

# CHESS LIFE Kids



## 2018 JUNIOR CHAMPS!

GM Awonder Liang and FM Carissa Yip win in St. Louis

# CHESS

## PROGRAMMING AT YOUR SCHOOL

The Saint Louis Chess Club has been teaching chess in Greater Saint Louis for **10 years**, and just this past year, we taught chess classes in over **90 schools** throughout the city!








Chess is fun for students, and promotes academic success. Check to see if your school offers chess instruction! If not, the Saint Louis Chess Club can help set yours up today.

*Schools without funding may be eligible for scholarships or grants. For questions about getting a chess program in your school, just email [scholastics@saintlouischessclub.org](mailto:scholastics@saintlouischessclub.org) and we'll do the rest!*



**Saint Louis**  
CHESS CLUB

### **Building Champions: In the Classroom and the Community**

4657 Maryland Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63108 | 314.361.CHESS (2437) | [saintlouischessclub.org](http://saintlouischessclub.org)  
[info@saintlouischessclub.org](mailto:info@saintlouischessclub.org) | @STLChessClub #STLChessClub     

*The Saint Louis Chess Club and World Chess Hall of Fame admit students and visitors of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.*



# CHESS LIFE Kids

US Chess Executive Director: Carol Meyer  
[carol.meyer@uschess.org](mailto:carol.meyer@uschess.org)

Senior Director of Strategic Communication:  
 Daniel Lucas  
[dilucas@uschess.org](mailto:dilucas@uschess.org)

Chess Life Kids Editor: Melinda Matthews  
[mmatthews@uschess.org](mailto:mmatthews@uschess.org)

Creative Content Coordinator: Natasha Roberts  
[nroberts@uschess.org](mailto:nroberts@uschess.org)

Character Designer and Illustrator:  
 Chandler Ellison  
[www.chandlerellison.com](http://www.chandlerellison.com)

Editorial Asst./Copy Editor: Alan Kantor  
[akantor@uschess.org](mailto:akantor@uschess.org)

Tournament Life: Joan DuBois  
[tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org)

CONTRIBUTORS: Send your contributions and articles to *Chess Life Kids*, PO Box 3967, Crossville, Tennessee 38557 or email to [mmatthews@uschess.org](mailto:mmatthews@uschess.org).

*Chess Life KIDS* (USPS 023-567, ISSN: 1932-5894) is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December of every year by US Chess, 137 O'Brien Drive, Crossville, Tennessee 38555. Periodical postage paid at Crossville, Tennessee, and additional mailing offices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Be sure to notify us at once of any change of address. Please include your old address and your new address, along with your US Chess I.D. number.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville, Tennessee 38557.

Annual Scholastic Membership: Regular Scholastic Membership (online version of *Chess Life Kids*), age 12 or younger, is just \$17 per year. Premium Scholastic Membership (receives *Chess Life Kids* by mail) is \$25 per year. \$13 of every premium membership goes towards providing *Chess Life Kids*. Annual subscription rate is \$18. Entire contents copyright 2018, US Chess.

Teachers may photocopy instructional articles for classroom use, but republication or widespread copying without the written consent of US Chess is forbidden.



# CONTENTS

## 04

IT'S YOUR MOVE

## 07

YOU CAN DO IT!  
 By ICCM Jon Edwards

## 08

CHESS KIDS  
 By Al Lawrence

## 10

AVOID THE TRAP!  
 By Bruce Pandolfini

## 12

U.S. JUNIOR & U.S.  
 JUNIOR GIRLS'  
 CHAMPIONSHIPS  
 By GM Robert Hess

## 17

ANSWERS

## 18

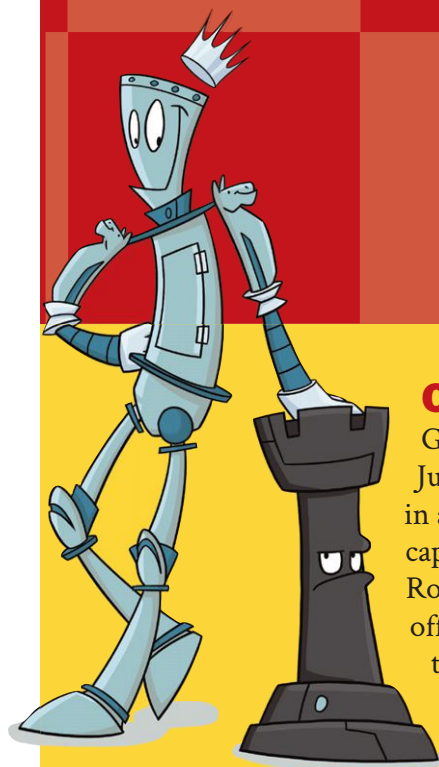
JUNIOR GRAND  
 PRIX

## 19

TOURNAMENT  
 LIFE

## 22

MY FIRST MOVE  
 This month: Dr. Alexey  
 Root, WIM



## ON THE COVER

GM A wonder Liang, 15, won the U.S. Junior Championship for the second year in a row, while FM Carissa Yip, 14, captured the U.S. Junior Girls' crown. GM Robert Hess, a commentator for the events, offers game highlights from both tournaments in his cover story beginning on page 12. *Cover photo: Austin Fuller, courtesy of the Saint Louis Chess Club.*

# It's Your Move

## Draw Fabi!

**Fabiano Fever** is everywhere! *Chess Life Kids* received many worthy submissions for our Draw Fabi! contest in the July 2018 issue. Though it was a tough decision, the judges selected the following winner and four honorable mentions. Congratulations to all!



### WINNER:

Ayawyn Conner

Age: 12

Home state: Wisconsin

Ayawyn likes practicing chess with her brother and her chess club, as well as competing in chess tournaments. Last year she won first place in the novice section at the Wisconsin G/60

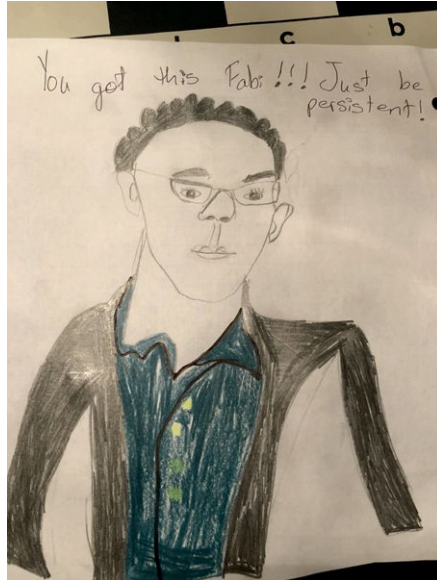
Championship! Two of the biggest tournaments she has participated in are the 2017 SuperNationals VI and the 119th U.S. Open this past summer.



