

KALLAI MEMORIAL ■ 2022 YEARBOOK ■ WORLD YOUTH

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APRIL 2023 ■ USChess.org



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# CHESSLIFE

April

## 20 INSTRUCTION SIMAGIN ON OCBs

### Attack With Opposite- Colored Bishops

A translation of a key 1962 article in Soviet chess history  
BY GM VLADIMIR SIMAGIN  
TRANSLATED BY DOUGLAS GRIFFIN

## 24 EVENTS WORLD YOUTH The 2022 World Youth Championships

18 Americans travel to Romania to test themselves against the world's best.  
BY WGM SABINA FOISOR

## 28 EVENTS NATO CHAMPIONSHIPS Bringing Home the Bronze!

Team USA finishes third at 2022 NATO Chess Championship.  
BY TSgt ANDREW DUREN

## 32 EVENTS GABOR KALLAI MEMORIAL The Road That Led Me Back

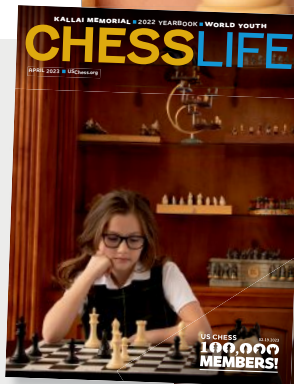
After five years away, GM Kayden Troff returns to the board to honor his friend and coach.  
BY GM KAYDEN TROFF

## 38 US CHESS AFFAIRS 2022 YEARBOOK Our Heritage

### ON THE COVER

US Chess first broke the 100,000 member mark on February 19. A bit of research revealed that lucky number 100,000 was our cover subject: nine-year-old Luna Thomas from Salt Lake City, Utah. While she doesn't play tri-dimensional chess (despite the board on the wall) we still think she's pretty swell.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADILFA FORD



Luna channelling her inner Beth Harmon!

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**\$143 special** room rate. Reservations link & parking info at [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**U1200 & U1000** play separate dates because we were short of space last year.

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**1) Schedule options.** 5-day is most popular; 4-day & 3-day save time. All merge, play for same prizes. Open is 5-day only, U1200 & U1000 3-day only.

**2) Play for norms & big money in Open:** \$5000-2500-1500 to each of FIDE 2300-2449, 2200-2299, and U2200/Unr.

**3) Prize limit \$1000** if post-event OTB or online rating 6/28/22-6/28/23 was more than 40 points over section maximum.

**4) Provisional** (under 26 games) and unrated prize limits.

**5) Under 2200 & U2000** sections, as well as Open, are FIDE rated.

**6) International** 6/24-28, Philadelphia Open 6/23-25, Under 13 6/26-27, Amateur 6/26-28, Junior 6/28-29, Senior Amateur 6/28-29, Action 6/29, Womens Championship 6/29-30, other side events.

**7) Free lectures** by GM Sam Palatnik, 8:45 am 6/24-25 and 7/1-4, maybe others.

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**UNDER 2200:** \$12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U2100 (no unrated) \$2000-1000. Unrated prize limit \$1500.

**UNDER 2000:** \$12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1900 (no unrated) \$2000-1000. Unrated prize limit \$1000.

**UNDER 1800:** \$12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1700 (no unrated) \$2000-1000. Unrated prize limit \$800.

**UNDER 1600:** \$10000-5000-2500-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top U1500 (no unrated) \$2000-1000. Unrated prize limit \$600.

**UNDER 1400:** \$7000-4000-2000-1200-900-700-600-500-400-400, top U1300 (no unrated) \$1600-800. Unrated prize limit \$500.

**UNDER 1200:** \$4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. Unrated prize limit \$400.

**UNDER 1000:** \$2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-200-200-200. Unrated prize limit \$200.

**MIXED DOUBLES:** Top 6 sections \$2400-1200-700-500-300. Lower 2 sections \$500-300-200. Male/female teams averaging U2200.

**Reserve hotel room early!** Special chess rate \$143-143-163, link at [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us) (best) or 215-448-2000, may sell out by early June.

**July official USCF ratings** used for U2200 to U1400, June FIDE for Open, June USCF for U1200 & U1000. Unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

**Foreign player ratings:** see [www.foreignratings.com](http://www.foreignratings.com).

**Prizes usually paid by PayPal** (may take up to two weeks). For income tax reporting and withholding info, see [chessaction.org](http://chessaction.org).

**Entry fees: \$318** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 5/15, \$328 by 6/26 (U1200 & U1000 6/21), \$350 online or at site until 90 min. before rd 1 (U1200 & U1000, 60 min. before).

**Open Section:** All \$100 more if not rated 2200/over by USCF or FIDE.

**U1200 Section entry fees:** All \$100 less.

**U1000 Section entry fees:** All \$200 less.

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

**Titled player entries:** see [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**If any post-event regular OTB or online rating** posted 6/28/22-6/28/23 (U1200 & U1000 6/21/22-6/21/23) or current regular online rating is more than 40 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1000.

**If under 26 regular OTB total games** rated as of July 2023 official, prize limit \$500 U1000. \$1000 U1200, \$2000 U1400, \$3000 U1600-U2000.

**Entries** posted at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): click "entry list" after entry. Refunds, \$15 service charge. Special USCF dues: see [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**Bring set, board, clock-** not supplied.

**5-day schedule:** 6/30 7 pm, 7/1-2 11 am & 6 pm, 7/3-4 10 am & 5 pm.

**4-day schedule:** 7/1 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, merges with 5-day 7/1 6 pm.

**3-day schedule:** 7/2 11, 1:30, 3:30, 6 & 8:30, merges with others 7/3 10 am..

**U1200, U1000 schedule:** 6/23 1, 4 & 7, 6/24 11, 2 & 5, 6/25 10, 1 & 4.

**Half point byes** OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Must commit before round 4.

## PAST WINNERS

**1973** Walter Browne **1974** Bent Larsen **1975** Pal Benko **1976** Anatoly Lein **1977** John Fedorowicz **1978** Peter Bijljasas **1979** Haukur Angantýsson **1980** Larry Christiansen **1981** Igor Ivanov **1982** Nick deFirmian **1983** Kevin Spraggett **1984** Joel Benjamin **1985** Maxim Dlugy **1986** Nick de Firmian **1987** Boris Gulko **1988** Maxim Dlugy **1989** Mikhail Gurevich **1990** Igor Glek **1991** Gata Kamsky **1992** Gregory Kaidanov **1993** Alex Yermolinsky **1994** Artashes Minasian **1995** Alex Yermolinsky **1996** Alex Yermolinsky **1997** Alex Shabalov **1998** Alex Goldin **1999** Gregory Serper **2000** Joel Benjamin **2001** Alex Goldin **2002** Kamil Miton **2003** Jaan Ehlevest **2004** Varuzhan Akobian **2005** Kamal Miton **2006** Gata Kamsky **2007** Varuzhan Akobian **2008** Evgeny Najer **2009** Evgeny Najer **2010** Viktor Laznicka **2011** Gata Kamsky **2012** Ivan Sokolov **2013** Varuzhan Akobian **2014** Ilya Smirin **2015** Aleks Lenderman **2016** Gabor Papp **2017** Tigran Petrosian **2018** Illia Nyzhnik **2019** Liem Quang Le **2020** P Ninyan **2021** Hans Niemann **2022** Mikhail Antipov

## COLUMNS

**14 CHESS TO ENJOY**  
ENTERTAINMENT  
**Inertia Loop**  
BY GM ANDY SOLTIS

**16 GETTING TO WORK**  
INSTRUCTION  
**Opening Study**  
BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

**46 ENDGAME SCHOOL**  
INSTRUCTION  
**Instant Classic**  
BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

**48 SOLITAIRE CHESS**  
INSTRUCTION  
**Paul the Second**  
BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI

**50 BOOKS AND BEYOND**  
SHOULD I BUY IT?  
**Then and Now**  
BY IM JOHN WATSON

**53 PUZZLES**  
MAKE YOUR MOVE!  
BY FM CARSTEN HANSEN



32



24



28



28

## DEPARTMENTS

**5 COUNTERPLAY**  
READERS RESPOND

**6 FIRST MOVES**  
MEET MEMBER NUMBER  
100,000 — LUNA THOMAS!

**8 US CHESS AFFAIRS**  
NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

**12 IN THE NEWS**

**54 TOURNAMENT LIFE**

**62 CLASSIFIEDS**

**63 SOLUTIONS**

**64 MY BEST MOVE**  
PERSONALITIES  
ED FRUMKIN

## CONTRIBUTORS



**GM VLADIMIR SIMAGIN**  
(Simagin on OCBs) was a Soviet grandmaster, trainer, and author. Three times champion of Moscow, Simagin worked with leading players of his day, including K-

tov and Smyslov, and was widely respected by his peers for his ingenuity and creativity. Also a chess journalist and editor, he penned a number of interesting articles for the Soviet chess press. This is the first in an occasional series of translations that will appear in these pages, featuring some of the best non-opening articles from the Soviet era.



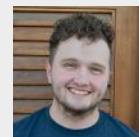
**WGM SABINA FOISOR**

(World Youth Championships) was born in Romania to a chess-playing family, winning multiple medals in European youth championships. In 2008 she moved to the United States to begin university studies at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and immediately saw success. The 2017 U.S. Women's Champion, she has represented the United States at the Olympiad and World Team Championships.



**TSgt ANDREW DUREN**

(NATO Championships) has been a member of US Chess since 1996, competing for Team USA in multiple international competitions. In recent months he has been honing his skills in European opens. This is his first article for *Chess Life*.



**GM KAYDEN TROFF**

(Kallai Memorial) learned chess at the age of three by watching his father play. His talent was apparent, and soon he was placing highly at both local and national youth events. In 2012 he became the World U14 Champion, and in 2014 — the same year he became a grandmaster — he won the U.S. Junior Open. After a long hiatus from over-the-board competition, the Gabor Kallai Memorial was his first major event in five years.



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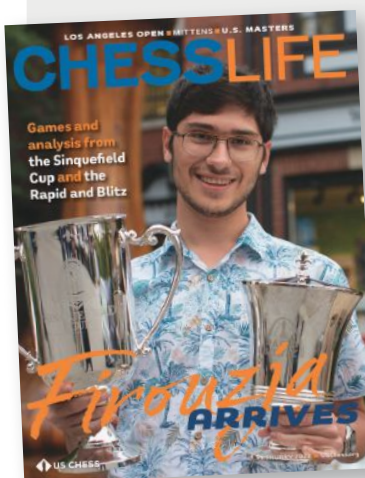
**GM Wesley So**  
 2016 US Chess Trust Samford Fellow  
 2021 US Chess Champion  
 2022 Global Chess Champion

For more information on the good work of the US Chess Trust, please go to [www.uschesstrust.org](http://www.uschesstrust.org). Or contact us at [info@uschesstrust.org](mailto:info@uschesstrust.org).

The Trust is a separate 501(c)(3) organization operating independently of US Chess.



## COUNTERPLAY



### WHOOPSIE

One of my pet peeves is to see chess sets incorrectly set up in advertisements, posters, movies, store fronts, etc. But the last place I would expect this to happen would be in *Chess Life* magazine!?!

On page 6 of the February issue, WIM Ellen Wang is sitting at a chess set with the board turned wrong! There is a dark square, not a light one, in the right-hand corner — a beginner's mistake! How could this possibly be allowed to happen?? Somebody really dropped the ball!

**Larry Snyder**  
Via email

### John Hartmann responds:

*You are correct. The photo got flipped early in the layout process, and I didn't catch it. We're taking steps internally to make sure that kind of thing doesn't happen again. Thanks for your note.*

### KARJAKIN

I enjoyed the article "Ukrainian Greatness" by Bruce Pandolfini, published in the February 2023 issue of *Chess Life*. The game presented in the article was pleasure to follow.

If I may, I would like to make one correction about the list of

great Ukrainian chess players. In the article, Pandolfini had mentioned the name of GM Sergey Karjakin as one of the current leading Ukrainian chess masters.

However, GM Karjakin has changed his citizenship from Ukrainian to Russian in 2009. He is one of the most vocal supporters of Russian president Putin.

Moreover, GM Karjakin had publicly supported the takeover of Crimea by Russia from Ukraine in 2014 and the current invasion of Russia in Ukraine. The FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission has taken a decision to suspend him for six months.

**Alexander Viduetsky**  
Via email

### John Hartmann responds:

*The column refers to players of yesteryear along with players who no longer live in Ukraine, i.e., Karjakin and Krush. I left the reference to Karjakin in as a specific thumb in the eye to a man whose odious political statements and personal connections are baffling.*

### TERRIFIC!

I just wanted to take a few moments to commend WGM Tatev Abrahamyan on her relatively new column, "Getting to Work." While I am rated 2000-ish and an experienced player, I have felt that *Chess Life* needed such articles for many years. Tatev has pleasantly surprised me with a brilliant take on how to start the ball rolling for the many youngsters and adults alike who are looking for improvement ideas. This will be a rewarding series for them if they follow her advice. Kudos, Tatev! Awaiting your next installment.

**Jimmie Beatty**  
Via email

Send your letters to [letters@uschess.org](mailto:letters@uschess.org). Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.

# 100,000 MEMBERS!

BY DAN LUCAS

N

UMBERS ARE TRICKY. BY itself, 100,000 is simply, as Wikipedia tediously puts it, “... the natural number following

99,999 and preceding 100,001.” But 100,000 can represent something extremely large, such as the distance in light years across the Milky Way galaxy, or something very small, such as an atom’s nucleus, which is only 1/100,000th the size of the entire atom (and keep in mind that several million atoms can fit in the period at the end of this sentence).

When it comes to membership numbers for US Chess, 100,000 (100K) represents a notable and exciting symbol for our organization, as it has taken 83 years to hit this number of members. February 19, 2023 — the day we passed this historic mark and ultimately reached 100,179 members — will now enter the US Chess annals alongside other significant dates such as September 1, 1972 (Fischer’s World Championship) and December 27, 1939 (US Chess’ founding). The membership has continued to rise since mid-February, and as of March 1, we sat at 103,368 members.

Preparations to celebrate the 100K milestone began in early spring 2020, when we passed 97,000 members. Unfortunately, the pandemic had other ideas. Our membership crashed to 52,000 during the COVID-19 period, a level not seen since 1983 — almost half the organization’s lifetime ago. The fact that we have rebounded and almost doubled our number so soon since emerging from the depths of pandemic is a testament to our membership. We are grateful to all of you and your efforts to promote the game of chess as we work to advance our educational mission to “Empower people, enrich lives,



PHOTO: ADILFA FORD FOR US CHESS





Above, left to right: Luna and her pet leopard gecko Don; rock climbing; and practicing jiu jitsu. She's working towards her yellow belt!

and enhance communities through chess.”

To celebrate, we thought it would be fun to identify member 100,000. This person turned out to be a third grade, nine-year-old girl in Salt Lake City, Utah: Luna Thomas.

In many ways, Luna represents the growing diversity of US Chess. A scholastic-aged female — 22% of elementary school members are girls — who is relatively new to the game, she joined so she could play in her first tournament. Not only did we make her our cover subject, but we sent her a gift package of Women’s Chess items from US Chess Sales: a hat, a shirt, a board, and Women’s Program Director Jennifer Sh hade’s book, *Play Like a Girl*.

Luna, who first learned the game at about age six utilizing the “Magnus Kingdom of Chess” app, says she plays because “I just like chess. It’s really fun. It’s complicated but not too complicated. So, it’s just right.” Goldilocks couldn’t have said it better.

Luna’s parents are Silvia Castro, president of the non-profit Suazo Business Center, and Jason Thomas, a data engineer. Both learned chess as children, but neither has an extensive history with our game. Castro says that learning chess has been a positive experience for Luna because “... it really builds resiliency, that mental stamina. I’m looking forward to her next tournament to see what she has applied from [her first tournament experience].”

Luna attends chess class as part of the regular curriculum at The Waterford School, a private liberal arts school in Salt Lake City, where she’s taught by Alexander Gustafsson, a US Chess expert who has been building and cultivating the chess

program for the last five years. About our cover subject Gustafsson says, “I’m very pleased with Luna’s progress and character; this being her first year in my class, she always sits in the front, is attentive, participates, learns well, and plays well with her classmates. She accepted the challenge to compete in her first tournament and, as difficult and as nerve-racking as those can be, she played well.”

When asked about the benefits he’s seen in students learning chess, the coach replied, “I notice that students who have difficulties in behavior or academics seem to thrive in chess and it eventually transfers positively into other aspects of their schooling. Perhaps it is because chess is so intellectually stimulating, exciting, and complex it grabs their interest and attention. Chess is a discipline; there are rules which must be followed and there is an exactness to it.”

Luna’s membership was submitted by US Chess Executive Board member David Day on behalf of the Utah Chess Association. US Chess awarded Utah 50 membership vouchers for them to

use as they see fit as a thank you.

Another way we chose to celebrate this milestone is by establishing a new event, the 1st Annual Member’s Only Blitz tournament on *Chess.com*. This free event for US Chess members is taking place after this article goes to press; the results should be on [uschess.org/msa](http://uschess.org/msa) by the time you read this.

So where do we go from here? We know from a YouGov study we commissioned before the pandemic that some 70 million Americans have at least a passing interest in chess. Obviously, the growth potential for us is huge. With our focus on increasing opportunities for under-represented segments of society — for example, building female membership, which currently stands at 12% — it seems reasonable to expect a big membership bump in the near future.

But in the meantime, we celebrate our current achievement and thank Luna Thomas — and every member who made 100K possible — for your positive contributions to the US Chess community. ♡

To see and hear more from Luna and both of her parents, watch our video “Our 100,000th Member!” on the US Chess YouTube channel.



Right: Luna and Coach Alexander Gustafsson at The Waterford School Chess Club.

# 2023 Elections

Candidates' statements will appear in the April, May, and June issues of *Chess Life*. They are listed in a random order determined by an online random list generator during a video conference call conducted by the Executive Director and observed by an Election Committee member. Ballots with the candidates listed in the same order will be distributed to all registered voting members whose US Chess membership is current as of May 5, 2023 and expires on or after June 30, 2023. The deadline to register to vote is May 1, 2023.

To check if you are currently a registered voter, search for your name among the list of registered voters on the Link to new Registered Voters page (<https://new.uschess.org/registered-voters>). Learn more about being a voting member on this page: <https://new.uschess.org/us-chess-voter-registration>.

To register to vote or alter an existing voter status, log in to [new.uschess.org](https://new.uschess.org). On your profile dashboard under your membership expiration date you will see an invitation to register to vote in the form of a button or you will see that your status is "Active" and whether you have chosen to vote by mail or online. If you would like to change your voting method, click the "Update Registration" button.

Email [governance@uschess.org](mailto:governance@uschess.org) if you have any questions. —Mike Nietman, US Chess Election committee chair

## YOUTH CATEGORY

Any Youth category member who wants the May candidates' statements may receive them on request since they do not receive the May issue of *Chess Life*. This applies only to Youth members who will be age 16 or older by June 30, 2023, since otherwise the Youth member will not be receiving a ballot. See the contact information below for Jennifer Pearson.

## CALL FOR ADMS

Advance delegate motions (ADMs) for the delegates' meeting at this year's U.S. Open are due before May 23, 2023. They can be mailed to Jennifer Pearson, c/o US Chess, P.O. Box 775308, St. Louis, MO 63177; or emailed to [governance@uschess.org](mailto:governance@uschess.org).

## LAKSHMANA "VISH" VISWANATH (TX)

Starting off as a chess dad, I served the Texas Chess Association (president, vice president, and other positions) for over a decade, served a one-year term on the US Chess Executive Board, and am a national tournament director. Currently, and for the past few years, I am the co-chair of the State and Affiliate Committee of US Chess.

I will be serving on the Board with no personal agenda or prejudices. I absolutely have no financial interests. My passion for chess will be used to just promote chess at all levels. We need to bring new blood at all levels, e.g., organizers, coaches, TDs, delegates, leadership positions.

I am a retired small businessman of 17 years. Prior to that, I worked in universities for over 25 years. Being retired, I can devote my time and experience to serving on the Executive Board to further promote its mission. Thank you for your consideration.



## JOHN C. FERNANDEZ (MO)

It was a great honor to be elected to the US Chess Executive Board two years ago, and I'm humbled to be a candidate for re-election to the US Chess Executive Board this time around. Being on the EB has been extremely rewarding, working hard with a fantastic Executive Board, Executive Director, delegates, committee members, and of course, our excellent staff, as well as helping us realize our mission as well as achieve a level of financial stability not seen in our recent history.

I've been the liaison to several very successful committees, from the brand-new Chess in Education Committee to the award-winning Accessibility & Special Circumstances Committee, to FIDE Events, and Top Players Committees.

In the next two statements, I'd like to recap some of the achievements of the past two years and what I'd like to achieve in the next four years to build on that success.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUBJECTS

## DAVID A. HATER (GA)

I was elected to the Executive Board (EB) in 2020 and am seeking re-election. My previous campaign introduction is at [www.davidhater.com](http://www.davidhater.com).

As I stand for re-election, part of my campaign is that this EB is functioning well and US Chess is prospering. I, as an incumbent, have been part of that success and I would like to continue to sustain the path that we are on. The only weakness I have seen in my first term was the IT upgrade being negatively impacted by COVID-19. That was unavoidable, but it is on a better path and is a priority of mine moving forward.

Incumbency is not enough. EB members must bring something to the table. My chief contributions are tournament directing and administration, senior executive management skills as a human resources professional, and contributions advancing U.S. interests/priorities within FIDE. In subsequent posts, I will detail these areas.



## LEILA A. D'AQUIN (LA)

I'm a trial and appellate lawyer who first became involved in US Chess as a chess mom. After attending numerous national scholastics and two U.S. Opens, I became Louisiana's delegate in 2013. I've served on the Women's, Senior, Program, and Bylaws committees and the Governance Task Force. After presenting the idea to then-President Ruth Haring, I worked with the Women's Committee to establish Girls Clubs at scholastic nationals.

In Louisiana, I've served as vice president and president of the LCA; currently I'm the secretary-treasurer. I've organized and directed numerous tournaments and launched chess programs in several schools, helping three apply to the Title 1 Outreach Program.

I'm running for the Executive Board to continue serving the chess community. I hope to see the organization continue to support tournament players and chess professionals while expanding its mission to build community and enhance the lives of senior citizens, youth, and underserved populations.



## FUN FONG (GA)

I'm Dr. Fun Fong and it has been my privilege to serve as your Executive Secretary for the past three years. US Chess' credibility stems from its strong fiscal standing over the last few years. I want to maintain this fiscal strength as a first priority.

Every US Chess event should be a volunteer recruitment opportunity. We should incorporate new volunteers and talent into low-consequence organizational positions. Incorporation of new volunteers will grow and develop US Chess leadership.

There is more activity in both Open and Scholastic OTB chess events. We should brainstorm about how US Chess could modify their event offerings to accommodate this new enthusiasm. If the trend continues, we should enact a plan of action, perhaps adding one additional full-time equivalent position for Events.

A dreamer, I would like to see US Chess with twice the number of organizationally active members within the next five years.



## DAVID T. DAY (UT)

Many of you know me, but many do not, so let me introduce myself. I learned the game as a child, attended my first tournament in seventh grade, directed my first tournament in high school, and then slowly drifted away from the game. I came back to chess in 2012 when my children started to play and fell in love again. I enjoy online chess but there's nothing quite like rated OTB play. I became involved with my state chess association and re-activated my TD certification, working my way up to ANTD (and FIDE NA). I'm active in my state, organizing and directing multiple events per year, including several of our state championships, both scholastic and open. I served on the Ethics Committee, including one year as chair. I travel to other events when I can. I've been a delegate several times. I truly love the game.





## FM Alex Dunne 1942-2023

BY ROBERT IRONS

ALEX EDWARD DUNNE WAS BORN JANUARY 3, 1942, in Sayre, Pennsylvania, one of three children born to the late Edward and Erba Dunne. His obituary states that Alex “fell in love with chess at an early age, became a FIDE Chess Master, and was the head of the Athens High School Chess Club for many years.” After high school, Alex attended Mansfield University in Mansfield, PA. After graduating from college, Alex went on to teach English in the Athens (PA) Area School District for 30 years.

Alex began the correspondence chess column in *Chess Life* magazine in December of 1981, and gave it the delightful name that today’s young players likely don’t get. He maintained the column until February 2021, but had to step down after he suffered a stroke. He served as the Correspondence

Chess Director for the US Chess Federation from 2005–2020.

The author of more than a dozen books, including works on the Absolute Correspondence Championship and the U.S. Junior Open, he is perhaps best known for his twin titles *How to Become a Class A Player* and *How to Become a Candidate Master*, originally published by Thinker’s Press. The latter title was recently re-released by New in Chess.

On a personal level, Alex was resilient beyond belief. He tragically lost his wife Janet and grandson Ronald in a house fire on February 16, 2003, while he was playing in the U.S. Amateur Team Championship in Parsippany, NJ. Despite what this must have done to him, Alex was fortunate enough to find love again, marrying his second wife Colleen in 2004.

Alex is survived by his wife Colleen, sons Quentin and Nicholas, daughter Samantha, and his sister Jane Long, as well as many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. His family included the following paragraph in his obituary, indicative of a life well lived:

“He loved Monty Python comedies, The Simpsons, trivia contests, puns, Dr. Pepper



soda, Friday evening Chinese dinners at New Kam Bo, and taking walks around the Sayre Pond with his beloved dog, Crystal. One of his favorite quotes was, ‘Good morning. If you’re always having a good morning, it never leaves room for an awful day.’ He believed deeply in the values of human dignity and equality and passed those values along to his children. ... He was loved and was loved in return.”

# Certified Chess Coach Program Update

THE UPDATED CERTIFIED CHESS COACH Program is still “Under Construction.” As such, the following actions are being taken until more details can be announced about program changes.

- Any currently certified coaches who were scheduled to expire since 2020 and have already been extended during previous pandemic-related announcements will be further extended through 12/31/2024.
- Anyone who has submitted an application during the period of program dormancy (2020-2022) that has not yet been processed for Levels I or II only

will automatically be activated through 12/31/2024. Exams for any Level III applicants will be sent shortly. Applicants for Levels IV and V will be considered by the Scholastic Council as usual.

- An updated page listing the current certified Chess Coaches is projected to be available no later than the end of March.
- Any new applications for the Certified Chess Coach program must submit their request through this new digital form (2023 Certified Chess Coach Form), including uploads of supporting documentation. Upon receipt of the

completed application, they will be emailed an exam. Upon passage of the exam, the applicant will be contacted by staff to remit payment of their certification fee, at which point the process will be complete. Expiration dates for Levels I, II, and III will be set to 12/31/2024 in anticipation of the transition to the new program.

Further information about the program will be posted at this page: <https://new.uschess.org/certified-chess-coach-program> which can always be found by going to the footer menu at uschess.org and looking under Play --> Certified Chess Coach Program.



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**[WWW.PANAMYOUTH2023.COM](http://WWW.PANAMYOUTH2023.COM)**



## Commemorations

Congratulations to the team behind *Northwest Chess*, a regional magazine serving the Pacific Northwest and based in Redmond, Washington. They published their 900th consecutive issue this January.

With a long list of talented editors, including Jeffrey Roland, who has shepherded 124 issues (at time of writing) to the printer, *Northwest Chess* is always filled with interesting news and games, including analysis by regular contributors IM John Donaldson and GM Jim Tarjan. Subscriptions are currently \$30 for 12 monthly issues, and you can subscribe at their website, *nwchess.com*, where you will find recent sample issues along with nearly 500 back issues, free of charge.

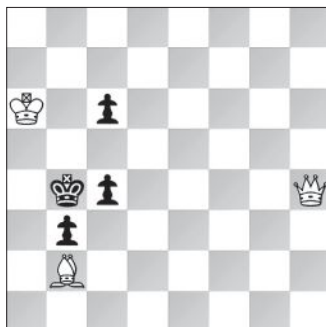
Bittersweet congratulations are also in order for Mike Prcic and the team at *Strategems*, who published their 100th and final issue in late 2022.

*Strategems* was the leading problem and study magazine in the United States, and among the world's best of its genre. With sections for every type of problem enthusiast, each issue was a feast of positions that you could see nowhere else.

As a study aficionado, I especially enjoyed the wide range of complexity of the compositions in *Strategems*. Among the twomovers in the final issue were some real mindbenders along with a few gentler puzzles, including this miniature from the subject of our December 2022 "My Best Move" column.

### BOB WOODWARD

*Strategems* #100, 2022



WHITE TO MOVE AND MATE IN TWO

1. Qd8!

"Nice key!," per the judges.

1. ... Kc5

Alternatives: 1. ... c3 2. Qd4 mate; 1. ... c5 2. Qa5 mate; 1. ... Ka4 2. Qa5 mate.

2. Ba3, mate.

As a parting gift, the *Strategems* team has generously put all 100 issues up on their website, free to download. Visit *strategems.net* for more.

## The Fighting Caro-Kann

Last month ("Byrne-ing It All Down") we brought you an early "game of the year" candidate analyzed by FM Gauri Shankar.

This month we tack on two more slugfests for your enjoyment. All three feature the Caro-Kann Defense, an opening that has long unjustly suffered the perception of being quiet and stodgy. Not anymore, it seems.

The first game comes to us from the 2023 Romanian Championship, where GM Gergely Szabo redeemed some dodgy opening choices with an imaginative queen sacrifice and king hunt.

### CARO-KANN DEFENSE, ADVANCE VARIATION (B12)

GM Gergely Szabo (2514)

FM Nicodim-Cosmin Stepanencu (2283)

Romanian Ch (6), Sebes, 02.23.2023

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. h4 h5 5. Bd3 Bxd3 6. Qxd3 Qa5+ 7. Nd2 e6 8. Ngf3 Nh6 9. 0-0 Nf5 10. c4 Be7 11. g3 0-0 12. b3 Rd8 13. Rd1 c5 14. dxc5 Qxc5 15. Nf1 dxc4



16. Qxd8+!

Forced and foreseen, but still both imaginative and strong!

16. ... Bxd8 17. Rxd8+ Kh7

White has a rook and bishop for the queen and pawn, which is "not quite enough" by traditional piece counts, but if you look at the pieces that are on the board, you can see that White has compensation in Black's frozen queenside pieces and the open king. Still, White needs to prove it at the board.

18. Ne3!? Qa5!

Putting the question to the rook, and threatening ... c4xb3.

19. Ng5+ Kg6 20. Ng2 Nxc3

The rook is forbidden: if 20. ... Qxd8 21. Nf4+ Kh6 22. Nxf7+.

The computer notes that Black keeps the material and the advantage with 20. ... Nh6, giving the king one more flight square on f5. 21. Nf4+ Kf5 22. Ngxe6!? (22. Nxf7 has a similar idea) 22. ... fxe6 23. Rf8+ Ke4! and now White lacks the means to mate the adventurous king. But who's going to play that?!

21. Nf4+ Kf5 22. Nxf7 Qc3 23. Kg2! Ne4

Again Black must resist greed: 23. ... Qxa1 24. Nd6+ Kxe5 25. Nxc4+ Ke4 26. Kxg3 and now if 26. ... Qxc1? 27. f3+! Kf5 28. Rf8 mate.

The machine prefers the cold-blooded 23. ... Nc6 24. Rxa8 Nd4, returning material but bringing in a much-needed piece to attack the white king. Black should be able to wrangle a perpetual, or more if White is not careful!

24. Rf8 Kg4?

Amazingly this is the losing move. Black must return material with either 24. ... Nd7 or 24. ... Nd6, when the computer gives triple-zeros, but anything could happen in a game between carbon-based life forms.

25. Be3

Here White missed the superior 25. Nh6+!! gxh6 26. Nd3! and with the direct mate threat of Rf8-f4, Black can only postpone the inevitable.

25. ... Nxf2

(see diagram next page)

26. Nd5! Qxa1



White's point is that 26. ... exd5 loses to 27. Nh6+! Kxh4 (27. ... gxh6 28. Rf4 mate) 28. Rf4+ Ng4 29. Rxg4+ hxg4 30. Rh1 mate.

All Black can do is grab material and hope to somehow survive.

