

CHESS LIFE

April 2021 | USChess.org

Kids



OUR 2020 U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

GM John Burke wins Junior Championship in an Armageddon battle; IM Carissa Yip is the three-time Girls' Junior champion.

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US Chess Executive Director: Carol Meyer
carol.meyer@uschess.org

Senior Director of Strategic
Communication: Daniel Lucas
dllucas@uschess.org

Chess Life Kids Editor: Melinda Matthews
mmatthews@uschess.org

Creative Content Coordinator:
Natasha Roberts
nroberts@uschess.org

Character Designer and Illustrator:
Chandler Ellison
www.chandlerellison.com

Technical Editor: Ron Burnett
rburnett@uschess.org

Tournament Life:
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.

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In this issue

GM Elshan Moradiabadi and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan take you behind the scenes at the high-stakes U.S. Junior and U.S. Girls' Junior Championships, which were held online for the first time in their histories. Trevor Williams Brooks offers a clever take on the television show, *The Masked Singer* — and you get to guess who the masked grandmaster is! Finally, meet our 2020 U.S. Junior champion, GM John Burke, in this month's *My First Move* and *Chess Adventures* (*U.S. Girls' Junior champ, IM Carissa Yip, was featured in February 2020*).

This month's cover features our U.S. Junior champion, GM John Burke, and our U.S. Girls' Junior champion, IM Carissa Yip. Cover art by Chandler Ellison.

IT'S YOUR MOVE!



CHESS STORIES

Chess Kids Across the Board has a new name and a new identity: Chess Stories Across the Board! We reimagined this column to introduce more and varied aspects of our favorite game — from history to personalities, and of course, to chess kids like you! The new column kicks off with a three-part series on the history of the World Chess Hall of Fame. Check it out on page six.

CAN YOU FIND IT?

All sorts of fun facts are hidden inside the pages of this month's *Chess Life Kids*. Can you figure out the clue, then find it in this word puzzle? Answers may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backwards and can be found on page 23. Puzzle courtesy of <https://thewordsearch.com>.

S	A	E	H	H	O	A	R	E	G	I	T	I	N
K	O	H	P	K	E	A	C	E	S	E	N	K	J
R	A	M	G	C	N	I	Y	S	Y	N	T	O	K
I	E	O	H	N	I	O	A	I	D	I	S	P	A
P	S	R	T	Y	H	J	G	E	S	R	P	A	R
G	S	P	I	K	K	K	R	K	O	K	K	T	J
G	N	H	I	S	E	I	U	R	P	E	E	E	A
A	T	Y	C	S	L	L	N	U	K	K	T	Y	K
B	A	S	H	A	A	J	F	B	L	G	A	G	I
I	T	P	I	P	D	S	E	Y	L	T	C	P	N
A	F	S	M	S	H	Y	L	K	U	H	Y	I	N
I	O	T	L	C	C	E	D	O	R	Y	P	N	A
Y	I	C	A	R	L	S	E	N	S	K	O	K	E
S	D	M	T	I	E	G	N	O	N	C	C	A	E

1. U.S. Junior Championship Armageddon winner (last name): _ _ _ _ _
2. His silver is in the World Chess Hall of Fame (last name): _ _ _ _ _
3. The last name of The Masked Grandmaster's opponent: _ _ _ _ _
4. A word for imitating someone in a chess game: _ _ _ _ _
5. The only three-time U.S. Girls' Junior champion (last name): _ _ _
6. John Burke's favorite opening: _ _ _ _ _
7. Petrosian's opponent in the 1966 World Championship match (last name): _ _ _ _ _
8. The Masked Grandmaster's nickname: _ _ _ _ _
9. John Burke's hero (last name): _ _ _ _ _
10. The fourth world champion, who has an opening named after him (last name): _ _ _ _ _



CAN DO IT!

BY SIM JON EDWARDS
10TH U.S. CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPION

I saw this combination when I was 13 years old. It made a great impression upon me and, indeed, I never forgot it.

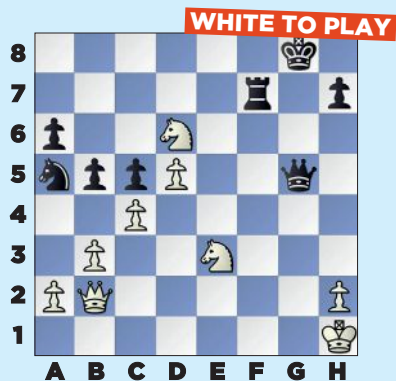
Tigran Petrosian reached this position against Boris Spassky in their 1966 World Championship match.

(see diagram on right)

Petrosian uncorked 30. Qh8+ and Spassky resigned immediately, seeing that 30. ... Kxh8 31. Nxf7+ would pick up the rook and then quickly regain the queen.

The positions in this quiz all involve a queen sacrifice on the h8-square.

Some of these are challenging, but armed with that important clue, I know that You Can Do It!



Solutions on page 23.

QUIZ 3

WHITE TO PLAY



QUIZ 4

WHITE TO PLAY



QUIZ 5

WHITE TO PLAY



QUIZ 1

WHITE TO PLAY



QUIZ 2

WHITE TO PLAY



QUIZ 6

WHITE TO PLAY



CHESS STORIES

ACROSS THE



BY AL LAWRENCE

Celebrating *Chess Life Kids*
Stories from across the country.

A Treasure Chest of Chess The World Chess Hall of Fame

Museums show us history. But a museum can have a history of its own. Since 2011, the World Chess Hall of Fame has drawn 125,000 visitors from all over the world to its current home in St. Louis. But 40 years ago, a chess hall of fame was only an idea.