# HONORABLE MENTIONS:



Laya Srinivas  
Age: 12  
Home state: Texas



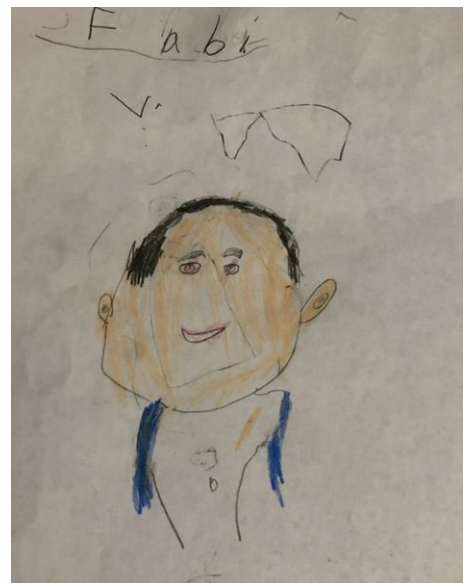
Velid Hot  
Age: 10  
Home state: New York



Sriniketh Ganti  
Age: 10  
Home state: Arizona



The World Championship takes place from November 9-28 in London, England. Be sure to cheer on Fabiano Caruana as he challenges the current world champion, Magnus Carlsen, for the title.



Srivatsa Ganti  
Age: 5  
Home state: Arizona

Photos of Fabiano Caruana (opposite page) and Caruana and Carlsen (this page) courtesy of Saint Louis Chess Club. All other photos and drawings courtesy of entrants.

# Official US Chess online rated!

No entry fees » No hotel costs » Free parking

20% off ICC membership

Bonus



[www.chessclub.com/uschess](http://www.chessclub.com/uschess)



US CHESS



# ChessKid

.com

## PLAY



## LEARN



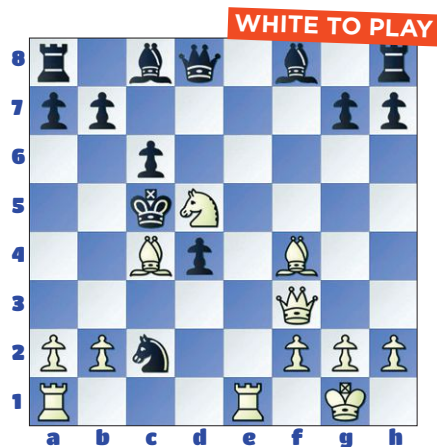
**#1 Chess Site for Kids. 200,000+ Kids, Parents, & Coaches!**  
**100% Safe and Kid-Friendly! Signup Today - it's FREE!**

# YOU CAN DO IT!

by ICCM Jon Edwards  
10th United States Correspondence Chess Champion

A few months back, I played the following game in a simultaneous exhibition. My opponent bravely allowed the Fried Liver Attack, and I accepted the invitation. I missed the best continuation (12. Qg3+) but the following attack was fun to play.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6
4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7
- Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Nb4 9.
- O-O c6 10. d4 exd4 11. Re1+ Kd6
12. Nxd5 Nxc2 13. Bf4+ Kc5

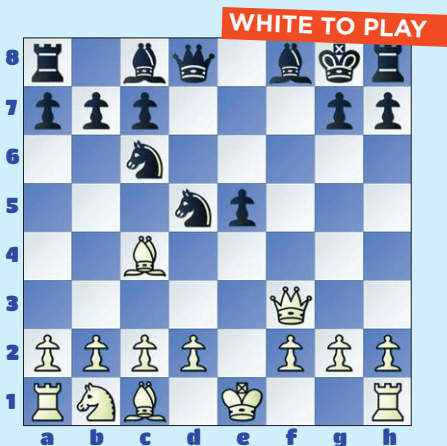


14. b4+ Kxc4 15. Qb3+ Kb5 16.
- a4+ Ka6 17. Qc4+ b5 18. Qxc6+
- Qb6 19. axb5 mate (or 19. Nc7
- mate).

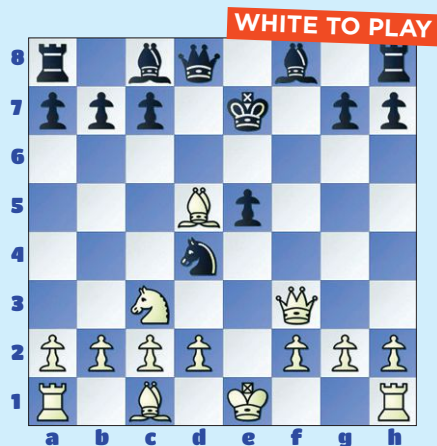
This month's quiz involves positions in the Fried Liver Attack. If you play this variation, you should enjoy these positions. A few are tough, but I know that ...

YOU CAN DO IT!

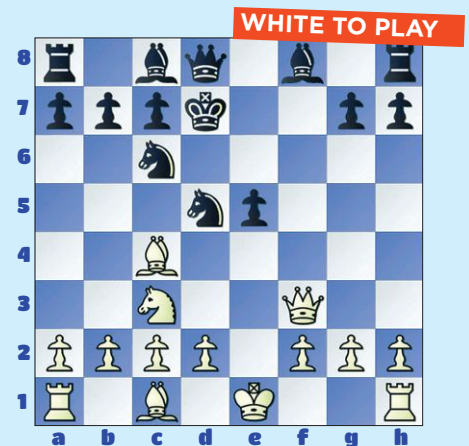
## QUIZ #1



## QUIZ #3



## QUIZ #5



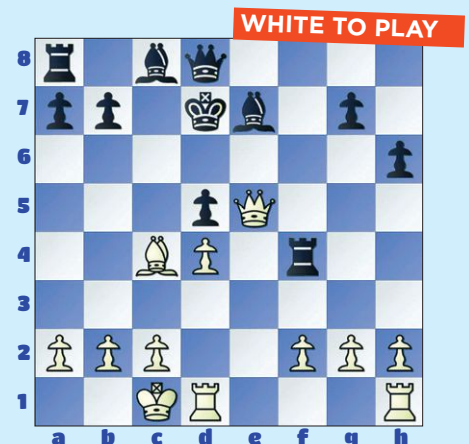
## QUIZ #2



## QUIZ #4



## QUIZ #6



Please turn to page 17

# Chess Kids



## Across the Board

By Al Lawrence

*Celebrating Chess Life Kids from across the country.*

## Rachael Li

Plano, Texas



Rachael, left, may be young, but she has serious goals! Below, how many chess stars can you spot in this photo?



## “BEATING ANYONE BIGGER IS FUN!”

Ruifeng Li, just 17, earned the highest title in chess two years ago. He’s already an international grandmaster. You might think he’s the only chess star in his family people talk about. But he has an eight-year-old sister named Rachael.

Rachael started playing in official tournaments when she was

only four years old. “I didn’t start until I was six,” her brother says. Now Rachael’s US Chess rating is better than 95 percent of all the *official tournament* players in the United States, no matter what age they are. She will soon lead not just the girls’ top 100, but also the overall list of both girls and boys her age.

“But I’ve not reached any goals yet,” she said. Her goals are nothing short of the grandmaster title and a world championship crown.

