCF rated but uses FIDE rules. Will use USCF ratings and rules for GM & IM norms posted in Chess Life.**

- **Reserves**: Open Section, Dec 26-30: $955, 40/2, SD/30 d10. GM & IM norms possible. $120,000 projected prizes, $90,000 minimum guaranteed.

---

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**Reserves**:

- **Open Section, Dec 26-30**: $955, 40/2, SD/30 d10. GM & IM norms possible. $120,000 projected prizes, $90,000 minimum guaranteed.
2nd Annual EMPIRE CITY OPEN
Dec 27-29 or 28-29 at New Yorker Hotel
6 rounds, $12,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND!

8th Ave & 34th St, across from Penn Station, NYC. Choice of 3- or 2-day schedule in 5 sections.

Open: $5000-2750; Open $2500-2250; U2200 $1000-750; U2000 $750-500; U1800 $500-250; U1600 $200-100; U1400 $100-50; U1200 $50-25; U1000 $25-10; U800 $15-7; U600 $10-5; U400 $5-1. 3 byes if possible.


Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! 3-5 Day Schedule

JAN. 3-5, 2014, TEXAS

26th Annual Charlotte Chess Club BLOWOUT

For complete schedule visit www.chessmasopen.com.

www.uschess.org 53
64th annual LIBERTY BELL OPEN
7 rounds, Jan 17-20, 18-20, Philadelphia
$20,000 projected prize fund, $14,000 minimum

This traditional Martin Luther King weekend event has paid MORE than its $20,000 projected prize fund every year since 2006! In 7 sections:

Open Section (no 2-day): $1700-1000-500-400-300, clear/tiebreak win $100 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr $800-$400. FIDE rated, 80 GP enhanced.

Under 2100 Section: $1000-600-400-300-200. FIDE rated, 50 GP.

Under 1900 Section: $1000-600-400-300. Unr limited $900.

Under 1700 Section: $900-500-400-300-200. Unr limited $700.

Under 1500 Section: $800-500-400-300. Unr limited $600.

Under 1300 Section: $700-400-300-200-120. Unr limited $500.

Under 1000 Section: $500-200-120-100-80. Unr limited $200.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: $1000-$600-$400-$200.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chessour.com.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

$1600-800-500-400-300, top U2050/Unr $600-$300, U1800 $150.

NOTE! Saturday 6:15 pm, not 5:15. Sunday Quads, Jan 19: Four-player sections plus Quads. FIDE-Rated section, Jan 18-19.

Other rules (no Open Section): Rds. 1-9 G/50 d5, 10-13 G/100 d6. Trophy for first, medals for second, top U700.

Mixed doubles bonus prize: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: $1000-$500-$250.

Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; team pairings avoided but possible.

If any post-event rating changed, see chesstour.com or Tournament Magnet.com (online entries posted instantly).

See previous issue for TUs appearing December 1-14

www.uschess.org 55
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**JAN. 22-26, 23-26 OR 24-26, CONNECTICUT**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

Torchwood Open, West Hartford, CT

**JAN. 24-26, NORTH CAROLINA**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

Land of the Sky XXVII

S55, 420/30,55/40 (1st is 9/25) 4th place prize: Founders Hall, Asheboro, NC 27205.

JAN. 28-30, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

Marshall Chess Club Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 2-5, MISSISSIPPI

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Chapel Hill Open P500

JAN. 28, 29-30, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

Central Ohio Open, Columbus, OH 43215

JAN. 30, MINNESOTA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

FIDE Grand Prix at Marshall College!
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 15-17 OR 16-17, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIZE POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

3rd Annual Recession Buster Open

6-5, 50/30, 25/15, 20/15, 20/15 (2-day schedule; Fri. 1 thru 3 are (1/4-dl) Mon., San Diego Airport/Liberty Station, 2592 Lanning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106.


Special), or $100 between 1/16/14 and 2/10/14, $120 after 2/10 and $140 all 3 days.

**3** critical to book this great hotel EARLY . It’s just a few miles from the Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station, 2592 Lanning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106.


**PRIZES:**

- **Open** $2000-1000, 2nd $1500-750, 3rd $1000-500, 4th $750-400, 5th $500-250, 6th $250-125, 7th $100-50, 8th $50-25.