**27. Nh6+ Kxh4 28. Bxf2+!**

Precise. Here the thematic 28. Rf4+ fails to 28. ... Ng4 29. Bf2+ Kg5 and White has to take the draw.

**28. ... Kg5 29. Be3+ Kg6 30. Ne7+ Kh7 31. Nf7 Nc6**

Now the hunt is on.

**32. Ng5+ Kh6 33. Nf7+ Kh7 34. Ng5+ Kh6 35. Nxe6+ Kh7 36. Ng5+ Kh6 37. Nf5+ Kg6 38. Nh4+ Kh6 39. Nf7+ Kh7 40. Ng5+ Kh6 41. Rxa8 g6 42. Rg8 Nxe5 43. Rxg6+, Black resigned.**

Another "game of the year" candidate comes to us from the Swedish Team Championships, where GM Erik Blomqvist chose art over practicality. This delightful attack was his just reward.

**CARO-KANN DEFENSE, TWO KNIGHTS VARIATION (B11)**

**GM Erik Blomqvist (2526)**

**GM Hans Tikkanen (2490)**

**Swedish Team Ch (7), 03.10.2023**

**1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Nc3 Bg4 4. h3 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 e6 6. Be2 Bc5 7. 0-0 Nd7 8. exd5 exd5 9. Re1 Ne7 10. Na4 Bd6 11. d4 Qa5 12. Nc3 Nf8 13. Bh6! Rg8**

The alternatives are 13. ... gxh6 14. Qf6 Nfg6 15. Qxd6 and 13. ... Ne6 14. Bxg7 Nxc7 15. Qf6.

**14. Bd2 Qb6 15. Qd3 g6 16. Na4 Qc7 17. Nc5 b6 18. Na6 Qd7 19. c4 Ne6 20. Bf3 0-0-0 21. Rac1 dxc4**

(see diagram top of next column)

**22. Qxc4!?**



Szabo (R) tries to be modest in a post-victory chat.



It looks like 22. Rxc4 just gives White a tremendous advantage, but presumably Blomqvist saw the queen sacrifice and could not resist... fortunately for us!

**22. ... Nxd4 23. Qxd4 Bh2+ 24. Kxh2 Qxd4 25. Rxe7 Qd6+**

Certainly not 25. ... Qxd2? 26. Rxc6 mate, while after 25. ... Rd7 White has 26. Rxc6+ (or 26. Rxd7 Kxd7 27. Bxc6+) 26. ... Kd8 27. Rxd7+ Kxd7 28. Rc7+ Ke6 29. Be3 and the three minor pieces are more than a match for the queen.



**26. Bf4! Qxe7**

Much worse is 26. ... Qxf4+ 27. g3 Qd6 28. Rxc6+ Qxc6 29. Bxc6 and after Black avoids

the mate in one, he's still effectively down a rook!

**27. Rxc6+ Kd7**

If Black tries to hide with 27. ... Kb7 White regains his material with 28. Nc5+ bxc5 (or 28. ... Qxc5 29. Rxc5+) 29. Re6+ Kc8 30. Rxe7.

**28. Rc7+ Ke8**

The engine recommends 28. ... Ke6 but after 29. Rxe7+ Kxe7 30. Nb4 Black's pieces are jumbled, while the knight looks for jumps and the bishops scythe across the board!

**29. Bc6+ Rd7 30. Nb8! Qb4, Black resigned.**

The key line: 30. ... Qb4 31. Be5 Ke7 (trying to run) 32. Rxd7+ Ke6 33. Bd5+ Kxe5 34. Nc6+.

**New Titles**

Congratulations to these new American FIDE titleholders, awarded between January 12 and March 7, 2023.

- FM: Brejesh Chakrabarti, Aryan Gutla, Brewington Hardaway, Rushaan Mahajan, Grayson Rorrer, Teddie Wen, Tommy Wen.
- CM: Ethan Guo, Eshaan Hebbar, Justin Lee, Zachary Tanenbaum.
- WCM: Becca Lampman, Ellie Zhang, Elena Zhang. ♠

For up-to-date chess news and analysis, check out **Chess Life Online** at [uschess.org/clo](http://uschess.org/clo) on a regular basis.

# Inertia Loop

## When Momentum Is Your Enemy

BY GM ANDY SOLTIS

T

RYING TO EXPLAIN CHESS terms to a friend who doesn't play the game can be exasperating because you find yourself using more chess terms.

For example, what is "the initiative?"

It's simple, you say: The initiative is the ability to make threats.

But then your friend will want to know what you mean by "threat."

It's simple, you say: A threat typically prepares a capture. We use tactics to make threats.

Okay, your friend says, what are "tactics?" This one is not simple.

So you look up a definition. You find: "A tactical move results in an advantage."

Your friend asks if that is the only kind of move that gets an advantage? No, a positional move can. Once you say that you have to define "positional."

If your friend is still listening to you, you should start over and use non-chess language:

The initiative is momentum. It is the inertia that allows one player to control the pace and course of a game. That's a good thing.

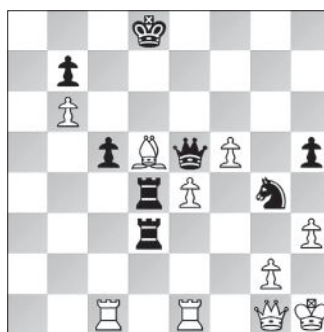
But experienced players know a different kind of inertia, the bad kind. It happens in desperate time pressure when you are caught up by momentum. Your hand plays a move as soon as your opponent makes one.

### INSPIRATION

GM Fabiano Caruana  
GM Wesley So  
Norway Chess, 06.07.2018

(see diagram top of next column)

First prize was on the line after White made what looked like a winning move, 40. h3?.



BLACK TO MOVE

But with only a few seconds left, Black found the inspired resource **40. ... Rxh3+!**.

The players had reached the time control and could relax. But since **41. gxh3** was forced, White played it quickly.

Black had nearly an hour to consider two most attractive moves, **41. ... Rd2** and **41. ... Rd3**. But he moved instantly, **41. ... Rd3?**.

White gave up his queen and won, **42. Qg2 Rg3 43. hxg4 Rxc2 44. Kxc2 h4 45. Kf3 Qg3+ 46. Ke2 h3 47. Rg1 Qh4 48. e5, Black resigned.**

Black would have earned a share of first prize after **41. ... Rd2!** **42. hxg4 hxg4.**

Even though down an army and a half, he could draw by perpetual check after **43. Qg2 Qh8+ 44. Kg1 Rxc2+ 45. Kxc2 Qh3+.**

You encounter the bad kind of momentum when you and your opponent are in desperate time pressure and every second you delay seems costly. You become trapped in an unbreakable rhythm — a kind of inertia loop. This doesn't stop until a flag falls or one of you realizes it is safe to think clearly again.

The late GM Yuri Averbakh was involved in legendary inertia loops. He recalled how, after a furious time pressure blitz, he and a Soviet opponent, Alexander Cherepkov,

brought their scoresheets up to date. They discovered they had made 47 moves, seven more than the time control.

"It's not a record," Averbakh told journalist Vik Vasilev. "Once in time pressure I made 20 extra moves."

GM Viktor Korchnoi, another time pressure addict, was locked in an inertia loop with GM Stefan Kindermann in a 1995 zonal tournament. Their blitzing ended when they noticed *both* flags were down. When they updated their scoresheets, they found they had made nine extra moves.

But they also found that well before the time pressure Korchnoi had moved his king rook twice, then castled kingside. The arbiter said the game should be replayed from the point of the illegal castling. Not worth it, the players said as they shook hands on a draw.

There are other kinds of chess inertia. One occurs when you make a move because you quickly dismissed the alternatives. In the four-game final of a big-bucks 2021 tournament Magnus Carlsen lost the first game. He called the following game "the turning point" of the playoff.

### SLEEPWALKER

GM Magnus Carlsen  
GM Hikaru Nakamura  
NIC Classic Final (3), 05.02.2021



BLACK TO MOVE

Black played **19. ... Bxf3!**. It was easy to see **20. Qxf3??** would allow **20. ... Re1** mate. But **20. gxf3** required a deeper look. Black can get perpetual check after **20. ... Qxh3**. For example, **21. f4 Re6 22. Ne4 Rg6+ 23. Ng3 Rxc3+.**

"I saw **20. gxf3** was a draw by force," Carlsen said after the game. "And then sort of out of inertia I played **20. Qd2.**"

Only after he made **20. Qd2?** did he realize "my position is awful." Black would have great winning chances after, for example, **20. ... Be5** or **20. ... Bh5.**



# QUIZ FOR APRIL

THIS MONTH MARKS THE 100th anniversary of the last great match for the U.S. Championship. Frank Marshall had held the title for 14 years but retro-ratings say he was the underdog when challenged by Edward Lasker in a series of American cities in the spring of 1923. Marshall prevailed, 9½-8½, benefitting from Lasker's illness in the early games. This month's quiz is based on the match and other splendid Marshall – Lasker games. 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 63.



**PROBLEM 1**  
Edward Lasker  
Frank Marshall



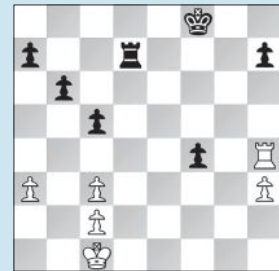
BLACK TO MOVE

**PROBLEM 2**  
Frank Marshall  
Edward Lasker



BLACK TO MOVE

**PROBLEM 3**  
Frank Marshall  
Edward Lasker



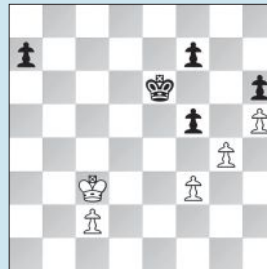
BLACK TO MOVE

**PROBLEM 4**  
Edward Lasker  
Frank Marshall



WHITE TO MOVE

**PROBLEM 5**  
Edward Lasker  
Frank Marshall



WHITE TO MOVE

**PROBLEM 6**  
Frank Marshall  
Edward Lasker



WHITE TO MOVE

GM Hikaru Nakamura surprisingly headed for a quick draw anyway with **20 ... Qe6 21. Qe3 Qd7 22. Qd2 Qe6 23. Qe3 Qd7 24. Qd2**. Having been given a second lease on life, Carlsen won the next game and the tournament.

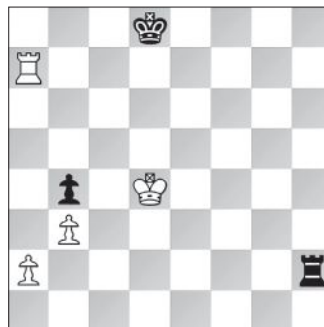
The Fischer clock was supposed to eliminate blunders by allowing us at least a few seconds to think before moving. But even world-class players continue to make moves instantly. And not taking time to think clearly can be good:

## KEEPING IT UP

**GM Ding Liren**  
**GM Vidit Gujrathi**  
**Tata Steel Rapid (3), Kolkata,**  
**11.22.2019**

(see diagram top of next column)

After 59. ... Rc2! White's king would be cut off from the queenside and cannot attack the b4-pawn. If his rook wins the pawn, with Ra4xb4, Black replies ...Rc2xa2 and has a book draw.



BLACK TO MOVE

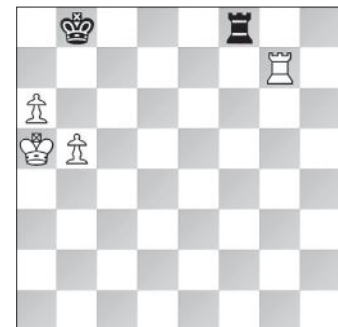
But Black played **59. ... Kc8?** and after **60. Kc5!** he was lost. For example, 60...Rh4 61. Ra4 Kc7 62. Rxb4 or 61...Rh2 62. Kxb4.

Black played on. "I did it out of inertia," he said later.

He kept making moves but none had any consequence. White had a free hand to keep improving his position. Until:

(see diagram top of next column)

The simplest win is 79. Rg5, ruling out ...Rf8-f5+ so that 80. b6 can be played safely. But White chose **79. a7+??**.



WHITE TO MOVE

The win is gone because of a stalemate trick. The game ended with **79. ... Ka8 80. b6 Rf5+ 81. Ka6 Ra5+! 82. Kxa5, draw**.

What happened is Black didn't have time after 60. Kc5 to evaluate the position. If he had he would have realized how lost he was and resigned, out of inertia. ♠

For more of Soltis' archived columns, check out our Digital Archives at [new.uschess.org/chess-life-digital-archives](http://new.uschess.org/chess-life-digital-archives)

# Opening Study

Ideas, not memorization, and prepare for your level!

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



H

OW AND WHEN LOWER rated players should study the openings is a controversial topic. One school of thought suggests focusing on other

aspects of the game, setting aside serious opening study until about the 2000-2200 level. Others argue that careful work on opening theory and traps allows for quick rating improvement at the amateur level, perhaps encouraging improving players to stick with the game.

I don't recommend memorizing deep theory, but I do think it's important to play and know openings where the player feels comfortable. In place of rote study, I believe in learning where to put the pieces, and what to do in the resulting middlegame positions. Most serious players have had the pleasure of blitzing out 10-15 moves of theory, and then not knowing what to do once out of book — I can definitely say from personal experience that it is quite unpleasant!

There are many resources to study openings today, including books, YouTube videos, specialized courses, and of course, working with a coach. Navigating this sea of information, and picking out what is appropriate for your level, can be quite tricky, so let me offer some advice here.

I think it is important to understand whether you are watching something with entertainment or education in mind. Every creator has their own style and target audience, but this means that not every YouTube video will be geared towards you and your goals. Winning with opening traps in 10 moves sounds appealing, but it doesn't help with long term chess improvement. Long-term growth requires a long-term approach, so it's worth building a repertoire with that purpose.

I also think it is vital to find information that is geared towards players of your level.

Generally, if the author or presenter is a high rated player explaining lines you find hard to follow, then it's not for you. There is no shame in admitting that something is too complicated for your current level. Ideally, you want to both be able to follow the instructions, and then be able to recreate what you have been taught with logical reasoning.

## KEEP OPENING PRINCIPLES IN MIND

In the opening we develop our pieces, fight for the center and get the king to safety. These general principles should guide your early decision making and help you punish your opponent if they go astray.

Things to do in the opening: move the center pawns, develop a new minor piece with every move, develop the minor pieces towards the center, get the king to safety.

Things to avoid in the opening: moving corner pawns, moving the same piece several times, taking the queen out too early, neglecting king safety, opening the center (by exchanging central pawns) when the king is still in the center and you are not close to castling.

As you get stronger, you will learn that these rules can be flexibly applied, but you will need to do a lot of work to the point where you know when and how to break them. If you find yourself playing a line where you struggle to finish development, then that opening is probably not yet for you.

## ASK YOURSELF QUESTIONS

Instead of breezing through the first standard moves, make sure you are understanding why the moves are played in the first place, even the basic moves. Keep in mind, just because certain moves are standard in the opening or the pieces have developed to certain squares, doesn't mean that they want to be there as the game progresses.

Let's look at the example of the Two Knights Defense, and try to understand the idea behind every move:

### 1. e4

This move fights for the center, while opening the diagonal for the f1-bishop

### 1. ... e5

Black responds by fighting for the center and opening the diagonal of the f8-bishop

### 2. Nf3

White develops a kingside piece and attacks the central e5-pawn

### 2. ... Nc6

Black develops a piece and defends a pawn.

### 3. Bc4

White continues with the kingside development and gets ready to castle. The bishop is eyeing the f7-pawn.

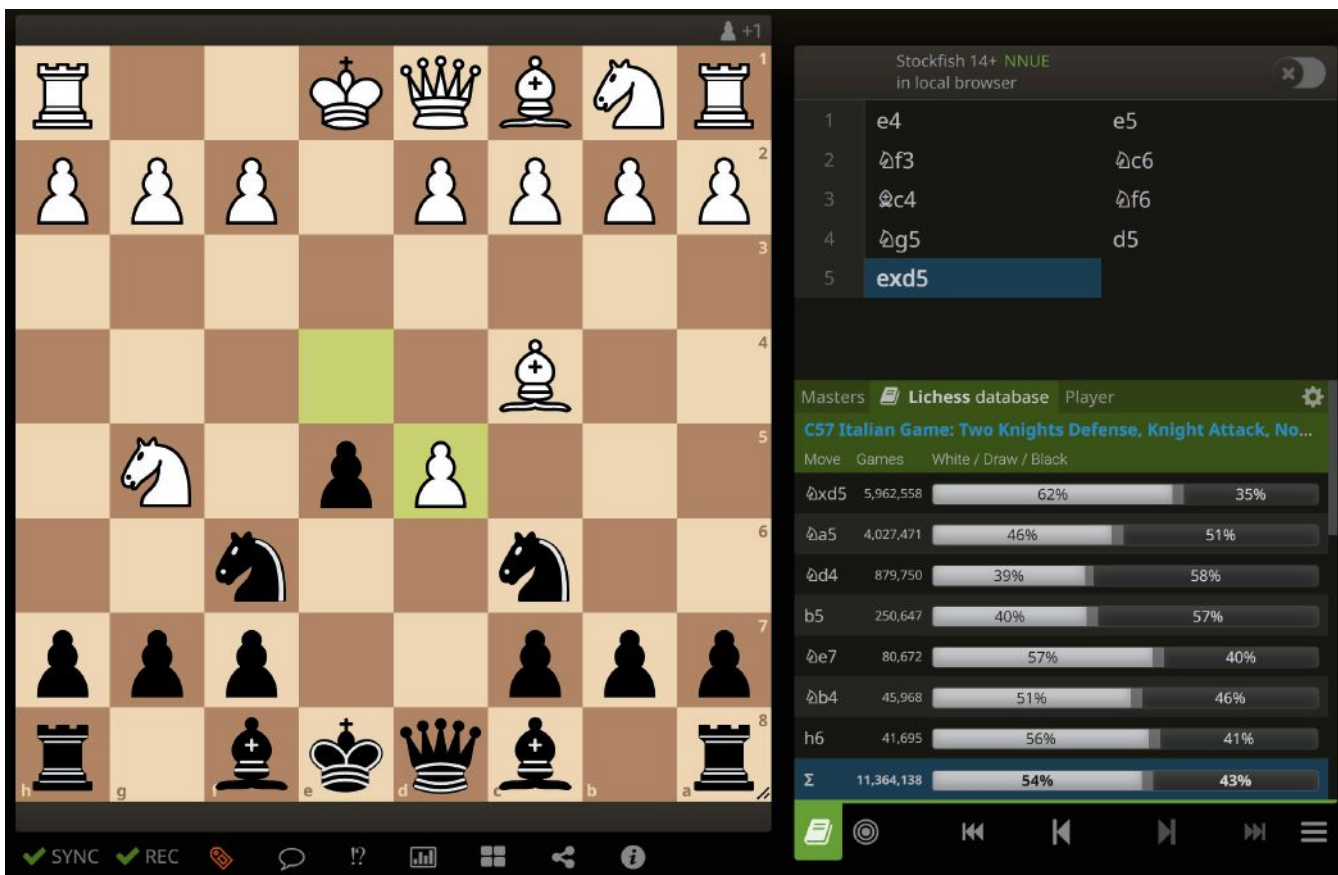
### 3. ... Nf6

Black continues with their kingside development, and attacks the e4-pawn.

Another path is **3. ... Bc5**, the Italian Game. Now Nf3-g5 is not possible because the queen will simply take the knight. Play continues **4. 0-0 Nf6** (continuing development) **5. Ng5**, attacking the f7-square again. However, here it makes less sense as Black can respond with **5. ... 0-0** defending the pawn. Now **6. Nxf7** is not a good trade for White after **6. ... Rxf7 7. Bxf7+ Kxf7**. If we compare positions, Black's minor pieces are better than White's rook in the middlegame. Black will play ... Kf7-g8 to get the king to safety, and continue development with ... d7-d6 and bringing out the c8-bishop.

### 4. Ng5

The f6-knight has blocked the path of the



queen on d8, allowing White to attack the f7-square again. Since Black cannot yet castle, the pawn is threatened.

Another option is **4. d3**, quietly defending the pawn. The ensuing play is very different here, and it may appeal to you more.

#### 4. ... d5

Black cannot defend f7 with a piece; therefore, the only defense is interrupting the bishop's access to that square.

#### 5. exd5

The e4-pawn and the bishop are under attack, so White takes care of that problem by capturing the central pawn.

#### 5. ... Na5



The best move. The knight goes to the edge of the board, which is typically not a good idea, but here the point is that Black gains a tempo by attacking the bishop.

The alternative **5. ... Nxd5?** is a well-known mistake.



POSITION AFTER 5. ... Nxd5

Now comes **6. Nxf7!**, sacrificing a knight with very concrete play. Black has to take with **6. ... Kxf7**, as the knight was forking the queen and rook. **7. Qf3+** A double attack on the king and knight. **7. ... Ke6** More or less forced, as after **7. ... Ke8 8. Bxd5** White remains up a pawn up with significant pressure. **8. Nc3** Piling on the pinned knight. **8. ... Nce7** The only move to defend the knight. **9. d4** The black king is stuck in the center, so opening the center makes sense. **9. ... c6** Securing the pinned knight. Here 9. ... exd4?

Above: an example of the Lichess interface, with statistics for non-bullet games played by players between 1000 and 1600.

loses a piece, i.e., **10. Nxd5 Nxd5 11. Qe4+** and now the king can no longer defend the knight: **11. ... Kf6 12. Qxd4+ Kg6 13. Bxd5** and White remains up a pawn while the black king is permanently weak. **10. dxe5** White has two pawns for the piece, and the black king will never find safety.

#### 6. Bb5+

With this check White does not lose a tempo moving the attacked bishop.

#### 6. ... c6

Blocking, with tempo.

#### 7. dxc6

Again, as both bishop and pawn are under attack, White captures.

#### 7. ... bxc6

Recapturing and attacking the bishop.

#### 8. Be2

The bishop retreats, although this is not White's only option here.

This position, or *tabiya*, is a good point to stop and do a summary. I have seen many of my students blitz out these moves without stopping to think deeply about the position. So what is going on here?



White is up a pawn but is behind in development. Black has long term compensation with more space in the center and better development. However, Black's a5-knight is misplaced in the long term — a major theme in this opening! At some point Black will have to think about how to bring the knight back into the game, probably with ... c6-c5 and ... Na5-c6. White will have to play passively for a long time, but the extra pawn may play well in the long term. Which side of this you prefer — whether you like playing down a pawn for long term compensation or playing up a pawn in a passive position — is a matter of taste.

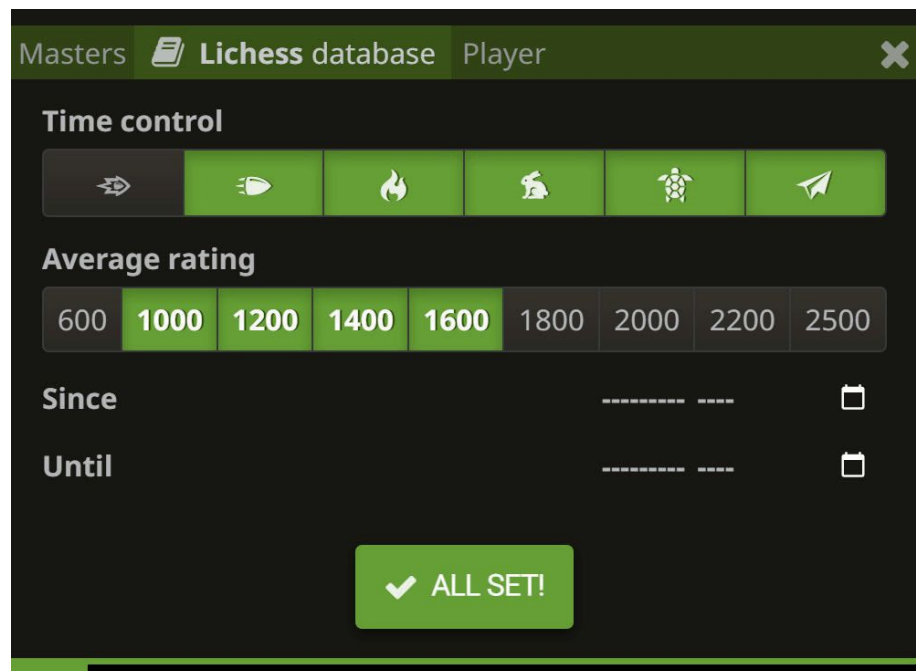
### STUDY MASTER GAMES

You can find games in your opening in any online database or major website, including *Lichess.org*, *Chess.com*, or *Chessbase.com*. Begin with games where your side has won, preferably against someone much lower rated, and play through those games. These lopsided games clearly demonstrate the key ideas of an opening.

I don't recommend going through games of top-rated players, as they involve a lot of heavy preparation, none of which will happen in your games. For anyone rated below 1500, I would recommend looking through games of players of your rating and players rated 200-400 points higher.

For the more technologically adept: I learned of a feature on Lichess that allows the users to look up games played on Lichess while filtering for time control and player rating. (See the screenshots on this and the previous page for visual examples of this feature. ~ed.)

Recall that I said that 5. ... Nxd5 is a mistake, but a glance at the data shows how many times it has been played online! Looking at non-bullet games played by players



at the rating levels of 1000, 1200, 1400, and 1600, it's clear that if you are paired with players at that level regularly, it would be very wise to study the "Fried Liver" well.

The main takeaway: while it is good to know the correct lines, it is both practical and important to be aware of the common mistakes players make in popular openings. This will help you punish your opponents when they err.

### PRACTICE BY PLAYING TRAINING GAMES

Studying theory can only take you so far. By playing training games, you will get a better feel for the positions, the tactical themes and can build your intuition for the structures. While playing rapid or classical games is the standard recommendation, I think that playing a lot of blitz games can be as beneficial.

You will face a wider variety of options in blitz, which will give you an idea of where players will typically deviate. I also recommend playing your opening from the other side, i.e., the White side of the Two Knights if you are defending it as Black. I have tried this with some of my pet lines, and the feeling on the opposite side is completely different, despite my being very familiar with the lines.

A helpful supplement to training games is solving opening-specific tactics, and Lichess has a database of puzzles that can be filtered by opening. Spending some time here will certainly familiarize yourself with key tactical themes.

Above: Within the Lichess database, you can set very specific search criteria to see what players of different strengths are trying.

### ANALYZE YOUR TRAINING GAMES

Practicing new openings is only beneficial if you analyze your games afterwards. Ideally, you have a chess coach who can walk you through the mistakes. If you don't have a coach, you can first look through the game yourself, compare your moves to known theory, and only then check with the engine. You can also search in the database to see if your mistakes were played by stronger players, and if so, how they were punished by their opponents.

### FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING THE IDEAS AND STRUCTURES

Often you will find yourself in a brand-new position quite early, as you or your opponent will deviate from the standard lines. This can be uncomfortable, especially if you have focused only memorizing gobs of analysis.

You can minimize your suffering by focusing on learning typical structures and themes, so that when you hit a "hole" in your preparation, you can apply known ideas to the new situation.

This is where studying master games comes in. You can't just blindly repeat the patterns you learn — always calculate! — but your thinking will be much clearer if you have some idea of how stronger players tend to approach similar positions. ♠

# ALL GIRLS

18TH ANNUAL

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#### Friday April 28

2:30 PM Opening Ceremony

3:00 PM Round 1

#### Saturday April 29

10:00 AM Round 2

2:30 PM Round 3

6:30 PM Round 4

#### Sunday April 30

9:00 AM Round 5

1:00 PM Round 6

5:00 PM Awards Ceremony

### ENTRY FEE

\$85 postmarked by 3/20,  
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### SIDE EVENTS

#### Bughouse Tournament

Fri. April 28 11:00 AM

Entry fee: \$40 per team

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Fri. April 28 7:00 PM

Entry fee: \$30 by 4/17, \$35  
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top 500 – 799, top U500, top 6 schools

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top 700 – 999, top U700, top 6 schools

**Under 12** top 15 individuals

top 900 – 1199, top U900, top 6 schools

**Under 14** top 15 individuals

top 1100 – 1399, top U1100, top 4 schools

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top 1300 – 1599, top U1300, top 3 schools

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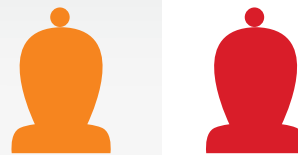
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# Attack With Opposite-Colored Bishops



A translation of a key 1962 article in Soviet chess history

BY **GM VLADIMIR SIMAGIN**

TRANSLATION BY **DOUGLAS GRIFFIN**

**E**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** THIS IS THE first in an occasional series of reprints of important Soviet-era essays and articles.

It is a translation by Douglas Griffin of GM Vladimir Simagin's "Ataka pri raznotsvetnykh slonakh," which appeared in *Shakhmaty v SSSR* (5:1962). Because this article was written some 60 years ago, the author did not have the luxury of checking his work with our metal friends. We point out a few important corrections in endnotes, which you may ignore if you are so inclined.

Vladimir Simagin (1919-1968) was an important theorist and trainer, working with GM Vasily Smyslov during his world championship years, GM Alexander Kotov, and a young IM Mark Dvoretsky, who cites him in many of his books, and this article specifically in *Positional Play*. A mainstay of the Moscow chess scene, and three times city champion, he was also a leading journalist, as evidenced by his work on the *Bulletin of the Central Chess Club* and in articles like this one.

Simagin was seen by his peers to be among the most creative and well-respected players of his day. GM David Bronstein wrote of Simagin's "envious number of the most varied tactical and strategic ideas," while Dvoretsky described him as a "true artist with original ideas and profound thoughts... I recommend that you study his selected games. For some time it was a standard reference work for me."

If you are inspired to learn more about

Simagin's career, check out Aidan Woodger's *Vladimir Simagin* (The Chess Player, 2000), which is largely a translation of Simagin's best games collection, and GM Mihail Marin's newly published *Learning chess with Vladimir Simagin: A Quest for beauty* (Pawn Books, 2022).



"Since the opponents are left with opposite-colored bishops, neither side has the right to count on victory." A familiar annotation! Indeed, opposite-colored bishops in the endgame often lessen the heat of the struggle, and are a harbinger of a peace agreement. An extra pawn, often even two, proves insufficient for victory.

It is another matter in the middlegame, when, besides the opposite-colored bishops there are other pieces on the board and the kings are subjected to attack. In such positions the presence of opposite-colored bishops, as a rule, are a factor which sharpens the struggle. Play with opposite-colored bishops in the middlegame has its own characteristic peculiarities, which we shall examine in this article.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INITIATIVE

Some love to attack, others to defend; fans of maneuvering strategy also exist. However, to achieve success in play with opposite-colored bishops, the chess player is obliged to fight for the initiative.

Before us is a position from the game Morphy – Löwenthal (1850).



**ON THE ATTACK**

**Paul Morphy**  
**Jacob Löwenthal**  
**New Orleans, 1850**



**WHITE TO MOVE**

Black's pieces are fairly well placed, and he could begin an attack by means of 18. ... Bd6. However, it is White's move, and he is the first to go onto the offensive: **18. g3 Qg5 19. f6 Ne5<sup>1</sup> 20. fxe7 Rfd8 21. Be4 Qxe7 22. Qh5 Rd6 23. Bxh7+!**, and White achieved a decisive advantage.

This position is from the game Szabó – Boleslavsky (Candidates' Tournament, 1950).

**PAWN GRABBING**

**GM László Szabó**  
**GM Issac Boleslavsky**  
**Candidates (13), Budapest, 05.06.1950**



**WHITE TO MOVE**

There followed: **28. Rc3 Qxe4?**<sup>2</sup> **29. c5 Rg7 30. Qc2 Qxc2 31. Rxc2** and, having exchanged queens, White avoided trouble.<sup>3</sup> In commentary to this game Boleslavsky indicates the mistaken nature of the move 28. ... Qxe4. Continuing instead with 28. ... Qh5 followed by doubling rooks on the f-file,<sup>4</sup> Black forcibly achieved victory. This example demonstrates that the possession of the initiative with opposite-colored

bishops proves more important than material acquisition.

**ATTACK ON THE KING — THE CORRECT STRATEGY WITH OPPOSITE-COLORED BISHOPS**

The game Neikirkh – Botvinnik (14th Olympiad) reached the following position.