Rachael belongs to the Dallas Chess Club, a training ground for many champions. The club is led by Luis Salinas. Luis also works with the championship University



of Texas at Dallas chess program. “The club produced many strong chess players, like Grandmaster Jeffery Xiong and my brother Ruifeng,” Rachel said. “Also, many UT-Dallas grandmasters and international masters play at this club.”

She also plays online at *Chess.com* and *lichess.com*. She solves about 40 tactical problems each day. “I don’t have any formal coach,” Rachael said. “Instead, my dad and brother train me every day.” Having a famous big brother helps in other ways too. Rachael travels with him when he plays in the U.S. Junior Championships in St. Louis. There she’s met some of the most famous chess players in the world, like former World Champion Garry Kasparov.

Besides chess, Rachael likes drawing, badminton and ping-

pong. “I like to compete with my brother in *everything*! And I want to beat anyone who’s bigger or older than me. It’s fun!”

In November, Rachael travels

to Spain to represent the USA in the World Cadet Championship. She will have a chance to reach one of her goals—a world championship title!

Right, Rachael with her brother, GM Ruifeng Li (seated) and her father, Zhenjiang Li. Below: Rachael blitzes with ex-NFL football player John Urschel while a star-studded crowd looks on.



Photo (top) by Al Lawrence. All other photos courtesy of Saint Louis Chess Club.



# AVOID THE by Bruce Pandolfini TRAP!

## The Central Pawn Fork

*This column teaches you openings by helping you learn to avoid opening traps. Set up your board and pieces and play through the game below. Have paper and pen by your side. When you reach a question, write down your answer. After you are done with all 10 questions, check your answers on page 17. Total your points and see how you did against the scoring scale at the end!*

It happens to all of us, at least as introductory players. We learn the importance of playing for the center. It quickly becomes clear that we should develop our pieces, preferably toward the middle. We should also castle rapidly, or at least prepare to castle fairly soon. We should seize open lines, and certainly we should answer all direct and indirect threats. What's more, we should play with a plan. That's a lot of things to consider. As we're doing all of that, going from one principled action to the next, we may forget that conditions on the board are constantly subject to change. For example, just because we've developed bishops and knights

toward a fairly safe middle doesn't mean that that region will remain safe. Indeed, centralized pieces may suddenly become engulfed by a rolling, protected pawn mass once it gets going. For the tactic presented here, it takes two pawn moves to set it up. The first pawn move gains time by threatening a bishop. After the bishop moves to safety, a further pawn advance gives the winning fork. Enough of this vagueness. Let's get specific and see what we've been talking about.

### 1. e2-e4

White starts with a king-pawn opening, but the ensuing idea can happen just as fluidly after White begins with a queen-pawn opening. To be sure, though a move behind, Black can muster similar trappy attacks.

### 1. ... e7-e5

Black gets a fair and equal share of the center with a symmetrical reply. A slightly more popular response these days is 1. ... c7-c5, the asymmetrical Sicilian Defense.

### 2. Ng1-f3

This move develops a knight toward the middle, while menacing the e5-pawn. The move also supports the subsequent advance, d2-d4, which creates the possibility of opening the center.

Q1) WHAT DETERMINES WHETHER A LINE IS OPEN OR CLOSED? (10 POINTS)

Q2) GENERALLY, HOW DOES ONE OPEN THE CENTER? (10 POINTS)

### 2. ... Nb8-c6

Black develops toward the center and thereby guards the e5-pawn.

Q3) INSTEAD OF 2. ... NB8-C6, WHAT ARE TWO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR BLACK? (10 POINTS)?

### 3. Bf1-e2

This is a safe, but rather passive move. It's certainly not very ambitious.

Q4) INSTEAD OF THE QUIET 3. BF1-E2, WHITE HAS FOUR OTHER MOVES THAT ARE MORE ACTIVE: WHAT ARE THEY? (10 POINTS)

### 3. ... Bf8-c5

Black plays a logical developing move. It attacks the d4-square, making it more difficult for White to play a subsequent d2-d4.

### 4. O-O

Time to castle and get ready for business.

Q5) INSTEAD OF CASTLING, COULD WHITE HAVE SATISFACTORILY PLAYED 4. Nf3xe5? (10 POINTS)

### 4. ... d7-d6

Black bolsters the king-pawn by this pawn advance. The move 4. ... d7-d6 also clears the way for the queen-bishop.

Q6) INSTEAD OF 4. ... D7-D6, WHAT OTHER PLAUSIBLE MOVE COULD BLACK HAVE PLAYED? (10 POINTS)

### 5. c2-c3

By playing this move, White momentarily takes away the possibility of putting a white knight on c3. However, the move does contain a dash of potential poison.

Q7) WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ADVANCE 5. C2-C3? (10 POINTS)

### 5 ... Bc8-e6?



This last move, 5. ... Bc8-e6, is an egregious blunder. Even if it didn't wind up losing material, it's merely development for development's sake, without regard to what's really happening.

Q8) ON MOVE FIVE, IF BLACK HAD TOUCHED THE C8-BISHOP, AND THEREFORE WAS COMPELLED TO MOVE IT, WHERE COULD THE BISHOP SAFELY GO TO? (10 POINTS)

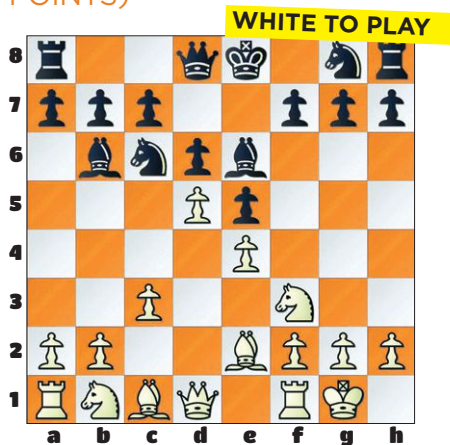
### 6. d2-d4

The killing aspect of this move is that it gains time by threatening the c5-bishop. No matter how Black responds, he is going to lose a piece.

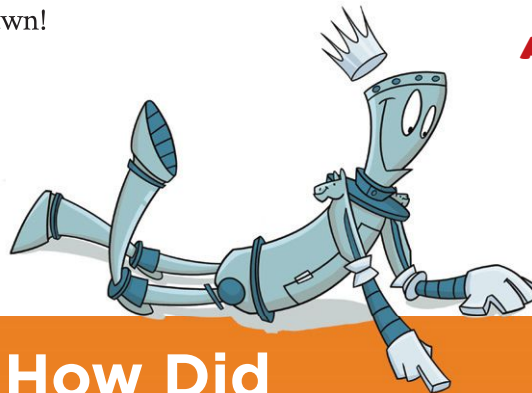
### 6. ... Bc5-b6 7. d4-d5

The pawn fork wins a minor piece for a pawn.

Q9) COULD BLACK HAVE SAVED THE POSITION BY PLAYING 6. ... E5xd4? (10 POINTS)



White wins a minor piece for a pawn!