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)**

- **Class A** (over 2199): $1800-900-600-400, clear or tiebreak winner $100
- **Class B** (1900-1999): $1400-700-400-200
- **Class C** (1600-1699): $1150-550-300-100
- **Class D** (1300-1399): $900-450-200-100
- **Class E** (1200-1299): $650-300-150-100

- **TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)**

**21st annual Western Class Championships**

3550, 30/30, 25/15, 20/15 (2-day schedule; Fri. 1 thru 3 are (1/4-dl) Mon., Malvern, PA 19355. Free parking. $20,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries & Class C counts as half of each prize guaranteed). In 7 sections:

- **Master** (over 2199): $2000-1000-500-300, clear or winner on tiebreak $100
- **Class A** (1900-1999): $1600-800-400-200
- **Class B** (1600-1699): $1400-700-400-200
- **Class C** (1400-1499): $1200-600-300-200
- **Class D** (1100-1199): $1000-500-300-100
- **Class E** (1000-1099): $800-400-200-100

- **Rated players** may play up one section. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over $100 in E, $400 in D, $600 in C, or $800 in B. Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $300-200-100.

- **TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)**

- **Class A** (over 2199): $2700-1200-500-200, 4th $100-50.
- **Class B** (1900-1999): $2200-1000-500-200
- **Class C** (1700-1799): $1800-900-400-200
- **Class D** (1400-1499): $1300-650-300-100
- **Class E** (1200-1299): $900-450-200-100


- **Schedule**: $97-97, 818-707-1220, reserve by 2/21 or rate may increase.

- **Avis**, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or Ques-

- **Weekly parking** at Cedar Lake, 366 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90).

- **Free parking.**

- **Byes**: All rated at door on 2/15/14, late registration at door on 2/15. No credit cards at door , checks or cash late entry at door. Re-entry from 3-day to 2-day, $75, for players rated U2000 only. Open section will be FIDE rated except for the 3 fast games in the 2 day. Unrated limits prizes: U1600 $100, U1800 $200, U2000 $300, price prizes only in the Open Section. Players who forfeit any round are also ineligible for prizes. USCF membership req’d ($18 Adult, $13 Jr. or $3 for Jr./w/o mag) for all Cal residents. Two bye allowed, but must be requested at least one hour before round, and round 5 & 6 byes must be requested before rd 2 and are irrevocable. Ent: SDCC, PO Box 1200, San Diego, CA 92109 or enter online at www.scarex.org. For more info call Bruce Baker at (619) 239-7166, or email Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com.

- **Car rental**: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AW D #D657633, or Avis, 800-331-1600, use AW D #D657633.

- **Advance EF**: $582-3232, 508-347-7393, request chess rate, reserve by 2/28 or rate may be $97-97, 818-707-1220, reserve by 2/21 or rate may increase.

- **Online**: At chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Questions: DirectorAtChess.US. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Social: USCF memberships during the current or remaining month, and existing affiliates may subtract $3 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliation.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAR. 28-30 OR 29-30, FLORIDA
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
12th annual Southern Class Championships
55+, 40/110, SD/30 & 200/100 (4 day, options: 2-3 day $65/100, 1-2 day $50/100), at Renaissance Wyndham Ocean Club, Hollywood Beach, ORlando 32819. Free parking. Prizes $12,500 based on 185 paid entries (re-entries & Class E can count half), minimum guaranteed. In 7 sections. Master (2040+)/$1000-500-300-200, clear first place winner $1300. FIDE (USCF rules used). 1000-1999: $750 online at chess.com, $750 by phone or paid at site. Chess Magnet School, 16501 N. Ocean Ave., Holtsville, NY 11742. Free parking, free shuttle from LIRR Ronkonkoma Station or MacArthur Airport. Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by security personnel. Free to GMs, IMs, WGMs; $150 deduction. Any USCF member can enter. Players must register (no entry fees) before rd. 4. Phoned EF: $55 online at chess.com by 3/14, $60 mailed by 3/14, $65 mailed by 3/14, $70 mailed by 3/14, $75 mailed by 3/14. No checks at site, credit cards OK. 1) If any post-event rating posted 5/22/13-5/22/14 was more than 100 points higher, a $100 penalty will be added. Special rules: 1) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 2) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 3) Balances for Open having more rounds than other sections. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both rounds 2 and 3, team prizes awarded but possible. Unofficial.uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Unrated. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