**THE PATRIARCH**

**IM Oleg Neikirkh**  
**GM Mikhail Botvinnik**  
**Olympiad Final (14), Leipzig, 10.28.1960**



**BLACK TO MOVE**

It is difficult to see an advantage for Black here. However, after only a few moves White proved to be faced with insurmountable difficulties: **19. ... b5! 20. Ra5** 20. Ra1 is better. **20. ... Bb7!** The bishop takes aim at the g2-square. **21. Nd6 Nxd6 22. Rxd6 Rd8!** The decisive move. 23. ... Qc6 is threatened. Botvinnik pointed out the following variation: 23. Rxd8 Qxd8 24. Qe1 Qd5 25. Qe2 Rd8 26. Be3 Qd1+ 27. Qxd1 Rxd1+ 28. Bg1 Rd2, winning. In the game there occurred: **23. Qd2 Rxd6 24. Qxd6 Qd8 25. Qxe6+ Rf7 26. Qe1 Re7**, and **White resigned**.

**GOOD AND BAD BISHOPS**

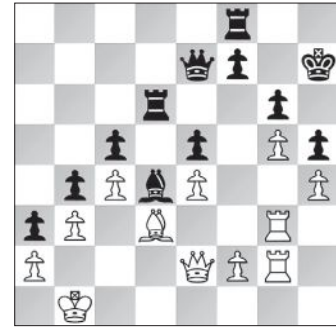
In the game Vilner – Romanovsky (Third USSR Championship) the situations of the bishops determined Black's decisive advantage.

**ACTIVATION, PART TWO**

**Yakov Vilner**  
**Peter Romanovsky**  
**USSR Championship (7), Moscow, 1924**

(see diagram top of next column)

There followed: **38. ... f6 39. gxf6** As Romanovsky pointed out, also bad is 39. Kc2 Qf7<sup>5</sup>



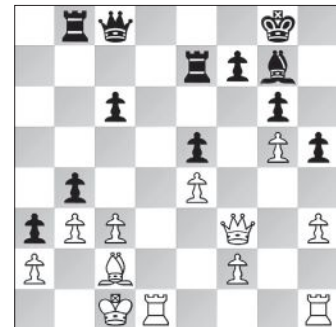
**BLACK TO MOVE**

40. f3 Rfd8, seizing the d-file. **39. ... Rdx6 40. Rg5 Qf7 41. Bc2 Rf4**, and Black's pieces invaded White's camp with decisive effect.

Earlier in this game there was a moment when White missed the possibility of activating his own bishop.

**ACTIVATION, PART ONE**

**Yakov Vilner**  
**Peter Romanovsky**  
**USSR Championship (7), Moscow, 1924**



**WHITE TO MOVE**

Here White played **28. c4?** Much stronger was 28. Bd3 bxc3 29. Bc4, and White's bishop plays an active part in the struggle. In this case Black's advantage would have been reduced to a minimum.

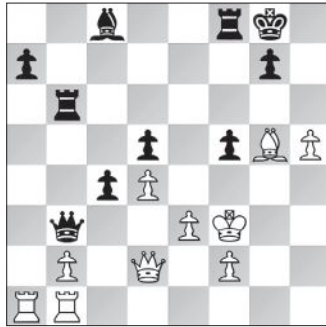
One must take account of the fact that the poor positioning of a bishop could be temporary, and that in the process of play the happy possibility of correcting the situation could turn up. We present an example.

**OPENING LINES**

**Yakovovich**  
**Vladimir Simagin**  
**Moscow, 1936**

(see diagram next page)

The following position occurred in the



**BLACK TO MOVE**

game Yakubovich – Simagin (Moscow, 1936). It is sufficient for White to play 35. Bf4, and the black bishop will be blocked in by its own pawns. However, it is Black's turn to move, which significantly changes the assessment of the position. There followed: **34. ... f4! 35. Bxf4 g5! 36. hxg6 e.p. Rxf4+ 37. Kxf4 Rf6+ 38. Kg3 Rxf6+ 39. Kf3 Bg4+ 40. Kg3 Be2+ 41. Kh4 Qb7 42. Qxe2 Qe7+, White resigned.**



**GM Vladimir Simagin**

**THE PAWN POSITION**

A pawn storm gains significantly in force if it is supported by an active bishop. The pawn position can have decisive significance for the assessment of a position. The third game of the Botvinnik – Tal return match can serve as a good illustration.

**EYES ON THE PRIZE**

**GM Mikhail Botvinnik**  
**GM Mikhail Tal**  
**World Championship (3), Moscow, 1961**



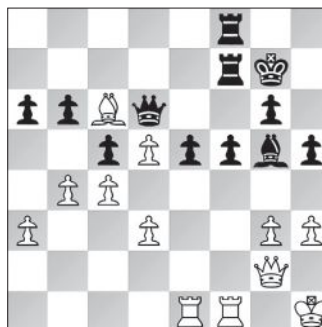
**WHITE TO MOVE**

White has an active bishop, while the e- and f-pawns could be set in motion. Not being distracted by 'extraneous matters' (35. Bxb7), M. Botvinnik prepares an offensive on the king's flank: **35. Bc4 c5 36. b5 Bf6 37. f4 d3 38. Rxd3 Rxd3 39. Bxd3 Bd4 40. e5 g6 41. Rh1 Kg7 42. Qe4 b6 43. Bc4, Black resigned.** Interestingly, the two black pawns on c5 and d4 proved to be no more than witnesses to the unfolding catastrophe.

Another example is the game Spassky – Simagin (28th USSR Championship).

**REROUTING**

**GM Boris Spassky**  
**GM Vladimir Simagin**  
**USSR Championship (14), Moscow, 1961**



**BLACK TO MOVE**

The blockaded d5-pawn 'kills' its own bishop. Black's mobile pawn center threatens to advance. There followed: **36. ... Bd8! 37. bxc5 bxc5 38. Rb1 Bc7 39. Ba4 e4! 40. dxe4 fxe4 41. Rxf7+ Rxf7 42. Bd1 e3 43. Bf3 h4!** with decisive threats.

In both of these cases the advantage of the stronger side was of an obvious nature. We now present a more difficult example.

**UNCOVERING**

**José Raoul Capablanca**  
**Fedor Duz-Khotimirsky**  
**St. Petersburg (exhibition), 1913**



**WHITE TO MOVE**

In the game Capablanca – Duz-Khotimirsky (St. Petersburg, 1913) White's advantage appeared as a result of a complicated combination: **25. e5 g6 26. e6 Rf8 27. Ng3 Qb7<sup>6</sup> 28. Nf5 fxe6 29. dxe6 Qc7 30. Qc6!** with decisive superiority.

**THE DIAGONAL a1-h8 (h8-a1)**

These days there are many opening systems associated with the flank development of bishops. Positions with fianchettoed king's bishops deserve particularly serious discussion. After all, in the majority of cases short castling occurs. But then, if the exchange of the fianchettoed bishop occurs, the pawn cover of the king proves to be weakened.

Let us examine a position from the game Smyslov – Cherepkov (28th USSR Championship).

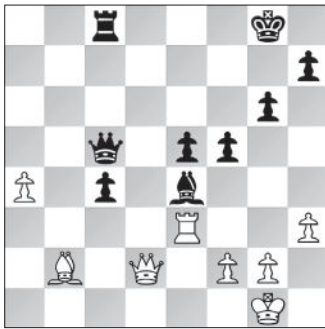
**PAWN, SCHMAWN**

**GM Vasily Smyslov**  
**Alexander Cherepkov**  
**USSR Championship (13), 01.30.1961**

(see diagram top of next column)

Black has an extra pawn, but it will be lost, after which White organizes a decisive at-





WHITE TO MOVE

tack along the diagonal a1-h8. Already Black cannot save the game. **37. Kh2 Qd5 38. Qe1 Re8<sup>7</sup> 39. f3 Bc2 40. a5 Ba4 41. Bxe5 Kf7 42. f4 Bc6 43. Re2 g5** 44. Qh4 was threatened. **44. Rd2 Qe4 45. Qg3 h6 46. a6 c3<sup>8</sup> 47. Qxc3 gxf4 48. Bh8!**, and White won.

Here is another position, arising in the game Taimanov – Averbakh (Candidates Tournament, 1953).

## THE DARK SQUARES

**GM Mark Taimanov**  
**GM Yuri Averbakh**  
**Candidates (6), Zurich, 09.08.1953**



WHITE TO MOVE

Black's king's side is weakened, but a white pawn blocks the action of the b2-bishop. In order to create real threats, White must open the a1-h8 diagonal. This proves possible thanks to an interesting tactical maneuver:

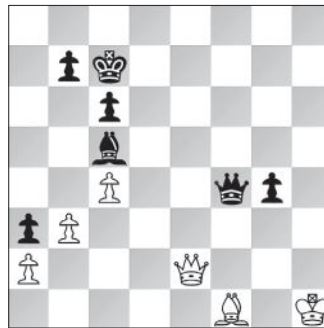
**23. Red1 Rd7 24. Rd6! Bb7 25. Rad1 Rxd6 26. exd6 f6 27. d7 Bc6 28. h4! Bxd7 29. h5 gxh5 30. e4 e5 31. f4 exf4<sup>9</sup> 32. Rd6 Qe8 33. Bxf6 Rf7 34. Rd5, Black resigned.**

## REGARDING ZUGZWANG

This position occurred in the game Reshevsky – Bronstein (Candidates Tournament, 1953).

## ACTIVITY!

**GM Samuel Reshevsky**  
**GM David Bronstein**  
**Candidates (13), Zurich, 09.22.1953**



BLACK TO MOVE

Black's advantage consists not so much in the extra pawn as in the more active positioning of his pieces. Here is what D. Bronstein wrote in the tournament book: "Here not only the spectators, but also to the players it seemed for a moment that Black would not manage to break down White's resourceful resistance. If, for instance, 58. ... g3, then 59. Bh3, and it is not apparent how Black can strengthen his position. The winning idea is based on *Zugzwang*." The game continued: **58. ... Kb6 59. Kg2 Kc7 60. Kh1 Bd6 61. Kg1 Kb6 62. Qg2 Bc5+ 63. Kh1 Qh6+ 64. Qh2 Qe3 65. b4 Bd4** and White resigned.

Recently we had occasion to witness the play of our young chess players. One of the encounters in the All-Union Tournament of Schoolboys (1961) replied to many of the questions touched on in this article in a way that could not be bettered.

## BY WAY OF SUMMATION

**T. Glushnev**  
**Alexander Zakharov**  
**USSR, 1961**



BLACK TO MOVE

The black bishop is much more active than its white counterpart. To defend against the threat of 21. exf5, Black played **20. ... Qf6**. There followed: **21. e5?** Correct, of course, was 21. Qxf6.<sup>10</sup> We already know that a blocked pawn on a square of the color of the bishop guarantees only difficulties. Unexpectedly, White falls under a strong attack. **21. ... dxe5 22. fxe5 Qg5** Bringing the g2-square under fire. **23. Nf3 Qg4 24. b3** Black's bishop is very active. On 24. Qxc5 possible is 24. ... f4 25. Bf2 Bd5! with advantage for Black.<sup>11</sup> **24. ... h5!** Threatening 25. ... h4, winning on the spot. White escapes the immediate dangers with a combination. **25. Nh4<sup>12</sup> Nxh4 26. Rf4 Qg5 27. Rxh4 Rd2!** Seizing the d-file. 28. ... Bd5 is threatened. **28. Rf4 Rad8 29. Qxc5?** This pursuit of the pawn is only a loss of time. 29. h4 should have been played. **29. ... h4** A deflecting sacrifice! **30. Rxh4 Rd1!** Stronger than 30. ... Bd5 31. e6!, and the white pieces come to life. **31. Qb4<sup>13</sup> Qe3+ 32. Bf2 R8d2!** and White lost on time, though he has no defense against mate. ♠

## ENDNOTES

- 1)** Black is fully equal after 19. ... g6.
- 2)** Giving 28. ... Qxe4 a ? seems harsh, as it is still winning and a good practical choice.
- 3)** Modern engines give Black a significant advantage in this position.
- 4)** The original text has "g-file," but this seems to be an editorial error. Boleslavsky's notes reference doubling on the f-file.
- 5)** 39. ... Qf7 is a mistake, allowing 40. Qxh5+ gxh5 41. g6+ with near-equality. Black keeps all of his advantage by playing 39. ... fxg5 40. hxg5 and only then 40. ... Qf7.
- 6)** This is the key error in Black's play. He is only a bit worse after the correct 27. ... Qc7.
- 7)** With 38. ... Rb8 or 38. ... Rd8, Black is not worse in a complex position. In truth Black is not worse in the diagrammed position.
- 8)** This is the final mistake. Black holds the position together by sitting tight, i.e., 46. ... Re6 (potentially with ... Re6-g6) or 46. ... Re7.
- 9)** Black is fine after 31. ... Rf7, defending the d7-bishop and the h7-pawn, and freeing the queen to swing to e8, f8, or a8 as needed.
- 10)** 21. e5 is completely tactically viable, and White stands better after it is played.
- 11)** As is so often the case, Stockfish does not believe that Black has compensation for the pawn.
- 12)** White gains a clear advantage through pawn-snatching with the cold-blooded 25. Qxc5 f4 26. Bf2 Bd5 27. h3! Qf5 28. Qc3.
- 13)** A blunder. White can hold with 31. Qc3 (preventing the game continuation) or 31. Kf1 Qd2 32. Qe7!.



# THE 2022 WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

18 Americans travel to Romania to test themselves against the world's best.

BY **WGM SABINA FOISOR**

**I**N RECENT YEARS I HAVE become more involved with coaching talented young players in high-level youth competitions. I was fortunate to have been entrusted with a role helping our players at the 2019 Pan-American

and World Youth Championships. When I saw that the 2020 World Youth Championships would be in Romania, I was excited. I grew up there; what could be

PHOTO: FLORIN ARDELEAN

better than leading the American delegation in my homeland?

After a long postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 World Youth Championships were finally held in Mamaia, Romania, from September 5-17. The host city is a suburb of Constanta, which has a smaller airport, so our delegation all flew to Romania's capital, Bucharest.

Organizers provided buses from the airport to Constanta, some 138 miles away. This added another two or three hours to an already long trip, but the hotels were quite lovely and close to the playing area. The tournament site was well-located, but airflow was not optimal, and the glass pavilion created a lot of heat in the hall, even with September sun.

Team USA was composed of 18 players, and I was excited to see that 13 were girls! Along with parents and chaperones, we were joined by US Chess FIDE Events Manager Brian Yang, and three strong GM coaches were available online to prepare players and analyze with them.

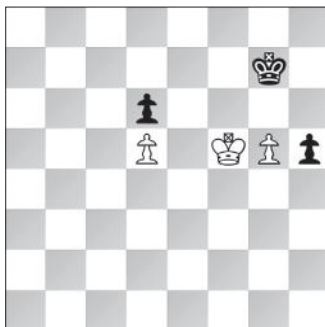
Many of the top U.S. players did not make the trip, perhaps because it took place right at the beginning of the school year. But our players all did us proud. Most were not among the favorites in their sections, but everyone fought to the end, and optimistically strove for their best results, even in the last rounds. Chess in the United States continues to grow, and we will see many of these players on bigger stages in the future.

Our team's highest initial seed was FM Ruiyang Yan, who played in the Girls U16 section. Although her level was generally high, a few missed chances cost her a medal by the slimmest of margins. Arya Kumar had an excellent result in the Girls U18. Starting in 43rd place by rating, she just missed finishing in the top six with a tough result in the final round.

There were many exciting moments for our players, but for this article, I selected positions that I thought could be instructive for the reader, and I hope every learns something from them. Despite my selecting some blunders and misses, I was very impressed with everyone's professionalism during the tournament, and I'm looking forward to watching these players grow and achieve in the future!

## LANDMINES

**Carissa Zheng (1779)**  
**Nurai Sovetbekova (1992)**  
**World Youth Girls U18 (9), Mamaia,**  
**09.14.2022**



WHITE TO MOVE

Here Carissa had a momentary lapse regarding mined squares.

### 74. g6??

The correct 74. Ke4 would have saved the game as the g6 and f4 squares are mined: 74. ... Kg6 75. Kf4 h4 and now 76. Kg4 h3 77. Kxh3 Kxg5 78. Kg3. White keeps the opposition and holds the draw.

Instead, pushing the pawn allowed...

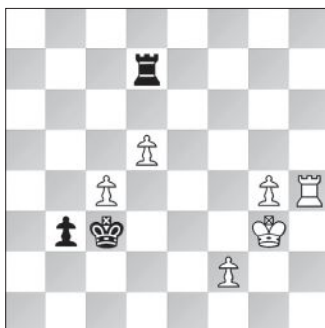
### 74. ... h4 75. Kg4 Kxg6 76. Kxh4

Now White is down a tempo compared to the above analysis, so that the opposition can't be taken when the black king takes the d5-pawn. The position is lost.

**76. ... Kf5 77. Kg3 Ke4 78. Kf2 Kxd5 79. Ke2 Ke4 80. Kd2 Kd4 81. Kc2 Ke3 82. Kd1 Kd3 83. Ke1 d5 84. Kd1, and White resigned.**

## THREE ISN'T ENOUGH

**WFM Nastassja Matus (1933)**  
**Viviana Galvan Cipriani (2084)**  
**World Youth Girls U18 (10), Mamaia,**  
**09.15.2022**



WHITE TO MOVE

Nastassja played a beautiful game against her stronger opponent, reaching this endgame with three extra pawns. However, White has to be careful as Black's passed b-pawn is more advanced than any of the white pawns.

### 55. Rh1?

Believe it or not, Black can now hold!

The only move to win was 55. g5!, with the game likely continuing 55. ... b2 56. Rh1! (only now!) 56. ... Kxc4 (56. ... Kc2 would be too slow for Black, i.e., 57. Kg4 b1=Q 58. Rxb1 Kxb1 59. g6 Kc2 60. f4 Kd3 61. f5 Kxc4 62. f6 and the rook can't stop the connected white pawns) 57. Rb1.



POSITION AFTER 57. Rb1

This is an important move, depriving Black of counterplay. If White wins the b-pawn, victory with the connected, passed f- and g-pawns is simple. After (a) 57. ... Rb7 58. d6! Kd5 59. d7 Rxd7 60. Rxb2 White wins, while after (b) 57. ... Kc3 58. f4 Kc2 59. Rxb2+ Kxb2 60. g6 White's pawns are again much faster. One continuation is 60. ... Kc3 61. f5 Rxd5 62. Kg4 Rd1 63. f6 Kd4 64. f7 Rf1 (or 64. ... Rg1+ 65. Kh5 Rf1 66. g7) 65. g7 Rxf7 66. g8=Q White also wins.

### 55. ... Kc2??

Now White has four pawns to be stopped, and Black's king is too far away to help.

Incredibly Black can save the game with 55. ... Kxc4! by nabbing the d-pawn and keeping the b-pawn for counterplay: 56. g5 Kxd5 57. Kg4 Rb7 58. f4 (58. g6 Ke6 59. Kg5



FM Ruiyang Yan

b2 60. f4?? [60. Rb1 Rb5+ 61. Kh6 Kf6 62. g7 Kf7 63. f4 Rb3 with equality] 60. ... b1=Q 61. Rxb1 Rxb1 62. f5+ Ke5) 58. ... b2 59. g6 b1=Q 60. Rxb1 Rxb1 and with the black king close to the pawns, White has to play 61. Kf5 (61. f5?? would lose after 61. ... Rg1+ 62. Kf4 Rf1+ 63. Kg5 Ke5 64. g7 Rg1+ 65. Kh6 Kf6) 61. ... Rg1 62. Kf6 Ke4 63. g7 Kxf4 with a draw.

56. f4 b2 57. g5 Rh7 58. Rf1 Ra7 59. f5 Ra3+ 60. Kg4 Rd3 61. f6 Rd4+ 62. Kh5 Rd1 63. Rxd1 Kxd1 64. f7 b1=Q 65. f8=Q Qh7+ 66. Kg4 Kd2 67. Qf5 Qh1 68. Qf4+ Kc2 69. d6 Qg2+ 70. Kf5 Kc3 71. Kf6 Qh3 72. g6, Black resigned.

**ATTACK!**

Carissa Zheng (1779)  
Sofiia Hryzlova (2191)  
World Youth Girls U18 (3), Mamaia,  
09.08.2022



WHITE TO MOVE

I was really impressed with how Carissa played in this position after Black's queen-side expansion with 17. ... b5. White's attack on the king was crushing!

18. g4 hxg4 19. Nxg4 bxa4 20. Rxa4 Qb6 21. Bh6 Nce7 22. Nf6+ Bxf6 23. exf6 Nxe6 24. Qxe6 Nf5 25. Qg5 Kh7 26. h5 Rg8 27. Ne5 d4 28. hxg6+ Rxg6 29. Nxg6 fxg6 30. Be4 Rg8 31. Kg2, Black resigned.

**PIN TO WIN**

Arya Kumar (1929)  
WIM Ravi Rakshitta (2238)  
World Youth Girls U18 (1), Mamaia,  
09.06.2022



BLACK TO MOVE

Arya had a brilliant tournament. Here, in the first round, she took down her much higher-rated opponent after a blunder.

26. ... Rhe8??  
Logical, but this allows a shot. The correct 26. ... Ng6 avoids problems.

27. Nf3!  
Taking advantage of the pin! But doesn't this hang the knight?

27. ... Nxf3  
Now Arya shows her beautiful idea.

28. Bxd7+!  
... after which White wins an Exchange, which she converted very well.

28. ... Kb8 29. Rxe8 Rxe8 30. Bxe8 a5 31. c5 Nxe4 32. Rd8+ Ka7 33. Bxf7 Nf3 34. Rg8 Ba6 35. Bh5 Nd4+ 36. Kc3 Ne6 37. b4 axb4+ 38. Kxb4 Bd3 39. Bg4 Nf4 40. Kc3 Bb1 41. a3 Bg6 42. Kd4 Nd5 43. Ke5 Ne3 44. Be6 Ka6 45. Kf4 Ng2+ 46. Kf3 Ne1+ 47. Ke2 Nc2 48. Bc4+ Kb7 49. Bd3 Nd4+ 50. Ke3 Nf5+ 51. Bxf5 Bxf5 52. Kf4 Bd3 53. Ke5 Ka6 54. Kd4 Bc2 55. Rg7 Kb7 56. Ke5 Bd3 57. Ke6 Be4 58. Kd7 Bf5+ 59. Kd8 Ka6 60. Kxc7 Kb5 61. Kd6, Black resigned.

**POWER CHESS**

FM Ruiyang Yan (2232)  
WIM Machteld van Foreest (2141)  
World Youth Girls U16 (4), Mamaia,  
09.09.2022



WHITE TO MOVE

This is an example of Ruiyang's strong positional play. Here she grinds a full point out of a structural advantage against the youngest of the famous van Foreest family. This is a model of patience and accuracy.

**2022 WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS AT A GLANCE**

SEPTEMBER 5-17, 2022 | MAMAIA, ROMANIA

**OPEN SECTIONS**

U18: Nicholas Ladan, 5/11. U16: FM Sharvesh Deviprasath, 6. U14: Arsal Gardezi, 7. CM Neeraj Harish, 6½. James A. Chrililov, 5½.

**GIRLS SECTIONS**

U18: Arya Kumar, 7. WFM Natassja Matus, Carissa Zheng, 6. WFM Anne-Marie Velea, 5½. U16: FM Ruiyang Yan, 8, fourth place on tiebreaks. Chelsea Zhou, 6½. Asha Kumar, 6. U14: Chloe Wang, WCM Kally Wen, 6½. Ananya Ananth, Rowan Soraya Field, Chloe Gaw, 6. Lilia Quinn Field, 5½.

For complete results and additional photos, visit [worldyouth2022.com](http://worldyouth2022.com).

21. Nd3 Rc8 22. Kf2 Nc6 23. Rd1 Ne7 24. Nb2 Rc6 25. Na4 Qc7 26. Rd2 0-0 27. Rhd1 Rd8 28. Rd6 Ng6 29. Rxc6 dxc6 30. Rxd8+ Qxd8 31. g3 Qa5 32. Ke2 Kf7 33. Qxc5 Qc7 34. Nc3 Qd7 35. Nd1 h5 36. h4 Ne7 37. Nf2 Nc8 38. Nd3 Ne7 39. Qd6 Qc8 40. Nc5 Ng8 41. b4 Ne7 42. Ke3 Ng8 43. Kd4 Ne7 44. a4 Ng8 45. Qd7+ Ne7 46. Qxa7 Ke8 47. Kc3 g6 48. Qb6 Kf7 49. a5 g5 50. hxg5 h4 51. gxh4 Qh8 52. Nd3 Qxe6 53. Qf2 Qh1 54. Qe1 Qg2 55. Qf2 Qh1 56. Kb2 Qd1 57. Qc2 Qg1 58. a6 Nc8 59. Qf2 Qh1 60. Nc5 Nb6 61. Qe2 Qg1 62. Qh5+ Ke7 63. Qh7+ Ke8 64. Qg8+ Ke7 65. Qxe6+ Kf8 66. Qxf5+ Ke8 67. Qg6+ Ke7 68. Qf6+ Ke8 69. Qxc6+ Kf8 70. Ne6+ Kf7 71. g6+ Kxg6 72. Nd4+ Kh5 73. Qxb6, Black resigned. ♠

# CAVEMAN SUMMER CHESS Festival



**JULY 16-23, 2023**

**Location:** Elmhurst University, Elmhurst, IL (15 minutes from O'Hare, just west of Chicago)

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- ✓ Master Class- GM instr only [Already two entrants: Arthur Xu 2250, Natalie Wisniowski 2150]
- ✓ Classes for players from 5 to 85, fundamental and advanced, separated by age and strength
- ✓ Family and chaperone registrations to accompany young campers



**Add'l invited  
instructors - TBD soon**

### **Top Women:**

GM Krush, WIM Root PhD, WGM Yu

### **Top Men:**

GM's Lenderman, Novikov, Mitkov

### **Camp Director:**

FM, FT Kevin Bachler

**Co-Director:** Deb Socha

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- ✓ Caveman Medior Open
- ✓ US Junior Open (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ US Blind (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ Caveman Beginner Open (7/22)
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# Bringing Home the **BRONZE!**



## Team USA finishes third at 2022 NATO Chess Championship

BY **TECHNICAL SERGEANT ANDREW DUREN**

ANNOTATIONS BY **FIRST LIEUTENANT EIGEN WANG**



THE 32ND NATO Chess Championship was held from June 27 through July 2, 2022, at the Estonia Defense Academy in Tartu. What is always

a tough tournament was made more difficult by the unseasonable (by Estonian standards) summer heat — it was well into the 80s every day! With no fans or air conditioning in the barracks, and with most of our team experiencing jetlag, we were up against it! This adversity makes our success, individually and as a team, all the sweeter.

The NATO Chess Championship is a seven-round swiss held annually in rotating NATO countries. It is individually paired, with the top four scores from each country counting for their team total. Countries may have up to six players on their teams, although some field only four and some do not even manage to fill out their rosters. In addition to the 15 official teams competing in 2022, there were also three combined teams of captains and team officials whose results do not count for their individual countries.

The 2022 event lacked some of the fire-

power of previous years. Two of the top German players were absent, with one testing positive for COVID-19 right before the tournament started. One of the leading Polish players was also unavailable. Still, with one IM, two FMs, a WIM, and a CM, there was no shortage of strong players in the field.

The German team is a traditional powerhouse in NATO events, winning medals at 24 consecutive tournaments, including 19 golds. This year, however, the field caught up with them, and the Germans finished in fourth place, just off the podium.

Greece was the surprise winner, dominating the tournament from the outset and besting the field by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points with 23 team points in all. Poland finished second at  $19\frac{1}{2}$ , and Team USA brought home the bronze with 19 points, just a half-point ahead of the Germans. Our third-place finish was all the more impressive when you factor in team ratings. At 2028, the American team was significantly outrated by top-seeded Greece (2180), second-seed Germany (2155), and third-seed Poland (2147).

Our success was fueled by excellent performances by our players, including First

Lieutenant Eigen Wang (U.S. Air Force), who finished at  $5\frac{1}{2}/7$ . He just missed out on the bronze medal, with tiebreaks giving it to FM Robert Stein of Germany. Here is their round four game, with Wang's annotations.

### **SICILIAN DEFENSE, MAROCZY BIND (BY TRANSPOSITION) (B38)**

**FM Robert Stein (2365)**  
**Eigen Wang (2293)**  
**32nd NATO Chess Championship (4), Tartu, 06.29.2022**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 c5 7. 0-0 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Nc6 9. Be3 Nxd4 10. Bxd4 Bd7 11. f3 Bc6 12. Kh1 Nd7**

Black's plan is to leave White with a bad light-squared bishop. White has no specific plan yet, but the space advantage gives White flexibility.

### **13. Bxg7 Kxg7 14. Qd4+**

More difficult to deal with was 14. b4, since White always has the option of Qd1-d4+. Fighting for the dark squares on the queen-

side is key because Black's pieces rely on them.

**14. ... Kg8 15. Nd5**

Now Black has the opportunity to trade the strong knight and leave White with a bad bishop.

**15. ... e5**

I wanted to control more of the dark squares. If Black can move his knight to d4, Black will have the advantage; further, because of the outpost on d4, I was not worried about the backward d6-pawn.

**16. Qd2 Bxd5 17. exd5**

After 17. Qxd5 Qb6 Black will play ... Nd7-c5-e6-d4, making White's life difficult.

**17. ... a5**

The pawn structure has changed. Now Black needs to balance queenside restraint with the kingside majority. Meanwhile, White should find a way to push his queenside pawns, freeing his bishop.

**18. b3 Qb6 19. Rab1 Nf6?!**

The start of a bad plan. The knight is ineffective here, and this also blocks the f-pawn.

The best move was 19. ... Kg7, not deciding on anything concrete, but controlling the dark squares on the kingside.

**20. a3 Nh5 21. Rfc1 Qf2 22. Rb2 Rfe8 23. b4 axb4 24. axb4 b6 25. c5 bxc5 26. Bb5??**

A blunder that should have cost White a pawn and the game.

Instead 26. bxc5 was White's only move. After 26. ... dxc5 27. Bb5 Qxd2 28. Rxd2 Reb8 Black is a pawn up, but the c-pawn is weak and the d-pawn is strong. The likely outcome is a draw.

**26. ... Qxd2 27. Rxd2**



**27. ... Rec8!**

Exploiting White's back rank.

**28. Rdc2**

We see the point after 28. bxc5?? Rxc5 winning a bishop.

**28. ... Rab8??**

Letting White off the hook.

Correct was 28. ... Nf4!, attacking the d5-pawn and eyeing the d3-square. Now the only move is 29. Bc6 Ra7! (another only move) 30. bxc5 Nd3 31. cxd6 Nxc1 32. Rxc1 Rd7! and we see the purpose of 29. ... Ra7. Black wins the d6-pawn and remains up the Exchange.

**29. Ba6 Rd8 30. bxc5 dxc5 31. Rxc5 Nf6 32. Bc4 Rbc8?!**

I think that 32. ... Ne8 was an improvement. After ... Ne8-d6, White's d-pawn is no longer dangerous, and in truth White needs to concern himself with holding the balance.

**33. Rc6 Kg7 34. Kg1 Ng8 35. Ba6 Rb8 36. d6 Rb2 37. Rd1 Nf6 38. Bc4 Rb7 39. Ba6 Rb4 40. Rc8 Rd7 41. Rc7 Rd4 42. Rxd4 exd4 43. Rxd7 Nxd7 44. Bb5 Nc5 45. d7 Nb7 46. Kf2 Kf8 47. Ba6 Nd8 48. Ke2 Ke7 49. Bb5 Ne6 50. g3, draw.**

Despite being on the wrong end of the result, Wang also annotated his round five battle with IM Anastasios Pavlidis of Greece, a game that was voted best of the tournament.

**QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D30)**

**Eigen Wang (2293)**  
**IM Anastasios Pavlidis (2296)**  
**32nd NATO Chess Championship (5), Tartu, 06.30.2022**

**1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 h6**

An interesting idea, preventing Bc1-g5. I decided to go with an early e2-e3, with my bishop developing to the b2-square later.