Q10) WHAT WAS THE LAST PLACE BLACK COULD HAVE AVOIDED THE TRAP? (10 POINTS)

### ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

Max Euwe versus J. Graafland, Netherlands, 1925 (A12)

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 c6 3. Bg2 d5 4. b3 Bf5 5. Bb2 e6 6. Nf3 Bd6 7. O-O Nbd7 8. d3 O-O 9. Nbd2 Qe7 10. Re1 Rfe8 (Now White has a double pawn advance, resulting in a pawn fork at e5.) 11. e4 dxe4 12. dxe4 and Black resigned. After the f5-bishop moves to safety, White wins material by 13. e4-e5.



Answers are on page 17

## How Did You Score?

The score is based on the US Chess rating system and is intended only as a fun way to monitor your progress each issue as you Avoid The Trap!

- 100: 1800+
- 90: 1600
- 80: 1400
- 70: 1200
- 60 or lower: 1000

# Tactics Speak Louder Than Ratings!

by GM Robert Hess

*At the U.S. Junior and U.S. Girls' Junior Championships underestimating the opponent led to some big upsets.*

On paper, the higher the rating, the better the player and the more likely they are to win. In practice, though, high ratings often don't translate into winning results, as we saw at the 2018 U.S. Junior Championship and U.S. Girls' Junior Championship, held from July 12th-21st at the Saint Louis Chess Club.

Ten elite juniors in each tournament vied for the title, a precious qualification spot in the 2019 U.S. Championship or U.S. Women's Championship, and a portion of the generous prize fund that totaled over \$30,000. An impressive five grandmasters competed in the Junior, while five of the junior girls boasted FIDE ratings above 2200 (six if you count Annie Wang, the runner-up at the 2018 U.S. Women's Championship and the wildcard in this year's Junior).

Tournament favorites GM Awonder Liang and FM Carissa Yip

won their respective events, but they each took different paths to get there. Awonder—who came in as the defending champion and who had scored U.S. Championship draws against world top 10 players Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, and Wesley So—started slowly with three draws and was a bit frustrated with his play before winning four of his next five games. Carissa—who was at her peak rating of 2364 FIDE and had just earned an IM norm at the Charlotte Chess Center Invitational in June—pulled into the lead as early as round four and never relinquished the top spot.

Over the course of nine rounds, some big upsets occurred. Alex Bian, the lowest rated player in the U.S. Junior, defeated two grandmasters (in the first two rounds!) and finished with an impressive 5/9. He said that having a lower rating was an advantage because it made his

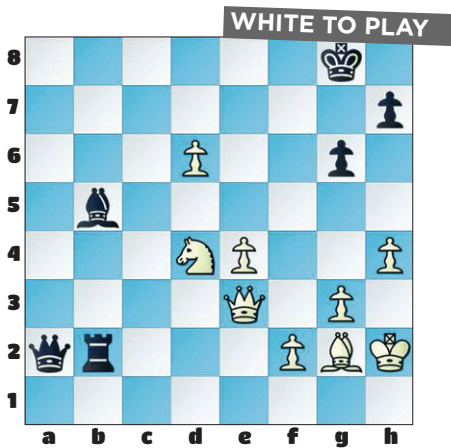
opponents underestimate him. Carissa was 4½/5 when she lost to Sophie Morris-Suzuki, who had lost all five of her previous games and was over 300 points lower-rated. Sophie gave some great advice to people who may be struggling in a tournament: treat every game as if it is a new tournament. I'll add that ratings represent past performance; in any one round, a 2000 is equally likely to play like a 2400 as a 1600.

Without further ado, let's let the players' moves do the talking!

**GM Akshat Chandra (2486)**  
**FM Alex Bian (2291)**  
**2018 U.S. Junior Championship (1), St. Louis, Missouri, 07.12.2018**  
**(see diagram at top of next column)**

Akshat Chandra had spent most of the game with a huge advantage, but under time trouble things started to go wrong.

**52. Nxb5?**



Position after 51. ... Rb2

The white king avoids mate with the knight on d4: 52. Qg5 Rxf2 53. Qxb5 Rxc2+ 54. Kh3 Rh2+ 55. Kg4 and there's no attack with the knight covering e6. 55. ... Qf7 56. Qb8+ Kg7 57. Qc7 leads to a won ending.

**52. ... Rxf2**

Now it's equal, but mistakes often come in pairs.

**53. Nc3?**

53. Nd4 Rxc2+ 54. Kh3 Rh2+ 55. Kg4 Qf7 56. Qb3 is equal.

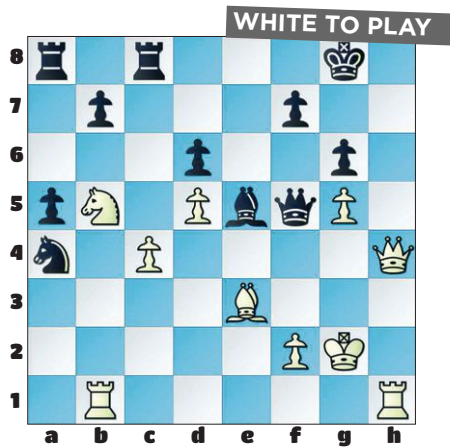
**53. ... Rxc2+**

Now Black wins by force.

**54. Kh3 Rh2+ 55. Kg4 Qe6+**

**56. Kg5 Qe5+ 57. Kg4 h5+ 58. Kf3 Qf6+, White resigned,** since he was to lose his knight.

**GM Akshat Chandra (2486)**  
**IM Advait Patel (2461)**  
**2018 U.S. Junior Championship**  
**(6), St. Louis, Missouri, 07.18.2018**



Position after 33. ... Be5

Black is under a huge attack and his bishop is overloaded. Akshat takes advantage with ...

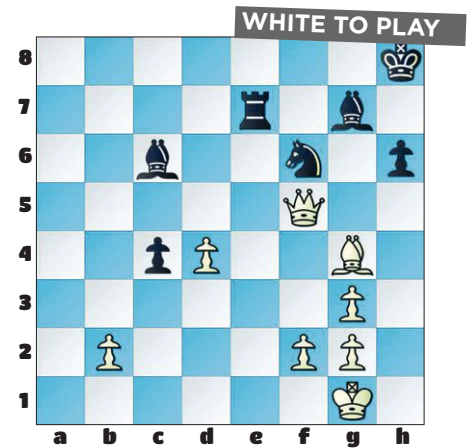
**34. Nxd6! Qd7**

34. ... Bxd6 35. Qh8#.

**35. Bd4 Rxc4 36. Qh8+!, Black resigned.**

Advait, who led with four out of five before the round, resigned before the rook took the queen's place on h8.

**GM Andrew Tang (2507)**  
**GM John Michael Burke (2524)**  
**2018 U.S. Junior Championship**  
**(6), St. Louis, Missouri, 07.18.2018**



Position after 40. ... Nf6

The players had just received more time by reaching move 40 when Andrew blundered. Even grandmasters make huge mistakes!