Chess Magnet School Grand Prix! MAR. 28-30 OR 29-30, NEW YORK
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
8th annual Long Island Open
55+, 40/110, SD/30 & 200/100 (2 day, options: 2-3 day $65/100, 1-2 day $50/100), at Hampton Inn East Meadow, Long Island Blvd., Baldwin, NY 11510. Free parking. Prizes $12,500 based on 185 paid entries (re-entries & Class E can count half), minimum guaranteed. In 7 sections. Master (2040+)/$1000-500-300-200, clear first place winner $1300. FIDE (USCF rules used). 1000-1999: $750 online at chess.com, $750 by phone or paid at site. Chess Magnet School, 16501 N. Ocean Ave., Holtsville, NY 11742. Free parking, free shuttle from LIRR Ronkonkoma Station or MacArthur Airport. Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by security personnel. Free to GMs, IMs, WGMs; $150 deduction. Any USCF member can enter. Players must register (no entry fees) before rd. 4. Phoned EF: $55 online at chess.com by 3/14, $60 mailed by 3/14, $65 mailed by 3/14, $70 mailed by 3/14, $75 mailed by 3/14. No checks at site, credit cards OK. 1) If any post-event rating posted 5/22/13-5/22/14 was more than 100 points higher, a $100 penalty will be added. Special rules: 1) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 2) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 3) Balances for Open having more rounds than other sections. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both rounds 2 and 3, team prizes awarded but possible. Unofficial.uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Unrated. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

CHESS LIFE / DECEMBER 2013
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Tourname nt Life / December
18th annual Mid-America Open
55+, 40/110, SD/30 & 200/100 (2 day, options: 2-3 day $65/100, 1-2 day $50/100), at Seaton Hall, 12000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by security personnel. Free to GMs, IMs, WGMs; $150 deduction. Any USCF member can enter. Players must register (no entry fees) before rd. 4. Phoned EF: $55 online at chess.com by 3/14, $60 mailed by 3/14, $65 mailed by 3/14, $70 mailed by 3/14, $75 mailed by 3/14. No checks at site, credit cards OK. 1) If any post-event rating posted 5/22/13-5/22/14 was more than 100 points higher, a $100 penalty will be added. Special rules: 1) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 2) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 3) Balances for Open having more rounds than other sections. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both rounds 2 and 3, team prizes awarded but possible. Unofficial.uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Unrated. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

Outside the uschess.org rating
2013-2014 U.S. OPEN S & R CHAMPIONSHIP (CO)
S & R ratings based on 1180 paid entries, $200,000 in total prize money. The ratings used for this U.S. Open are moved to the next U.S. Open the following year.

American Classic!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! MAY 22-26, 23-26, 24-26 OR 25-26, ILLINOIS
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
21st annual Illinois Open
Open, May 22-26: 55+, 40/110, SD/30 & 200/100 (2 day, options: 2-3 day $65/100, 1-2 day $50/100), at Hampton Inn East Meadow, Long Island Blvd., Baldwin, NY 11742. Free parking, free shuttle from LIRR Ronkonkoma Station or MacArthur Airport. Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by security personnel. Free to GMs, IMs, WGMs; $150 deduction. Any USCF member can enter. Players must register (no entry fees) before rd. 4. Phoned EF: $55 online at chess.com by 3/14, $60 mailed by 3/14, $65 mailed by 3/14, $70 mailed by 3/14, $75 mailed by 3/14. No checks at site, credit cards OK. 1) If any post-event rating posted 5/22/13-5/22/14 was more than 100 points higher, a $100 penalty will be added. Special rules: 1) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 2) Players with under 10 lifetime games as of 4/14 official list cannot win in any section. 3) Balances for Open having more rounds than other sections. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both rounds 2 and 3, team prizes awarded but possible. Unofficial.uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Unrated. No checks at site, credit cards OK.
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix

Chees Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Arizona

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

California, Northern

Chees Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Regional

Chees Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Alabama

A State Championship Event!

Dec. 7, Alabama Dual-Rated State Chess Championship

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 9, 7th Annual CalNorth Youth Chess Age Level Newark Pavilion, 6427 Thornton Ave., Newark, CA 94560. Info: Entry Form at: www.calnorthyouthchess.org/agelevel2014/ Open to all scholastic players 13 and under who are USCF members. Age levels are 4-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. 1st Place through 15th Place trophies, plus those who tie for 15th. Three extra trophies in each section for unrated players. Special 4-9 Open age group for players over 1000 USCF rating, with a special unique trophy for the 1st Place winner. Except for the Open 4-9 group, you must play in your own age group. Age determination is based as of February 1. 5 Rounds, G/30 for those 9 and under. Ages 10 to 13 is 4 Rounds, G/40, as well as the 4-9 Open section. Three academic school team trophies in each age level except 4-5 and 4-9 and 4-9 Open. Chess medals to all who do not win a trophy. Info: Carl Moy, CalNorthYouthChess@Gmail.com.

FEB. 9, Fremont Grand Prix SuperSwiss (GS, 6/41) See Grand Prix.

FEB. 15-17 OR 16-17, 31st Annual (2014) U.S. Amateur Team Championship West See Nationals.


FEB. 27-28, Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational (CA) See California, Southern.

MAR. 1, 2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress (CA-S) See Nationals.