**4. e3 Nf6 5. Nbd2 c5 6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. a3 0-0 8. Be2**

I passed up an early b2-b4 because Black could play ... a7-a5, controlling the c5-square. The c5-bishop is not well placed, so chasing it away is not urgent.

**8. ... Re8 9. 0-0 e5**

Black opens the diagonal for his light-squared bishop, and plans to play ... e5-e4 with kingside attacking possibilities. White's development and central initiative should be faster.

**10. b4 Bd6 11. Bb2 a5?!**

Instead 11. ... e4 immediately was necessary.

**12. cxd5 e4 13. Nd4**



My development is much better than my



Now-FM Eigen Wang



EB member David Hater



opponent's, giving me a superior position. White controls key squares in the center.

**13. ... axb4 14. Nc4 Bf8 15. d6!**

A very strong pawn! White should be almost winning now.

**15. ... Bd7**

If 15. ... Bxd6 16. Nb5! Bc5 17. Nbd6 Re6 18. Bxf6 Rxf6 19. Nxe4 and White is winning.

**16. axb4 Rxa1 17. Qxa1?!**

My first mistake. The queen is strong on d1, exerting pressure on the d-file and controlling the g4-square — a fact that becomes critical in a few moves. Doubling on the long diagonal accomplishes nothing, since the d4-knight is in the way.

The correct 17. Bxa1! would leave White with a winning position. After 17. ... b5 18. Na3 Bxd6 19. Ndc2! the queen gains a tempo attacking the bishop. White is up a pawn with a winning position after 19. ... Bf8 20. Nxb5.

**17. ... b5 18. Na5?!**

The knight doesn't do much here, except threaten Na5-b7.

After 18. Na3 Bxd6 19. Bc3 White defends his b-pawn and attacks the black b-pawn. Black cannot defend the pawn, nor does he have much counterplay.

**18. ... Bxd6**

White is still better, but I need to be careful now because Black's pieces are more active than they previously were. Instead I became careless, not realizing the urgency required by the position.

Top: A gift from a Canadian opponent. Middle: Estonia's Janek Tammisto has a good barber. Below: 2022 competitors and staff.

**19. Rd1?**

Losing a tempo, and weakening the f2-square.

Best was 19. Nxb5, leading to the forced line 19. ... Bxb4 20. Nb7 Qb6 21. Rb1! Bxb5 22. Bd4 Qxb7 23. Rxb4 with advantage.

**19. ... Ng4**



Now Black's counterplay is fast.

**20. h3??**

Completely underestimating the ensuing attack.

Now 20. Bxg4 was necessary. After 20. ... Bxg4 21. Nb7 Bxh2+ 22. Kxh2 Qc7+ 23. Kg1 Qxb7 (23. ... Bxd1 24. Nxb5 Qxb7 25. Nd6 Qxb4 26. Nxe8 Qe1+ 27. Kh2 Qxf2 28. Bxg7 Qh4+ is a draw) 24. Rc1 White has compensation for the pawn.

**20. ... Nxf2 21. Kxf2 Qh4+ 22. Kf1**

After 22. Kg1 Qg3 White is powerless against ... Qg3-h2 and ... Bd6-g3.

**22. ... Bg3?**

(see diagram top next page)

An attempt to maintain flexibility while adding multiple threats, but this gave me







a chance to survive. Black wins with 22. ... Bxh3 23. gxh3 Qxh3+ 24. Ke1 Qxe3.

**23. Bxb5??**

My last chance was 23. Nf5!! . Why is it strong? The knight blocked the d1-rook and the b2-bishop, and now it temporarily disrupts the d7-bishop's path. After 23. ... Bxf5 24. Rd5! Qg5 (24. ... Bxh3? 25. Rh5!) 25. Bxg7 it's chaos.

**23. ... Qf6+**

Now Black has an unstoppable attack.

**24. Kg1 Qf2+ 25. Kh1 Bxh3 26. Rg1 Re5 27. Be2 Rg5 28. Qf1 Bg4 29. Bxg4 Rxg4 30. Nf5 Rg5 31. Qd1 Qxf5, White resigned.**

The remaining five members of Team USA all had plus scores: Petty Officer Enrico Balmaceda (U.S. Navy), Technical Sergeant Andrew Duren (U.S. Air Force), and Petty Officer Andrew Peraino (U.S. Navy) all finished with 4½/7, while Major Gordon Randall (U.S. Air Force) and Airman First

Class Charles M. Unruh (U.S. Air Force) finished with 4/7.

Our countrymen playing on the veteran / NATO teams could also boast strong performances, including Master Sergeant (ret) Robert Keough (U.S. Air Force) with 4½/7, Staff Sergeant (ret) John Farrell (U.S. Marines) with 4/7, and Colonel (ret) David Hater (U.S. Army), Chief Petty Officer (ret) Albert Hernandez (U.S. Navy), and Specialist Edward Wendler (U.S. Army), all at 3½/7.

Team administrator Farrell played a key part in bringing home the team bronze. Playing against Germany's Tobias Jacob in the final round, and with Jacob needing a win to keep Germany's medal hopes alive, Farrell accepted a draw in a winning position to give the bronze to the Americans.

**ENGLISH OPENING (A25)**

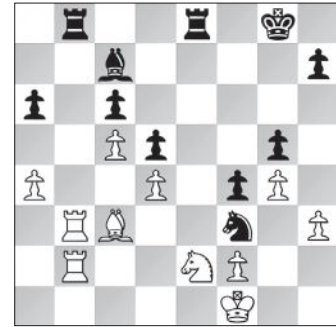
**Tobias Jacob (2013)**

**John Farrell (1913)**

**32nd NATO Chess Championship (7),**

**Tartu, 07.01.2022**

**1. c4 e5 2. g3 Nc6 3. Bg2 Bc5 4. Nc3 a6 5. e3 d6 6. Nge2 Nge7 7. a3 0-0 8. 0-0 Bg4 9. h3 Bh5 10. b4 Ba7 11. Nd5 Bg6 12. d4 exd4 13. exd4 Nxd5 14. Bxd5 Qd7 15. Bg2 Rfe8 16. Be3 Be4 17. Nc3 Bxg2 18. Kxg2 Ne7 19. Qf3 Qc6 20. Qxc6 Nxc6 21. Rfd1 Ne7 22. g4 Ng6 23. Rd3 Rad8 24. a4 c6 25. b5 d5 26. c5 Bb8 27. Ne2 f5 28. Ra2? f4! 29. Bc1 Nh4+ 30. Kf1 g5 31. bxc6 bxc6 32. Bd2 Bc7 33. Rb2 Rb8 34. Rdb3 Nf3 35. Bc3?**



**35. ... Nh2+! 36. Kg1 Rxb3 37. Rxb3 Rxe2 38. Kxh2 f3+ 39. Kg1 Rc2 40. Kf1 Rc1+ 41. Be1 Ba5 42. Re3 Ra1, draw.**

The individual gold went to CM Alexandros Papisimakopolous of Greece, who only gave up one draw on the way to a 6½/7 score and 2556 performance rating! Silver went to IM Pavlidis at 6/7, while FM Stern took the bronze on tiebreaks over WIM Ekaterini Pavlidou, also of Greece, and First Lieutenant Wang.

The 2023 NATO Championship will be held in Slovenia from September 3-9, and we will be looking to defend our medal, and possibly upgrade to silver or gold. We expect Germany to come back stronger, and Greece and Poland will certainly bring strong squads as well. Nevertheless, we have high hopes for Team USA, and we'll do our best!

If you are interested in applying to be on the U.S. Armed Forces chess team to participate in future NATO Championships, please contact John Farrell at [JohnnyUSMC@aol.com](mailto:JohnnyUSMC@aol.com). ♦



PHOTO: COURTESY ORGANIZERS



# The **ROAD** that *led me back*

After five years away, GM Kayden Troff returns to the board to honor his coach and friend.

BY **GM KAYDEN TROFF**

**I**T HAS BEEN MORE than five years since I played the 2017 U.S. Junior Championship. With the exception of a local event near my home here in Utah, that was my last tournament.

I've struggled to articulate the reasons for my absence from competitive chess. The game has been such a huge part of my life for so many years, and this deeply personal move away from competition has felt very hard to explain. But as I have sat with this decision more and more, I've found that, ultimately, I just needed to step away.

I have never stopped enjoying chess, but I got to a place where the stress of needing to improve was greater than the enjoyment I derived from playing. That feeling has gradually subsided, and now, the pleasure of

the game is returning. I find myself getting lost in blitz and bullet sessions online, but I've also been getting that itch to test myself over-the-board once more.

Last September I was invited to play in a memorial event for one of my coaches, GM Gabor Kallai. Gabor was fantastic to work with, and one of the nicest people I've ever met. He was always happy and energetic during our lessons, and I learned a lot from him. This was my opportunity — both to return to tournament chess, and to honor someone whom I owe so much. I was delighted to accept my invitation.

The tournament was held from November 28 through December 1 in Budapest, and it featured a rapid (G/25+5) and a blitz (G/5+3) component. This gave me a lot of time to prepare. Since the time controls were quick, my main focus was playing blitz online. I wanted a better sense of where my weak-

nesses were in fast time controls where I still had some time to think. (Bullet was *not* part of my training regiment! Only for fun!)

From there, I mostly worked on openings and tactics. That I was already constantly studying complete games helped too — whether it's the classics or more recent games, I usually find something that catches my attention and draws me in for a closer look. As the tournament drew near, my excitement overruled my nerves, and my only worry was the jet lag.

It was great seeing all the people who showed up for the memorial, including some that I hadn't seen in many years: GM Alex Chernin, IM Michael Khordarkovsky, and GM Alexander Beliavsky. I worked with all of them (along with Kallai) as part of the Young Stars Program from the Kasparov Chess Foundation, who also helped sponsor this memorial event.

Every chessplayer knows the anticipation of that first game, and as we approached the opening ceremony, I felt myself getting back into that “chess zone” — just tell me who I’m playing, and let’s get started!

First up: the rapid event, with three games on each of three days.

Before the tournament, my opening preparation focused on the Sicilian with Black, and some mainlines of the Grünfeld against 1. d4. All of my White games began with 1. e4, which may not sound significant... unless you’ve looked at a lot of my games. I was a 1. d4 player when I was active, but a couple of years ago I decided to learn 1. e4 (at least well enough to play!) and I was thrilled to push the king’s pawn at the board.

Here are two of those White games, both of which were quite interesting.

## CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B12)

GM Kayden Troff (2483)

GM Robert Ruck (2537)

Kallai Memorial | Rapid (7), Budapest, 11.30.2022

### 1. e4 c6 2. Ne2

Prepared specifically for this game. In round two I played 2. Nf3, but I thought that it would be good to have a fun surprise in this rapid game.

### 2. ... d5 3. e5 c5 4. d4 Nc6 5. c3 cxd4 6. cxd4 Bf5

This is one of the less complicated variations to play against 2. Ne2, but it should be easier and more comfortable for me to play. I was happy with this position out of the opening.

### 7. Nbc3 e6 8. a3 Nge7 9. Ng3 Bg6 10. Be3

Here I was tempted by 10. h4, a common idea when the bishop is on g6, but I also quite liked the idea of going f2-f4-f5 in the future. My move is flexible and keeps options open.

### 10. ... Nf5 11. Nxf5 Bxf5 12. Bd3 Bxd3 13. Qxd3



The position is roughly equal, but I think my play is easier with more space.

### 13. ... Be7 14. b4 Rc8 15. 0-0 h5?!

While this creates weaknesses, and my f2-f4-f5 looks scary, he should be able to castle without it. An example variation: 15. ... 0-0 16. f4 Qd7 17. f5?! (17. Rac1 f5!) 17. ... exf5 18. Rxf5 Nxb4! 19. axb4 Rxc3 and Black is better.

### 16. Rac1 g6 17. f4?!

I would say this was my first inaccuracy. It isn’t clear yet if f4-f5 is possible, and since Ruck used a few moves pushing pawns instead of improving his pieces, I might have used the extra time to create queenside pressure instead.

After 17. Na4 0-0 18. Rc3 Qd7 19. Rfc1 Black’s problems are already clear. If he does nothing, then Qd3-c2 comes with the idea of b4-b5. If they try to release the pressure with ... Nc6-b8, then Na4-c5 is awkward since Black does not want to trade the dark-squared bishop.

### 17. ... Qd7 18. h3 h4 19. Bf2 Kf8 20. Nd1

Looking to bring the knight to g4, with the idea of playing Nd1-e3-g4-f6 at some point, blockading the defense of the h4-pawn, or going for an attack on the king if the h8-rook leaves the kingside.

### 20. ... Kg7 21. Ne3



### 21. ... a5?

The advance b4-b5 has been a consideration for the last few moves, but the downside was him playing ... Nc6-a5-c4. Putting the pawn on a5 now opens the door for my b-pawn push, which will force his knight to an awkward square. I don’t think he should have allowed this, but it’s hard to evaluate things in short time controls. It feels like he’s just waiting to see if I can break through, so instead he decided to force things before it gets too bad.

### 22. b5 Na7 23. a4 Rxc1 24. Rxc1 Rc8 25. Rc2 Bd8

I expected 25. ... Rxc2 26. Qxc2 Qc8 27. Qb2, and with his weak h-pawn I had a clear target. As it will take a few moves for him to get his knight to a reasonable square, I thought things were looking good for me.

### 26. Ng4 Rxc2 27. Qxc2 Qc8 28. Qd2 Kf8 29. f5 exf5 30. Qh6+ Ke8

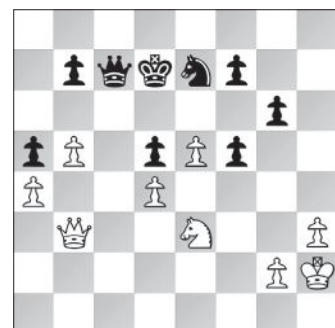


### 31. Ne3?

By now we were pretty low on time, so I won’t bother pointing out all the small improvements we could have made, focusing on the more interesting and critical moments.

During the game I felt strongly that 31. Qh8+ should be crushing, but I did not see the follow-up in the little time I had. After 31. ... Kd7 I missed 32. e6+! fxe6 (or 32. ... Kxe6 33. Qe5+ Kd7 34. Qxd5+ Kc7 35. Ne5 and White is winning) 33. Qg7+ Be7 34. Ne5+ (or 34. Bxh4) 34. ... Kd6 35. Nxe6 and White should win.

### 31. ... Qe6 32. Qh8+ Kd7 33. Bxh4 Bxh4 34. Qxh4 Nc8 35. Qe1 Qb6 36. Qc3 Ne7 37. Kh2 Qc7 38. Qb3



After the game I spent some time analyzing the endgame after 38. Qxc7+. If you like endgames, the resulting positions are quite interesting and I would recommend taking a look at them for yourself.

### 38. ... Ke6

The king is annoyingly solid on e6, and my advantage has slipped away.

### 39. g4 f4 40. Ng2 Qc1 41. Qf3?



This is the one point in the game where I might have been in some trouble. My idea is simple — go after the f4-pawn. But this is harder than it looks, and with some precise moves, Ruck keeps my pieces cramped.

A slightly better move order is 41. h4 g5 42. hxg5 Ng6 43. Qd3.

**41. ... g5 42. h4 gxh4?**

A natural move, but now I start to take over.

Black missed the computer move 42. ... Qb2!, but I don't feel too bad about us both missing it in time trouble! The idea is 43. Qd3 (43. hxg5 Ng6) 43. ... Kd7! (43. ... Qf2 44. Qa3!) 44. Kg1 f3 45. Qxf3 Qxd4+ and Black is better.

**43. Qxf4 Qa3?**

Now things start to fall apart.

The last chance to hold (courtesy Stockfish) was 43. ... Qc2 44. Qf6+ (likely what I would have played at the board, although the engine says White can try to win with 44. Kh3!) 44. ... Kd7 45. Qxf7 h3! 46. Kxh3 Qd3+ 47. Kh2 Qxd4 48. Qf4 Qc4 is equal.

Left to right: GM Varga, IM Troff, GM Vajda, IM Sevian, GM Horvath, IA Korpics, GM Kallai, GM Balog at the Great Hopes GM 2013 event.

44. Nxb4 Qxa4 45. Qf6+ Kd7 46. Qd6+ Ke8 47. Qb8+ Kd7 48. Qxb7+ Ke8 49. Qb8+ Kd7 50. Nf3 Qc2+ 51. Kg3 Qc7 52. Qf8 a4 53. Qxf7 a3 54. Qf6 a2 55. Qa6 Qc2 56. e6+ Kd8 57. Qa8+ Nc8 58. Qxd5+ Kc7 59. Qa8 Qb2 60. Qc6+! Kb8 61. b6 Qxb6 62. Qxb6+ Nxb6 63. e7 a1=Q 64. e8=Q+ Kc7 65. Qe5+ Kd7 66. Qb5+ Kc7 67. Qc5+ Kb7 68. g5 Qb1 69. Qe7+ Kc8 70. Qe6+ Kc7 71. g6 Nd7 72. g7 Qh7 73. g8=Q, Black resigned.

**SICILIAN DEFENSE, GRAND PRIX ATTACK (B23)**

GM Kayden Troff (2483)

IM Marcell Borhy (2407)

Kallai Memorial | Rapid (9), Budapest, 11.30.2022

**1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 d6 3. f4 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bc4**

Normally I'm not a big advocate of the Grand Prix Attack, but because Black has played ... d7-d6 here, we reach a good variation. Usually Black wants to play ... d(7)-d5 in a lot of lines, so it would cost an extra tempo.

**5. ... Nc6 6. 0-0 e6 7. d4!?**

I originally saw this idea in a Grischuk game, and its novelty caught my attention. I like it because it has some serious tricks behind it, but even if Black avoid them, White's position is still solid.

**7. ... cxd4 8. Nb5 a6**

A bit of a sideline, but if you know it well, I think it's an excellent line for Black. But the emphasis is on "know it well," since it is riskier than the main line 8. ... Nge7. After 9. Bb3 0-0 10. Nbx4 Na5 11. Be3 a6 12. Qe1

the position is nothing special for either side, but I'd be comfortable playing this with White as my plan of attack is clearer.

**9. Nbx4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 Nf6 11. f5**



**11. ... gxf5**

Another line I looked at was 11. ... e5, and it's worth including because it's intense: 12. Bg5 exd4 13. fxg6 hxg6 14. Qxd4 Ng4 15. Bxf7+ Kd7 16. Be6+ Ke8 17. Bf7+ and we reach a wild repetition. There are other options for White, but from my analysis it should all be about equal.

**12. exf5 d5!?**

Not a big mistake, but inaccurate nonetheless.

Black should play 12. ... e5 because allowing f5xe6 is too dangerous, and it's better to keep the pawn on d6 to solidify the e5-pawn, i.e., 13. Nf3 Qc7 14. Bb3 Bd7 15. Qe2.

**13. Bb3 e5 14. Nf3 Bxf5 15. Nxe5 Be6 16. Be3!**

I was happy to find this move. The alternative 16. Bg5 looks more exciting, but the a7-g1 diagonal is more important. After 16. ... Qc7! 17. Nd3 Ne4 the position should still be better for White, but Black is getting counterplay.

**16. ... 0-0 17. Kh1!?**

Feeling that I had time, I wanted to get my king to a slightly safer square. In retrospect, it would have been more valuable to use this time to play 17. c3, which keeps my b2-pawn from being a concern later, and discourages his ... d5-d4 push. Now after 17. ... Ne4 I can play 18. Nf3 Qd6 19. Nd4 with the knight potentially jumping to f5.

**17. ... Ne4 18. Qh5 f5 19. Nd3 Qe8 20. Qxe8 Raxe8 21. Nf4 Bf7**

(see diagram top of next column)

**22. c3**

I almost dismissed this because of 22. ... Nxc3? but once I saw the f8-rook was



“ This was my opportunity — both to return to tournament chess, and to honor someone whom I owe so much. I was delighted to accept my invitation. ”

PHOTO: GABOR KALLAI / FACEBOOK



trapped, and found 23. Bc5 as a response, I was feeling great about my position.

### 22. ... Ng3+

Black decides that because he's going to lose a pawn anyway, he will try to create some weaknesses to attack later and obtain the two bishops.

We both considered 22. ... d4!?, and the computer sees this as one of the better chances for Black to hold, but with the weak f5-pawn, I think White still has good long-term chances. A sample line is 23. Bxf7+ Rxf7 24. Bxd4 Bxd4 25. cxd4 with an edge for White.

### 23. hxg3 Rxe3 24. Nxd5 Re5

If instead 24. ... Rxg3? 25. Rxf5 and White will have tremendous pressure on the light squares.

### 25. Rad1



### 25. ... Kh8?

The only way to hold the position was the brilliant 25. ... a5!, which doesn't look like anything special, but it is prophylaxis against a future b2-b4. I want to play 26. Nf4 here to open things for my rooks, but after 26. ... Bxb3 27. axb3 Rb5 it's clear that b3-b4 is no longer possible. White is still better with accurate play, but it's not easy.

### 26. Nf4 Bxb3 27. axb3 Rb5

As we were both low on time here, I won't say much about the rest of the game, although there were improvements for both

sides. I did manage to keep my advantage and take the point.

### 28. Ne6 Rg8 29. Rd7 Rb6

If 29. ... Rxb3 30. Rxf5 Rxb2? 31. Rff7 and wins.

### 30. Nd8 Bf6 31. Nf7+ Kg7 32. Rxf5 Kg6 33.

Rf4 h5 34. g4 Rg7 35. gxh5+ Kxh5 36. Rd6

Bg5 37. Rf3?!

More accurate was 37. Rd5 Rxb3 38. Rff5.

### 37. ... Rxd6 38. Nxd6 Kg4

The one chance he had to hold was 38. ... Bc1, and this would be a good position for the reader to independently study.

### 39. Ne4 Bf4 40. Nf2+ Kf5 41. Nh3, Black resigned.

I finished with 4/9 in the rapid, or 8/18, as each game counted for twice as much as the blitz encounters. It wasn't the best performance, but I felt okay about it. My biggest struggle was getting comfortable positions out of the opening, which is difficult to do if you're not playing regular tournament chess. You can do theory and study openings all you want, but it's at the board that people will really challenge your opening knowledge.

Up next was the blitz, and this is where I felt like I really came to life. Part of this goes back to the openings — while blitz games are short enough that the opening is not as significant, I think it helped that I did return to 1. d4 for this portion, as I wanted something more familiar that I could play quickly. Instead of giving complete games here, I'd like to look at two interesting endgames.

## ENGLISH OPENING (A16)

GM Adam Kozak (2538)

GM Kayden Troff (2483)

Kallai Memorial | Blitz (5), Budapest, 12.01.2022

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 e5 5. Be2 0-0 6. 0-0 Nc6 7. d3 h6 8. Rb1 a5 9. Nd5 Nxd5 10. cxd5 Ne7 11. d4 exd4 12. Nxd4 d6 13. Be3 c6 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. Rc1 Bb7 16. Qd2 Kh7 17. Rfd1 a4 18. Qb4 Qd7 19. Nf3 d5 20. exd5 Nxd5 21. Qd2 Rfe8 22. Bd4 Bxd4 23. Nxd4 Rad8 24. Bf3 c5 25. Rxc5 Nf6 26. Rcc1 Ne4 27. Qf4 Ng5 28. Bxb7 Qxb7 29. Nc2?

White was living on the increment, while I had about a minute, so sacrificing a pawn to put some pressure on my opponent seemed a good idea. It paid off — this was the mistake I'd been hoping for.



GM Alexander Beliavsky



GM Jonas Buhl Bjerre



GM Kayden Troff

**29. ... Re4 30. Qf6**

This looks aggressive, but the main virtue of this move is that it protects the b2-pawn. Fortunately, it also opens another opportunity for me, and I pounced.

Black is much better after 30. Qg3 Rxd1+ 31. Rxd1 Qxb2 32. Qd3 Qxa2.

**30. ... Rg4 31. Ne3**

**31. ... Rxd1+ 32. Rxd1 Nh3+! 33. Kf1 Rf4!,**  
White lost on time.

He flagged before he could play 34. Qc3, but with ... Nh3xf2 coming, it's over anyway. In all my years of chess I can't recall seeing the pieces working in just this way. What a fun way to end the game!

It might seem a bit odd to end with a loss, but I found this last game to be both instructive and funny. Here's the backstory: I was fighting for fourth place overall, and trying to overtake my opponent, GM Ferenc Berkes. His move 29 draw offer was reasonable, but I declined, needing the win to leapfrog him.

I got an advantage that was never enough to win, then decided to "concede" the draw. Unfortunately... well, see for yourself!

**QUEEN'S PAWN GAME (D02)**

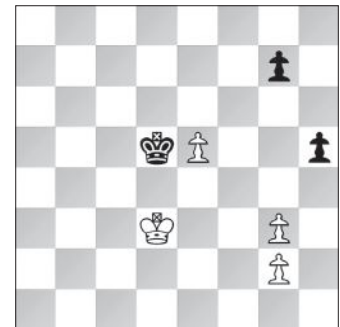
GM Kayden Troff (2483)

GM Ferenc Berkes (2643)

Kallai Memorial | Blitz (8), Budapest,  
12.01.2022

**1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 c6 3. Bf4 Bf5 4. e3 e6 5. Bd3 Bxd3 6. Qxd3 Bd6 7. Bg3 Nf6 8. 0-0 Ne4 9. c4 Nxc3 10. hxg3 Nd7 11. Nc3 0-0 12. e4 dxc4 13. Qxc4 e5 14. Rfd1 Qe7 15. Rd2 Nb6 16. Qb3 exd4 17. Nxd4 Be5 18. a4 Rad8 19. Rad1 Qf6 20. Nf3 Rxd2 21. Rxd2 Bxc3 22. bxc3 Qe6 23. Qb4 c5 24. Qxc5 Nxa4 25. Qb4 b5 26. e5 h6 27. Qxb5 Nxc3 28. Qd3 Rc8 29. Rc2 Qc4 30. Qxc4 Rxc4 31. Kf1 Rc7 32. Nd4 Nb5 33. Rxc7 Nxc7 34. Ke2 Kf8 35. Kd3 Ke8 36. Nf5 Ne6 37. Kc4 Kd7 38. f4 h5 39. Nd6 f6 40. Kd5 Nc7+ 41. Ke4 fxe5 42. fxe5 a5 43. Nc4 Ke6 44. Nxa5 Nd5 45. Nc6 Nc3+ 46. Kf4 Ne2+ 47. Kf3 Nc3 48. Kf4 Ne2+ 49. Kf3 Nc3 50. Ke3 Kd5 51. Kd3??**

After accepting the fact that there was no win, I decided to trade the knights and "agree to a draw." My failure to calculate here cost me dearly, as things are not nearly as simple as I thought!

**51. ... Kxc6 52. Kxc3 Kd5 53. Kd3**

Here's where I offered the draw, and only when he declined did I realize what a mistake I'd made! Assuming instead of calculating is an error I try very hard to avoid, but here, I let the tournament situation blind me. After trading knights White loses by forced due to his inferior pawn structure.

By showing you this loss, I'm hoping that you can avoid this common pitfall. Endgames can be a lot more complex than we give them credit for. If you simply assume that "it's a book draw," you may find yourself in trouble!

**53. ... Kxe5 54. Ke3**

Now 54. g4 is likely a better try, as capturing the pawn with 54. ... hxg4 55. Ke3 g6 56. Kf2 Kf4 57. Kg1 Kg3 58. Kh1 Kf2 59. Kh2 does indeed draw. But instead Black can play 54. ... h4! 55. Ke3 g5 56. Kf3 Kd4 57. Kf2 Ke4 and wins.

**54. ... Kf5 55. Kf3 Kg5 56. Ke3 Kg4 57. Kf2 g6 58. Kf1 Kxg3, White resigned.**

The result was not what I wanted, but I include this game because I find endgames like this to be fascinating. I love how deep chess

**GM GABOR KALLAI (1959-2021)**

Grandmaster Gabor Kallai was a talented player, teacher, author, and chess personality. Picking up the game in his native Budapest, Hungary in his teens, and with training from GMs Gyozo Fortinos and Laszlo Szabo, he showed excellent results almost immediately.

An international master in 1982 and a grandmaster 13 years later, Gabor saw success in individual play, but shone most brightly in team competition, with an early medal-winning performance at the 1981 World University Team Championships. Later, when his professional activities overtook his playing career, he continued to do well in national team championships, including gold medals in the French, Hungarian, and Swiss leagues.

Chess coaching and training was one of Gabor's passions. He helped GM Susan Polgar on her way to the world championship, worked as a second for GM Zoltan Ribli during his Candidates run, and led the Hungarian Open team to the silver medal at the 2002 Bled Olympiad. He also served as an arbiter for international tournaments and matches.

Through his work with the Kasparov Chess Foundation's Young Stars Program, Gabor helped shape some of America's top talent, including GMs Sam Sevian, Kayden Troff, and Jeffrey Xiong.

Gabor also popularized chess through the written word and visual media. The chess columnist for the Hungarian daily *Népszabadság*, he hosted a television program devoted to the game, and also wrote nine books that have been widely translated.

Though his sudden death on New Year's Eve, 2021, shocked chessplayers around the globe, Gabor Kallai lives on through his books, his students, and his many friends.



can be, and how many resources even simple positions contain. Here, even though it looks like it should be a draw at first glance, a bit of calculation makes the challenge of protecting the pawns much clearer.

I finished the blitz at 6/9 alongside GM Jonas Buhl Bjerre, which was enough to move me into a tie for fifth overall with GM Robert Ruck. Looking back, I feel really good about my performance. There was only one day that I felt a bit off, and while I know my calculation and openings could have been

better in places, I was happy with my play after so many years away from the board.

I don't have any plans to rush back out and play in another tournament, but I am looking at tournament listings a bit differently than I was before. Growing up, I always had the impression that if you stopped studying and playing, you'd get rusty quickly. Now I'm not sure that's entirely true.

Between online play and continuing to follow events online, the rust was not nearly as thick as it might have been. While I cer-

tainly saw where I needed to do some work, playing this tournament helped me realize that I'm not doing as badly as I'd feared.