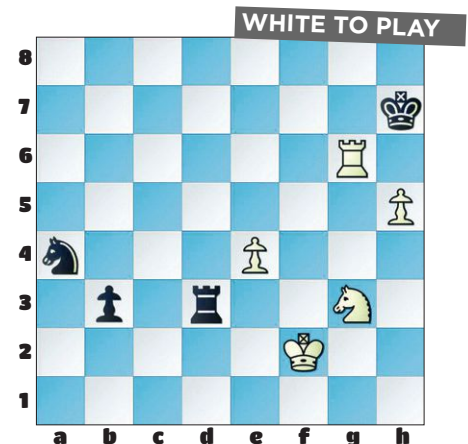
**41. Qc8+?**

41. Bf3 Re1+ 42. Kh2 Bxf3 43. gxf3 is approximately equal, despite the material imbalance.

**41. ... Re8, White resigned.**

Andrew resigned because John would deliver a forced checkmate after 42. Qxc6 Re1+ 43. Kh2 Nxg4+ 44. Kh3 Nxf2+ 45. Kh2 Rh1 mate.

**IM Praveen Balakrishnan (2411)**  
**GM Awonder Liang (2569)**  
**2018 U.S. Junior Championship**  
**(8), St. Louis, Missouri,**  
**07.20.2018**



Position after 66. ... Kh7

**67. Ne2**



A friendly handshake between tournament winner FM Carissa Yip (left) and FM Jennifer Yu in the final round.

67. e5 was the only way to avoid a loss. Because Ng3-e4-f6 threatens a nice checkmate, Black should play 67. ... Nc5. If 67. ... b2 68. Ne4 b1=Q. Promoting a pawn typically results in victory, but mate is more important than material! 69. Nf6+ Kh8 70. Rg8 mate.

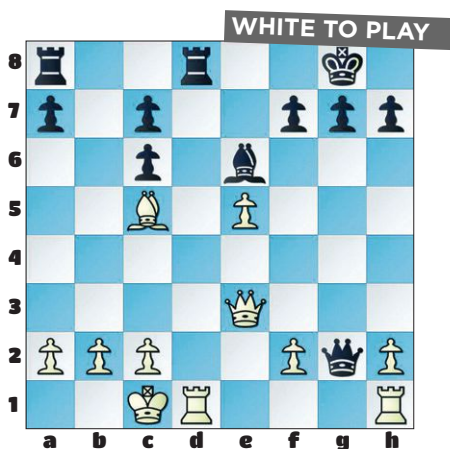
**67. ... b2**

The only way for Praveen to stop the passed pawn was to sacrifice his rook.

**68. Rg1 Ra3 69. e5 Ra1 70. e6 Rxb3, White resigned.**

A very important win that helped Awonder secure the title.

**FM Alex Bian (2291)**  
**IM Praveen Balakrishnan (2411)**  
**2018 U.S. Junior Championship (9), St. Louis, Missouri, 07.21.2018**



*Position after 16. ... Rfd8*

Praveen's king may look safe, but there are few pieces there to protect it. Can you see how Alex pulled off another big upset?

**17. Rdg1 Qd5 18. Rxb7+! Kh8**

No better is 18. ... Kxg7 19. Qg5+ Kh8 20. Qf6+ Kg8 21. Rg1+ Bg4 22. Rxb7 mate.

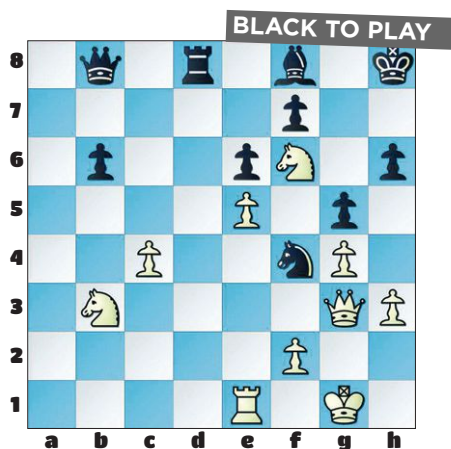
**19. Rhg1 Bf5 20. Qh6 Qxe5 21. Be7!**

The bishop can't be captured: 21. ... Qxe7 22. Rxb7+! Bxb7 23. Qg7 mate.

**21. ... Rd6 22. Rg8+!, Black resigned.**

A beautiful last touch. 22. ... Rxb7 23. Rxb7+ Kxg8 24. Qf8 forced mate.

**FM Carissa Yip (2364)**  
**Sophie Morris-Suzuki (1980)**  
**2018 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship (6), St. Louis, Missouri, 07.18.2018**



*Position after 43. Qg3*

Sophie had previously found a brilliant tactic, and here she finds another. Can you figure out which piece is overloaded?

**43. ... Rd3 44. Re3 Rxb3!**

It's the rook! If 45. Rxb3 Ne2+ wins the queen.

**45. Qf3 Qxe5!**

Sophie spots a really nice win!

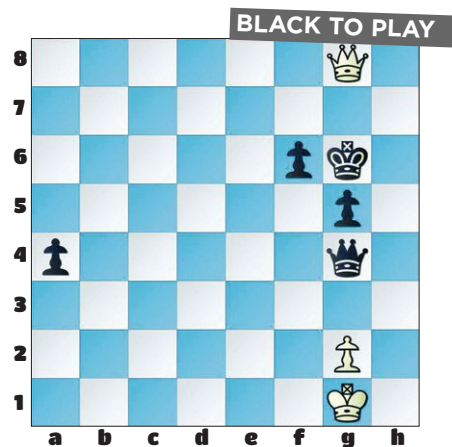
**46. Rxb3 Qa1+ 47. Kh2 Bd6 48. Rb1**

48. Ne4 attacks the bishop but does not stop the attack: 48. ... Ne2+ 49. Nxd6 Qg1#.

**48. ... Ng6+, White resigned.**

Carissa resigned since 49. Kg2 Nh4 is mate.

**WFM Thalia Cervantes Landeiro (2208)**  
**FM Jennifer Yu (2358)**  
**2018 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship (5), St. Louis, Missouri, 07.16.2018**



*Position after 92. Qg8+*

Jennifer had been better for most of the game, but her advantage is gone.



Participants enjoyed moments of levity and camaraderie.



**92. ... Kf5 93. Qc8+ Kf4 94. Qc4+ Kg3??**

94. ... Kf5 95. Qc8+ Kf4 96. Qc4+ is a draw by repetition.

**95. Qc7+!**

Jennifer must have calculated only 95. Qd3+ Kh4 96. Qh7+ Qh5 when White has to find a tricky draw with 97. g3+.

**95. ... Qf4 96. Qc3+ Kg4 97. Qh3 mate.**

**FM Maggie Feng (2236)**  
**FM Carissa Yip (2364)**  
**2018 U.S. Girls' Junior**  
**Championship (8), St. Louis,**  
**Missouri, 07.20.2018**



*Position after 27. Qf3*

Your attention should be on the light squares with so many pieces on the diagonal.