Steve Doyle, back then the president of US Chess, thought chess should have a hall of fame like baseball has in Cooperstown, New York, “to honor our best and display artifacts.” *Artifacts* are the important objects museums collect and keep safe. We can better imagine what something or someone in history was like when we can see an important artifact from that time. Doyle located one of the most important objects in

The current home of the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, with the world’s largest chess piece, 20 feet tall.





John McCrary (above left), later president of US Chess, stands next to Paul Morphy's placard at the opening of the first U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 1988, while Al Lawrence (above right), then Executive Director, gets ready to show off the Morphy Silver (left).

American chess history — the Paul Morphy silver serving set.

Morphy, one of the most brilliant chessplayers ever, would not accept money for his chess victories. The silver set — a pitcher and four drinking goblets — was Morphy's award for winning the first American Chess Congress in 1857. Doyle arranged for the purchase of the Morphy Silver. It would be a perfect artifact for a U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.

But there was no place to show it off. So the valuable silver set was kept locked in a heavy safe at US Chess offices in New Windsor, New York. No one could see it.

Later, in 1986, US Chess *inducted* — officially recognized forever — Morphy, Bobby Fischer, and six other American chess greats in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. But there was still no "Hall"!

the Morphy Silver. The room held a few more artifacts, like a chess book signed by former world chess champion Bobby Fischer. Large cardboard plaques memorialized each of the inductees.

The U.S. Chess Trust purchased the rights to the Hall from the US Chess Federation, and in 1992 there was an opportunity to move the Hall to a big



“ Artifacts are the important objects museums collect and keep safe. ”

Finally, in 1988, a small basement room with a chessboard-patterned carpet inside US Chess headquarters opened as the first official U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Its centerpiece was

David Mehler and U.S. Chess Trust co-founder Harold Dondis cut the celebration cake at the opening of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C.

city where more people could visit. David Mehler had arranged a big, modern space just a few blocks from the White House in Washington, D.C.! The U.S. Chess Trust continued to collect artifacts to enrich the Hall — making it a treasure chest of chess. But it was not yet the "World" Chess Hall of Fame.

And the Hall wasn't finished moving!
(Be sure to see your next Chess Life Kids issue to learn more.)



AVOID THE by Bruce Pandolfini TRAP!

COPYCAT COPYCAT DEFENSE DEFENSE

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 at the end of this column. Total your points and see how you did against the scoring scale at the end!

Newcomers often make a certain type of mistake. In trying to draw, they will copy their opponents. There's an obvious problem with this approach. If you get checkmated first, you can't continue to copy your opponent. The game is over, plain and simple, and there are no last licks in chess. Even if you don't get checkmated, you might not be able to copy anyhow, especially if you're in check or if your position has been damaged in some way. That doesn't mean you can't play the same moves as your opponent for a bit, particularly if they make sense. But you must stay alert to avoid traps and mindless play. You also should look for opportunities to break the symmetry favorably. Let's take a look at a typical occurrence of imitative error.

1. e4

White strikes at the center, opening diagonals for the queen and king-bishop.

Q1) What is the most common asymmetrical reply to 1. e4? (10 points)

1. ... e5

Black plays symmetrically. This is a common reply. The most often seen move here is 1. ... c5, the Sicilian Defense. Also quite popular are the French Defense, 1. ... e6, the Caro-Kann Defense, 1. ... c6, and the Scandinavian Defense (also called the Center Counter defense), 1. ... d5.

Q2) What is White's main advantage in symmetrical setups? (10 points)

2. Nf3

White plays a typical developing move. Black's e-pawn is attacked. The two most often seen defenses here are 2. ... Nc6 and 2. ... d6. Other tries, such as 2. ... Bd6, 2. ... Qe7, or 2. ... Qf6, are simply not as good.

Q3) What are the two best ways to guard the e5-pawn? (10 points)

2. ... Nf6

Instead of defending e5, Black counterattacks with the Petroff Defense, named after the great Russian player, Alexander Petroff (1794-1867).

Q4) If White plays 3. Nc3, what is Black's likely reply? (10 points)

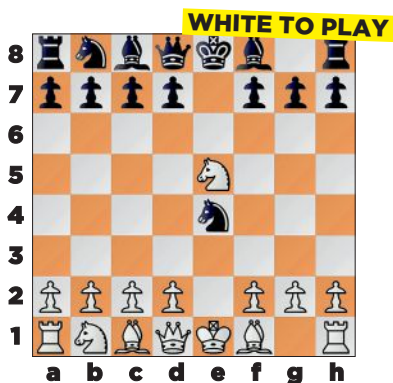
3. Nxe5

White takes the king-pawn. White could also play 3. d4 or 3. Nc3.

Q5) What is Black's best response to 3. Nxe5? (10 points)

3. ... Nxe4

Black takes the pawn back directly. White can now break the symmetry.



(After 3. ... Nxe4)

Q6) Could Black get the pawn back by 3. ... Qe7? (10 points)

4. Qe2

Q7) How is play likely to continue after 4. ... Qe7? (10 points)

4. ... d5

Black protects the e4-knight. Retreating immediately would lose big material, which shall soon become clear.

5. d3

White tries to drive away Black's knight.

Q8) How is play likely to continue after 5. ... Qe7? (10 points)

5. ... Nf6

This saves the knight, but loses something bigger.