MAR. 8, Bay Area Chess Grand Prix SuperSwiss (GS, 6/41) See Grand Prix.

MAR. 8-9 OR 8-9, 21st annual Western Class Championships (CA-S) See Nationals.


MAR. 9, Bay Area Cupertino Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5) Courtney Marrott, Cupertino, CA 95014. Trophies: All teams & players w/plus score. Sched: Check-in by 2:30p. Games: 3-5p. EF: $25 by 3/6, 40 onsite. Info: http://BayAreaChess.com/cupertino. NS. NC. W.


California, Southern


DEC. 1, 15, 29, LACC - Every Sunday Chess 4 Jrs. 4 separate events – 3 Sections: <900, <300, <900, G/30 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, 90025. (4 blocks W of 405) EF: $30 (LACC memb, sibling 1/2, Free new LACC mem). RDS: 12-1 pm. PRIZES: Trophies (top 3 sections) & medals; each player receives a prize! Parking: Free on streets, BoA or basement. Info: (310) 795-5710 or www.LAChessClub.com. DEC. 15, 22, 29, LACC - Every Sunday Chess 4 Jrs. 4 separate events – 3 Sections: <900, <300, <900, G/30 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, 90025. (4 blocks W of 405) EF: $30 (LACC memb, sibling 1/2, Free new LACC mem). RDS: 12-1 pm. PRIZES: Trophies (top 3 sections) & medals; each player receives a prize! Parking: Free on streets, BoA or basement. Info: (310) 795-5710 or www.LAChessClub.com or Mick@LAChessClub.com.


JAN. 1, 11th Year Anniversary on NYD See Grand Prix.

JAN. 17-20 OR 18-20 OR 19-20, 5th annual Golden State Open (CA-N) See Grand Prix.


Unrated prize limits: U1000 $150, U1300 $400, U1600 $600, U1900 $800.

Mixed doubles: $600-300. See TLA or chessoutr.com for details.

Entry fee: $133 online at chessaction.com by 1/15, $140 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 1/15 (entry only, no questions), 4-day $139, 3-day $138, 2-day $137 mailed by 1/7, all $150 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1.

Under 1000 Section entry fee: $50 online at chessaction.com by 1/15 or mailed by 1/7, $70 at site or online until 2 hours before round 1.

No cash at site; credit cards OK. Registration for (except Open), Special USCF dues see TLA or chessoutr.com. USCF mem required.

Choice of schedules: All merge & compete for same prizes:

4-day reg: Fri 6pm, Fri 7pm, Sat 12 noon & 6pm, Sun 12 noon & 6pm, Mon 10 am & 3:30 pm.

3-day reg: ends Sat 10 am, ends Sat 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, Sun 12 noon & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 3:30 pm.

2-day reg: ends Sun 9 am, ends Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30.

Byes: OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, other before rd 4.

January official USCF ratings used; unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Bring set, board, clock if possible-supplied none.

Florida
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Boca Raton Chess Club
Friday nights, 5/6/55 tournament, one game a week for 4 weeks. www.bocachess.com or call 561-479-0351.

Broward Chess Club

Pine Crest School Grand Prix Series in Boca Raton
Scholastic and Non-Scholastic. More info at www.bocachess.com or call 561-479-0351.

Connecticut

DECEMBER 26-30, 2013, 23rd Annual National Open
Info
See New York.

JAN. 10-12, 2013, Greater New York Primary Championship - USCF’s Longest-Running
Info
See New York.

JAN. 10-12, 2013, Greater New York Junior High Championship - USCF’s Longest-Running
Info
See New York.

JAN. 10-12, 2013, Greater New York High School Championship - USCF’s Longest-Running
Info
See New York.

JAN. 17-19, 2013, Central Florida Chess Grand Prix
Info
See Grand Prix.

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Info
See New York.

JAN. 10-12, 2013, Greater New York High School Championship - USCF’s Longest-Running
Info
See New York.

JAN. 17-19, 2013, Central Florida Chess Grand Prix
Info
See Grand Prix.
Iowa

KANSAS

MARYLAND

Massachusetts

Michigan

Tournament Life / December

2nd annual BOSTON CHESS CONGRESS

Jan 10-12 or 11-12 at luxurious Hyatt Harborside $12,000 projected prize fund, $8000 minimum

Special $79 room rates, free parking, free airport shuttle! Beautiful view of Boston harbor and downtown! In 6 sections:


MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections.

BLITZ TOURNAMENT Sunday 8:30 pm.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chessstour.com.