**27. ... Rxd3! 28. Qg4+**

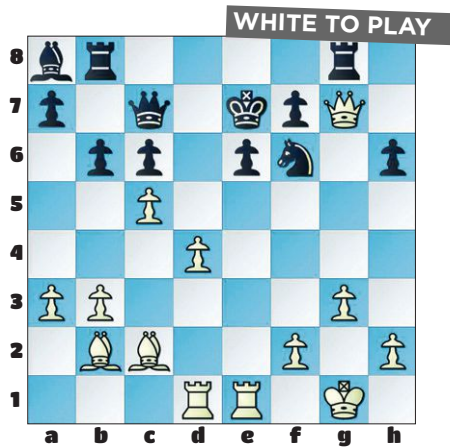
28. Qxd3 Bxc4 Black wins material, as 29. Rxe5 Bxd3 attacks two rooks and a knight. Other moves for White give back the rook on e2, and Black will be up two pawns.

**28. ... Rg5 29. Qe4 Qxc4, White resigned.**

**GM Awonder**  
**Liang strikes a**  
**confident pose.**

Carissa went on to easily convert her advantage.

**FM Jennifer Yu (2358)**  
**WFM Nastassja Matus (1960)**  
**2018 U.S. Girls' Junior**  
**Championship (6), St. Louis,**  
**Missouri, 07.18.2018**



*Position after 27. ... Rg8*

White is up a pawn and has a strong attack, but it's important to finish the job before your opponent can escape.

**28. Rxe6+!**

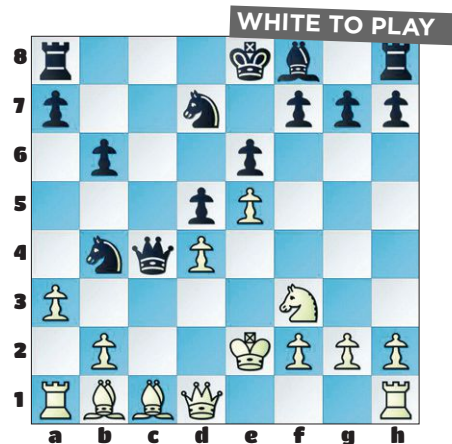
A rook sacrifice that forces the king into the open where it has nowhere to run.

**28. ... Kxe6 29. Re1+ Kd5**

29. ... Kd7 30. Bf5+ Kd8 31. Qxf6+ Qe7 32. Qxe7 mate.

**30. Qxf6 Rbe8 31. Qf3+ Re4 32. Qxe4 mate.**

**WIM Emily Nguyen (2215)**  
**FM Maggie Feng (2236)**  
**2018 U.S. Girls' Junior**  
**Championship (7), St. Louis,**  
**Missouri, 07.19.2018**



*Position after 13. ... Qc4*

One of the more incredible moves in the entire tournament happened in a normal-looking position. 14. Ke1 looks like a safe response, but then White has to deal with 14. ... Rc8 attacking the bishop on c1 with tempo. Emily found the great ...

**14. Ke3!**

... and **won after a long struggle**. Don't be afraid to move up the board if your king does not get in danger and the retreat is inferior.



All photos courtesy of Saint Louis Chess Club.

# Chess NYC Play n Go's™ Popping Up All Over NYC

Chess NYC's Play N Go™ events' impact on a kids' tournament play is beginning to "document."

These weekly Chess Leagues (along with inspirational prizes) also allow the occasional attendees to "drop-in" and play when they can. They provide a "sparring environment" and matches that "count" towards USCF Ratings in a Chess Tournament setting, and they're proving to be a brilliant approach to Championship preparation.

Director Michael Propper and Team provide pre-game training and the rationalization that improvement is a "win", even if it doesn't earn a "W", pointing out that these Meets are fun prep for the big events scheduled throughout the year prior to each meet.

Players are then "paired" with (3) like-skilled opponents and play USCF rated matches with each one.

Participants are challenged to play their best game and overcome familiar and increasingly stronger opponents over and over again during the scholastic seasons.

\*Chess NYC focuses them on the City, State, National, Susan Polgar World Open, and Mayor's Cup competitions.

These events have been so successful that the upcoming season of Play N Go™ now includes (4) locations and the Organization is preparing for more!

Last year Chess NYC hosted both Play N Go™ Saturdays at PS 267 and Play N Go™ Sundays at PS 183 from 11am - 2pm. The two new locations are PS

126 on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm and PS 87 on Friday nights at 6pm. If someone forgot to register ahead of time, no worries! They can drop in and register onsite! However, Chess NYC does tend to fill up during the school year, so in order to be guaranteed a seat, the earlier a person registers beforehand the better.

By remaining "short and sweet," Play N Go™ allows time for preparation and invaluable "post matches" game review by the Coaching Staff onhand. Chess NYC's "style" leaves the kids "fresh" and excited. Enjoying the game but not draining, participants have improved their play immeasurably! Many have doubled and tripled their ratings by capitalizing on Play N Go's™ weekly!

Parents are even able to watch the Chess play behind (waist high) barriers at the outskirts of the play arena. While not permitted to "speak or motion" (lest they be asked to leave), this gives parents the

opportunity to observe play and provide support for their children as "Assistant Coaches", pointing out bad habits or potential for improvement in play based on the "arms length distance" they might witness during matches.

"This is the greatest concept we have ever come up with," lauded Company Director and Head Coach Michael Propper. "And we've just scratched the surface," he promised, adding that "kids need to feel good about themselves no matter win or lose, and Play N Go™ leads them down that path to success." He smiled and closed with "It's all good", as several Players approached him to brag about how they'd played this week.



For more information and registration, please visit [www.chessnyc.com](http://www.chessnyc.com)



Chess coach Rebecca overlooking junior Play n Go™ game

Photo by Shuhan Xie





Save the Date(s)!



Susan Polgar Foundation & Chess NYC™ present:

# 13TH ANNUAL SUSAN POLGAR FOUNDATION WORLD OPEN FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

## \$ 100,000+ in Scholarship and Chess Prizes!



Date: Friday-Monday, January 18-21  
Robert F. Wagner Middle School  
220 E 76th St, New York, NY 10021



**\*plus a FULL or HALF day of Chess NYC Fun and Training™ camp with GM Susan Polgar and special guests!**

**Further information & registration at:**

**[www.chessnyc.com/spfwo.com](http://www.chessnyc.com/spfwo.com)**

## Answers, We've got Answers.

### AVOID THE TRAP

A1) A line is considered closed to the friendly side if blocked by a friendly pawn. A line is considered open to the friendly side if no friendly pawns obstruct piece movement along that line.

A2) Usually, the center is opened by pawn advances that lead to at least one exchange. Thus, after an earlier e2-e4, White would seek to open the center by playing d2-d4.