Q9) What is White's best move here? (10 points)



(After 5. ... Nf6)

6. Nc6+, Black resigned.

Black's queen is lost, since it cannot safely block the check by going to e7.



White wins the queen. (After 6. Nc6+)

Q10) What was the last move Black could have avoided the trap? (10 points)

ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

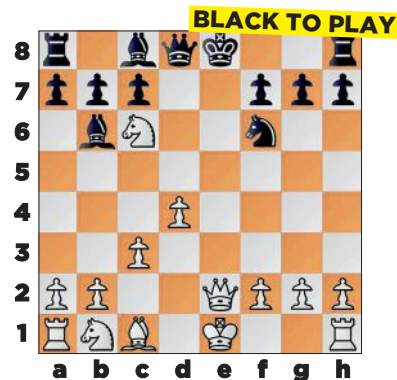
Ruy Lopez (C64)

Yvain Bruned

Rey Torres

Mondariz, Spain 2000

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 Bb6 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. Nxe5 Nxe4 8. Qe2 Nf6 9. Nxc6+



Black loses the queen. Final position in the illustrative game.

ANSWERS

A1) The most common asymmetrical answer to 1. e4 is 1. ... c5.

A2) White has the next free move, with a slight initiative.

A3) The two best protections are 2. ... Nc6 and 2. ... d6.

A4) Black's most likely reply would be 3. ... Nc6, the Four Knights Game.

A5) Black should play 3. ... d6, driving back White's knight.

A6) Yes. If 3. ... Qe7 4. d4, then 4. ... d6 will get it back.

A7) If 4. ... Qe7, then 5. Qxe4, when 5. ... d6 is met by 6. d4 (known as the Damiano variation).

A8) White wins a pawn by 6. dxe4 Qxe5 7. exd5.

A9) White wins with 6. Nc6+ (6. Ng6+ also wins material).

A10) On move four, Black has 4. ... Qe7 to minimize his disadvantage.



Make sure to check your score!

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

COMEBACKS!

JOHN BURKE WINS THE FIRST-EVER ONLINE U.S. JUNIOR By GM Elshan Moradiabadi

It's been more than a year since the pandemic put a halt to over the board chess events. The rise in online events has meant shorter time controls, more tournaments to choose from, and an influx of strong, titled players competing from all over the world because geographical proximity is no longer an issue. All of this made the switch to online events exciting at first, but now, playing solely online is beginning to lose its luster.

Our national events were not immune to the pandemic. Prestigious tournaments such as the U.S. Junior have historically been an over the board round-robin, with one game played per day. With the eventual winner securing a spot for the following year's U.S. Championship, most of the nation's top junior players have been eager to take part in this marathon tournament, most recently hosted at the Saint Louis Chess Club.

One common element between the previous events and the 2020 U.S. Junior Championship was the Saint Louis Chess Club, which again organized and hosted the event — this time online. Taking place over three days (October 13-15, 2020), the time control was rapid (25 minutes with 10 seconds increment for each player).

Thanks, in part, to the fact that the event was not very long, most of the top juniors in the country accepted their invitations. Although defending champion GM Awonder

Liang declined his invitation (for reasons unknown to this author), the event saw five full-fledged grandmasters, one grandmaster-elect, three international masters, and one FIDE master. GM Jeffrey Xiong, who turned 20 right after the event, was the top seed. With a FIDE rating of 2709, Xiong was the first super-GM to take part in the U.S. Junior Championship. The second seed was GM Sam Sevian who, at 2660, is among the top 100 players in the world.

Although most eyes were on the two top seeds, it was GM John Burke, 20, who won the tournament after defeating Xiong in an Armageddon game. Burke took the crown and the spot in the 2021 U.S. Championship, as well as winning a \$6,000 award.

Burke showed unusual consistency in a tournament that was played at such a fast pace. After missing his chances in a promising position in his round one game against Xiong, he maintained his calm and managed to win the next two games back-to-back.

ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE, MODERN VARIATION [B04]

GM John M. Burke (2538)

GM Jeffrey Xiong (2709)

2020 U.S. Junior Championship,
(1), 10.13.2020

1. e4

As I said earlier in the article, success in chess does not come in a round of back-to-back wins. In this case, our

eventual winner ended up losing his first game to Jeffrey Xiong, the person whom he defeated in the Armageddon.

1. ... Nf6

The Alekhine's Defense, named after the fourth world champion Alexander Alekhine, is not a regular guest in GM-level games, but it is used as a provocative tool to lure the opponent into a fight where dry and solid lines could be avoided.

2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 dxe5 5. Nxe5 g6

Xiong follows world champion, GM Magnus Carlsen.

6. Bc4 c6

Carlsen in his game against So (on *chess24.com* 2020) preferred the continuation 6. ... Be6 7. 0-0 Nd7 8. Re1 Nxe5 9. Rxe5 Bg7 10. Re1 0-0 11. Bb3 a5 12. a4 c5!?, arriving at a complex position where suddenly Black becomes active thanks to his lead in development.

7. 0-0 Bg7 8. Bb3 0-0 9. Nd2 a5

Threatening ... a5-a4, and trying to make the b3-bishop go away.

10. a3 Nd7 11. Ndf3 Nxe5 12. Nxe5 a4 13. Ba2 Be6 14. Re1

White is well developed and has more space, but he still needs to find a way to develop his c1-bishop.

14. ... Qc8 15. Qf3 Nc7 16. c4 Rd8 17. Qe3 Ne8

The knight intends to go to d6 and f5 in order to attack d4.