The closing ceremony was held at a restaurant, and as this was a memorial, I figured it would be just the players and maybe 10 or 20 others who knew Gabor. But people kept arriving, and the space quickly filled. I'm not always a fan of big crowds, but this was incredible — everyone wanted to come out of respect for Gabor, and I think it was a fitting testament to the man and mentor he was. ♠

## Gabor Kallai Memorial Rapid

BUDAPEST, NOVEMBER 28-30, 2022

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	<b>GM Jonas Buhl Bjerre</b>	2622	*	½	½	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	7/9
2	<b>GM Adam Kozak</b>	2538	½	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	7/9
3	<b>GM Alexander Motylev</b>	2628	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	6/9
4	<b>GM Ferenc Berkes</b>	2643	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	1	1	5½/9
5	<b>GM Robert Ruck</b>	2537	1	0	½	½	*	½	0	½	½	1	4½/9
6	<b>GM Alexander Beliavsky</b>	2487	0	0	0	½	½	*	½	1	½	1	4/9
7	<b>GM Kayden Troff</b>	2483	0	0	0	0	1	½	*	1	½	1	4/9
8	<b>IM Marcell Borhy</b>	2407	0	½	½	½	½	0	0	*	½	1	3½/9
9	<b>GM Csaba Horvath</b>	2502	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	*	0	2½/9
10	<b>WIM Zsoka Gaal</b>	2286	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	*	1/9

## Gabor Kallai Memorial Blitz

BUDAPEST, DECEMBER 1, 2022

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	<b>GM Kayden Troff</b>	2483	*	1	0	1	½	1	½	1	0	1	6/9
2	<b>GM Jonas Buhl Bjerre</b>	2622	0	*	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	6/9
3	<b>GM Ferenc Berkes</b>	2643	1	0	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	5½/9
4	<b>GM Alexander Motylev</b>	2628	0	1	½	*	1	½	1	½	0	½	5/9
5	<b>GM Robert Ruck</b>	2537	½	1	½	0	*	0	½	½	1	1	5/9
6	<b>GM Adam Kozak</b>	2538	0	0	½	½	1	*	1	½	1	½	5/9
7	<b>IM Marcell Borhy</b>	2407	½	0	½	0	½	0	*	1	1	½	4/9
8	<b>GM Csaba Horvath</b>	2502	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	*	1	1	3½/9
9	<b>WIM Zsoka Gaal</b>	2286	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	*	½	2½/9
10	<b>GM Alexander Beliavsky</b>	2487	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	*	2½/9

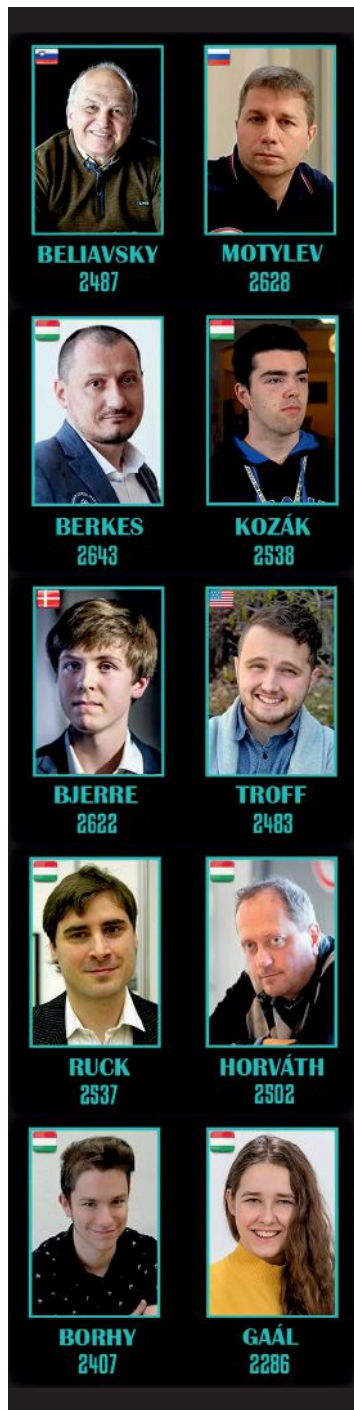


PHOTO: HELLO SKAKI: YOUTUBE

# OUR HERITAGE 2022 US CHESS YEARBOOK

The information in this yearbook is substantially correct and current as of December 31, 2022. For the full yearbook, please see the community section at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org). To notify US Chess of corrections or updates, please email [mmatthews@uschess.org](mailto:mmatthews@uschess.org).

## US CHESS ANNUAL MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, AND FUND BALANCES

Year	U.S. Open Business Meeting	Membership (1)	Fund Balance (2)
2021	Cherry Hill, NJ	54,051	\$3,682,308
2022	Rancho Mirage, CA	84,574	\$3,723,041

(1) Membership totals are given as of May 31. Totals exclude Junior Tournament Players and tournament members. (2) Figures enclosed in parentheses are deficits.

## US CHESS PRESIDENTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Presidents	Executive Directors
2020-2022 Mike Hoffpauir	2013-2017 Jean Hoffman
2022-current Randy Bauer	2017-current Carol Meyer

### U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

#### U.S. CHAMPION

**2021** Wesley So  
**2022** Fabiano Caruana  
*St. Louis, Missouri • October 2022*

#### U.S. WOMEN'S

**2021** Carissa Yip  
**2022** Jennifer Yu  
*St. Louis, Missouri • October 2022*

#### U.S. JUNIOR

**2021** Hans Niemann  
**2022** Christopher Yoo  
*St. Louis, Missouri • July 2022*

#### U.S. CADET

**2021** Not Held  
**2022** Nico Chasin  
*Schaumburg, Illinois • July 2022*

#### U.S. GIRLS' JUNIOR

**2021** Annie Wang  
**2022** Jennifer Yu  
*St. Louis, Missouri • July 2022*

#### U.S. SENIOR

**2021** Gregory Kaidanov  
**2022** Alexander Shabalov  
*St. Louis, Missouri • July 2022*

### OTHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

#### U.S. OPEN

**2021** Aleksandr Lenderman  
**2022** Aleksey Sorokin, Elshan Moradiabadi  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

#### U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

**2021** Carla Heredia, Zoey Tang

**2022** Badamkhand Norovsambuu, Carissa Angela Zheng, WCM Sandhya Goli  
*Las Vegas, Nevada • June 2022*

#### U.S. JUNIOR OPEN

**2021 U8:** Lucas Silvestre; **U11:** William Wang; **U15:** Jack Heller; **U21:** Pedro Espinosa, Aidan Carey, Elijah Samuel Platnick

**2022 U8:** Lucas Silvestre; **U11:** William Ahn, Allen Li; **U15:** Sunav Adhikari, Andrey Dmitriev; **U21:** Tugstumur Yesuntumur, Arthur Xu, Rohit Guha, Mitch Fishbein  
*Elmhurst, Illinois • July 2022*

#### U.S. SENIOR OPEN

**2021** Dmitry Gurevich  
**2022** Dmitry Gurevich  
*Elmhurst, Illinois • July 2022*

#### ARMED FORCES OPEN

(Individual\* Team)  
**2021** Charles M. Unruh\* Navy  
**2022** Addison Lee\* Army  
*Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey • October 2022*

#### NATIONAL OPEN

Edmondson Cup winner\*  
**2021** Arthur Guo\*, Illia Nyzhnyk, Andrew Hong, Emilio Cordova Daza, Lazaro Bruzon Batista  
**2022** Semen Khanin  
*Las Vegas, Nevada • June 2022*

#### U.S. MASTERS

**2021** Jose Alcantara Martinez, Peddi Rahul Srivatshav  
**2022** Christopher Yoo\*, Alejandro Ramirez, Mikhail Antipov, Emilio Cordova, Cristhian Cruz  
*Charlotte, North Carolina • November 2022*

### U.S. CLASS

**2021 Master:** GM Vladimir Belous;  
**Expert:** Dhruv Pathak, Isaac George;  
**A:** John Farrell, Nirupam Kushalnagar, Jay Parashar, Patrick Young; **B:** Jackson Serice; **C:** Michael Boyle; **D:** Caleb Yohannes Workeneh; **E:** Thanh Viet Nguyen, Samuel Gu

**2022 Open:** Enrico Sevillano; **Expert:** Jashith Karthi; **A:** Ashkan Dehghani Zahedani; **B:** Anders Thomas Kostrub; **C:** Vrishank Peddireddi; **D:** Kanishk Jain; **E:** Yash Shah  
*Milpitas, California • August 2022*

### U.S. BLIND

**2021** Jessica T. Lauser  
**2022** Not Held

### U.S. BLITZ

**2021** Alexander Fishbein, Ryo Chen  
**2022** Naveen Prabhu  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

### U.S. GAME/10

**2021** Not Held  
**2022** Not Held

### U.S. GAME/15

**2021** Samuel Heran-Boily  
**2022** Stephen Willy  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

### U.S. GAME/30

**2021** Not Held  
**2022** Not Held

### U.S. GAME/60

**2021** Not Held  
**2022** Not Held

### U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONS

**2021 East:** Terry Winchester; **North:** Matthew Noble; **South:** Michael Takahashi; **West:** Benjamin Yan  
**2022 East:** Henry Pu; **North:** Peyton

Smith; **South:** Mihir A. Kotbagi; **West:** Joshua Lu

### U.S. AMATEUR TEAM — NATIONAL PLAYOFF WINNERS\*

**2021 East:** The Secret Square (MacKenzie Molner, Jason Lu, Sean Finn, Ed Knesevitch); **North:** a happy jubilant pawn (Jennifer Yu, Dachev Lin, Guannan Song, Maggie Luo); **South:** Narein's Disciples (Raghav Venkat, Nicolas Alejandro de la Colina, Sharvesh Deviprasath, Rohun Trakru)\*; **West:** UC Berkeley Team B (Rayan Taghizadeh, Arjun Bjarat, Christopher Pan, Nathan Fong)

**2022 East:** East: ICN (Lev Paciorkowski, Bahadur Khodzhamkuliev, Kenneth Fernandez, Jon Rigai); **North:** UChicago B (Awonder Liang, Praveen Balakrishnan, William Graif, Brian Hu); **South:** NAction Chess (Raghav Venkat, Yan Miellier, Ryan E. Hamley, Ezra Etzel); **West:** Cal A (Kesav Viswanadha, Daniel Lin, Christopher Pan, Sadia Qureshi, Junior Mejia, Michael Franco)\*  
*February 2022 • Playoffs: Online November 2022*

### STATE INVITATIONALS

#### JOHN T. IRWIN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

**2021** Igor Khmelintsky  
**2022** Douglas Root, Enrico Sevillano  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

#### GM ARNOLD DENKER NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

**2021** Awonder Liang  
**2022** Arthur Guo, Andrew Hong, Sandeep Sethuraman  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

#### WIM RUTH HARING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS

**2021** Ruiyang Yan, Ambica Yellamraju  
**2022** Ruiyang Yan  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

#### DEWAIN BARBER NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

**2021** Vyom Vidyarthi  
**2022** Brewington Hardaway  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

#### JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

**2021** Pedro Espinosa, Aidan Carey, Elijah Samuel Platnick



**2022** Andrew Jiang, Benjamin Benchen Tang, Sam Luger  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

**FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY NATIONAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT OF STATE CHAMPIONS**

**2021** Awonder Liang (2200+); Ambica Yellamraju, Arnav Tamnash Gupta (1800-2100); Lucas Flach (1400-1799); Andrew Jing (U1400)

**2022** Andrew Hong (2200+); Kaustubh Kodihalli, Vaseegaran Nandhakumar, Alexander J. Wang, Jacob Chiang (1800-2199); Jwalanthi Ram (1400-1799) Elijah Cummings (U1400)  
*Rancho Mirage, California • August 2022*

**SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONS**

**NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6)**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022 K-6:** Eric Chang Liu, Isaac Wang; **K-5:** Aiden Liu, Carter Ho, Yusuf Mansurov; **K-3:** Elliott Goodrich; **K-1:** Aakash Jani, Rocky Wang; Umar Mansurov; Matthew Yu  
*Columbus, Ohio • May 2022*

**NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) TEAM**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022 K-6:** Success Academy Midtown West (NY); **K-5:** Anderson School (NY); **K-3:** Lower Lab School (NY); **K-1:** Lower Lab School (NY)  
*Columbus, Ohio • May 2022*

**NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) BLITZ**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022 K-6:** Eric Chang Liu, Anjaneya Sripathy Rao; **K-3:** Sivavishnu Srinivasan, Yuvraj Singh Sawhney  
*Columbus, Ohio • May 2022*

**NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) BLITZ TEAM**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022 K-6:** Rodeph Sholom School (NY); **K-3:** Anderson School (NY)  
*Columbus, Ohio • May 2022*

**NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) BUGHOUSE**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** M. Aaron-B. Oliver  
*Columbus, Ohio • May 2022*

**NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8) (FORMERLY JUNIOR HIGH)**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** Brewington Hardaway, Jonathan Chen, Troy Cavanah, Vaseegaran Nandhakumar, Ilya Levkov  
*Grapevine, Texas • April-May 2022*

**NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8) TEAM**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** Hunter College Campus School (NY)  
*Grapevine, Texas • April-May 2022*

**NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8) BLITZ**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** Vaseegaran Nanehakumar, Ethan Guo  
*Grapevine, Texas • April-May 2022*

**NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8) BLITZ TEAM**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** I.S. 318 (NY)  
*Grapevine, Texas • April-May 2022*

**NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8) BUGHOUSE**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** A. Bianchi-L, Shafer; A. Nair-A. Suresh  
*Grapevine, Texas • April-May 2022*

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12)**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** Arthur Guo, Vishnu Vanapalli, Gus Huston, Anthony He, Bijan Tahmasebi, Nico Chasin, Advait Karthik  
*Memphis, Tennessee • April 2022*

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) TEAM**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** The Dalton School (NY)  
*Memphis, Tennessee • April 2022*

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) BLITZ**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** Anthony He, Hersh Singh  
*Memphis, Tennessee • April 2022*

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) BLITZ TEAM**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** Columbia Gramamr & Prep (NY)  
*Memphis, Tennessee • April 2022*

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) BUGHOUSE**

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19  
**2022** L. Liu-D. Levkov; A. Costello-N. Chasin  
*Memphis, Tennessee • April 2022*

**NATIONAL ONLINE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP**

**2021** K-1: Winter Su; K-3: Andrew Wu, Roshan Sethuraman, Sam Luger; K-5: Sho Moritani, Eric Chang Liu, Luca Giorgio Tessiore, Tanitoluwa Adewumi, Alexander J. Wang; K-6: Erick Zhao; K-8: Hersh Singh; K-12: Justin Wang  
**2022** K-3: Tariq Yue; K-6: Kishan Karthigeyan; K-8: Luke Widjaja, Alexander Zlodorev, Saharsh Darsh Shetty, Muhammad Rizky Nugraha; K-12: Sandeep Sethuraman  
*Online • November 2022*

**NATIONAL K-12 GRADE**

**2021** K: Winston Huang Wang, Sriansh Katta; **1st:** Vishnu Chetlapalli, Yang Yu; **2nd:** Tariq Yue; **3rd:** Ethan

Guo; **4th:** Megan Alt Paragua, Connor Junda Wang; **5th:** Andrew Jiang; **6th:** Eric Chang Liu, Luca Chang, Sahana Aravindakshan, Julian Colville, Oliver Boydell; **7th:** Brewington Hardaway; **8th:** Raymond Xu, Aniket Shukla, William Wu; **9th:** Nico Werner Chasin; **10th:** Gus Huston, Jason Lu; **11th:** Raghav Venkat; **12th:** Pradhyumna Kumar Kothapalli  
**2022 K:** Mihal Holcomb, Alex Sedlock, Darren Wu, Daniel Zhu, Jack Zhang; **1st:** Srinash Katta; **2nd:** Alice Shen; **3rd:** Ted Wang, Shawn Xu; **4th:** Kyle Qiyu Dong; **5th:** Roshan Sethuraman; **6th:** Andrew Jiang; **7th:** Eric Chang Liu; **8th:** Brewington Hardaway; **9th:** Evan Park, Rohan Padhye, Michael Xukun Guan; **10th:** Eddy Tian, Nico Werner Chasin; **11th:** Sandeep Sethuramen; **12th:** Raghav Venkat  
*National Harbor, Maryland • December 2022*

**NATIONAL K-12 GRADE TEAM**

**2021 K:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **1st:** Oak Hall (FL); **2nd:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **3rd:** Anderson School (NY); **4th:** P.S. 10 (NY); **5th:** Washington School (NJ); **6th:** I.S. 318 (NY); **7th:** Lincoln Middle School (FL), I.S. 318 (NY); **8th:** Edgemont High School (NY); **9th:** Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY); **10th:** The Dalton School (NY); **11th:** Stuyvesant High School (NY); **12th:** Stuyvesant High School (NY)  
**2022 K:** Oak Hall (FL); **1st:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **2nd:** Oak Hall (FL); **3rd:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **4th:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **5th:** Hunter College Campus School (NY), P.S. 10 (NY); **6th:** Millburn Middle School (NJ); **7th:** Hunter College Campus School (NY); **8th:** Success Academy Hudson yards (NY); **9th:** American Heritage School (FL), Stuyvesant High School (NY); **10th:** Thomas Jefferson High School (VA), Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY); **11th:** The Dalton School (NY); **12th:** Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY)  
*National Harbor, Maryland • December 2022*

**NATIONAL JUNIOR CONGRESS**

**2021 6 & Under:** Andrew Zou, Owen Xu, Tarig Yue; **8 & Under:** Harvey Hanke, Vijay Srinivas Anandh, Jayden Wu, Suhas Indukuri, Sharath Radhakrishnan; **10 & Under:** Aaradhya Panda, Jocelyn Chen, Alexander Braun, Aavi Bharucha; **12 & Under:** Matthew Gao, Sean Kelly, Derin Goktepe; **14 & Under:** Hersh Singh, Nitish Sg Nathan; **16/18 & Under:** Terry Luo, Brejesh Chakrabarti  
**2022 6 & Under:** Andrew Zou, Owen Xu, Tarig Yue; **8 & Under:** Harvey Hanke, Vijay Srinivas Anandh, Jayden Wu, Suhas Indukuri, Sharath Radhakrishnan; **10 & Under:** Aaradhya Panda, Jocelyn Chen, Alexander Braun, Aavi Bharucha; **12 & Under:** Matthew Gao, Sean Kelly, Derin Goktepe; **14 & Under:** Hersh Singh, Nitish Sg Nathan; **16/18 & Under:**

**TOP 50 FIDE-RATED AMERICANS**

Active players from the January 2023 FIDE Rating List.

	Rtg.
1. Hikaru Nakamura	GM 2768
2. Fabiano Caruana	GM 2766
3. Wesley So	GM 2760
4. Leinier Dominguez Perez	GM 2743
5. Levon Aronian	GM 2735
6. Sam Shankland	GM 2710
7. Hans Moke Niemann	GM 2706
8. Ray Robson	GM 2702
9. Jeffery Xiong	GM 2692
10. Samuel Sevian	GM 2687
11. Grigoriy Oparin	GM 2670
12. Gata Kamsky	GM 2666
13. Dariusz Swiercz	GM 2646
14. Awonder Liang	GM 2640
15. Yaroslav Zherebukh	GM 2623
16. Daniel Naroditsky	GM 2622
17. Lazaro Bruzon Batista	GM 2613
18. Vladimir Akopian	GM 2612
19. Timur Gareyev	GM 2602
20. Varuzhan Akobian	GM 2591
21. Yuniesky Quesada Perez	GM 2585
22. Christopher Woojin Yoo	GM 2584
23. Larry Christiansen	GM 2579
24. Alejandro Ramirez	GM 2572
24. Aleksandr Lenderman	GM 2572
26. John M. Burke	GM 2566
27. Abhimanyu Mishra	GM 2559
28. Gregory Kaidanov	GM 2557
29. Brandon Jacobson	GM 2546
30. Conrad Holt	GM 2540
31. Andrew Tang	GM 2531
32. Jaan Ehlevest	GM 2530
33. Praveen Balakrishnan	GM 2529
34. Igor Novikov	GM 2527
35. Maxim Dlugy	GM 2523
36. Andrew Hong	GM 2517
37. Nicolas Checa	GM 2516
38. Jason Liang	IM 2514
38. Elshan Moradiabadi	GM 2514
40. Balaji Daggupati	GM 2507
41. Robert Hungaski	GM 2506
42. Eugene Perelshteyn	GM 2503
43. Fidel Corrales Jimenez	GM 2501
43. Anthony He	IM 2501
45. Joel Benjamin	GM 2498
46. Akshat Chandra	GM 2484
47. Justin Wang	IM 2481
48. Alexander Shabalov	GM 2480
49. Joshua Sheng	GM 2479
50. Bryce Tiglon	IM 2474

Terry Luo, Brejesh Chakrabartiti  
Orlando, Florida • July 2022

## ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19

**2022** **Under 8:** Dena Wang; **Under 10:** Ananya Wadhwa; **Under 12:** Jasmine Su; **Under 14:** Kally Wen, Chloe Gaw, Ananya Ananth; **Under 16:** Asha Kumar, Yesun Lee; **Under 18:** Iris Mou  
Chicago, Illinois • April 2022

## ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL TEAM

**2021** Canceled: COVID-19

**2022** **Under 8:** Lower Lab School (NY); **Under 10:** Anderson School (NY); **Under 12:** Hunter College Elementary (NY); **Under 14:** Success Academy Hudson Yards (NY); **Under 16:** Discovery Middle School (AL); **Under 18:** The Dalton School (NY)  
Chicago, Illinois • April 2022

## COLLEGE CHAMPIONS

### PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE INDIVIDUAL

**2020-21** Andrew Tang

**2022** Emilio Cordova Daza, Viktor

## TOP 25 CORRESPONDENCE PLAYERS

(from International Correspondence Chess Federation, January 2023)

	Rtg.
1. IM Denny Marbourg	2603
2. GM Alik S. Silberberg	2597
3. GM Stephen E. Ham	2579
4. GM Tim Murray	2560
5. GM Daniel M. Fleetwood	2548
6. GM Jon Ostriker	2533
7. GM Jon Edwards	2528
8. SIM Bobby Johnson	2522
9. GM Jason Bokar	2511
10. SIM Wolff Morrow	2507
11. SIM Neil Kulick	2499
11. SIM Dan Perry	2499
13. SIM Kenneth M. Reinhart	2498
14. GM Carl L. Siefring	2493
14. SIM Wilbur Tseng	2493
16. SIM Wieland Belka	2478
17. IM Kyle Biedermann	2476
18. SIM Ciaran O'Hare	2472
19. IM Larry Parsons	2466
20. IM Oliver Koo	2462
21. SIM Thomas Biedermann	2458
21. IM Yoandy Rodriguez Fraga	2458
23. IM Thomas Williams	2455
24. LIM Gina Langan	2445
25. IM Andrew Leonard	2442

Matviishen, Gabriela Antova, Jason Shi, Benjamin Bok, Arman Baradaran, John Michael Burke  
Dulles, Virginia • January 2022

## PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM

**2020-21** Webster University Team A

**2022** Saint Louis University-A  
Dulles, Virginia • January 2022

## THE PRESIDENT'S CUP (FINAL FOUR)

**2020-21** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**2022** Saint Louis University  
Lubbock, Texas • April 2022

## NATIONAL COLLEGIATE RAPID/BLITZ (INDIVIDUAL\*, TEAM)

**2021** Blitz: Grigoriy Oparin\*, University of Texas at Dallas; Rapid: Jose Alcantara\*, Webster University

**2022** Blitz: Mikhail Antipov\*, University of Missouri; Rapid: Benjamin Gledura\*, Webster University  
Online • December 2022

## AMERICAN CLASSICS

### AMERICAN OPEN

**2021** Melikset Khachiyan

**2022** John Bryant  
Orange, California • November 2022

### WORLD OPEN

**2021** Hans Niemann, John Burke

**2022** Jeffery Xiong, Mikhail Antipov, Jianchao Zhou, Pablo Salinas Herrera, Brandon Jacobson, Semen Khanin, Minh Tuan Le, Arman Mikaelyan  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • June-July 2022

### NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

**2021** Awonder Liang, Vladimir Akopian

**2022** Jason Wang  
Las Vegas, Nevada • December 2022

## AMERICAN WORLD CHAMPIONS

### 2022 32ND WORLD CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPION (ICCF)

Jon Edwards  
October 2022

## CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

### U.S. CORRESPONDENCE

**2007-2009:** Thomas Biedermann, Lawrence Coplin; **2010:** Edward Duliba; **2011:** John Ballow; **2013:** Wolff Morrow, Carl Siefring; **2015:** Grayling Hill

### GOLDEN KNIGHTS

**2009:** Wilbur Tseng; **2010:** Michael Buss; **2011:** James Tracz; **2012:** Michael Buss; **2013:** Gary Adams; **2014:** Michael D. Buss; **2015:** Gary Adams

## USCF ABSOLUTE

**2009:** Dave Sogin, Gary Walters; **2010:** Harry Ingersol; **2011:** John Menke; **2012:** John Menke; **2013:** Wilbur Tseng; **2014:** Tony Kain; **2015:** Kristo Mieltinen; **2016:** Danny Horwitz; **2017:** Harry Ingersol; **2018:** Robert Rizzo; **2020:** Mark Stephenson; **2021:** Daniel Horwitz

## ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS

**2012:** Anthony Kain; **2013:** Samir Alazawi; **2014:** Chris Lewis; **2015:** John Millett; **2016:** Tim Corkum; **2017:** Ferdinand Burmeister; **2018:** Tim Corkum; **2019:** Michael D. Buss

## INTERNATIONAL TITLISTS

FIDE awards titles for outstanding achievement in three areas of chess competition: Over-the-board play, correspondence play, and composition.

## GRANDMASTERS (GM)

Varuzhan Akobian • Lev Alburt • Babakuli Annakov • Marc Arnold • Levon Aronian • Maurice Ashley • Praveen Balakrishnan • Julio Becerra Rivero • Joel Benjamin • Vinay Bhat • Peter Bijiasas • David Brodsky • Michael Brown • John M. Burke • Fabiano Caruana • Akshat Chandra • Nicolas Checa • Larry Christiansen • Fidel Corrales Jimenez • Balaji Daggupati • Nick de Firmian • Maxim Dlugy • Leinier Dominguez Perez • Roman Dzindzichashvili • Jaan Ehvest • Sergey Erenburg • John Fedorowicz • Daniel Fernandez • Benjamin Finegold • Alexander Fishbein • Joshua Friedel • Timur Gareyev • Alexander Goldin • Renier Gonzalez • Boris Gulko • Dmitry Gurevich • Ilya Gurevich • Ron Henley • Holden Hernandez Carmenate • Robert Hess • Conrad Holt • Andrew Hong • Robert Hungaski • Alexander Ivanov • Zviad Izorja • Brandon Jacobson • Gregory Kaidanov • Gata Kamsky • Lawrence Kaufman • Lubomir Kavalek • Melikset Khachiyan • Jesse Kraai • Boris Kreiman • Irina Krush • Sergey Kudrin • Aleksandr Lenderman • Ruifeng Li • Awonder Liang • Abhimanyu Mishra • Mackenzie Molner • Elshan Moradiabadi • Hikaru Nakamura • Daniel Naroditsky • Hans Niemann • Igor Novikov • Alexander Onischuk • Semon Palatnik • Eugene Perelshteyn • Yuniesky Quesada Perez • Alejandro Ramirez • Ray Robson • Kenneth Rogoff • Michael Rohde • Gennadij Sagalchik • Gabriel Schwartzman • Yasser Seirawan • Grigory Serper • Samuel Sevian • Enrico Sevillano • Alexander Shabalov • Tal Shaked • Sam Shankland • Joshua Sheng • Yury Shulman • Bryan Smith • Wesley So • Andrew Soltis • Alexander Stripunsky • Raven Sturt • Dariusz Swiercz • Andrew Tang • James Tarjan • Kayden Troff • Michael Wilder • Patrick Wolff • Jeffery Xiong • Darwin Yang • Alex Yermolinsky • Christopher Yoo • Gennadi Zaichik • Yaroslav Zherebukh • Rashid Ziatdinov • Steven Zierk

## INTERNATIONAL MASTERS (IM)

Viktor Adler • Levon Altonian • Armen Ambartsoumian • Nilton Arias • Joel Banawa • Thomas Bartell • John Bartholomew • Leonid Bass • Alexander Batty • Mikhail Baturyn • Salvijus Bercys • Gabriel Bick • Calvin Blocker • Andrei Blokhin • Michael Bodek • Jay Bonin • Safal Bora • Joseph Bradford • Michael Brooks • John Daniel Bryant • Ronald Burnett • Omar Cartagena • Teddy Coleman • Alexander Costello • Richard Costigan • Kong Liang Deng • Dorsa Derakhshani • John Donaldson • Daniel Edelman • Tegshsuren Enkhbat • Marc Esserman • Larry D. Evans • Joseph Fang • Ali Farahat • Florin Felecan • Andrei-Costel Florean • Edward Formanek • Igor Foygel • Sanjay Gharti • Kirk Ghazarian • Dumitru Ghizdavu • Mark Ginsburg • Rusudan Goletiani • Aaron Grabsinsky • Kyron Griffith • Arthur Guo • Daniel Gurevich • Luke Harmon-Vellotti • Anthony He • Matthew Herman • Craig Hilby • Dean Ippolito • Ladia Jirasek • Alexander Kaliksteyn • Albert Kapengut • Julio Kaplan • Alexander Katz • Konstantin Kavutskiy • Igor Khmel'nitsky • Keaton Kiewra • Erik Kislik • Jake Kleiman • Nikhil Kumar • Cyrus Lakdawala • Yury Lapshun • Matthew Larson • Michael Lee • Ben Li • Zhaozhi Li • Jason Liang • Yian Liou • Dimitri London • Maximilian Lu • Ming Lu • Daniel Ludwig • John Ludwig • Blas Lugo • Josh Manion • Salvatore Matera • Vincent McCambridge • Eugene Meyer • Marlo Micayabas • Lev Milman • Rade Milovanovic • Alejandro Moreno • Walter Morris • Stephen Muhammad • Michael Mulyar • Sean Nagle • Yaacov Norowitz • Steven Odendahl • Georgi Orlov • Aleksandr Ostrovskiy • Nazi Paikidze • Vignesh Panchanatham • Evan Park • William Paschall • Advait Patel • Jack Peters • Joshua Posthuma • Vladimir Prosviriakov • David Pruess • Stuart Rachels • Vasik Rajlich • Vivek Rao • Kenneth Regan • Larry Remlinger • Daniel Rensch • Guillermo Rey • Bruce Rind • James Rizzitano • Douglas Root • Eric Rosen • Levy Rozman • Anthony Saidy • Erik Santarius • Justin Sarkar • Sam Schmakel • Dmitry Schneider • Jonathan Schroer • Gregory Shchade • Arthur Shen • Victor Shen • James T. Sherwin • Atulya Shetty • Igor Shliperman • Robert Shlyakhtenko • Mikhail Shur • Jeremy Silman • Sahil Sinha • Leonid Sokolin • Edward Song • Josiah Stearman • Alan Stein • David Strauss • Eric Tangborn • Timothy Taylor • Eddy Tian • Bryce Tiglon • Rostislav Tsodikov • David Vigorito • Kesav Viswanadha • Mladen Vucic • Joshua Waitzkin • Annie Wang • Justin Wang • Tiangi Wang • Kevin Wang • Philip Wang • John Watson • Norman Weinstein • Cameron Wheeler • Justus Williams • Elliott Winslow • Andy Woodward • Jonathan Yedidia • Carissa Yip • Vitaly Zaltsman • Anna Zatonskih • Jack Zhu • Dmitry Zilberstein • Mikhail Zlotnikov • Bernard Zuckerman

## WOMEN GRANDMASTERS (WGM)

Tatev Abrahamyan • Anna Akhsharumova • Anjelina Belakovskaia • Thalia Cervantes • Sabina-Francesca Foisor • Anna Gershnik • Alla B. Grinfeld • Irina Levitina • Katerina Nemcova • Katerina Rohonyan • Jennifer Shahade • Anna Sharevich • Zoey Tang • Yanira Vigoa Apecheche • Annie Wang • Rochelle Wu • Jennifer R. Yu

## WOMEN INTERNATIONAL MASTERS (WIM)

Naomi Bashkansky • Tsagaan Battsetseg • Sharon Burtman • Agata Bykovtsev • Thalia Cervantes Landeiro • Rachel Croto • Vesna Dimitrijevic • Esther Epstein • Ashritha Eswaran • Gina L. Finegold • Akshita Gorti • Elina Groberman • Anna Hahn • Alena Kats • Shernaz Kennedy • Inna Koren • Megan Lee • Yuliya Levitan • Simone Liao • Joanna Liu • Beatriz Marinello • Alisa Melekina • Elizabeth Neely • Emily Nguyen • Viktorija Ni • Alexey Root • Diane Savereide • Marilyn Simmons • Dorothy O. Teasley • Cindy Tsai • Julia Tverskaya • Evelyn Zhu

## INTERNATIONAL ARBITERS (IA)

Rudolph Abate • Michael Atkins • Todd Barre • Christopher Bird • Harold Bogner • Leonid Bondar • Frank Brady • William Broich • Walter Brown, Jr. • Thomas Brownsbombe • William Buklis • Wayne Clark • Anand Dommalapati • Edward Steven Doyle • Eduard Duchovny • Adam Gale • Oscar Garcia • Peter Giannatos • William Goichberg • Francisco Guadalupe • Jon Haskel • David Hater • Mike Hoffpauir • Randall Hough • Robert Hungaski • Steve Immitt • Corey Kormick • David Kuhns • Alan Losoff • Michael Kummer • Thomas Langland • John McCumiskey • Robert Messenger • James Meyer • Martin Morrison • Maya Myers • Grant Oen • Glenn Petersen • Matthew Phelps • Boris Postovsky • Tim Redman • Boyd Reed • Alexander Relyea • Tony Rich • L. Thad Rogers • Sophia Rohde • Robert Singletary • Bill Snead • Judit Sztaray • Harold Stenzel • Robert Sutter • Robert B. Tanner • Martha Underwood • Gregory Vaserstein • Tracey Vibbert • Brian Yang

## FIDE SENIOR TRAINER (FST)

GM Lev Alburt • IM Armen Ambartsumian • GM Jaan Ehrlvest • GM Boris Gulko • GM Robert Hungaski • GM Gregory Kaidanov • GM Melikset Khachian • Michael Khodarkovsky • GM Semon Palatnik • Boris Postovsky • GM Yasser Seirawan • GM Miron Sher

## FIDE TRAINER (FT)

Steven Abrahams • FM Robby Adamson • GM Maurice Ashley • FM Kevin Bachler • Michael Ciamarra • GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez • WGM Dorsa Derakhshani • FM Eduard Duchovny • Alex Eydelman • IM Ali Farahat • GM Renier Gonzalez • Miguel Iniguez • GM Sergey Kudrin • John

MacArthur • WIM Beatriz Marinello • Lou Mercuri • GM Elshan Moradiabadi • Matan Prillettensky • IM Vladimir Prosviriakov • Jay Stallings • Paul Swaney • Bryan Tillis • Batsaikhan Tserendorj

## FIDE INSTRUCTOR (FI)

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian • Miguel Ararat • John Buky • Joseph Concepcion Calapati • Michael Ciamarra • FM Nirosh De Silva • Daniel DeLuca • FM Zivorad Djuric • Raymond Duque • IM Ali Farahat • Gregory Keener • Alexander King • Mikhail Koganov • Robert Lazorchak • Arjoe Loanzon • David MacEnulty • Sean Manross • Damian Nash • WGM Katerina Nemcova • Frank Niro • Grant Oen • Adia Onyango • Tony Pabon • Cornelius Rubsamens • Paulo Santanna • Juan Tica • Anatoly Tonkonogy • Batsaikhan Tserendorj • Daniel Vulis • F. Leon Wilson

## DEVELOPMENTAL INSTRUCTOR (DI)

Stacey Banks • Susan Berger • Derick Bryant • GM Nick de Firmian • IM John Donaldson • Paul Grossman • Jon Haskel • David Heiser • Eric Heiser • S.E. Henderson • Harry Heublum • Alice Holt • Rachel Levin • Dora Martinez • Shawn Martinez • Dale Miller • Jaafar Mohsin • John Morgan • Ivonna Mykytyn • Jerry Nash • Medina Parrilla • Jayashree Sekar • Alexander Veksler

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZERS (IO)

Michael Atkins • James Berry • Frank Brady • Anand Dommalapati • Edward Steven Doyle • Keith Espinosa • Peter Giannatos • FM William Goichberg • Francisco Guadalupe • Ankit Gupta • Jon Haskel • Xuhao He • Steve Immitt • Mikhail Korenman • Thomas Langland • Alan Losoff • WIM Beatriz Marinello • Grant Oen • GM Semon Palatnik • Tony Rich • L. Thad Rogers • Sophia Rohde • Lary Rust • Luis Salinas • Patricia Smith  
If you would like more info on FIDE, please check their official website at [FIDE.com](http://FIDE.com).