A3) Black could try the solidifying 2. ... d7-d6, Philidor's Defense, or counter with 2. ... Ng8-f6, Petroff's Defense.

A4) White could more actively play 3. Bf1-c4, 3. Bf1-b5, 3. d2-d4, or 3. Nb1-c3. All four are stronger than Bf1-e2.

A5) White indeed could have played 4. Nf3xe5, a discombobulating tactic known as the "Fork Trick." If Black continues, 4. ... Nc6xe5, White regains the piece with a central pawn fork, 5. d2-d4. White is also okay if instead of 4. ... Nc6xe5 Black tries to interpolate 4. ... Bc5xf2+. Even though the king moves, 5. Ke1xf2, losing the castling privilege, White comes away with the center and the initiative after 5. ... Nc6xe5 6. d2-d4.

A6) It would be entirely reasonable for Black to continue with 4. ... Ng8-f6, developing a knight toward the center, attacking the e4-pawn, and also clearing the home rank for kingside castling.

A7) The advance c2-c3 does a number of things (it opens the d1-a4 diagonal for the white queen and it keeps black pieces out of d4), but it's main purpose is to support the subsequent advance d2-d4.

A8) If called for "touch move," Black should have placed the light-square bishop back on c8 and thought about the move for at least five minutes. Then he might have found the composure to calmly play 5. ... Bc8-d7 or 5. ... Bc8-g4, both of which are much better than 5. ... Bc8-e6.

A9) It would come to the same thing. Black would still lose a piece after 6. ... e5xd4 7. c3xd4, and if 7. ... Bc5-b6, then 8. d4-d5.

A10) Black didn't have to fall for the trap on move five by playing 5. ... Bc8-e6. He could have played 5. ... Ng8-f6 or 5. ... Bc5-b6, both of which would surely have held the position.

### YOU CAN DO IT

Solution #1: White mates in three after both **Bxd5+** and **Qxd5+**.

Solution #2: Kamoga-Gonza, 2012: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Bb4 White wins quickly after Nxd5, but the most accurate path is Bxd5+. The game ended with 9. Bxd5+ Ke7 10. Qf7+ Kd6 11. Ne4 mate.

Solution #3: Torres Herrero-Pascual de la Fuente, 1985: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Nd4 9. Bxd5+ Ke7 White mates in two with 10. Qf7+ Kd6 11. Ne4 mate.

Solution #4: Shivacheva-Eglite, 2007: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Kd6 White mates in three. 9. Qxd5+ Ke7 10. Qf7+ Kd6 11. Ne4 mate.

Solution #5: Esenov-Lau, 1998: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Kd7 9. Qxd5+ Ke7 (9. ... Bd6 10. Qe6 mate) 10. Qf7+ Kd6 11. Ne4 mate.

Solution #6: Cochrane-Bonnerjee, 1856: 1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Nce7 9. d4 c6 10. Bg5 h6 11. Bxe7 Bxe7 12. 0-0-0 Rf8 13. Qe4 Rf4 14. Qxe5+ Kd7 15. Nxd5 cxd5 16. Bb5 mate.

# US Chess Junior Grand Prix

## 2018 Junior Grand Prix Standings



Standings for events received and processed by September 4, 2018 are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete. The top prize for 2018 will be a Chess.com one-year Diamond membership valued at \$100, a Chess.com gear/merchandise package valued at \$100, a US Chess plaque, free entry into the 2019 U.S. Open, and \$1,000 of expense money from US Chess to offset the trip. For the top five players on the overall list and to each state winner, Chess.com will also award a choice of a one-year ChessKid.com gold membership (valued at \$50/annually) or a one-year Chess.com Gold membership (valued at \$40/annually). US Chess gratefully acknowledges the participation of Chess.com!

### Top 5 Overall Standings

NAME	STATE	PTS	EVENTS
KUNAMNENI, MEGHANA	MA	8693	11
GANGAVARAPU, SREEKAR	IL	8468	10
PHAM, LINDA	IL	8025	14
SHANKAR, PRANAV	NJ	7953	8
BAMMIDI, RAHUL	IL	7640	11

For the top 200 overall, see [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)



Check out [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)  
for rules and prizes.

### How to earn Points:

Eligible US Chess members earn points by winning or drawing against higher rated players, based on the pre-event ratings for both players. (If a player does not have a US Chess rating yet, or has a provisional rating based on less than 4 games, that player's post-event rating from that event is used to compute JGP points.)

For a win against a higher rated player, the number of JGP points earned is 2X the ratings difference, up to a maximum of 700 points per game.

Example: A 1200 player who defeats a 1350 player earns 2X the difference in ratings (150) or 300 points.

For a draw, the number of JGP points earned is the ratings difference, up to a maximum of 350 points per game.

Example: A 1200 player who draws a 1350 player earns the difference in ratings, or 150 points.

The US Chess Executive Director has the authority to review events for compliance with these rules.

### State Leaders

NAME	STATE	PTS	EVENTS
STALLWORTH, JACOB	AL	3006	1
BJORK, LUKE D	AR	1997	4
REMPE, JONAS JAKOB RAZA	AZ	5036	7
RAJARAM, ANIKA	CA-N	5198	9
ANDRANIGIAN, RAFI	CA-S	5203	7
BHAVIKATTI, NEIL	CO	2517	4
SU, JASMINE ZHIXIN	CT	4869	11
STEINER, ADAMSON	DC	6083	12
LUO, TERRY	DE	6173	15
WU, DERRICK K	FL	4442	5
MYDUKAR, AMIT	GA	4811	10
CHEN, MARK YA	HI	3255	2
LODH, ANJALI	IA	4523	8
SHEPARD, RIVER CHARLES	ID	2975	2
CHIFLIKYAN, MICHAEL	IL	6772	10
KACZANOWSKI, AIDAN P	IN	4916	6
ZENG, SHEENA	KS	3683	8
SHAWKAT, SAIF	KY	5128	4
MAYEUX, BENJAMIN THOMAS	LA	3736	6
HAN, HENRY YU-FENG	MA	4260	5
GUO, ANDREW	MD	4439	10
KALLOR, DENNIS	ME	3842	1
SONG, JUSTIN	MI	4483	8
KANE STEWART, OSCAR	MN	2754	1
ZHOU, CELINA	MO	6140	8
GRIFFIN, GABRIEL	MS	4397	5
WALTHALL, THOMAS KASEY	MT	2100	2
DURBHA, ANTARA	NC	6592	7
KOLLI, SAI	NE	3158	4
TIRUVEEDHULA, SUHAVI	NH	2899	4
ZHANG, SAMUEL	NJ	5647	11
LUO, DANIEL	NM	2192	1
BAO, CHRIS	NV	2557	4
FAN, JERRY	NY	7552	10
SONI, ARJUN	OH	4612	9
BARNES, MAXWELL	OK	3280	7
SOIFFER, DUNCAN SMITH	OR	4126	2
NARKEERAN, MADHAVAN	PA	6234	13
VAIJAEPPAY, VAISHNAVI	RI	3279	7
HELPERICH, LUCAS TYLER	SC	1832	1
TAO, CHRISTOPHER	SD	431	1
VAZQUEZ MACCARINI, DANI	TERR	972	4
ZHAO, ERIC	TN	4479	10
OBEROI, SHELEV	TX	7151	10
RAY, UJAN	UT	3862	8
TAY, BRIAN	VA	6286	16
COLLINS, ALEXANDER	VT	2941	4
CHANG, EDDIE	WA	4739	3
SHAH, MAISEM	WI	3569	2
ELLIS, ANYA	WV	2180	2
MARES, ISAIAH	WY	501	1