18. Bd2 Nd6 19. d5 cxd5 20. cxd5

White is winning according to the engines, but it's not all that easy when you play this in a rapid game!

20. ... Bf5 21. Rac1 Qb8 22. Bc3

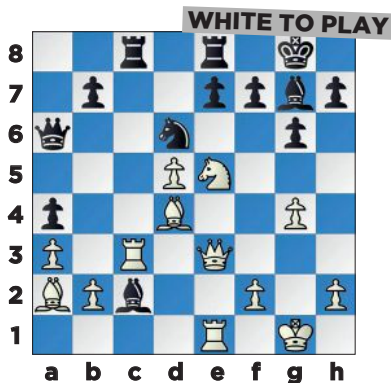
Solid.

Stronger was 22. g4! Be4 (After 22. ... Bd7 23. Bb4 Be8 24. h4 Black cannot bring his pieces to the game. White will open the h-file and move his heavy pieces there to deliver a checkmating attack.) 23. Bc3 and the bishop on e4 is on the verge of being trapped by f2-f3.

22. ... Qa7 23. Bd4 Qa6 24. Rc7 Re8 25. Rcc1?

This is a complete loss of time.

Better was 25. Rc3 Rac8 26. g4 Bc2.



27. Nxf7! Nxf7.

The alternatives are much worse:

- a) 27. ... Bxd4?? 28. Nh6+ Kg7 29. Qxd4+ Kxh6 30. Rh3+ Kg5 31. Qe3+ Kf6 32. Qe5+ Kf7 33. Rxh7+ Kg8 34. Qh8 mate;
- b) 27. ... Kxf7?? 28. Rxc8 Nxc8 (28. ... Rxc8 29. Qxe7+ Kg8 30. Qxg7#) 29. d6+ e6 30. Bxe6+ Kf8 31. Bxg7+ Kxg7 32. Qc3+ Kh6 33. g5+ Kxg5 34. Qe3+ Kh5 35. Qh3+ Kg5 36. f4+ Kxf4 37. Qe3 mate;
- c) 27. ... Rxc3?? 28. Nh6+ Bxh6 29. Qxh6 e5 30. dxe6 e.p. Re7 31. bxc3 and White is up two pawns and soon will deliver checkmate because Black is in a mating net.; 28. Bxg7 Kxg7 29. Rc1 Rxc3 30. Qxc3+ Qf6 31. Rxc2 and White is up a pawn.

25. ... Rac8 26. h3 Qb5 27. f3?

A weakening pawn move. Now Black seizes the initiative. From here Xiong does not lose his advantage until the end of the game.

27. ... Bc2 28. Bc3 Bb3 29. Bxb3 Qxb3 30. Red1 Red8 31. Rd3 Nf5 32. Qe4 Ng3!

A small tactical finesse.

33. Qe1 Rxd5! 34. Rxd5 Qxd5 35. Nxf7

Not 35. Qxg3 Bxe5. The bishop on c3 is pinned. When you pin it, you win it!

35. ... Kxf7

Also quite good is 35. ... Rxc3 36. bxc3 Nh5 when the knight on f7 is trapped. 37. Qxe7 Bf8 38. Qe8 Qxf7.

36. Qxg3 Bxc3 37. Rxc3? Rxc3 38. bxc3 Qc5+ 39. Kh1 Qxa3

Now the a-pawn decides the game.

40. Qf4+ Ke6 41. Qe4+ Kd6 42. Qd4+ Kc6 43. Qe4+ Kb6 44. Qd4+ Ka6 45. Qc4+ Ka7 46. Qd4+ b6 47. Qd7+ Ka6 48. Qc6 Ka5 49. Qa8+ Kb5 50. Qd5+ Qc5 51. Qd7+ Ka5 52. Qa7+ Kb5 53. Qd7+ Qc6 54. Qd3+ Ka5 55. Qd4 Qc5 56. Qd7 a3 57. Qa7+ Kb5 58. Qd7+ Kc4 59. Qe6+ Kxc3 60.

Qe1+ Kb3 61. Qb1+ Ka4 62. Qd1+ Ka5 63. Qd2+ Ka6 64. Qd3+ b5 65. Qe2 e5 66. h4 Qd4 67. Qc2 Qxh4+ 68. Kg1 Qc4 69. Qd1 Qd4+, White resigned.

After this game, Burke scored 6½ points in the remaining eight games to tie for first with Xiong. On his way to the championship, Burke defeated Sam Sevia in this clean strategic victory.

RUY LOPEZ, CLOSED [C84]

GM John M. Burke (2538)

GM Samuel Sevia (2660)

2020 U.S. Junior Championship, (5), 10.14.2020

1. e4

Sevia had a rough start. Here Burke took advantage of Sevia's bad form and scored an important point.

1. ... e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5

The most common response, known since the 1500s. The opening is named after the Spanish priest Ruy Lopez De Segura.

3. ... a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. d3 b5

This is a must, otherwise White can capture on c6 and then on e5, winning a pawn.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

JOHN BURKE



2020 U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPION

PEAK FIDE RATING: 2603
*OCTOBER 2015

YOUNGEST PLAYER TO
SURPASS A 2600 RATING

#33 ON THE FIDE TOP 100
JUNIOR LIST
*CURRENT

AWARDED GRANDMASTER
(GM) TITLE IN APRIL 2018

2018 U.S. MASTERS CHAM-
PION

THREETIME WINNER

THREETIME



IM CARISSA YIP
crowned U.S. Girls’
Junior Champion for the
third year in a row!