Tourament Life / December

December 2013 | Chess Life

D, E) Unr) $70 each. Prizes increased if + 20. EF: $25 - $50.00 BD month, - $5.00 for any state award (except USC). OCCP Member’s discount covers the adult entry. No exceptions - all expenses for children and adults will be paid by competitor. See www.pottershousechess.com for additional details. Contact urbanvsville@lchess@yahoo.com for a pre-registration form.

MAR. 14-15 or 15-16, 18th annual Mid-America Open (MD) See Grand Prix.

MAR. 22-26, 23-26, 24-26 or 25-26, 23rd annual Chicago Open (IL) See Grand Prix.

July 2-6, 3-6 or 4-6 or JUNE 30-JULY 6, 42nd Annual World Open (VA) See Grand Prix.

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

December 2013 | Chess Life

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all sections: $800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections.

BLITZ TOURNAMENT Sunday 8:30 pm.

FULL DETAILS: see “Grand Prix” in this issue or chessstour.com.
DEC. 26-30 OR 26-29 OR 27-29, 32nd annual Empire City Open (NY)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 27-29 OR 28-29, 32nd annual Empire City Open (NY)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 28, Chess Mates Sunday Quads
3-RR, G/25 d5. 1531 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. Prizes: $75 to first in each section. Rds.: 1:30-1:35 p.m. Info: chessmates@chessmatesnj.com, 732-499-0118

DEC. 28, Fair Lawn Saturday Quads
JCA, 9-10 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. 3-SS, G/35 d6. Info: Diana 201-797-0330, diana@icanj.net; www.icanj.net. ICA provides lunch.

DEC. 29, North American Open Blitz (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 1-7 OR 10-14 OR 17-21 OR 24-28, 31st annual New York State Open (NY)
See New York.

JAN. 1-10 OR 11-12, 2 annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 12-16 OR 15-16, 23rd annual Eastern Chess Championships (CA)
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 13-18 OR 21-26, 2015 New Jersey State Scholastic Championship
See New Jersey.

JAN. 13-14 OR 15-16, 2014 National Open Blitz (BLZ)
See National Open Blitz (BLZ).

JAN. 14-10 OR 11-12, 2015 National Open Blitz (BLZ)
See National Open Blitz (BLZ).

JAN. 15-22 OR 23-29, 7th Annual National Commonwealth Quads
See Commonwealth Quads.

JAN. 17-20 OR 21-24 OR 29-30, 2016 annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JAN. 20-28 OR 29-31, 2015 New Jersey State Scholastic Championship
See New Jersey.

JAN. 29, Chess Mates Open - in two sections
See Chess Mates Open.

JAN. 30-31, 2015 National Open Blitz (BLZ)
See National Open Blitz (BLZ).

JAN. 31-2, 2015 New Jersey State Scholastic Championship
See New Jersey.

JANUARY 2015
See previous issue for TLAs appearing December 1-14.

JANUARY 2016
See previous issue for TLAs appearing December 1-14.

JULY 2012
See previous issue for TLAs appearing June 1-20.

JULY 2013
See previous issue for TLAs appearing June 1-20.

JULY 2014
See previous issue for TLAs appearing June 1-20.

JULY 2015
See previous issue for TLAs appearing June 1-20.
Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs)!

Adult Dues Options ->

NEW FREE TLA CATEGORIES ADDED!

RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SPRING! 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 April and June 2014. If no TLA for such an event appeared in 2013, 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:

- SINDOR: For age 50 or above, or a higher minimum.
- UNRATED FREE: Any tournament that offers free entry to unrated players. If your prizes are based on entries, say “paid entries.”
- SCHOLASTIC: A tournament open to Under 1600 or unrated. No minimum number of entries required; school, grade, birth-date, address (specify section). Checks to: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553. To confirm receipt, enclose SASE. No mail postmarked after 12/7/13. Phone entries: $65 by credit card thru 1/14; 406-896-2191 (24 hours: entries only, no questions), no phone entries after 1/1. Online entries at www.uschess.org; $50 thru 12/27/13, $57/12/28/13, $70/12/29/13. On-site entry fee $75. On-site reg. ends 9/10 am. Rds: 10-12-3:30-5:15. Help with NYC parking; Icon Parking Systems Brooklyn parking: Parking Panda Questions, team rooms: chesscenter@ gmail.com, littlehouseofchess@gmail.com or 347-201-2269 (Jan 12 only; 718-246-7000). Bring clocks!

A Heritage Event!