## CORRESPONDENCE GRANDMASTERS

Dr. Jason Bokar • Joseph A. DeMauro • Dr. Edward P. Duliba • Jon Edwards • Daniel M. Fleetwood • Stephen E. Ham • Timothy Murray • Jon Ostriker • V.V. Palciauskas • Carl Siefring • John C. Timm • Alik S. Zilberberg

## CORRESPONDENCE SENIOR INTERNATIONAL MASTERS

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**2022** David Mehler

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**2022** Al & Janelle Losoff

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**2022** GM Hikaru Nakamura

### WOMAN CHESSPLAYER OF THE YEAR

**2021** GM Irina Krush

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**2022** FM Asa Hoffmann

### OUTSTANDING TEAM PERFORMANCE

**2021** US Team in FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities

**2022** 2021 Olympiad Team

### YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**2022** GM Hans Niemann, GM Abhimanyu Mishra

### CHESS CITY OF THE YEAR

**2021** None named

**2022** Crossville, Tennessee

## COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

**2021** Nominating Committee

**2022** States & Affiliates Committee, Chess in Education Working Group

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**2021** IO Franc Guadalupe

**2022** Tim Just

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

**2021** FA Joseph Yun (posthumously)

**2022** Martha Underwood

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**2022** Kele Perkins

## SENIOR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

**2022** Aaron Ong, Anthony Ong

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**2021** Toms River Chess Club

**2022** Memphis Chess Club

## CHESS COLLEGE OF THE YEAR

**2021** University of California, Berkeley

**2022** Saint Louis University

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**2022** Janelle Losoff

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**2022 Gold:** John D. Rockefeller V, Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, George and Anne Chamberlin (posthumous); **Silver:** David & Maureen Grimaud, Lin & Robert Johnson

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**2022 Individual:** Alan Kirshner, Kim Cramer; **Organization:** Impact Coaching Network

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**2022** Bill Cornwall

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**2022** None named

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**2022** Elshan Moradiabadi

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**2022** Hans Niemann, Abhimanyu Mishra, Christopher Yoo, Carissa Yip, Alice Lee

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**2022** Jason Liang

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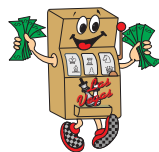
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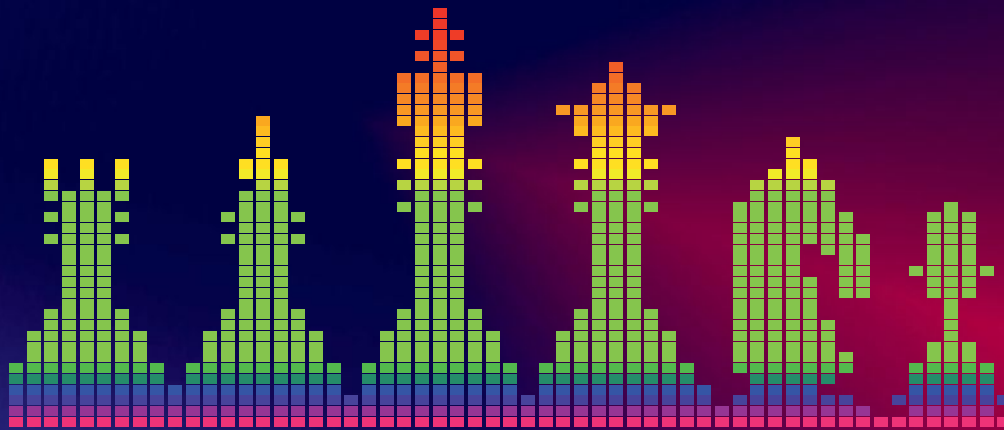
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# Instant Classic

## Lessons from Keymer – Abdusattorov

BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

E

LITE TOURNAMENTS OFTEN produce dramatic endgames. Grandmasters make subtle judgments with limited clock time while their digital audience oohs and ahs at the game changing errors, known only because the omniscient online engine discovers — but doesn't explain — them.

In the ninth round of the 2023 Tata Steel Masters, GMs Vincent Keymer and Nodirbek Abdusattorov contested just such a game, which after some extra study of my own I can break down for our readers. The rook ending feels like several endings in one, teeming with resources for both sides.

### QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, TARRASCH VARIATION (D34)

Vincent Keymer (2696)

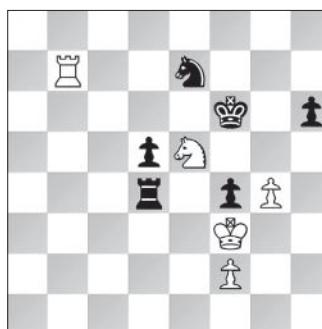
Nodirbek Abdusattorov (2713)

85th Tata Steel Masters (9), Wijk aan Zee, 01.24.2023

1. c4 c5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. g3 e6 5. Bg2 d5 6. cxd5 exd5 7. d4 Be7 8. a3 c4 9. Bg5 0-0 10. e3 Bf5 11. Ne5 Nd7 12. Nxd7 Qxd7 13. h4 Be6 14. Bxe7 Nxe7 15. 0-0 Bh3 16. Bxh3 Qxh3 17. Re1 Qd7 18. h5 f5 19. a4 Rf6 20. b3 cxb3 21. Qxb3 Rh6 22. Qb5 Rd8 23. Qxd7 Rxd7 24. a5 Rxh5 25. Reb1 Rh6 26. Na4 Rc7 27. Rb5 Rhc6 28. Rab1 Rc1+ 29. Rxc1 Rxc1+ 30. Kg2 Rc7 31. Nc5 b6 32. axb6 axb6 33. Rxb6 Ra7 34. Rd6 g6 35. Nd3 Rb7 36. Kf3 Kf7 37. Ne5+ Kg7 38. Nd3 h6 39. Nf4 Rb5 40. Ne6+ Kf7 41. Nc5 Rb2 42. Nd3 Rb3 43. Ne5+ Kg7 44. Rd7 Kf6 45. Ra7 Rb2 46. g4 g5 47. Kg3 f4+ 48. exf4 gxf4+ 49. Kf3 Rd2 50. Ra6+ Kg7 51. Rb6 Rxd4 52. Rb7 Kf6

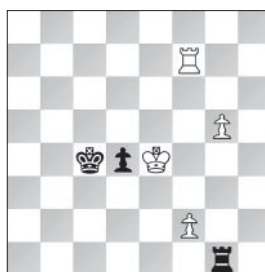
(see diagram top of next column)

We pick up the action at the cusp of an amazing rook ending.



### 53. Rxe7! Re4! 54. Rh7 Kxe5 55. Rxh6 Rb4 56. Rh5+ Kd4?

Active play is usually the best policy, and indeed after 57. Kxf4 Kc3+ the d-pawn offers speedy counterplay while White's pawns are not organized to run. But White has a beautiful win starting with the multi-tasking 57. Rf5! White slows down the d-pawn while preparing to advance the g-pawn. The critical variation forces White to find a clever resource: 57. ... Rb1 (57. ... Kc4 58. g5 d4 59. g6 Rb8 60. Kxf4 d3 61. Ke3! and White wins) 58. g5 Rg1 59. Kxf4 Kc4 60. Rf7 d4 61. Ke4!!.



POSITION AFTER 61. Ke4

The direct approach is too slow, as Black is in time to draw after 61. Kf5 d3 62. Rd7 Kc3 63. g6 d2 64. Kf6 d1=Q 65. Rxd1 Rxd1, etc. But now after 61. ... Re1+ 62. Kf5 White has won a critical tempo and will now win the race: 62. ... d3 63. Rd7 Kc3 64. g6 Rg1 65. g7 d2 66. Kf6 Kc2 67. Kf7 d1=Q 68. Rxd1 Kxd1 69. g8=Q Rxd8 70. Kxg8 the f-pawn marches in.

So 61. ... Rxe7 is forced: 62. Rc7+ Rc5 63. Rd7 Rc8! and accuracy is still required, as White has trouble advancing the pawn to f4. After 64. Rxd4+ Kc5 65. Rd5+! (if 65. Rd2 Re8+ 66. Kf5 Rf8+ 67. Ke6 Kc4! Black draws because the king can attack the rook) 65. ... Kc6 (65. ... Kc4 66. f4 Re8+ 67. Re5) 66. Rd2! Re8+ and now White wins routinely if the pawn can get to f4. Play continues 67. Kf5 Rf8+ 68. Ke6 Kb6 (Black cannot hide his king from a killing check: 68. ... Kc5 69. Rd5+ Kc6 70. Rf5 Re8+ 71. Kf7 Re2 72. f4 Kd6 73. Ra5 Re7+ 74. Kf8 and wins) 69. Ke5 Re8+ 70. Kf6 Rf8+ 71. Kg7 Rf3 72. Rd6+ Kc5 73. Rf6 Ra3 74. f4 Kd5 75. Rf8 (the only winning move) 75. ... Ke4 76. f5 Ke5 77. f6 Rg3+ 78. Kf7 Ra3 79. Rb8 Ra7+ 80. Kg6 and wins.

Black should have been content with 56... Ke6 57. Rf5 Ra4, a position he could have had a few moves later.

### 57. Rh8? Ke5 58. Re8+ Kf6 59. Rf8+ Kg6?

It turns out this is the wrong way to go. After 59. ... Ke5 60. Rf5+ Ke6 61. Rxf4 d4, the d-pawn provides sufficient counterplay, as White's rook is in a bad spot and can't easily get behind the d-pawn. Play continues 62. g5 (62. Rf8 Ke7) 62. ... Rb5 63. Kg4 d3 64. Rd4 Rf5! (without this finesse the queen ending is a win according to the tablebases) 65. f4 Rd5 65. Rxd5 Kxd5 66. Kf3 Kd4 67. g6 Kc3 68. g7 d2 69. g8=Q d1=Q+ with equality.

### 60. Rf5?

Keymer is wise not to grab the pawn, as 60. Rxf4? Rb3+ 61. Kg2 Kg5 62. Rd4 Kh4 lets Black's activity renders the connected passers useless. But White has a subtle clincher here: 60. Rd8! Rd4 61. Re8 Kf6 62. Rf8+ (the point is the black rook has been lured to the bad d4-square) 62. ... Ke5 (or 62. ... Kg6 63. Rxf4 Rd3+ 64. Ke2 with no time for ... Kg6-g5) 63. Rf5+ Ke6 64. Rxf4 and Black cannot push his pawn.



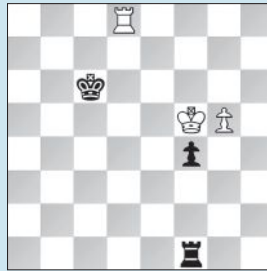
# ENDGAME HOMEWORK

IT WOULDN'T BE ENDGAME School without a bit of homework.

Try your hand at these two problems, which are based on positions that appear in the analysis of this month's game. Check your answers on page 63.

## PROBLEM 1

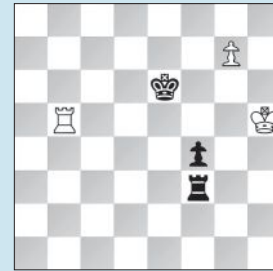
Why does 85. ... Kc6 lose?



WHITE TO MOVE

## PROBLEM 2

Does Black draw after 86. ... Kf7?



WHITE TO MOVE

### 60. ... d4!

We've already seen 60. ... Rd4 61. Rxf4 Rd3+ 62. Ke2 Ra3 63. Rf5, which wins for White.

### 61. Rd5 Kf6 62. Ke4



After 62. Kxf4 Ke6 White cannot keep the rook behind the d-pawn, which his king cannot deal with without losing the g4-pawn. This gives Black enough time to draw again: 63. Re5+ (63. Rd8 Ke7) 63. ... Kd6 64. Re4 Kd5 65. g5 Rb2 66. f3 Rg2 67. Re8 d3 68. Rd8+ Kc4 69. Kf5 d2 70. g6 Kc3 71. Kf6 Rf2! is level.

### 62. ... d3+?

Abdusattorov coughs up the wrong pawn. Instead 62. ... f3! 63. g5+ (63. Kxf3 Ke6 presents a familiar problem for White, while 63. Rxd4 Rxd4+ 64. Kxd4 Kg5 65. Ke3 Kxg4 66. Ke4 Kg5 67. Kxf3 Kf5 is equal) 63. ... Kg6 64. Kxf3 Rb2! 65. Kg3 Kh5! 66. f4 Rb3+ 65. Kf2 Kg4 66. Rxd4 Ra3 sets up a fortress.

### 63. Kf3!

Black's idea was 63. Kxd3 f3, but now White is back to a winning position.

### 63. ... Ke6 64. Rxd3 Ke5 65. Ra3 Rb5 66. Kg2 Kf6 67. Ra8?

White could force the position later reached in the game with 67. Rh3! Kg6 68. Rh8 Rb3 69. Rh5 Ra3 70. Rf5 Rb3 71. f3, etc.

### 67. ... Rb3?

Abdusattorov was playing much faster than Keymer, perhaps believing he already had a fortress. He could have forced an immediate draw with 67. ... Kg5! 68. Rg8+ Kh4 69. Kf3 Rb3+ 70. Kxf4 Rb4+ 71. Kf5 (71. Kf3 Rb3+ 72. Kg2 Rb4) 71. ... Rb5+ 72. Kf6 Rb6+ 73. Ke5 Rb5+ 74. Kd6 Rb6+ 75. Kc5 Rf6.

### 68. Ra5 Kg6 69. Rf5 Ra3

Not 69. ... Rb2? 70. Rxf4 Kg5 71. Kg3. It surely seems the f4-pawn will fall, but it somehow outlives its opposite number and saves the game!

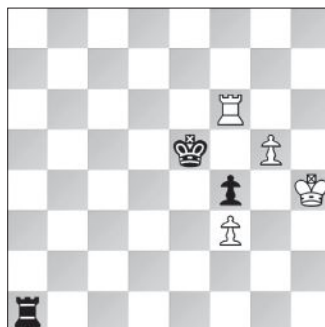
### 70. f3

Here 70. Rxf4 Kg5 71. Rf3 (71. Rb4 Kh4) is tricky because the careless 71. ... Ra4? 72. Kh3! Rxd4 73. Rg3 Rxd3+ 74. Kxg3 Kf5 75. Kf3 gains the opposition and wins. But after 71. ... Ra1!! 72. Rg3 Rb1 White is unable to make progress.

### 70. ... Ra4 71. Kh3 Rb4 72. Kh4 Ra4 73. Rf8 Kg7 74. Rf5 Kg6 75. Rg5+ Kh7 76. Rh5+ Kg6 77. g5

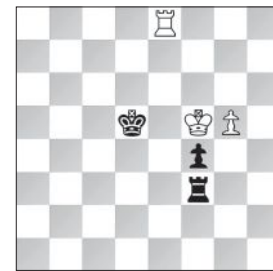
The only way forward, but Black is able to retain the f-pawn for counterplay.

### 77. ... Ra1 78. Rh6+ Kf5 79. Rf6+ Ke5



### 80. Rb6??

This final mistake kisses the win goodbye. White has a beautiful win with 80. Rf8 Rg1 81. Kh5 Rg3 82. Kg6! (if 82. g6 Rh3+ 83. Kg5 Rg3+ 84. Kh6 Rh3+ 85. Kg7 Rxf3 Black will sacrifice his rook for the g-pawn and then force White to do the same for the f-pawn) 82. ... Rxf3 83. Re8+ Kd5 84. Kf5!



POSITION AFTER 84. Kf5

We have another variation where the pawns are equalized but Black's last pawn is vulnerable to capture. White wins with a clever rook maneuver. 84. ... Rf1 85. Re5+! (85. Re4 would also win in a similar manner, but pushing the king away comes up short, while Black just draws after 85. Rd8+ Kc5 86. g6 f3 87. g7 Rg1 88. g8=Q Rxd8 89. Rxd8 f2 90. Rc8+ Kd4 91. Rc1 Ke3) 85. ... Kd6 86. Kf6 f3 87. g6 f2 88. Rf5 and Black has to finally abandon the f-pawn.

### 80. ... Rh1+ 81. Kg4 Rg1+ 82. Kh5 Rg3 83. Rb3 Kf5

It's difficult to see what Keymer saw in this continuation, as he cannot keep the f3-pawn protected any longer.

### 84. Rb5+ Ke6 85. g6 Rxf3 86. g7 Rg3 87. Kh6 f3 88. Rb8 Rh3+ 89. Kg6, draw.

What a roller coaster! Both players made four serious blunders. Have young GMs neglected their endgame study, or are many endings impossible to work out in a blitz finish? The readers can draw their own conclusions. ♠

# Paul the Second

Keres delivers victory by mail.

BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI



**O**N FIVE SEPARATE OCCASIONS the Estonian Grandmaster Paul Keres (1916-1975) just missed earning a world chess championship match. This essentially prompted the nickname “Paul the Second.” In addition to his many successes, Keres (especially in the early part of his career) was fond of correspondence chess and sharp lines, with some of his nicest games offering gambits contested by mail. Such is the case with this representative contest played in 1936 against Milan Vidmar (Black). Starting with a risky King’s Gambit, Keres steadily built his edge, capitalizing on his opponent’s overuse of the queen, and that led to an easy win.

## KING’S GAMBIT, FALKBEER COUNTERGAMBIT (C31)

Paul Keres  
Milan Vidmar  
Correspondence, 1936

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d5



Now ensure that the position above is 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 even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Note that \*\* means that White’s move is on the next line.\*\*

3. exd5 **Par Score 5**  
This is the better pawn to capture. **Deduct 2 points** for 3. fxe5?, allowing 3. ... Qh4+. You may accept **full credit** however for 3. Nf3.

3. ... **e4**  
Black plays to prevent the king-knight from going to f3. Better is 3. ... exf4.\*\*

4. d3 **Par Score 5**  
White tries to trade off the advanced e-pawn. Although not quite as good, you may accept **full credit** for 4. Nc3.

4. ... **exd3**  
Black exchanges off the advanced pawn at once, yet 4. ... Qxd5 is certainly playable.\*\*

5. Bxd3 **Par Score 5**  
This recapture is a solid developing move. You may accept **full credit** for 5. Qxd3.

5. ... **Qxd5**  
Black takes the pawn, with an attack on the g2-square.\*\*

6. Nc3 **Par Score 6**  
White develops a piece and seemingly ignores the threat to the g-pawn.

6. ... **Qe6+**  
Black moves the queen to safety, hoping to gain time by giving a check. On 6. ... Qxg2, there would follow 7. Be4 Qg4 8. Qxg4 Bxg4 9. Bxb7 (**1 bonus point**).\*\*

7. Nge2 **Par Score 5**

Keres continues to deploy. Vidmar has developed his queen, while Keres has positioned three minor pieces.

7. ... **Nf6**  
Black hopes to complete kingside development so he can castle.\*\*

8. 0-0 **Par Score 5**  
White wastes no time getting his king out of the center. He’s now ready for business.

8. ... **Qb6+**  
This is the queen’s third move. Possibly more logical was 8. ... Bc5+, followed by 9. ... 0-0.\*\*

9. Kh1 **Par Score 5**

9. ... **Be7**  
Black develops, temporarily blocking the e-file, hoping to castle soon.\*\*

10. Qe1 **Par Score 5**  
White positions for kingside activity, while indirectly eyeing e7. You may accept **full credit** for 10. Ng3.

10. ... **Nc6**  
It’s good to get out pieces, but immediate castling was more to the point.\*\*

11. a3 **Par Score 5**  
Keres plays prophylactically, taking control of the b4-square for several reasons. You may accept **full credit** for 11. Ng3.

11. ... **0-0**  
Black plays as planned.\*\*

12. b4 **Par Score 6**  
This advance frees up the queen-bishop, which soon can be flanked at b2.

12. ... **a6**

# ABCS OF CHESS

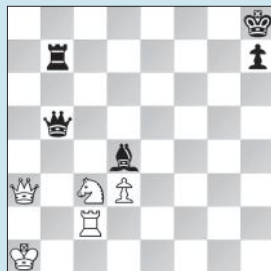
▶ **THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALL** related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, Black is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 63.

## APRIL EXERCISE:

Let's talk about trades. When ahead, especially try to trade pieces, chiefly bad ones for good ones, but even when ahead, don't robotically trade pawns. To be sure, the general advice holds: when ahead, trade pieces; when behind, trade pawns. Try not to trade off enemy pawns you still might be able to win. As a rule, avoid trading good pawns for weak ones. If you have weak pawns, try to trade them for healthy enemy pawns. Well, try.

### PROBLEM 1

Mating net



### PROBLEM 2

Mating net



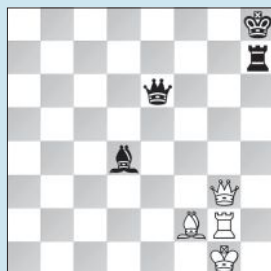
### PROBLEM 3

Mating net



### PROBLEM 4

Mating net



### PROBLEM 5

Mating net



### PROBLEM 6

Mating net



Black's queen can easily become a target. Vidmar's planned deployment is not working out so well.\*\*

**13. Qg3 Par Score 5**  
Keres uses the e1-h4 diagonal to muster possibilities against g7. Obviously, Bc1-b2 is on the horizon. But there's a more immediate threat.

**13. ... Nd4**  
Black copes with the threat of Bc1-e3 (**1 bonus point**, if you saw it coming).\*\*

**14. Nxd4 Par Score 5**  
Black's queen must now move for the fourth time.

**14. ... Qxd4\*\***

**15. Bb2 Par Score 5**  
Suddenly, White's bishops look rather menacing.

**15. ... Be6**  
This is less good, though more natural, than 15. ... Nh5, which defuses some of White's attack.\*\*

**16. Rad1 Par Score 5**  
A practical development that sets up a definite threat (17. Bxh7+).

**16. ... Qb6**  
Black moves his queen for the fifth time.\*\*

**17. f5 Par Score 6**  
Keres' logical play has created a winning game.

**17. ... Bc8**  
Black is forced into an unpleasant retreat. No better was 17. ... Bd7 18. Nd5.\*\*

**18. Nd5 Par Score 6**  
Clearly, this knight is immune from capture.

**18. ... Qd6**  
Black's queen must move for the sixth time.\*\*

**19. Bc4 Par Score 6**  
White threatens a discovery on the black queen. Add **1 bonus point** if before playing 19. Bc4 you analyzed that 19. ... Qxg3 loses a piece to 20. Nxe7+.

**19. ... Kh8**  
This avoids the knight check from e7, but it doesn't save the day. Black is lost.\*\*

**20. Nxe7 Par Score 5**

**20. ... Qxe7**  
Move number seven with the black queen.\*\*

**21. Rfe1 Par Score 5**

Don't look now (actually, you can look), but the black queen has nowhere safe to go. All defenses lead to defeat. So ...

**21. ... Black resigned.**  
White's pieces are beautifully positioned. A compelling game. ♠

## TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-90	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

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# Then and Now

Soak up chess history and culture with these three books.

BY IM JOHN WATSON



S

OMETIMES IT'S FUN TO look into chess history purely for the sake of enjoyment, without looking to discover new ideas or to improve one's

game. That's how I approached the three books I've chosen for this month's column. They are all about the history of a particular chess tournament, and they all contribute new material for chess fans and historians.

Let me start with *The Chess Battles of Hastings*, by Jürgen Brustkern and Norbert Wallet, subtitled, *Stories and Games of the World's Oldest Chess Tournament*. Wallet is a journalist who sometimes writes about chess, and Brustkern is a FM and chess columnist who has come to Hastings annually since 1977. He fell in love with the town and tournament, and this project is the result of many years of research.

The authors begin with a brief history of chess in 19th-century England, then turn to the Hastings 1895 tournament, famously won by Pillsbury. They call this "the first super-tournament in chess history," which is arguably the case if one considers that earlier super-events involved more players and thus had a lower average strength. Twenty-five years later, the idea of an invitational tournament was revived with the Hastings Christmas Congress, which was then held continuously (with the exception of the World War II years) through 1979, with later forms of the Congress persisting through 2004. Since then, the tournament has become the Hastings Master Open, a strong Swiss-system event.

After describing the organization and details of the tournaments and entertaining the reader with various stories, Brustkern and Wallet change course and fill the remainder of the book with portraits of notable players and their games. A 240-page chapter called "Fighters, artists, king hunters — the heroes

of Hastings" profiles 41 prominent participants in roughly chronological order, with informative essays and stories about each of these "heroes."

The list spans a variety of personalities and includes a few world-class players like Tal and Korchnoi, but the authors don't use chess strength as the sole criterion. For example, tournament winners Euwe, Alekhine, Capablanca, Keres, Smyslov, and Botvinnik aren't among them, although they are featured elsewhere in the text. Instead, the authors talk about players whom they find particularly interesting; in many cases, ones they have come to know personally.

Lengthy sections on Reuben Fine, Sir George Thomas, C.H.O'D. Alexander, and Savielly Tartakower round out stories about older players. Several other players have absorbing stories with which I was totally unfamiliar; for example, Milan Vidmar, László Szabó, and István Bilek. Stuart Conquest, whose family lived in Hastings for 10 years and who wrote the foreword to the book, gets a nice writeup; he won the tournament twice.

Only two women are on the list, but they are superstars: Vera Menchik and Judith Polgar. Menchik is praised as a "pioneer, innovator, and icebreaker" who, beginning in the 1920s, "dared to cross swords with the great male bastions of chess, and with great success, despite their objections and arrogant comments." Polgar won the very strong 1988/89 Hastings Challengers tournament at 12 years old. Only a few years later, at age 16, she returned to win the 1992/93 Premier tournament on her way to chess immortality.

To me, *The Chess Battles of Hastings* is primarily a book to be browsed and not necessarily read straight through. Lots of anecdotes and trivia, as well as photographs of every featured player (and many others), are included. The games are lightly annotated and can be followed without a board, although

you'll probably want to get out some pieces for the most brilliant examples. All in all, I'd recommend this as an entertaining reading experience for any chessplayer, and one that fans of chess history will particularly enjoy.

Sergey Voronkov's *Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships* is a three-volume history of every championship in the USSR from 1920 on, with Volume 1 covering 1920-1937; Volume 2, 1938-1947; and Volume 3, 1948-1953. In this review, I deal only with the first volume, but it's worth noting that the second and third volumes are also over 500 pages and have a similar balance of annotated games mixed with contemporary accounts, photographs, and chess developments in the broader context of Soviet history.

This first volume particularly appeals to me because we learn so much about players whose names were still widely known in my childhood but have been nearly forgotten over the years. For example, from the 1920s: Ilyin-Zhenevsky, Romanovsky, Levenfish, Verlinsky, Chekhover, and Duz-Khotimirsky. Then, moving into the 1930s, players such as Lisitsin, Kan, Ragozin, Rauzer, and many more. Of course, some superstars participated in the Championship as well, e.g., Alekhine in 1920, Bogoljubov in 1924 and 1925, and Botvinnik throughout the 1930s.

This is a massive research project and obviously a labor of love. Voronkov draws upon many books, Russian chess magazines, tournament bulletins, and contemporary news articles, with an emphasis on the players' reminiscences, stretching from the 1920s into the present. Scattered throughout are old photos and illustrations (mostly comics and caricatures). There are 107 games annotated in detail, usually by the players and contemporary commentators, modestly supplemented by computer engine analysis.

I find it interesting to see how in this early period, players and journalists fretted over the inferior strength of Soviet players in comparison to their European counterparts. This was partly a result of both Alekhine and Bogoljubov leaving the then-USSR and moving to western countries when they were clearly superior to the players they left behind. By the time the second and third volumes were published, of course, this inferiority complex was no longer an issue.

There's also a good deal of soul-searching over the lack of artistry and creativity in master play (compared to 'the good old days' of Chigorin), but you'd never know it from Voronkov's games selections, in which even middle-of-the-road players exhibit astonishing creativity and imagination. I think that this is the greatest strength of the book:

quite apart from the brilliancy prize games, he finds numerous obscure fighting contests with original ideas, daring sacrifices, and ingenious maneuvering.

It's hard to summarize Voronkov's treatment of the Soviet authorities' interference with and politicization of the chess world because the examples tend to be anecdotal and somewhat random. But he paints an ugly picture of the unfair and cruel treatment that various players were subjected to, which will not surprise anyone who has read other accounts of this period. My understanding is that his other two volumes pursue this theme in much greater depth. In any case, Voronkov's emphasis is always on the people and personalities, complete with their flaws, and how they worked their way through these economically and politically fraught times.

Volume one ends with a 42-page report on the 1937 Levenfish – Botvinnik match in Moscow and Leningrad. Levenfish had won the 1937 championship in Tbilisi in the absence of Botvinnik (who was studying for exams), and Botvinnik subsequently challenged Levenfish to a match for the title. All 13 games were hard fought, with 10 of them ending decisively, and seven are thoroughly annotated.

In the end, Levenfish surprised everyone by tying the match and retaining his title. It's an appropriate place to end the first volume because everything we've seen so far has taken place within the USSR. Beginning with AVRO in 1938, the story of Soviet chess becomes increasingly entwined with the World Championship and international events, which greatly influences both chess politics and the development of the game itself. I've got the other volumes on my 'to read' list.