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The U.S. Girls’ Junior Championship is the most prestigious invitational event in the country for girls under 20. The 2020 edition of the tournament was originally scheduled to take place at the Saint Louis Chess Club in July, but it was eventually moved online along with the other U.S. championships due to the ongoing pandemic. The tournament attracted seasoned top players such as IM Carissa Yip, WGM Jennifer Yu, IM Annie Wang, and WIM Emily Nguyen, as well as several up-and-coming talents such as WIM Rochelle Wu and the 10-year-old Alice Lee.

The month of October was a marathon featuring back-to-back events: U.S. Girls’ Junior, U.S. Junior,

U.S. Senior, U.S. Women’s, and finally, the U.S. Championship. The U.S. Girls’ Junior kicked off the series, so the format was new and nerve-racking for everyone. Participants played from their homes. They had to have their web cameras on at all times and also were required to use a secondary camera that had full view of their computers. Further, all players were on a Zoom call together and were separated into a room with their opponent and an arbiter.

The tournament schedule was hectic: three rounds a day at a time control of 25 minutes with a five-second increment per game. The eventual winner of the tournament, Carissa Yip, 17, felt that the time control was tricky

because initially “25 minutes feels like a lot but goes by quickly” and does not allow for calculation of many in-depth variations.

The first day of the tournament was also the most challenging for Carissa, as she normally needs a few games to warm up. After the first day, Annie Wang was in the lead with 2½ points, with Carissa and WIM Thalia Cervantes trailing her by half a point.

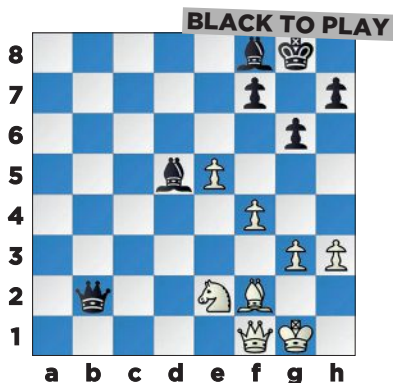
Day two was significant for the standings as Carissa was set to face her two closest rivals. In the first game of the day, she faced Annie with the black pieces. It was a topsy turvy battle, but eventually Carissa came out on top after finding a very nice backwards move.

PLAYING BACKWARDS

IM Annie Wang (2384)

IM Carissa Yip (2421)

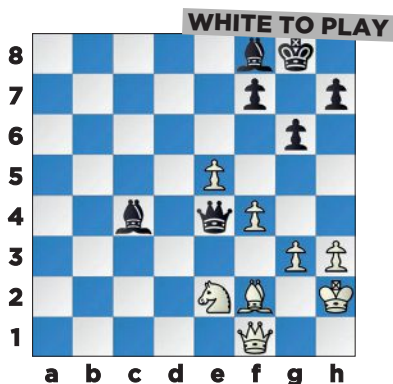
U.S. Girls' Junior Championship.
(4.1), 10.10.2020



42. ... Ba8!!

Backwards moves are notoriously difficult to find. There are books written about this concept! The idea is to play ... Qb2-b7 threatening checkmate along the diagonal.

43. Bd4 Qb7 44. Kh2 Qe4 45. Bb6 Bd5 46. Bf2 Bc4



Winning material due to the pin.

47. Qg2

Missing 47. Nc3, but after 47. ... Qc2 48. Qxc4 Qxf2+ 49. Kh1 Qxg3 Black is winning.

47. ... Qxg2+ 48. Kxg2 Bxe2 49. g4 Bc4 50. Kf3 Bd5+ 51. Ke3 Bc5+ 52. Ke2 Bxf2 53. Kxf2 Kf8 54. f5 Be4 55. fxc6 hxc6 56. Ke3 Bb1 57. Kf4 Ke7 58. h4 Ke6 59. h5 gxh5 60. gxh5 Bc2 61. h6 Bh7 62. Kg5 Kxe5, White resigned.

In the next round, Carissa defeated Thalia and took tournament lead. Although the tournament remained

a close battle between Carissa and Annie, from that point on, Carissa never let go of her lead.

Going into the final day with three games left, Carissa had to display good nerves and skills to seal the deal. As a very experienced player, these came quite naturally to her. One of the key factors of her win was definitely her ability to play faster than her opponents — she never fell behind on the clock. After defeating Jennifer in round seven, Carissa found a nice tactic against WFM Martha Samadashvili in round eight to take a full point lead and guarantee at least a tie for first regardless of the last round result.

SEALING THE DEAL

WFM Martha Samadashvili (2215)

IM Carissa Yip (2421)

U.S. Girls' Junior Championship,
(8.3), 10.11.2020

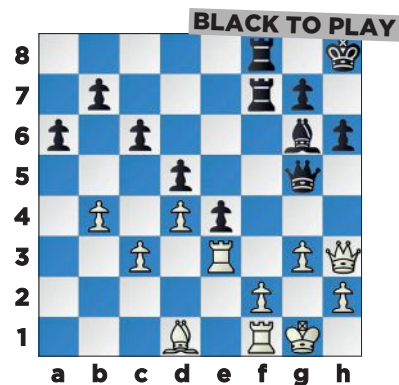
(see diagram top of next column)

41. ... Rxf2!!

Removing a crucial defender. White's position will now fall apart

42. Rxf2 Qxe3 43. Qf1 Rxf2 44. Qxf2 Qxc3

Black collects all of White's pawns.



45. h4 e3 46. Qf8+ Kh7 47. h5 Be4 48. Bg4 Qe1+

White resigned in view of checkmate. For example, 49. Qf1 Qxg3+ 50. Qg2 Qxg2, mate.