JAN. 12, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 48th Annual Greater New York High School Championship - USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic! $5-5, $6-5 /-5 or $5-3 /+10, open to all grades 12/12/14 also born after 1/1/14. Much larger and beautiful new hotel site: New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street (about 5 minutes from the Brooklyn Bridge; near Tillary St. & Borough Hall; http://goo.gl/maps/ MixCk) New York, NY. Nearby subway stations: Jay Street Metrotech (A, C, F & R trains), Hoyt Street (2 & 3 trains), Court Street (R train); 3 sections: Varsity, open to all, and $52.30 posted by 12/20/13. Trophies to top 12, top U1700, top 3 unrated, top 6 school teams. Free entry to specified Marshall Chess Club tmts. except quads thru 8/1/14 to 1st, thru 7/1 to 2nd, thru 6/1 to 3rd. Junior-Var-

ty: open to Under 1600 or unrated. EF: $52.20 posted by 12/20/13. Trophies to top 12, top U1400, top 3 unrated, top 6 schools. Free entry to specified Marshall Chess Club tmts. except quads thru 8/1/14 to 1st, thru 7/1 to 2nd, thru 6/1 to 3rd. Junior-

Varsity open to Under 1600 or unrated. EF: $52.20 posted by 12/20/13. Trophies to top 12, top 3 unrated, top 6 schools. Free entry to specified Marshall Chess Club tmts. except quads thru 8/1/14 to 1st, thru 7/1 to 2nd, thru 6/1 to 3rd. Novice, open to Under 1000 or unrated. EF: $51.10 posted by 12/20/13. Trophies to top 12, top 3 unrated, top 6 schools. Free entry to specified Marshall Chess Club tmts. except quads thru 8/1/14 to 1st, thru 7/1 to 2nd, thru 6/1 to 3rd. All: EF's $7 extra per player posted 12/21-27, all $75 at site. Email entries $5 less per player if 4 or more from same school in SAME ENVELOPE! All substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee $15 extra to switch sections, $15 charge for each player refund. Jan. 2014 ratings used, but unofficial ratings at www.uschess.org will usually be used for players who would otherwise be unrated. All players scoring 4 or more who don’t win a trophy will receive a medal! 8 weeks free entry, except quads, to 1st team each section, 4 weeks free, except quads, to 2nd team (top 4 scores from same school = team score), check section. 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-SCOLAR WITH SCHOLAR: A tournament for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a chess tournament. TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. If no TLA for such an event appeared in 2013, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. The 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs:

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

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

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL, A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

RBQ, Open to Under 1200/Unr or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”


FEB. 13, Marshall Thursday Game 30 Grand Prix! See Grand Prix.


A Heritage Event! Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship! MAR. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2013 Grand Prix chessmagnet.org.

A special 1-year USCF dues offer $149. One can split into 2 sections if enough players. $25 if paid online or $35 at site. Visa- MC-AMEX accepted at site. Based on 35 entries. Open $300-$150. 1st AUS (Class A,B,C,D/under)...one) $50, R. 9-9:45, Rds.: 10:15-3:30-6:00; one bye available. Register and Pay online at www.chessmagnet.com with credit card, debit card, check, or money order. No cash. No refund.

A special 1-year USCF dues offer $149. One can split into 2 sections if enough players. $25 if paid online or $35 at site. Visa- MC-AMEX accepted at site. Based on 35 entries. Open $300-$150. 1st AUS (Class A,B,C,D/under)...one) $50, R. 9-9:45, Rds.: 10:15-3:30-6:00; one bye available. Register and Pay online at www.chessmagnet.com with credit card, debit card, check, or money order. No cash. No refund.
TOURNAMENT LIFE
ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

**BLZ:** Blitz rated.  
**QC:** Quick Chess events.  
**$Gtd:** Guaranteed prizes.  
**$b/pc:** Based-on-prizes, x = number of prizes, % of entries needed to pay full prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of $500 or more must be awarded.  
**Bye:** Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take off/bye points instead of. For example, Bye 1-3 means ½-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.

**CC:** Chess club.  
**dx:** Time delay, x = number of seconds.  
**ENTRY:** Entry fee.  
**EnT:** Where to mail entries.  
**FIDE:** Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.  
**G:** Game in, For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.  
**GPP:** Grand Prize Points available.  
**GR:** Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-75-75 means $60 single, $65 twin, $75 double, $85 quad in room.  
**JGP:** Junior Grand Prize.  

**Memb. req’d:** Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.  
**Open:** A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.  
**Quad:** 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.  
**RBO:** Rated Beginner’s Open.  
**Rds:** Rounds; scheduled game times follow. For example, 11-5, 9-3 means games begin 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. on the first day, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the second day.  
**Reg:** Registration at site.  
**RR:** Round robin (precedes by number of rounds).  
**SD:** Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/30, SD/1 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.  
**SS:** System/Schwarzsystem (precedes by number of rounds).  
**Unr:** Unrated.  
**W:** Site is accessible to wheelchairs.  
**WEB:** Tournaments that will use a player’s online rating.