Alexey Root is a chess teacher and author who has filled a large gap in chess literature by writing *United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020*. Root, a woman international master, was the U.S. Women's Champion in 1989. She organizes the book by player, devoting a chapter to each of the 29 champions.

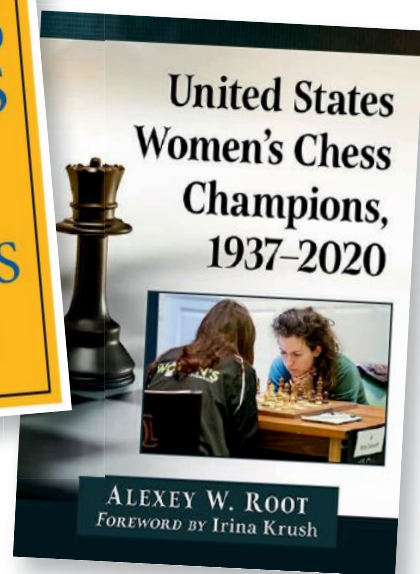
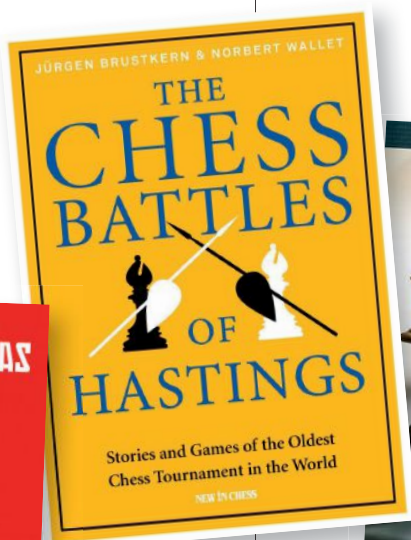
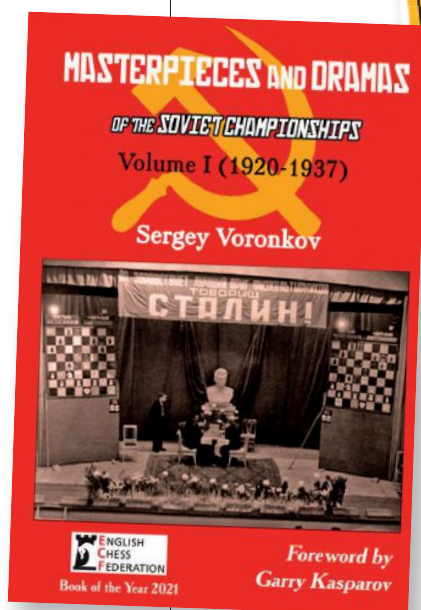
There have been 60 championships, and players who won four or more championships are given longer chapters than the others.

Gisela Gresser won nine titles (from 1944 through 1969); Irina Krush, eight (and counting); Mona May Karff, seven; Diane Savereide, five; and Anna Zatonskih, four. Sonja Graf has a particularly interesting chapter that includes games against Vera Menchik and Jacqueline Piatagorsky, among others.

Every chapter includes some biographical information about the champion along with a photo and annotated games.

players' lives, photos, and an account of the evolution of the women's game.

Much of this is found in the preface, introduction, and the chapter-by-chapter player descriptions. Otherwise, the biographical information is rather limited, even about the chess careers of the players, and the 171 annotated games use up space that might have been better devoted to stories



One outstanding feature of the book is that Root contacted the still-living players, who reviewed the chapters and added comments and corrections, as well as choosing

and/or approving the games in their chapters.

The introduction is an informative overview of the history of the championship. Root discusses women's chess in the United States, citing various statistics regarding participation and ratings. She points out that the average rating of the invited players in the U.S. Women's Championship went from 1799 in 1972 to over 2200 during the 1990s and reached 2384 for the 2019 event. She discusses the role of immigrants, citing the remarkable fact that 20 of the 29 champions were foreign born. In recent times, the quality of women's chess in America has been further elevated by the introduction of chess scholarships at several U.S. universities.

Root writes that when her publisher suggested that the book focus on games, she had her doubts. Indeed, I believe that most readers will be looking for the story of women's chess in the United States, including the drama of the events, the descriptions of the

and history. On the other hand, Root deserves great credit for locating and preserving games by the champions, especially early contests that might otherwise have been lost to future generations.

This is a unique and scholarly work that makes an important contribution to the historical record. I suspect that not only collectors and chess historians will want to have a copy, but ordinary fans of the game will enjoy it as well. ♣

*Brustkern, Jürgen, and Norbert Walleit. The Chess Battles of Hastings: Stories and Games of the Oldest Chess Tournament in the World. New in Chess, 2022. ISBN 9789056919955, 375pp. (Available from uscfsales.com, product code B0278NIC, \$32.95)*

*Root, Alexey. United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937-2020. McFarland, 2022. ISBN 9781476686936, 238pp. (Available from uscfsales.com, product code B0023MF, \$49.95)*

*Voronkov, Sergey. Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships – Volume I (1920-1937). Elk and Ruby, 2020. ISBN 9785604176931, 534pp. (Available from uscfsales.com, product code B0035ER, \$39.95)*

## ChessBase 17

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# MAKE → YOUR → MOVE

BY FM CARSTEN HANSEN

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE TAKEN FROM THE ANNUAL TATA Steel tournaments that took place in January 2023 in Wijk aan Zee.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. It is worth noting that "easy" is a relative term. If you are new to the game, the easy ones can also represent a challenge.

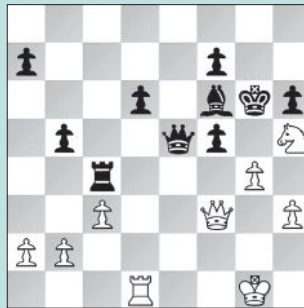
Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in a week or two to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles. You will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Solutions are on page 63. ♠

**TACTIC 1.**



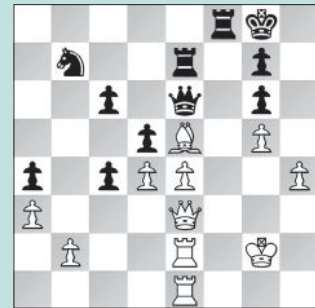
WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 2.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 3.**



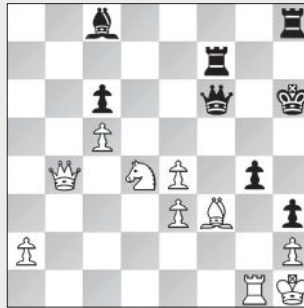
BLACK TO MOVE

**TACTIC 4.**



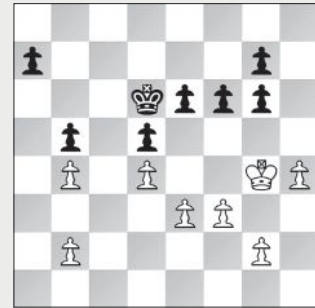
WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 5.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 6.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 7.**



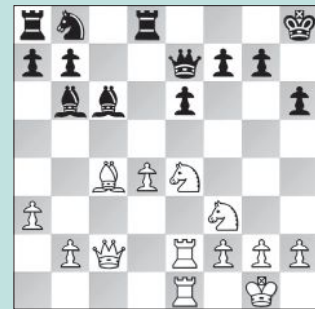
WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 8.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC 9.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**Position 1:** LOOSE PIECES

**Position 2:** OVERBURDENED DEFENDER

**Position 3:** LOOSE STRUCTURE

**Position 4:** LOOSE ATTACKERS & DEFENDERS

**Position 5:** MONARCH IN THE FRONT

**Position 6:** CORNER THE MARKET

**Position 7:** SURGICAL STRIKE

**Position 8:** NOT ENOUGH DEFENDERS

**Position 9:** SAC, SAC, SAC

# TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through April 30, 2023 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "XXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

**NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHESS.ORG** Effective with the November 2020 *Chess Life*, we have removed the National Events and Bids page that has traditionally been part of our TLA section. This information continues to be available here: [new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar](http://new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar)

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

## Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2023 National Middle School (K-8) Championships

**APRIL 21-23, 2023, TEXAS**  
Event site: Kalarhari Resorts & Conventions Address: 3001 Kalarhari Drive, Round Rock TX 78665  
Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: [nationalevents@uschess.org](mailto:nationalevents@uschess.org) Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2023/ms> TLA ID: 36212

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 2023 KCF All-Girls National Championship

**APRIL 28-30, 2023, ILLINOIS**  
Event site: Historic Palmer House Hotel Address: 17 East Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Heiser Email: [david.heiser@arenaisanceknights.org](mailto:david.heiser@arenaisanceknights.org) Phone: n/a Website: <http://allgirls.rknights.org/> TLA ID: 35478

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2023 National Elementary (K-6) Championships

**MAY 12-14, 2023, MARYLAND**  
Event site: Baltimore Convention Center Address: 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21201 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: [nationalevents@uschess.org](mailto:nationalevents@uschess.org) Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2023/elem> TLA ID: 36637

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT

### 2023 U.S. Amateur East Individual

**MAY 27-29, 2023, NEW JERSEY**  
Event site: Parsippany Hilton Address: 1 Hilton Ct., Parsippany, NJ 07054 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Aaron Kiedes Email: [akiedes@gmail.com](mailto:akiedes@gmail.com) Phone: n/a Website: <https://njscf.org/> TLA ID: 36650

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2023 U.S. Women's Open

**JUNE 14-15, 2023, NEVADA**  
Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$3,500 GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: [vegaschess@gmail.com](mailto:vegaschess@gmail.com) Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com/> TLA ID: 35981

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2023 National Open

**JUNE 14-18, 2023, NEVADA**  
Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$100,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: [vegaschess@gmail.com](mailto:vegaschess@gmail.com) Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com/> TLA ID: 35980

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2023 U.S. Junior Open Championship

**JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS**  
Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address:

190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$2,400 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: [contact@cavemanchess.com](mailto:contact@cavemanchess.com) Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36381

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

### 2023 U.S. Senior Open Championship

**JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS**  
Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: [contact@cavemanchess.com](mailto:contact@cavemanchess.com) Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36382

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX

### 2023 U.S. Blind Chess Championship

**JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS**  
Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$4,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: [contact@cavemanchess.com](mailto:contact@cavemanchess.com) Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36386

## Grand Prix

The Grand Prix continues in 2023. For information visit [new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program](http://new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program).

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 4th Colonial Open

**APRIL 6-9, 2023, VIRGINIA**  
Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Address: 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 Overall prize fund: \$16,000 GTD GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Anand Dommalapati Email: [co2023@capitalareachess.com](mailto:co2023@capitalareachess.com) Phone: 703-627-5314 Website: <http://www.colonialopenchess.com> TLA ID: 36368

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 10th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open

**APRIL 7-9, 2023, NEVADA**  
Event site: Circus Circus Reno Address: 500 North Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 Overall prize fund: \$27,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Jerome V. Weikel Email: [wackyvk@aol.com](mailto:wackyvk@aol.com) Phone: 775-354-8728 Website: <https://www.renochess.org> TLA ID: 36844

GRAND PRIX

### 2nd Annual Harry Sabine Spring Open

**APRIL 15, 2023, TENNESSEE**  
Event site: Cumberland County Community Complex Address: 1398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN 38555 Overall prize fund: \$1,700 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Cumberland County Chess Club Email: [cumberlandcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:cumberlandcountychessclub@gmail.com) Phone: (931) 200-9038 Website: <http://www.cumberland-countychessclub.org> TLA ID: 37248

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 82nd Annual Indiana Chess Championship

**APRIL 21-23, 2023, INDIANA**  
Event site: Noblesville Schools Community Center Address: 1775 Field Drive, Noblesville, IN 46060 Overall prize fund: \$5,500 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Indiana State Chess Association Email: [andersonchess@aol.com](mailto:andersonchess@aol.com) Phone: 7656109205 Website: <http://www.indianachess.org> TLA ID: 37186

GRAND PRIX

### Midwest Open

**APRIL 22-23, 2023, NEBRASKA**  
Event site: Omaha Marriott Regency Hotel Address: 10220 Regency Cir Omaha, NE 68114, Regency Ballrooms A and B Overall prize fund: \$1,100 GP Points: 6 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Steven Cusumano Email: [scusumano90@gmail.com](mailto:scusumano90@gmail.com) Phone: 402-301-6365 Website: <http://nebraskachess.com/> TLA ID: 36710

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

### Tunnelvision VII

**APRIL 22, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address: 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: [info@columbiachess.org](mailto:info@columbiachess.org) Phone: 8035690938 Website: <https://columbiatunnelvision.com/> TLA ID: 36975

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

### Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open

**APRIL 22-23, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
Event site: Downtown Holiday Inn Address: 100 W 8th, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: 60 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: South Dakota Chess Association Email: [sdchess1@hotmail.com](mailto:sdchess1@hotmail.com) Phone: 605-753-5464, cell 605-593-7337 Website: <http://sdchess.org> TLA ID: 36707

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 5th Haymarket Memorial

**APRIL 29-30, 2023, ILLINOIS**  
Event site: University of Illinois Student Center East Address: 750 S. Halsted Ave., Chicago, IL 60607 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: William H Brock (for Chicago Chess Center NFP Inc) Email: [billbrock@chicchess.org](mailto:billbrock@chicchess.org) Phone: 7732941709 Website: <http://www.chicchess.org> TLA ID: 37200

GRAND PRIX

### 31st Massachusetts G/60 Championship

**APRIL 30, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center Address: 219 Littleton Rd., Westford MA 01886 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Massachusetts Chess Association Email: [info@masschess.org](mailto:info@masschess.org) Phone: 603-891-2484 Website: <http://www.masschess.org> TLA ID: 36715

## PLEASE NOTE

### DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

TLAs appearing in *Chess Life* must be uploaded online on the 10th, two months prior to the issue cover date in which the ad is to appear. (For example, October TLAs must be uploaded no later than August 10th.) TLAs uploaded past this deadline cannot be published without special approval by US Chess.



**GRAND PRIX**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open  
MAY 5-7, 2023, WYOMING**

**Event site:** Sheridan Wyoming Ramada Plaza **Address:** 1809 Sugarland Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801 **Overall prize fund:** \$7,575 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Brian Kuehl **Email:** [admin@sheridan-chess.com](mailto:admin@sheridan-chess.com) **Phone:** 202-679-6719 **Website:** <http://www.SheridanChess.com> **TLA ID:** 37145

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**3rd annual Niagara Falls Open  
MAY 5-7, 2023, NEW YORK**

**Event site:** Sheraton Niagara Falls **Address:** 300 3rd St, Niagara Falls NY 14303 **Overall prize fund:** \$10,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 36018

**ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**2023 DFW FIDE 3  
MAY 5-7, 2023, TEXAS**

**Event site:** Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North **Address:** 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall prize fund:** \$760 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Luis Salinas **Email:** [infofordcc@gmail.com](mailto:infofordcc@gmail.com) **Phone:** 2146329000 **Website:** <http://dallaschess.com> **TLA ID:** 37194

**HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**28th Space Coast Open  
MAY 20, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Event site:** Radisson Resort at the Port **Address:** 8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 **Overall prize fund:** \$20,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Jon Haskel **Email:** [jon@bocachess.com](mailto:jon@bocachess.com) **Phone:** 561-302-4377 **Website:** <http://www.spacecoastchess-foundation.org/spacecoastopen> **TLA ID:** 37280

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**Tunnelvision VIII  
MAY 20, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Event site:** First Church of the Nazarene **Address:** 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,000 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Columbia Chess Club **Email:** [info@columbiachess.org](mailto:info@columbiachess.org) **Phone:** 8035690938 **Website:** <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> **TLA ID:** 36976

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic  
MAY 24-29, 2023, VIRGINIA**

**Event site:** Washington Dulles Airport Marriott **Address:** 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 **Overall prize fund:** \$26,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** American Dommalapati **Email:** [cbc2023@capitalareachess.com](mailto:cbc2023@capitalareachess.com) **Phone:** 703-627-5314 **Website:** <https://www.cherryblossomchess.com> **TLA ID:** 36829

**HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**32nd annual Chicago Open  
MAY 25-29, 2023, ILLINOIS**

**Event site:** Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** \$100,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 35929

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**78th Annual Texas State and Amateur  
MAY 26-29, 2023, TEXAS**

**Event site:** Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North **Address:** 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall prize fund:** \$2,200 **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:**

**Y Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Luis Salinas **Email:** [infofordcc@gmail.com](mailto:infofordcc@gmail.com) **Phone:** 213-632-9000 **Website:** <http://dallaschess.com> **TLA ID:** 37211

**GRAND PRIX**

**IM Danny Kopec Memorial Grand Prix  
MAY 26-JUNE 16 (WEEKLY), NEW YORK**

**Event site:** Christ Lutheran Church **Address:** 57 Spooner St., Floral Park, NY 11001 **Overall prize fund:** \$440 **GP Points:** 6 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Queens Chess Club **Email:** [queensnychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:queensnychessclub@gmail.com) **Phone:** 718-514-7130 **Website:** <http://www.queens-chess.com> **TLA ID:** 37112

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**91st Massachusetts Open  
MAY 27-29, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Event site:** Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center **Address:** 219 Littleton Road, Westford MA 01886 **Overall prize fund:** \$7,500 **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Massachusetts Chess Association **Email:** [info@masschess.org](mailto:info@masschess.org) **Phone:** 603-891-2484 **Website:** <http://www.masschess.org> **TLA ID:** 37251

**AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX**

**44th Annual Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic  
MAY 27-29, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

**Event site:** Airtel Plaza Hotel **Address:** 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406 **Overall prize fund:** \$17,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Southern California Chess Federation **Email:** [Gregg5075@earthlink.net](mailto:Gregg5075@earthlink.net) **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <https://www.sccchess.com> **TLA ID:** 36711

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**12th annual Chicago Open Blitz  
MAY 28, 2023, ILLINOIS**

**Event site:** Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Over-**

**all prize fund:** \$2,500 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 36432

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**16th annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open  
JUNE 9-11, 2023, OHIO**

**Event site:** Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport **Address:** 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130 **Overall prize fund:** \$15,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 36424

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**2023 Carolinas Classic  
JUNE 9-11, 2023, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Event site:** Hilton Charlotte University Place **Address:** 8629 J M Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 **Overall prize fund:** \$15,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Charlotte Chess Center **Email:** [events@charlottechesscenter.org](mailto:events@charlottechesscenter.org) **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <https://www.charlottechesscenter.org/events> **TLA ID:** 36962

**GRAND PRIX**

**Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Action Chess  
JUNE 10, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

**Event site:** UC Davis Conference Center **Address:** 550 Alumni Lane, Davis, CA 95616 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,250 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Davis Chess Club **Email:** [michael@paww.com](mailto:michael@paww.com) **Phone:** <https://sosnickchess.com> **Website:** <https://sosnickchess.com> **TLA ID:** 37192

**GRAND PRIX**

**Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Rapids (G/15)  
JUNE 11, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

**Event site:** UC Davis Conference Center **Address:** 550

# Continental Chess OTB Tournament Schedule

See [www.chessevents.us](http://www.chessevents.us) for details, possible changes, other events

**NIAGARA FALLS OPEN**, May 5-7, Sheraton Hotel, next to Seneca Casino in western New York. \$10,000 guaranteed prizes.

**CHICAGO OPEN**, Memorial Day weekend, May 25-29, Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling, IL. \$100,000 guaranteed prizes, FIDE norms possible in 9 round Open Section, others are 7 rounds.  
**NOTE: 3-day schedule starts Sat 10 am.**

**CLEVELAND OPEN**, June 9-11, Crowne Plaza Airport. \$15,000 guaranteed prizes.

**CONTINENTAL CLASS**, June 16-18, Sheraton Reston Hotel, near Washington, DC. \$22,000 guaranteed prizes.

**WORLD OPEN AND SIDE EVENTS** at Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel:  
**World Open top sections, June 30-July 4**  
**World Open U1200 & U1000, June 23-25**  
Philadelphia Open, June 23-25  
Philadelphia International, June 24-28  
World Open Under 13, June 26-27  
World Open Amateur, June 26-28

World Open Junior, June 28-29  
World Open Senior Amateur, June 28-29  
World Open Action, June 29  
World Open Womens Champ, June 29-30  
World Open G/7 Blitz, June 30  
World Open G/10 Championship, July 3  
World Open Blitz Championship, July 4

**CONTINENTAL OPEN**, July 13-16 at new site, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, Mass. 7 rounds, \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

**CHICAGO CLASS**, July 14-16, Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling, IL. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

**PACIFIC COAST OPEN**, July 21-23, 6 rounds at Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

**PITTSBURGH OPEN**, July 21-23, Doubletree Green Tree. \$13,000 guaranteed.

**SOUTHERN OPEN**, July 28-30, Wyndham Orlando Resort. \$20,000 guaranteed.

**BRADLEY OPEN**, July 28-30, Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport. \$15,000 guaranteed prizes.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Alumni Lane, Davis, CA 95616 Overall prize fund: \$1,250 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Davis Chess Club Email: [michael@pawnc.com](mailto:michael@pawnc.com) Phone: [707.433.1111](tel:7074331111) Website: <https://sosnickchess.com> TLA ID: 37193

**GRAND PRIX**

**CFCC 2023 Sunshine Open & Scholastic**  
**JUNE 16-18, 2023, FLORIDA**  
 Event site: Holiday Inn at Lake Buena Vista Address: 13351 State Road 535 Orlando, Florida, 32821 Overall prize fund: \$8,500 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Larry Storch Email: [larrystorch88@gmail.com](mailto:larrystorch88@gmail.com) Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.centralchess.org> TLA ID: 37199

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**9th annual Continental Class Championships**  
**JUNE 16-18, 2023, VIRGINIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Reston Hotel Address: 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191 Overall prize fund: \$22,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37066

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**Tunnelvision IX**  
**JUNE 17, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
 Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address: 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: [info@columbiachess.org](mailto:info@columbiachess.org) Phone: [803.569.0938](tel:8035690938) Website: <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> TLA ID: 36977

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship**  
**JUNE 17, 2023, NEVADA**  
 Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$3,600 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: [vegaschess@gmail.com](mailto:vegaschess@gmail.com) Phone: [702.930.9550](tel:7029309550) Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLA ID: 35998

**GRAND PRIX**

**2023 Castle Chess Grand Prix**  
**JUNE 23-25, 2023, GEORGIA**  
 Event site: Emory University (Student Center) Address: 605 Asbury Circle, Atlanta, GA 30307 Overall prize fund: \$12,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Castle Chess Camp Email: [grant@castlechess.org](mailto:grant@castlechess.org) Phone: n/a Website: <https://castlechess.org/grandprix/> TLA ID: 37079

**AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**17th annual Philadelphia Open**  
**JUNE 23-25, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35977

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**16th annual Philadelphia International**  
**JUNE 24-28, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35939

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**12th annual World Open Women's Championship**  
**JUNE 29-30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$2,000 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36017

**HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**51st annual World Open, top 6 sections**  
**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$208,000 GP Points: 300 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36019

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**12th annual World Open Game/7 Blitz**  
**JUNE 30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$1,500 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36038

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX**

**25th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship**  
**JULY 1-3, 2023, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN**  
 Event site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Address: 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: John McCumiskey Email: [sacto@chess.com](mailto:sacto@chess.com) Website: <http://sacramentochessclub.org/index.htm> TLA ID: 37205

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**31st annual World Open G/10 Championship**  
**JULY 3, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$2,200 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36435

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX**

**34th annual World Open Blitz Championship**  
**JULY 4, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36434

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**53rd annual Continental Open**  
**JULY 13-16, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS**  
 Event site: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Address: 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough MA 01752 Overall prize fund: \$30,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36814

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**16th annual Chicago Class**  
**JULY 14-16, 2023, ILLINOIS**  
 Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Address: 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 Overall prize fund: \$30,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36839

**GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**24th annual Pittsburgh Open**  
**JULY 21-23, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Event site: Doubletree Green Tree Address: 500 Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh PA 15205 Overall prize fund: \$13,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37298

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**27th annual Pacific Coast Open**  
**JULY 21-23, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**  
 Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel Address: Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406 Overall prize fund: \$30,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37297

**HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**

**31st annual Southern Open**  
**JULY 28-30, 2023, FLORIDA**  
 Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort Address: Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Drive, Orlando 32819 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [703.438.1100](tel:7034381100) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37301

**Online**

**3rd annual CCA May Open on ICC**  
**MAY 6, 2023**  
 Event site: Online Address: [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) Overall prize fund: \$2,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [events@chessclub.com](mailto:events@chessclub.com) Phone: [412.436.5558](tel:4124365558) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37313

**CCA May Action on ICC**  
**MAY 20, 2023**  
 Event site: Online Address: [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [events@chessclub.com](mailto:events@chessclub.com) Phone: [412.436.5558](tel:4124365558) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37316

**Regional**

**ALABAMA**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY**  
**Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)**  
 See Tennessee.

**JULY 28-30, 2023**  
**31st annual Southern Open (FL)**  
 See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**ARIZONA**  
**MAY 5-7, 2023**  
**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
 See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**  
**2023 National Open (NV)**  
 See National Events.  
**JUNE 14-15, 2023**  
**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
 See National Events.

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**  
**2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)**  
 See Nevada.

**JUNE 17, 2023**  
**Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (NV)**  
 See Grand Prix.

**JULY 21-23, 2023**  
**27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)**  
 See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**ARKANSAS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY**  
**Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)**  
 See Tennessee.

**CALIFORNIA**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021-ONGOING**  
**PCC LBX Hangar Sunday Action**  
 Event site: LBX Hangar Building (inside and out) Address: 4150 McGowan St, Long Beach CA 90808 Overall prize fund: 80% of total entry fee GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: John Tan Email: [paramountchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:paramountchessclub@gmail.com) Phone: [310.735.6871](tel:3107356871) Website: n/a TLA ID: 31701

**REGIONALS**  
**MAY 2-23, 2023**  
**Tuesday Phillip Van Gelderen Memorial Swiss**  
 Event site: St. Andrew's Church Address: 11555 National Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pete Savino Email: [smbchess@yahoo.com](mailto:smbchess@yahoo.com) Phone: [310.827.7289](tel:3108277289) Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/santamonica-baychessclub/> TLA ID: 37240

**MAY 5-7, 2023**  
**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
 See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**  
**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
 See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MAY 27, 2023**  
**MDC Scholastics**  
 Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel Address: 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Overall prize fund: Trophies GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Southern California Chess Federation Email: [Gregg5075@earthlink.net](mailto:Gregg5075@earthlink.net) Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.schess.com> TLA ID: 36712

**MAY 28, 2023**  
**MDC Blitz**  
 Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel Address: 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Overall prize fund: Total entries minus exp GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Southern California Chess Federation Email: [Gregg5075@earthlink.net](mailto:Gregg5075@earthlink.net) Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.schess.com> TLA ID: 36713

**JUNE 10, 2023**  
**Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Action Chess (CA-S)**  
 See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11, 2023**  
**Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Rapids (CA-S)**  
 See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JUNE 14-15, 2023**

**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JUNE 17, 2023**

**Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (NV)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**

**2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JULY 1-3, 2023**

**25th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship (CA-N)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 21-23, 2023**

**27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**♠ COLORADO**

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JUNE 14-15, 2023**

**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**♠ CONNECTICUT**

**OCTOBER 9, 2022 - MAY 7, 2023**

**8th Annual Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League! (NY)**

See New York.

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 19-21, 2023**

**28th Space Coast Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix or [www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen](https://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen).

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**♠ DELAWARE**

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**

**2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JULY 13-16, 2023**

**53rd annual Continental Open (MA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**♠ DIST. OF COLUMBIA**

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**APRIL 29, 2023**

**2023 Booker T Washington & Julius Rosenwald 529 College Saving Plan Scholastic Chess Classic**

Event site: Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton/Chase Pavilion Address: 4300 Military Road NW, Washington, DC 20015 Overall prize fund: \$1,050 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Malik F Johnson Email: [iconchess@aol.com](mailto:iconchess@aol.com) Phone: 202-557-8266 Website: <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/2425> TLA ID: 37188

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**♠ FLORIDA**

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 16-18, 2023**

**CFCC 2023 Sunshine Open & Scholastic (FL)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JULY 28-30, 2023**

**31st annual Southern Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**♠ GEORGIA**

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**APRIL 8, 2023-ONGOING MONTHLY**

**Pizza Scholastic**

Event site: The Boardroom Address: 1675 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite #180, Cumming Georgia 30041 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: ThinkChess, LLC Email: [info@myThinkChess.com](mailto:info@myThinkChess.com) Phone: 770.744.8595 Website: <https://mythinkchess.com/> TLA ID: 37216

**APRIL 21-22, 2023**

**2nd Annual Bolivar Morales Memorial Club Championships**

Event site: Winterville Chess Club at the Winterville Community Center Address: 371 North Church Street, Winterville, GA 30683 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Tomas Ramirez Email: [tram110@verizon.net](mailto:tram110@verizon.net) Phone: 401-440-7416 Website: <https://wintervillecenter.com/clubs> TLA ID: 37128

**MAY 19-21, 2023**

**28th Space Coast Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix or [www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen](https://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen).

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JULY 28-30, 2023**

**31st annual Southern Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**♠ IDAHO**

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JUNE 14-15, 2023**

**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**♠ ILLINOIS**

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 19-21, 2023**

**28th Space Coast Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix or [www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen](https://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen).

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**MAY 28, 2023**

**12th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JULY 14-16, 2023**

**16th annual Chicago Class (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JULY 16, 2023**

**Caveman Chess Sunday Blitz**

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: [contact@cavemanchess.com](mailto:contact@cavemanchess.com) Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 37167

**JULY 21-23, 2023**

**2023 Caveman Medior Open**

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: [contact@cavemanchess.com](mailto:contact@cavemanchess.com) Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36383

**JULY 22, 2023**

**2023 Beginner Open**

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: Plaques GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: [contact@cavemanchess.com](mailto:contact@cavemanchess.com) Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36387

**AUGUST 12-18, 2023**

**XXXIII Pan-American Youth Chess Festival**

Event site: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Address: 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Chicago, IL 60616 Overall prize fund: Direct FIDE titles and norms GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Da-

vid Heiser Email: [david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org](mailto:david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org) Phone: n/a Website: <https://panamoyouth2023.com/> TLA ID: 36757

**♠ INDIANA**

**APRIL 29-30, 2023**

**Chicago Chess Center 5th Haymarket Memorial (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**MAY 28, 2023**

**12th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**JULY 14-16, 2023**

**16th annual Chicago Class (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

**♠ IOWA**

**APRIL 22-23, 2023**

**Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open (SD)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**

See Grand Prix.

**♠ KANSAS**

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**♠ KENTUCKY**

**DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY**

**Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)**

See Tennessee.

**♠ MAINE**

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**♠ MARYLAND**

**MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)**

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See [www.MDChess.org](http://www.MDChess.org) for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signup for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the \$48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 16-18, 2023**

**9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](https://chessevents.us).

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 24-28, 2023**

**16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 26-28, 2023**

**2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 26-27, 2023**

**15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 28-29, 2023**

**World Open Junior Championship (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 27-29, 2023**

**91st Massachusetts Open (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 24-28, 2023**

**16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 26-28, 2023**

**2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 26-27, 2023**

**15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 28-29, 2023**

**World Open Junior Championship (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JULY 13-16, 2023**

**53rd annual Continental Open (MA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MICHIGAN**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

**APRIL 22-23, 2023**

**2023 Michigan Senior Championship**  
Event site: Twin Knights Gaming Address: 4955 Rochester Rd, Troy, MI 48065 Overall prize fund: \$250 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Michigan Chess Association Email: [jeffchess64@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchess64@gmail.com) Phone: 810-955-7271 Website: <https://www.michess.org>/TLA ID: 37147

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**3rd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**16th annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open (OH)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MINNESOTA**

**APRIL 22-23, 2023**

**Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open (SD)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MISSISSIPPI**

**DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY**

**Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)**  
See Tennessee.

**MISSOURI**

**DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY**

**Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)**  
See Tennessee.

**NOVEMBER 3, 2022-ONGOING ON THURSDAYS**

**Chess Cardinals Thursday Open**  
Event site: Chesterfield YMCA Address: 16464 Burkhardt Pl, Chesterfield, MO 63017 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chess Cardinals Email: [chess4chesterfield@gmail.com](mailto:chess4chesterfield@gmail.com) Phone: 210-912-three seven two nine Website: <https://chesscardinals.com/>/TLA ID: 35826

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MONTANA**

**APRIL 22-23, 2023**

**Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open (SD)**  
See Grand Prix.

**32nd annual CHICAGO OPEN**

**May 25-29, 26-29, 27-29 or 28-29, Memorial Day weekend- see [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us)**

**8 sections, prizes \$100,000 unconditionally guaranteed!**

**Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling IL - free lectures and analysis by GM Joel Benjamin**

**Open section, 5/25-29:** 9 rounds, 40/80, SD/30, d30.

**U2300 through U1300 sections: 5/26-29 or 27-29:** 7 rounds, 40/80, SD/30, d30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). All merge & play for same prizes

**Under 1000 Section, 5/28-29:** 7 rounds, G/60, d10.

**Open:** \$10000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak first \$300 bonus, top FIDE U2400/unr \$2000-1000. FIDE rated, GM and IM norms possible.