Carissa and Rochelle were set to face off in the final round in a game that would determine the tournament winner. Carissa was a full point ahead of her opponent.

Rochelle found herself in a worse position out of the opening and resigned on move 31. Even with this defeat, Rochelle had a great showing. She finished in third place ahead of many experienced players and certainly has a bright future ahead of

CARISSA YIP

U.S. GIRLS' JUNIOR CHAMPION

PEAK FIDE RATING: 2426
*SEPTEMBER 2019

CURRENT US CHESS
WOMEN RANK: #2

AWARDED INTERNATIONAL
MASTER (IM) TITLE IN
FEBRUARY 2020

YOUNGEST AMERICAN WOMAN
TO ACHIEVE IM TITLE

AT AGE 10, YOUNGEST
FEMALE PLAYER TO
DEFEAT A GRANDMASTER

2020 U.S. GIRLS' JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
1	IM Carissa Yip	2421	*	1	1	1	1	½	½	1	½	1	7½/9
2	IM Annie Wang	2384	0	*	½	1	1	0	½	1	1	1	6/9
3	WIM Rochelle Wu	2029	0	½	*	0	1	½	½	1	1	1	5½/9
4	WGM Jennifer Yu	2315	0	0	1	*	1	1	½	½	0	1	5/9
5	WIM Thalia Cervantes Landeiro	2311	0	0	0	0	*	1	1	1	1	1	5/9
6	WIM Emily Nguyen	2280	½	1	½	0	0	*	½	1	1	0	4½/9
7	Ruiyang Yan	2093	½	½	½	½	0	½	*	½	0	1	4/9
8	WFM Martha Samadashvili	2215	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	*	1	½	2½/9
9	WFM Sophie Morris-Suzuki	2043	½	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	*	0	2½/9
10	Alice Lee	1967	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	½	1	*	2½/9

her, both on and off the board.

Carissa was the deserving winner of the tournament. She went undefeated and finished 1½ points

ahead of the field. The young IM from Massachusetts collected the \$3,000 first place prize, the \$6,000 scholarship, and the first-place

trophy. In addition, this tournament proved to be a great warm up for the U.S. Women's Championship, where Carissa finished in clear second place.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

7. Bb3 d6 8. a3

To prevent ... Nc6-a5 and ... Na5xb3.

8. ... 0-0 9. Nc3 Bg4!

Pinning the knight on f3 and threatening ... Nd4 to break open White's king cover.

10. Be3

Preventing ... Nc6-d4.

10. ... Nd4 11. Bxd4 exd4

Although Black did play ... Nc6-d4, he did not manage to capture on f3. Now Black has double pawns on the d-file but managed to neutralize one of White's bishops.

12. Nd5 Nxd5 13. Bxd5 Rc8 14. Bc6

Gaining some space and preventing the move ... c7-c6.

One should not fall for: 14. Bb7 Rb8 15. Bxa6?? Rb6 when White's bishop is trapped.

14. ... Bf6 15. a4

White plans to open the queenside and attack Black's weakened pawns.

15. ... Rb8 16. axb5 axb5 17. Ra6 Bc8 18. Ra5 Rb6?!

Black's problems are beginning. The continuation 18. ... Bd7 19.

Bxd7 Qxd7 followed by ... Rb8-a8 would have been rock solid. Black was worried about ending up with a bad bishop on f6 versus White's knight on f3. However, his desire to keep the two bishops gave away too much play to White's light-square bishop.

19. Bxb5 c6 20. Bc4 Rxb2 21. Ra8 Rb6 22. Qd2 Qc7 23. Rfa1 Be6?

Finally Black admits that White's bishop is too strong, but now his king is also weak and his bishop on f6 is really bad! Timing is everything. Black had already lost the valuable time he could use to neutralize White along the a-file.

24. Rxf8+ Kxf8 25. Bxe6 fxe6 26. h4!?

This is called the principle of two weaknesses. White opens a second frontier because defending two weak points is harder than one!

26. ... e5 27. Kh2 h6 28. g4?!

This is hasty and gives away a lot of White's advantage.

Better was the patient 28. g3 followed by Kg2, and then some improvement for the rook was necessary before the final action.

28. ... Be7

More accurate was 28. ... Bd8 because it closes down the back rank.

29. h5

More straightforward and aggressive would have been 29. g5.

29. ... Kg8 30. g5 Qc8 31. Qa5 Rb8 32. Qa2+ Kh8??

The final blunder in time pressure.

Best was 32. ... d5! 33. exd5 Kh8! 34. dxc6 e4 35. dxe4 Qg4! and all of a sudden it is White's king who is targeted. Despite being three pawns up, White is lucky that Black does not have a straightforward checkmate. After 36. Qf7 Rf8 37. Qxe7 Qxf3 38. Rf1? (best play for both sides here is 38. Qe5 Qxf2+ which is equal) 38. ... Qf4+? Qf4+ 39. Kh1 Qh4+ 40. Kg1 Qg4+ the game ends in a draw with perpetual. (40. ... Rf4?? 41. Qe8+ Kh7 42. g6 mate)

33. gxh6 gxh6 34. Rg1!

Just in time.

34. ... Qf8 35. Qe6 Qf4+ 36. Rg3 Qf6

Black prevents checkmate, but the endgame is simply winning for White.

37. Qxf6+ Bxf6 38. Rg6

A powerful double attack.