All tournaments are non-sponsorship with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised by S and/or C (see below for explanations).
Refunds will be given only up to 2/4 with a $10 surcharge for withdraw-

Tournament Life / December

Mar. 14-16 OR 15-16, 23rd annual Eastern Classic Champions-

Virgin Islands

Arlington Chess Club's Friday Action

JULY 2-6, 3-6, 4-6 OR JUNE 30-JULY 6

JULY 2-6, 3-6, 4-6 OR JUNE 30-JULY 6

See Grand Prix.

Virginia

Arlington Chess Club’s Friday Action

JSS, G/30, D/5. Held 1/16. For dates go to: www.arlingtonchessclub.com, (800) returned as prizes (b/entrants). Reg.: 7-6-1. 8:15pm.

EF: $15 (for $10 for members), cash only. Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Info only: chimrey@gmail.com

Washington

MAY 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 8th annual Philadelphia Open

(EF: $100-60, U1800-U1400-Unr. each $30.)

December Swiss (CA-S)

FEB. 28-29, 2013 Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational (CA-S)

Clearwater, Florida

FEB. 28-29, 2013 Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational (CA-S)

Jan. 28-29, 2013 Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational (CA-S)

FEB. 28-29, 2013 Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational (CA-S)

Jan. 10-12 OR 11-12, Chesapeake Open (MA)

MAR. 10-12 OR 11-12, Chesapeake Open (MA)

JAN. 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 46th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JAN. 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 46th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

FEB. 1, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 6th Annual Greater Midwest Scholastic Chess Championships (MD)

See Maryland.

MAR. 15-16, The World’s Finest Chess Congress

See Grand Prix.

Washington

For Sale

WANTED

Perfect chess gifts for the chess lover in your life:

Chess IQ Academy & Chess Center (IL)

Jan. 30-31, 30th Annual United States Open (IL)

JULY 2-6, 3-6, 4-6 OR JUNE 30-JULY 6, 42nd annual World Open

See Grand Prix.

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See Grand Prix.
PAGE 13 / CHESS TO ENJOY

Problem I. Krasnodar 1957: 25. Re8+! Qxe8 26. Qxf6 mate. Problem II. Kharkov 1956: 38. ... Qg3! 39. Qxg3+ Nxg3+ 40. Kh2 Nf1+ and queens. Problem III. Riga 1955: 41. Qxd6+ Kxg6 42. R1f6+ Kg5 43. Rf5+ Kg6 44. Rf7f6+ mates, e.g. 44. ... Kg7 45. Rg5+ Kh7 46. Bf5. Problem IV. Sochi 1958: Nezhmetdinov’s most famous game ended with 30. ... d5+ 31. exd5 cxd5+ 32. Kb5 Rb8+ 33. Ka5 Nc6+ and mates. Problem V. Kulbyshev 1947: 21. Rd7! Bxd7 22. Nxd7+ Ke8 23. Nf6+ and 23. ... Kf8 24. Rg1, threatening Rg8+, or 23. ... Kd8 24. Ke2, threatening Rd1+, wins. Problem VI. Kiev 1954: 33. ... Rg8+ 34. Kh3 Bc8+ 35. Qxc8 Rx8 is tempting. But 33. ... Rc8! is faster because 34. Qb6, 34. Qe7, etc. allow 34. ... Rg8+ 35. Kh3 Bc8+ and mates.

Problem III. Mating net: Black wins with 1. ... Ne3. Problem II. Consecutive Captures: Black comes out ahead after 1. ... fx4, when 2. Bxd8 exd3 3. Qxd3 Rxcd8 is strong. Problem III. Mating net: Black wins with 1. ... Rg2+ 2. Kh1 Rh2+ Kg1 Rag2 mate. Problem IV. Mating net: Black mates by 1. ... Rh3+ 2. Kg1 Rh1 mate. Problem V. Mating net: Black scores with 1. ... Bxg2+ 2. Kg1 Rh1 mate.

PAGE 14 / ABCS OF CHESS

Problem I. Fork: Black wins the Exchange by 1. ... Ne3. Problem II. Consecutive Captures: Black comes out ahead after 1. ... fx4, when 2. Bxd8 exd3 3. Qxd3 Rxcd8 is strong. Problem III. Mating net: Black wins with 1. ... Rg2+ 2. Kh1 Rh2+ Kg1 Rag2 mate. Problem IV. Mating net: Black mates by 1. ... Rh3+ 2. Kg1 Rh1 mate. Problem V. Mating net: Black scores with 1. ... Bxg2+ 2. Kg1 Rh1 mate.