**U2300, U2100, U1900, U1700:** Each \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. U2300 & U2100 sections are FIDE rated.

**U1500:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300

**U1300:** \$3000-1500-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300.

**U1000:** \$1500-800-600-400-300-200-200-100-100-100

**FIDE ratings** used for Open, May official USCF for others. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

**If post-event Regular OTB or Regular Online rating** posted 5/23/22-5/23/23 or current Regular Online rating is more than 40 pts over section maximum, prize limit \$800.

**Under 26 games prize limit** as of May list: U1000 \$500, U1300 \$1000, U1500 \$1500, U1700 \$2000, U1900 \$2500..

**Unrated prize limits:** U1000 \$200, U1300 \$400, U1500 \$600, U1700 \$800, U1900 \$1000, U2100 \$1200.

**Mixed Doubles:** male/female combined score, any section \$2000-1000-500-400-300. See [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**Entry fee:** \$227 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 5/24, \$250 online or at site until 1 hour before round 1. Open \$100 more to US players if not USCF or FIDE 2200/up. Senior 65/up \$100 less, except U1000. Online \$5 less to ICA members. Titled entry: see [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us). Refunds, \$15 service charge.

**Under 1000 Section:** \$97 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 5/24, \$120 online or at site until 9 am 5/28.

**Open titled minimum prizes:** see [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**5-day schedule** (Open only): enter Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 1 & 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 4, Mon 10 & 4.

**4-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): enter Fri to 6, rds Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 4, Mon 10 & 4.

**3-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): enter Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 1:30 & 5, Sun 10 & 4, Mon 10 & 4. **(Corrected)**

**2-day schedule** (U1000 only): enter Sun to 9 am, rds Sun 10, 1, 4, 7, Mon 10, 1 & 4.

**1/2-pt byes:** limit 3 (2 last 4 rds); must commit before rd 3.

**Hotel rates:** 1-4/rm \$130, link at [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us) or 800-937-8461, reserve by 5/11, could sell out before.

**USCF membership required,** special rates with entry.

**Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied. No cellphone possession during play (in bag near table OK)

**Entry:** [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com). No mailed entry.

**\$2500 guaranteed blitz** tournament, Sunday 10 pm.

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

## NEBRASKA

APRIL 22-23, 2023

### Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open (SD)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

## NEVADA

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 16, 2023

### Youth Trophy Tournament

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: Trophies GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: [vegaschess@gmail.com](mailto:vegaschess@gmail.com) Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLAID: 36001

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 17-19, 2023

### 2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: [vegaschess@gmail.com](mailto:vegaschess@gmail.com) Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLAID: 36000

JULY 1-3, 2023

### 25th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship (CA-N)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 21-23, 2023

### 27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

APRIL 6-9, 2023

### 4th Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 24-29, 2023

### 10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)

See Grand Prix.

## NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 9, 2022 - MAY 7, 2023

### 8th Annual Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League! (NY)

See New York.

JANUARY 14-DECEMBER 30, 2023

### Hamilton Chess Club Quads

Dates: Feb. 11, Mar. 18, Apr. 29, May 20, Jun. 3, Aug. 19, Sep. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 30. Event site: Switlik Park Pavilion Address: Fischer Place/Joe Dimaggio Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08610 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Edward Sytnik Email: [edmendou@aol.com](mailto:edmendou@aol.com) Phone: 609-758-2326 Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/hamiltonchessclub/> TLAID: 35704

APRIL 6-9, 2023

### 4th Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

MAY 14, 2023

### NJ State Senior Championship

Event site: South Jersey Innovation Center Address: 20000 Horizon Way Suite 600 A, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

Overall prize fund: \$300 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: South Jersey Innovation Center Email: n/a Phone: 7039896867 Website: <https://form.jotform.com/230347049553153> TLAID: 37117

MAY 19-21, 2023

### 28th Space Coast Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or [www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen](http://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen).

MAY 24-29, 2023

### 10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 25-29, 2023

### 32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 16-18, 2023

### 9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 23-25, 2023

### 17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 23-25, 2023

### 51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 24-28, 2023

### 16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 26-28, 2023

### 2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 26-27, 2023

### 13th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 28-29, 2023

### 13th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 28-29, 2023

### World Open Junior Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 29-30, 2023

### 12th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 29, 2023

### 10th annual World Open Action (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

### 51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 3, 2023

### 31st annual World Open G/10 Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 4, 2023

### 34th annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 13-16, 2023

### 53rd annual Continental Open (MA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

## NEW MEXICO

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 14-18, 2023

### 2023 National Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

### 2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

## NEW YORK

OCTOBER 9, 2022 - MAY 7, 2023

### 8th Annual Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League!

Event site: Columbia Grammar and Prep. High School Cafeteria Address: 36 W. 93rd St. (bet. Central Park West & Columbus Ave., near 96th St. subways), NYC Overall prize fund: \$450 per match date GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chess Center of New York Email: [chesscentr@gmail.com](mailto:chesscentr@gmail.com) Phone: 347-201-2269 (leave message, but email is better) Website: <https://www.magnusleague.org/> TLAID: 35086

APRIL 6-9, 2023

### 4th Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 3rd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

MAY 19-21, 2023

### 28th Space Coast Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or [www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen](http://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen).

MAY 24-29, 2023

### 10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 25-29, 2023

### 32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 16-18, 2023

### 9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 23-25, 2023

### 17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 23-25, 2023

### 51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 24-28, 2023

### 16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 26-28, 2023

### 2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 26-27, 2023

### 15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 28-29, 2023

### 13th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 28-29, 2023

### World Open Junior Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 29-30, 2023

### 12th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 29, 2023

### 10th annual World Open Action (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

### 51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 3, 2023

### 31st annual World Open G/10 Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 4, 2023

### 34th annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 13-16, 2023

### 53rd annual Continental Open (MA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JULY 21-23, 2023

### 24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

## NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 6-9, 2023

### 4th Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 24-29, 2023

### 10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

### 51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

## NORTH DAKOTA

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

APRIL 15-16, 2023

### North Dakota State Chess Championship

Event site: Quality Inn Bismarck Address: 1030 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Todd Wolf Email: [wolfpack@bism.midco.net](mailto:wolfpack@bism.midco.net) Phone: 701-426-3768 Website: n/a TLAID: 37100

APRIL 22-23, 2023

### Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open (SD)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

## OHIO

APRIL 6-9, 2023

### 4th Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

### HERITAGE EVENT

APRIL 14-16, 2023

### 2023 Cincinnati Open

Event site: Embassy Suites Hotel Address: 4554 Lake Forest Drive, Blue Ash, OH 45242 Overall prize fund: \$16,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Alan Hodge Email: [a.hodge195@gmail.com](mailto:a.hodge195@gmail.com) Phone: 5136009915 Website: <https://www.chesscincinnati.com> TLAID: 35840

MAY 5-7, 2023

### 3rd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

MAY 24-29, 2023

### 10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 25-29, 2023

### 32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 9-11, 2023

### 16th annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

### 51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or [chessvents.us](https://chessvents.us).

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

**JULY 21-23, 2023**

**24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

## OKLAHOMA

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

## OREGON

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**  
See National Events.

**JUNE 14-15, 2023**

**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See National Events.

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**

**2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)**  
See Nevada.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**North Penn Chess Club**

Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See [www.northpennchessclub.org](http://www.northpennchessclub.org) for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

**OCTOBER 9, 2022 - MAY 7, 2023**

**8th Annual Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League! (NY)**  
See New York.

### HERITAGE EVENT • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

**APRIL 15, 2023**

**62nd Annual Golden Triangle Open**  
Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: [director@pittsburghchessclub.org](mailto:director@pittsburghchessclub.org) Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/> TLA ID: 36721

**APRIL 22, 2023**

**Annual LVCA Bruce Alberston Memorial (\$1000 b/30)**  
Event site: College Hill Moravian Church Address: 72 W Laurel St, Bethlehem, PA 18018 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 b/30 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Bruce R Davis Sr Email: [bdavis@lehighvalleychessclub.org](mailto:bdavis@lehighvalleychessclub.org) Phone: 4848663045 Website: <http://www.lehighvalleychessclub.org/> TLA ID: 36329

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**3rd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MAY 19-21, 2023**

**28th Space Coast Open (FL)**  
See Grand Prix or [www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen](http://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen).

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 16-18, 2023**

**9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**16th annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open (OH)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

### HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**51st annual World Open, lower sections**  
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$17,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36030

**JUNE 24-28, 2023**

**16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

**JUNE 26-28, 2023**

**2nd annual World Open Amateur**  
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35957

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

**JUNE 26-27, 2023**

**15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship**  
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35994

### REGIONALS

**JUNE 28-29, 2023**

**13th annual World Open Senior Amateur**  
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36006

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX - REGIONALS

**JUNE 28-29, 2023**

**World Open Junior Championship**  
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36031

**JUNE 29-30, 2023**

**12th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

### REGIONALS

**JUNE 29, 2023**

**10th annual World Open Action**  
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Phone: [director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36036

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30, 2023**

**12th annual World Open Game/7 Blitz Championship (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JULY 3, 2023**

**31st annual World Open G/10 Championship (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JULY 4, 2023**

**34th annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JULY 21-23, 2023**

**24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

## RHODE ISLAND

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APRIL 22, 2023**

**Tunnelvision VII (SC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 20, 2023**

**Tunnelvision VIII (SC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 17, 2023**

**Tunnelvision IX (SC)**  
See Grand Prix.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
See Grand Prix.

## TENNESSEE

**DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY**

**Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club**

Event site: Memphis Chess Club Address: 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Memphis Chess Club Email: [info@memphischessclub.com](mailto:info@memphischessclub.com) Phone: 7318685755 Website: <https://www.memphischessclub.com/> TLA ID: 32334

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APRIL 15, 2023**

**2nd Annual Harry Sabine Spring Open Chess Tournament (TN)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

## TEXAS

**FEBRUARY 2, 2023-ONGOING, THURSDAYS**  
**Creative 101 Weekly Quick**

Event site: n/a Address: 308 W Washington Dr, San Angelo, TX 76903 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chase Ross, Concho Chess Academy Email: [concho.chess@gmail.com](mailto:concho.chess@gmail.com) Phone: 925-918-2275 Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/750373449257502> TLA ID: 36958

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**  
See National Events.

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**

**2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)**  
See Nevada.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

## UTAH

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**  
See National Events.

**JUNE 14-15, 2023**

**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See National Events.

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**

**2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)**  
See Nevada.

**JUNE 17, 2023**

**Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (NV)**  
See Grand Prix.

## VERMONT

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 24-28, 2023**

**16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

## VIRGINIA

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 9-11, 2023**

**2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 16-18, 2023**

**9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)**

See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 26-28, 2023**

**2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)**

See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 26-27, 2023**

**15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)**

See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 28-29, 2023**

**World Open Junior Championship (PA)**

See Pennsylvania or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**WASHINGTON**

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 14-18, 2023**

**2023 National Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JUNE 14-15, 2023**

**2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See National Events.

**JULY 21-23, 2023**

**27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**WEST VIRGINIA**

**APRIL 6-9, 2023**

**4th Colonial Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 24-29, 2023**

**10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**WISCONSIN**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

**APRIL 22, 2023**

**2023 Wisconsin Rapid and Blitz State Championships**

Event site: Doga Church Address: 2700 Novation Parkway, Madison, WI 53713 Overall prize fund: \$1,300 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Mike Nietman Email: [mike.nietman@charter.net](mailto:mike.nietman@charter.net) Phone: 16084678510 Website: <https://www.uschess.org>/TLAID: 37187

**APRIL 29-30, 2023**

**Chicago Chess Center 5th Haymarket Memorial (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 25-29, 2023**

**32nd annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**MAY 28, 2023**

**12th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023**

**51st annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**JULY 14-16, 2023**

**16th annual Chicago Class (IL)**

See Grand Prix or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**WYOMING**

**APRIL 22-23, 2023**

**Paul Salem Sioux Falls Open (SD)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 5-7, 2023**

**2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)**

See Grand Prix.

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# Solutions

## PAGE 15 CHESS TO ENJOY

**PROBLEM 1.** 26. ... Bxc2 is good, but better was 26. ... Re6!. The game ended with 27. Bg5 Bg4 and White resigned. Or 27. Ng7 Bxc2 28. Nxe6 Bxd1. **PROBLEM 2.** 29. ... Re3 does it, e.g. 30. Qf2 Rxh3+ 31. Kg1 Rh1+!. Or 30. Qh2 Rxe2 31. Rxe2 Qd1+ 32. Qg1 Qxd6. **PROBLEM 3.** Better than 41. ... Rf7 42. Kd2 is 41. ... f3! 42. Rf4+ Rf7 and then 43. Rxf7+ Kxf7 44. Kd2 Ke6 43. Ke3 Kd5 44. Kxf3 Kc4. **PROBLEM 4.** 27. Qb4! threatens 28. Qf8+ Kf6 29. Re8 with a mating attack or 29. Qh8+ and Qxa1. For example, 27. ... Kh6 28. g4. **PROBLEM 5.** White drew after 43. gxf5+?. But 43. g5! hxg5 44. h6 Kf6 45. Kd4 (here 45. Kd3 and 45. Kd2 also win) followed by 46. c4. **PROBLEM 6.** White eventually won after 28. Nb5+? Kb7. But 28. Nc4+ Qc7 29. Nb6! wins a piece.

## PAGE 47 ENDGAME SCHOOL

**PROBLEM 1.** White wins after 86. g6 f3 87. g7 Rg1 88. g8=Q Rxxg8 89. Rxxg8 f2 90. Rc8+ Kd5 91. Rc1 Kd4 92. Kf4. **PROBLEM 2.** Yes. 87. Rb7+ Kg8 88. Kg6 Rg3+ 89. Kf6 Kh7! is equal.

## PAGE 49 ABCS OF CHESS

**PROBLEM 1. Mating net:** It's mate on the move: **1. ... Qb1 mate.** **PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** Black mates in two: **1. ... Nd2+ 2. Qxd2** (or 2. Ka1 Qxa2 mate) **2. ... Qxa2 mate.** **PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** Black needs one move: **1. ... Nh3 mate.** **PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** Black mates in one: **1. ... Qe1 mate.** **PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** It's mate in two: **1. ... Re1+ 2. Nxe1** (or 2. Nc1 Qxc1 mate) **2. ... Qc1 mate.** **PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** Black wins by **1. ... Ne2+ 2. Kg2 Qh3 mate.**

## PAGE 53 MAKE YOUR MOVE

**TACTIC 1.** 7. exd6 Qxd6 8. Qb5+ Nc6 9. Qxh5 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 In the game, White followed up poorly with 10. Bd3 g6 11. Qa5 Nxf3+ 12. gx3 0-0 13. Nc3 Qe6+ and most of White's advantage was gone. **10. ... Qxd4 11. Bb5+ c6 12. Bd3** and White is much better in Pechac – Tabatabaei, Tata Steel Challengers, 2023. **TACTIC 2.** 35. Rxd6! Kg5 Of course, the rook cannot be captured. **36. Rd5!** This is much better than 36. Rxf6 Qe1+ 37. Kh2 Qd2+ when White should be winning. **36. ... Qe1+ 37. Kg2 Be7 38. Rxf5+ Kh4 39. Qg3+** and **Black resigned** in Giri – Rapport, Tata Steel Masters, 2023. **TACTIC 3.** 33. ... Nc5! **34. Bxg7** Or 34. dxc5 Qxe5 35. Qg3 (35. exd5 Qxd5+ is, of course, worse) 35. ... Rf4 and Black is winning. **34. ... Rxxg7 35. dxc5 d4 36. Qh3 Qe5?** Logical but not best. Black should have played 36. ... Qe7! 37. e5 d3 38. Rd2 Qxc5 and Black is easily

winning. **37. Qg3??** White returns the favor. After 37. Rf1 Rgf7, Black would be better. **37. ... Qxc5 38. e5 Qd5+** and Black was winning. **39. Kh2 d3 40. Rf2 Rxf2+ 41. Qxf2 Rf7 42. Qd2 Qf3 43. Ke3 Qf2 44. Qxf2 Rxf2+ 45. Kg3 Rxb2 46. Kf3 c3 47. Ke3 c2 48. Kd2 c1=Q+** and **White resigned** in Mishra – Ivic, Tata Steel Challengers, 2023. **TACTIC 4.** 31. **Qb5!** White loses nearly all of his advantage after 31. a6 Nxa6 32. Rc8+ Rxc8 33. Bxc8 Nc5. **31. ... Nxb7 32. a6! e5 33. Rb1 Nd4 34. Qb4 Qc7 35. axb7** and White was winning. **35. ... Qc2 36. Qb2 Qg6 37. Rdc1 Nf3+ 38. Kh1 Nh4 39. Rc8+ Kh7 40. Rg1, Black resigned.** Donchenko – Tabatabaei, Tata Steel Challengers, 2023. **TACTIC 5.** 45. **Nf5+!! Bxf5 46. exf5** All of a sudden, Black's king is vulnerable. **46. ... gxf3** The alternatives do not offer better chances to win, for instance, 46. ... Qxf5 47. Bxg4 Qf6 (47. ... Qd5+ 48. e4 loses for Black) 48. Bxh3; or 46. ... Rg7 47. Qf4+ Kh7 48. Rg3 and neither side will win. **47. Qf4+ Kh7 48. Rg6! Qa1+ 49. Rg1 Qf6 50. Rg6 Qa1+ 51. Rg1 and draw agreed** in L'Ami – Supi, Tata Steel Challengers 2023. **TACTIC 6.** 29. **h5! gxh5+** Or 29. ... g5 30. h6! gxh6 31. Kh5 and White breaks decisively through. **30. Kxh5 Ke7 31. Kg6 Kf8 32. g4 32. Kh7** also wins. **32. ... Kg8 33. f4 a6 34. g5 fxg5 35. fxg5 Kf8 36. Kh7 Kf7 37. g6+ Kf6 38. b3!** and, in zugzwang, **Black resigned.** Tabatabaei – Beerdse, Tata Steel Challengers, 2023. **TACTIC 7.** 21. **Re7!** A classical tactic in 21st century drapes. **21. ... Qxh5 22. Rxxg7+ Kh8 23. Rf7+ Kg8 24. Rg7+ Kh8 25. Rxd7+ Rf6 26. Bxf6+ Kg8 27. Rg7+ Kf8 28. Ng5 Bxf2+ 29. Rxf2 Nc5 30. Bxb2 Qe8 31. Nh7, mate.** Warmerdam – Pechac, Tata Steel Challengers, 2023. **TACTIC 8.** 19. **Rxe6! g4 20. Qe3!** In the game, White instead steered the game to a draw: **20. Qxh4 fxe6 21. Qh5+ Kf8 22. Qh6+ Kf7 23. Qh7+ Kf8 24. Qh6+ Kf7 25. Qh7+ Kf8** and draw by repetition in Beerdse – Vaishali, Tata Steel Challengers, 2023. **20. ... fxe6 21. Qxe6 Rg5 22. Bc4! Qa5 23. Qf7+ Kd8 24. Be6! Bd6 25. Ne4!** and White wins. **TACTIC 9.** 18. **Neg5!! Boom!** **18. ... hxg5 19. Rxe6!** I meant BOOM!! **19. ... fxe6 20. Rxe6 Qxe6 21. Bxe6** White has sacrificed two rooks and a minor piece for a queen to isolate Black's king in the corner. **21. ... Bxf3 22. Qf5! Be4 23. Qxe4 Rxd4 24. Qf3! g4 25. Qf8+ Kh7 26. Bf5+ Kh6 27. Bc2** Guarding the d1-square and threatening Qf8-h8 with mate to follow. **Black resigned** in Giri – Gukesh, Tata Steel Masters, 2023.

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# MY BEST MOVE

## ED FRUMKIN

LIFE MEMBER AND NY CHESS  
STALWART



“  
It's a strange  
way to earn  
chess  
immortality,  
but so it  
goes.”

I'VE BEEN PLAYING CHESS AS long as I can remember, having been taught the moves by my dad, who stopped taking out the set to play me once I could beat him ... at least until Fischer-Spassky turned up on PBS in 1972.

My best friend in elementary school was future six-time U.S. Champion GM Walter Browne, who went by Shawn then. He lived on Marshall Avenue, five blocks north of me, in North Bellmore on Long Island, New York. After sixth grade his family moved to Brooklyn, and I lost track of him until he started appearing in chess magazines.

I played correspondence chess beginning in 1961 — the *Chess Review* section may have been a Bar Mitzvah gift. While in graduate school in 1971 I discovered the Rochester Chess Club and became its president and tournament director by the next year. I eked out a living as a TD until 1976, when I moved back home to work for Uncle Sam in a 39-year career. In 1986 I found the Queens Chess Club and again within a year I was doing the same two jobs — I'm currently president *emeritus*. I have played in over 20 U.S. Opens, and I have entered rated tournaments in over 25 states.

If you recognize my name, it's probably because I lost a very famous game to a young Josh Waitzkin in 1987, one that Waitzkin featured in his 1995 book, *Josh Waitzkin's Attacking Chess*, and that GM Daniel Naroditsky used as the first position in his run as *The New York Times* chess puzzler. It's a strange way to earn chess immortality, but so it goes.

Of course, as a former master, I can play a bit myself. Here's one of my favorite moves. Perhaps Naroditsky will use it in one of his future writing projects.

### QUEEN'S PAWN GAME (A41)

Nick Panico (2092)

Edward Frumkin (2013)

New York State Ch, Albany, 09.06.2009

1. d4 d6 2. Bf4 g6 3. e3 Bg7 4. Nf3 Nd7 5. h3 e5

Punching at the bishop as recommended by GM Andy Soltis in a book from the 1980s.

6. Bh2 Nh6 7. Be2 0-0 8. 0-0 f5 9. c4 g5 10. dxe5 dxe5 11. Qd5+ Nf7 12. Nc3 Qe7 13.

Qd2 c6 14. Rfd1 h5 15. Kh1 g4 16. Ng1  
The Muhammad Ali “Rope-a-Dope?”

16. ... Bh6 17. Qc2 Nh8 18. Rab1 Nf6 19. Bd3 Ne8 20. Re1 Qg7 21. g3 e4 22. Bf1 Ng6 23. Nge2 Ne5 24. Nf4 Nf3 25. Red1 Bxf4 26. gxf4 Be6 27. Be2 Qf7 28. Bxf3 exf3 29. b3 Qe7 30. Bg3 h4 31. Bh2 Nf6 32. Rd2 Kh8 33. Re1 Rg8 34. e4 g3 35. fxf3 hxg3 36. exf5

(see diagram top of next column)

Now comes **MY BEST MOVE**.

36. ... Bd5!

Thought it was pinned, didn't you?

37. cxd5

The alternative 37. Rxe7 f2+ 38. cxd5 g2 mate would have been cute.



37. ... Qxe1+

Mate is one move slower with 37. ... g2+.

38. Bg1 g2+ 39. Rxc2 fxc2+, White resigned.

Note that if White decided to give his king a flight square with 36. Bxc3 Rxc3 37. exf5, the game continuation still works, but with an additional (and pleasing) twist: 37. ... Bd5 38. Rxe7 f2+ 39. Kh2 f1=N mate. ♠

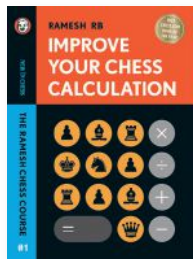
You can read archival copies of “My Best Move” on [uschess.org](http://uschess.org), click on “Chess Life Magazine,” and then “Archives.”



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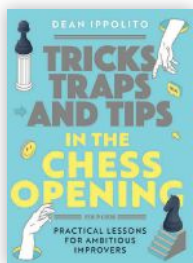


### Chess.com 2022 Book of the Year

Ramesh RB

Coach Ramesh has won the 2022 *Chess.com Book of the Year Award*, in a vote with thousands of chess players. It is well deserved. But beware! It is a tough book that will require some real effort. Are you up for the challenge?

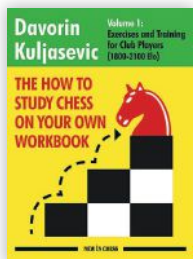
"An absolute divine masterpiece" – *Andras Toth.*



### Exciting Opening Tactics

Dean Ippolito

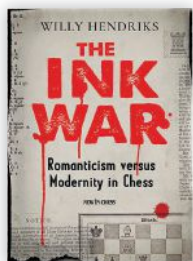
This book introduces you to exciting weapons such as the *Fried Liver Attack* and the *Center Fork Trick*. Experienced American chess coach Dean Ippolito knows how adult improvers should play the opening, and what they can expect from your opponent. The tactical fireworks will also help you to develop your general understanding of the opening.



### The workbook for self-study

Davorin Kuljasevic

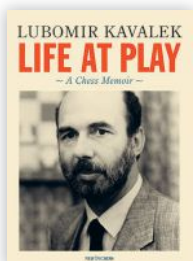
Last year, *How To Study Chess on Your Own*, was a surprise bestseller. Now there is a Workbook with the accompanying exercises and training tools for self-study for all players with an Elo of 1800-2100. Most workbooks offer puzzles and puzzles only. But Kuljasevic has used his experience as a coach to create a much broader and more interesting training schedule with tasks like 'Find the mini-plan'.



### The birth of modern chess

Willy Hendriks

The rivalry between William Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort, the world's strongest chess players in the late nineteenth century, became so fierce that it was named 'The Ink War'. It was not only about who was the strongest player but also about who had the best ideas on how to play the game. In *The Ink War*, IM Willy Hendriks once again offers his unique perspective on the birth of modern chess.



### Kavalek's long-awaited memoir

Lubomir Kavalek

American-Czech Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek (1943-2021) was a three-time US Chess Champion and one of the best chess writers of the last decades. Kavalek could speak from experience as he worked with or met all the chess greats of the last century, from Bobby Fischer to Nigel Short. Including many of his best games with Kavalek's entertaining comments.

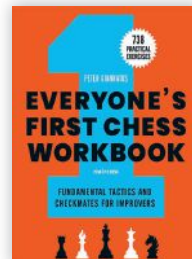
### Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers

Peter Giannatos

The perfect first chess workbook for adult improvers and other beginners. Coaches might find the book, with 738 exercises, very useful as well. It features a complete set of fundamental tactics and checkmate patterns.

'Beautifully formatted with 3 diagrams per page and tremendous examples.'

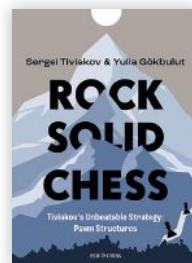
*Fred Wilson, The Marshall Spectator*



### The unbeaten grandmaster

Sergei Tiviakov

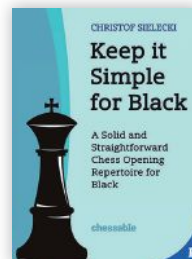
Sergei Tiviakov was unbeaten for a consecutive 110 professional chess games as a grandmaster. Who better to teach you rock-solid chess strategy than Tiviakov? In his first book, he explains everything he knows about the fundamentals of chess strategy: pawn structures.



### Another hit repertoire

Christof Sielecki

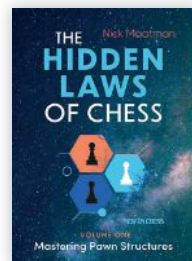
German coach and IM Christof Sielecki presents a complete solution for Black. With this repertoire, you will not only safely navigate the opening phase, but you will actually understand what is happening and how you can play for a win. Why is the repertoire called simple? For the simple reason that the variations are straightforward, easy to remember, and require little or no maintenance.



### Discover the hidden laws of chess

Nick Maatman

IM Nick Maatman invented the *Hidden Laws of Chess* as an instructional tool to help his students bridge the gap between the basic understanding of a club player and the next level of knowledge of Masters and Grandmasters. The *Hidden Laws* will uncover elements such as space, the quality of a pawn structure, and a doubled pawn's strength or weakness.



### How to understand the endgame

Herman Grooten

Improving your knowledge of the 'third phase' in a chess game will bring you many extra half or even full points. After the success of his award-winning classics, *Chess Strategy for Club Players* and *Attacking Chess for Club Players* Herman Grooten has now written an equally instructive endgame manual. He teaches you how to understand the themes of an endgame, and find the right moves based on your understanding.



# NATIONAL OPEN U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN



**US CHESS**  
FEDERATION

JUNE 14 – 18, 2023



## INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL



### NATIONAL OPEN

JUNE 14–18, 15–18, 16–18, OR 17–18

**\$100,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND**

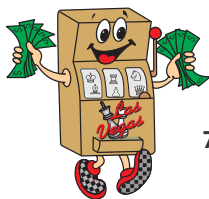
7 Rounds (Open 9) ◦ 8 Sections ◦ Top 3 FIDE Rated

Game/90 +30 ◦ 3-day rounds 1–2 G/60 +10 ◦ 2-day rounds 1–4 G/30 +5

**Beginners Section** with 3 Schedules of 5 Rounds Each Day

Open Section 9 Rounds in 5 days with **FIDE Norms Possible**

*Winner is a US Chess National Champion and receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup*



### U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY JUNE 14–15

**\$3,500 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND**

5 Round Swiss ◦ FIDE Rated ◦ G/90 +30

*Winner is a US Chess National Champion and receives the Women's Open Cup*



### WALTER BROWNE MEMORIAL NATIONAL OPEN BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY JUNE 17 AT 9:00 P.M.

**\$3,600 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND**

6 Double Round Swiss ◦ 2 Sections ◦ G/3 +2

US Chess Blitz Rated ◦ Top Section FIDE Blitz Rated

*Winner receives a replica of the Walter Shawn Browne Cup*

### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNE 17–18

6 Round Swiss ◦ 4 Sections by Age and Rating

Dozens of Individual & Team Trophies

Chess Merchandise Prizes Awarded in Each Section



*Safety protocols or government regulations may require us to restrict spectators, limit attendance, or cancel some side events. Check our website for the latest information.*

[www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com)



#### GM or IM Simuls

OPEN TO ALL

THURSDAY 3:00 P.M.

OPEN TO AGE 14 & UNDER

SATURDAY 7:00 P.M.

#### Grandmaster Chess Camp

FOR ALL AGES & Strengths THURSDAY 10 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

#### Blitz & Action Tournaments

ACTION QUADS

THURSDAY 2:00 P.M.

YOUTH BLITZ (AGE 14 & UNDER)

FRIDAY 6:30 P.M.

8 PLAYER BLITZ SECTIONALS

FRIDAY 11:30 P.M.

8 PLAYER BLITZ SECTIONALS

SUNDAY 9:00 P.M.

#### Free Lectures & Analysis

THURSDAY – SUNDAY

#### Youth Side Events (age 14 & under)

TROPHY TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY 10:00 A.M.

YOUTH BLITZ

FRIDAY 6:30 P.M.

PUZZLE SOLVING COMPETITION

SATURDAY 6:00 P.M.

YOUTH SIMUL

SATURDAY 7:00 P.M.



Reserve online at [VegasChessFestival.com/hotel](http://VegasChessFestival.com/hotel) or call 888-746-6955 and ask for International Chess Group Rates. Reserve by May 18 to ensure the low rate of \$69 (\$99 Friday & Saturday) with discounted resort fees.

**Win Free Hotel Stay During Chess Festival** - reserve your room early for a chance to win your stay for free. Earlier reservations have more chances to win!