38. ... Rf8 39. Rxh6+ Kg7 40. Rg6+ Kf7 41. Kg3 Rb8 42. Kg4!

As a result of the reduction of material the king can become an active piece in the endgame. In this case White's king helps his knight, rook, and the h-pawn to deliver the final attack!

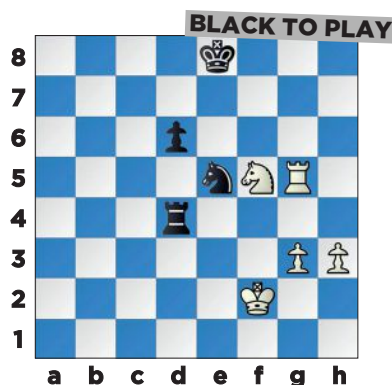
42. ... Rb1 43. Kf5 Be7 44. h6 Rh1 45. Rg7+ Kf8 46. Rh7 Ke8 47. Ke6 Bf8 48. Ng5 Rg1 49. Ra7, Black resigned.

A lot of my students ask, "How do I play after losing a game?" It is difficult to muster up mental strength against a strong opponent after a loss. The world champion — Magnus Carlsen himself — is a good example of someone who manages to return to the tournament even after several bad games.

Sam Sevian made a great comeback, too. After losing to Burke in round five, he had only two points out of five. Nevertheless, Sam went on to win his last four games, including this nice win against Xiong, to finish sole third.

MATING NET

GM Samuel Sevian (2660)
GM Jeffery Xiong (2709)
2020 U.S. Junior Championship,
(6), 10.14.2020



Sevian made a comeback with a win in this game. He went on to win his last four games to clinch third place. It is instructive to see how Sevian manages to demonstrate the importance of king's activity in the endgame.

51. ... Rd2+ 52. Ke3 Nc4+ 53. Kf4 Kf7 54. Rh5 d5 55. Rh7+ Kg6 56. Rh6+ Kf7 57. Kg5 Ne5 58. Rh7+ Kg8 59. Rb7 d4 60. Kf6 Nc4 61. Nh6+ Kh8 62. Re7 Rf2+ 63. Kg6, Black resigned.

Mate is inevitable.

For Jeffery Xiong, this event was just a small hiccup. He was on his way to a clean sweep before losing to Sevian. Despite not winning the junior title, Jeffrey had a great rebound a few days after the event: he finished second at the U.S. Championship!

Finally, let us congratulate all the participants and wish John Burke good luck in the 2021 U.S. championship!

Many thanks to all who made the 2020 U.S. Championships a success! A grateful hat tip to the Saint Louis Chess Club, its staff, and Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefeld for sponsoring and hosting the championship events. We also acknowledge and deeply appreciate the \$6,000 scholarship awards given to the winners of the Cadet, U.S. Junior, and U.S. Girls' Junior events, jointly supported by US Chess and Dewain Barber, our Dean of Scholastic Chess. Barber also has made available one-year memberships for all of the participants in these three events.

Want to know more about all of the U.S. champions? Check out the extensive coverage in the January 2021 issue of *Chess Life*. You can access the issue online by logging into our website at new.uschess.org/user/login, then visiting new.uschess.org/chess-life-magazine-issues

2020 U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
1 GM Jeffery Xiong	2709	*	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	½	½	6½/9
2 GM John M. Burke	2538	0	*	1	1	1	½	1	1	½	½	6½/9
3 GM Samuel Sevian	2660	1	0	*	0	½	1	1	1	1	½	6/9
4 GM Brandon Jacobson	2487	½	0	1	*	0	½	1	½	1	1	5½/9
5 IM Christopher Woojin Yoo	2455	0	0	½	1	*	0	½	1	1	1	5/9
6 GM Nicolas Checa	2527	0	½	0	½	1	*	0	0	1	1	4/9
7 IM Praveen Balakrishnan	2485	0	0	0	0	½	1	*	1	1	½	4/9
8 IM Joshua Sheng	2474	0	0	0	½	0	1	0	*	½	1	3/9
9 FM Christopher Shen	2354	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	½	*	1	2½/9
10 IM Bryce Tiglon	2393	½	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	0	*	2/9



THE MASKED GRANDMASTER

By Trevor William Brooks

In *The Masked Grandmaster*, we analyze a classic chess game, but with a twist: the winner of the game is only called “The Masked Grandmaster” — not their real name. During the game, information about The Masked Grandmaster’s life will be given. Using those clues, your task is to figure out the identity of The Masked Grandmaster.

In 1998, Anatoly Karpov, one of the greatest legends of chess history, called The Masked Grandmaster “a nice guy,” but said that “he just

doesn’t have the character for a big win.” Karpov was wrong.

The Masked Grandmaster, born in 1969, spent the first part of his career in a chess world run by the Soviet Union (what is today Russia). As a non-Soviet player, he didn’t fit in at all. Until 1990, he was best known as the first World Junior Champion from Asia — but then he suddenly started to win those Soviet-dominated tournaments and catapulted into the elite. From January to July of that year, he rose

from 69th in the world to 19th.

Within that elite, it wasn’t just The Masked Grandmaster’s name that stood out — it was his entire personality. His calm demeanor was the polar opposite of the fiery anger other top players displayed. While they were busy arguing over the world championship, The Masked Grandmaster focused on chess.