THE USCF MISSION

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.
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-Roland,9-Joan-Behren,H: 1.44(f)
-Rybak-Houdin,Y: 7.14(f)
-Sadoun,S-Friedel,J: 11.30
-Getz,A: 3.28(f)
-Holt,C: 3.28(f)
-Simeone FC: 4.35(f)
-Schmidek,A: 11.31
-Safarli,Nakamura,H: 11.23
-Samhouri,A-Onischuk: 4.21(f)
-Samuelsen,A-Ludwig,9.42
-Sato-Duncan,VEller,M,J: 4.21(f)
-Savchenko,A-Khinich: 4.21(f)
-Schmahl,W: 12.12
-Schlechter,C-Nimzowitch: 7.14(f)
-Schmalz,M-S-Moliner,M: 11.33(f)
-Schroder,J: 3.16
-Schott,J: 11.39
-Schmid,E-W-Nakamura,H: 11.15(f)
-Thiakov,S-Bacrot,E: 7.24
-Tomashevsky,E-Ramirez,A: 11.27(f)
-Truskolak,C-Kurzendorf,P: 8.34
-Stormy,K: 2.26(f)
-Turtauc,K-Sources,9:22(f)
-Ushenina,A-Krush: 5.38
-Vischel-Lager,M: 4.33
-Akhmilovskaya,E: 11.20(f)
-Shabatova,L: 11.27(f)
-uv,V-Nakamura,H: 5.44(f)
-Jordan,S-J-Semenko,G: 1.170
-Veternaja,J-Shabatova,A: 1.44(f)
-Viladou,V-Holc: 11.25(f)
-Wall,B-Nash,D: 2.19(f)
-Walters,G-Malagui,L: 1.36
-Wang,G-Gefand,T: 1.44(f)
-Weiner,G-Fazekas,R: 1.36
-Wheelers:C-Chow,C: 5.27
-Magid,9:00(f)
-Seirawan,Y: 2.23(f)
-Williams,K-Mang,JLI: 2.22
-Wojtaszek,R-Nakamura,H: 4.23(f)
A few years ago, I was reviewing the best games from my career, and I noticed something odd: Most of my favorite games were from the period before I became a grandmaster. I tried to understand why that was and I soon came to realize that when I was young and brash, I played in a much more aggressive, go-for-the-kill style. This also led me, during the same time period, to have some of the worst games of my career. As a more mature, seasoned grandmaster, I know that the same risks I took when I was young and dumb didn’t work against better players. The average quality of my games rose, but the wild and spectacular finishes quickly transformed into technical and difficult endgames. I write all of this with a twinge of regret, but it is a reality that must be embraced if one is to ever become a true professional in the world of chess.

As can be well-imagined, choosing a best move from one’s entire career is next to impossible. However, one of my most memorable moves came from a game in my early period. It was played on the beautiful island of Saint Martin, and it was against one of America’s future legends, GM Alex Shabalov. Shaba, as he’s affectionately known, is one of the country’s greatest attacking players, having been bred in the Latvian school of chess, which produced such luminaries as the late world champion Mikhail Tal and Alex Shirov. Alex is not one to back down from a fight and I managed to defeat him in a couple of our early games before he realized that, coming from Brooklyn, I was just as crazy as he was and he had to be careful not to overreach.

In the following diagram, coming from a hedgehog set-up, Alex committed the cardinal sin of opening up the game too quickly.

... the same risks I took when I was young and dumb didn’t work against better players. 

A cardinal sin
GM Alex Shabalov
IM Maurice Ashley
It (open), Saint Martin (France & Netherlands) (5), 1993

It’s funny to imagine the black pieces huddled on the first two ranks are well-prepared to carry out the vicious assault initiated by this sacrifice. Such is the nature of the hedgehog.

20. ... Nxc6!


21. ... Nxe5! 22. Rxe5

Black has more material and fabulous pieces after 22. Qxg3 Bd6! 23. Kg1 (23. Ne4 Ng4+ 24. hxg4 Bxg3+ 25. Nxe3 Qf4) 23. ... Nxc6.

22. ... Qxe5 23. Qxg3

Also miserable is 23. Kg1 Be5.

23. ... Qxd4 24. Rd1


24. ... Bd6! 25. Qxd6


25. ... Qf2+ 26. Kh1 Qxb2

The final point. The bishop on c6 suffers the final indignity of being pinned on c6.

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U1000 Section EF: $65 online by 4/14, 4-day $69, 3-day $68, 2-day $67 mailed by 4/7, $80 at site.

Phone EF: All $5 more than online, 406-896-2038 (entry only, no questions), available only through 4/7.

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