# My First Move



Dr. Alexey Root, Woman  
International Master and 1989  
U.S. Women's Champion

*In this column, we feature advice from your chess heroes and explore what shaped their development when they were Chess Life Kids like you!*

## **In the beginning...**

I learned to play chess from my dad when I was five years old. He let me win, which I liked. When I was nine years old, I asked him to play “for real.” I was able to defeat him as he was not a tournament chess player. Then my dad drove me to the Lincoln (Nebraska) Chess Club, where I learned rules of chess that my dad did not know, such as *en passant*.

## **Maintaining interest**

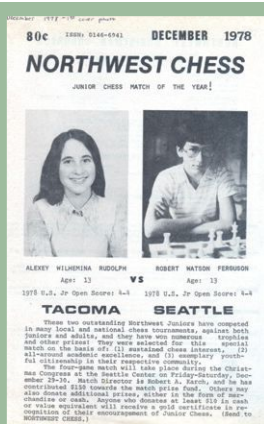
It was fun and exciting to try to figure out what move to play next in a game. Also, I was successful in chess tournaments as a child. For example, one other player and I tied for first in the 1976 Nebraska Elementary Chess Championship.

## **Multiple U.S. Women's Championship competitor**

I played in 10 U.S. Women's Chess Championships—in 1981, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. I was 15 years old for my first one. This served as a great source of



Alexey, age 10, playing against her dad in their Lincoln, Nebraska home.



Left to right: at the Chicago Chess Center in 1982; on the University of Texas at Dallas campus; 1978 *Northwest Chess* cover.

acknowledgement and motivation to reach the master level and aim for the top.

### On becoming the 1989 U.S. Women's Champion

A reporter quoted me on the day I won the tournament as saying, "I've never been in the lead so much. Every game was so tense. Everyone is trying to beat you." I finished with seven out of nine points—five wins and four draws—in the 10-player round robin tournament.

### Other notable achievements

I earned my Woman International Master title by winning the U.S. Women's in 1989 in what was called a "zonal" year. I also earned the US Chess national master title in July 1989. I played for the 1990 U.S. Women's Olympiad team that placed sixth in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. I also

played in the 1990 Women's Interzonal tournament in Malaysia.

### How chess influenced adult choices

Chess influences me today because I have connected chess to my career as an educator. During the fall and spring semesters, I teach online courses about using the game of chess in education. These courses are mostly taken by students at The University of Texas at Dallas, but some of my students have been from as far away as Qatar. I also teach chess to children at summer camps and

give simultaneous exhibitions. In addition to writing books about chess, I also write for chess magazines and websites and sometimes play in a tournament.

### Favorite openings

My first chess coach, Loren Schmidt, had me play the Danish Gambit as White and the Center Counter as Black. Now I play 1. d4 as White, and for Black I play the Modern Defense, the French Defense, or the Dutch Defense.

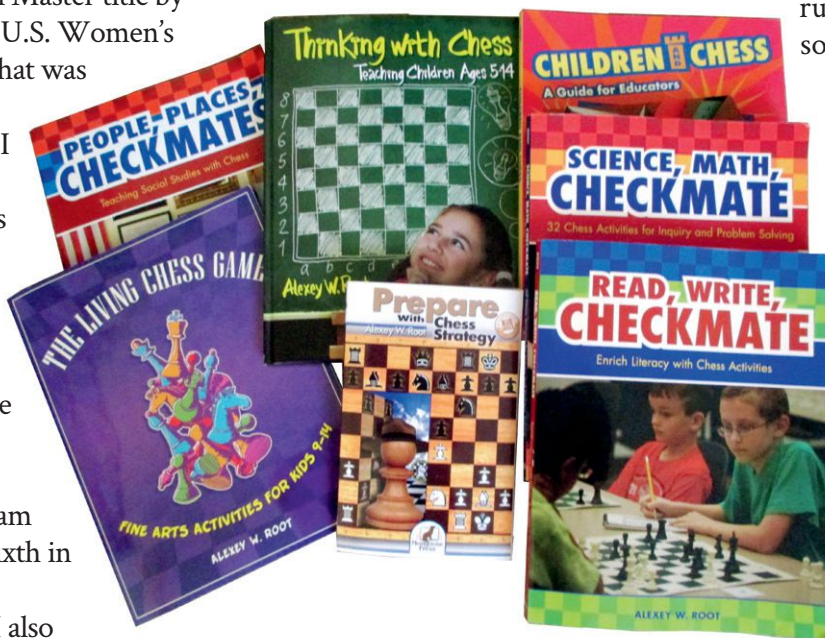
### Favorite books

My favorite book was *How to Win in the Chess Openings* by I. A. Horowitz. I loved Horowitz's "chess movie" for each opening. As a chess writer, I review many books. A favorite of the many books that have been mailed to me was Judit Polgar's *How I Beat Fischer's Record*.

### My best chess advice

In my 2006 book, *Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators*, I quoted Edmund Burke, "Our antagonist is our helper." That quote means that your opponent is helping you when he or she plays well against you. It's like running: You will run faster if someone is right on your heels, chasing you. You will play better chess if your opponent is playing good moves too. To sum up, my advice is that young chess players should hope that their opponents play the best moves!

Dr. Root has written seven well-received books about chess in education. Shown here are covers from her books.



All photos courtesy of subject



The United States' Largest Chess Specialty Retailer

888.51.CHESS (512.4377) ★ www.USCFSales.com

### Supreme Chess Set Combination

Includes:

- Supreme Chess Bag, with US Chess Logo
- Regulation Vinyl Tournament Chess Board with US Chess Logo
- Triple Weighted Regulation Plastic Chess Pieces



\$32.95

Bulk Quantity Discounts Available - See USCFSales.com for Pricing Information

SHOW OFF YOUR



US CHESS FEDERATION

PRIDE!

### Quiver Chess Set Combination

Includes:

- Quiver Chess Bag
- Regulation Vinyl Tournament Chess Board with US Chess Logo
- Your Choice of Triple Weighted or Single Weighted Regulation Plastic Chess Pieces



NOW AVAILABLE IN TRIPLE WEIGHTED!



WITH TRIPLE WEIGHTED \$17.95

WITH SINGLE WEIGHTED \$15.95

Bulk Quantity Discounts Available - See USCFSales.com for Pricing Information

All Purchases Benefit the US Chess Federation