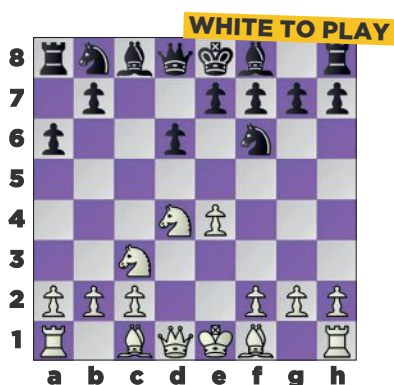
The Masked Grandmaster has been called a “nice guy” his whole life, but in reality, he just doesn’t let things he can’t control upset him.

This method has worked very well for him. In January 2006 The Masked Grandmaster was ranked third in the world and was a favorite at the Wijk aan Zee tournament that year, where he played Sergey Karjakin.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION (B90)

GM Sergey Karjakin (2660)
The Masked Grandmaster (2792)
Corus Group A (1), Wijk aan Zee,
01.14.2006

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6



The Sicilian Najdorf was a confident choice for The Masked Grandmaster. White gets an extra tempo of development (White has two pieces out while Black only has one), but Black has no weaknesses and will be ready to counterattack. The position can get very sharp very quickly.

The Masked Grandmaster's opponent, Karjakin, holds the record of youngest grandmaster ever at 12 years and seven months old. He played this game only three and a half years later, in the first round of his first ever super-tournament, so nerves were running high for both players.

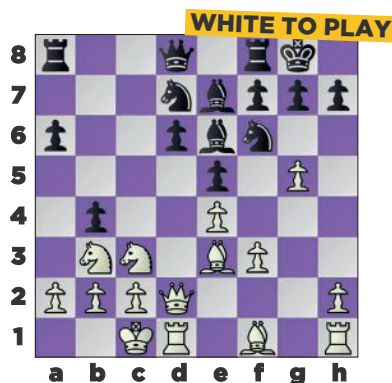
6. Be3

Getting ready to castle queenside (the bishop move clears the way), which will lead to opposite side castling. Another line is 6. Be2 e5 7. Nb3 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 with same side castling.

6. ... e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. f3 Be7 9. Qd2 0-0 10. 0-0-0 Nbd7 11. g4 b5

After developing, both players start racing pawns at their opponents' kings. With kings on opposite sides of the board, nothing is weakened by pushing pawns, so there's nothing stopping the pawn storm!

12. g5 b4!



When your piece is attacked, the normal



response is to move it, but there are other ways to answer the threat. One way is to attack something bigger than

(or as big as) the piece attacked; for example, meeting the danger to the f6-knight by attacking the c3-knight here. It doesn't always work, so you need to check what happens if your opponent accepts the Exchange. In this case, 13. gxf6 bxc3 14. fxe7?? (14. Qxc3 Nxf6 is equal), 14. ... cxd2+! wins the queen with check.

13. Ne2 Ne8 14. f4 a5 15. f5 a4

Again meeting a threat by attacking! Moving the bishop (15. ... Bc4) would give White a precious free move, so The Masked Grandmaster counter-attacks instead, which was very much in character for him. Even though in life he was always polite, his opponents saw fierceness on the board — after all, they called him the “Tiger.” Vladimir Kramnik, who played against him over a hundred times, once said that The Masked Grandmaster's specialty was “creating counterplay in any position out of absolutely nowhere,” so that even when his pieces seem passive, “he nevertheless manages to attack something.”

16. Nbd4

Threatening 17. Nc6! where if the queen moves, the bishop will be lost!

16. ... exd4 17. Nxd4 b3!

Black is threatened, so he parries by attacking something bigger again, this time 18. ... bxa2! That trades pieces, but if the pawn were on a2, there would be no way to stop it from promoting. So White has to defend the a1-square now.

18. Kb1 bxc2+ 19. Nxc2 Bb3

Finally giving back the extra bishop, but getting rid of the a-pawn, opening up the rook, and getting a monster pawn on b3.

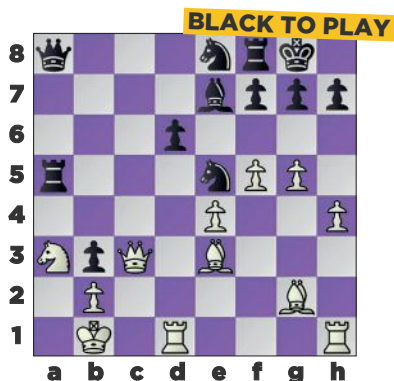
20. axb3 axb3 21. Na3

Not 21. Nd4??, which would get beautifully checkmated after 21. ... Ra1+!! 22. Kxa1 Qa8+! 23. Kb1 Qa2+ 24. Kc1 Qa1 mate.

21. ... Ne5 22. h4

Black's attack is way ahead now. Every time he parried by attacking, it saved time, and now Black has broken White's queenside wide open while White is still trying to push pawns down the board to open up Black's kingside pawn cover.

22. ... Ra5 23. Qc3 Qa8 24. Bg2



The Masked Grandmaster still has to figure out a way to make the attack work, though. Trying to finish White off immediately, like with 24. ... Rxa3, fails (24. ... Rxa3 25. bxa3 Qxa3 26. Rd2), but if Black does nothing, White will eventually win on the kingside. There has to be a way to get more pieces into the attack.

24. ... Nc7!!

This is a really, really tough move to find. Older versions of Stockfish, still among the world's best chess engines, take more than half an hour to see that it's good. White's queen really can take the knight — that part isn't a trick — but after the knight is captured, the attack breaks through.

25. Qxc7 Rc8!

Now Black gives up the bishop too! After all those sacrifices, all Black gets is moving the rook from f8 to c8. While c8 is definitely a better square for the rook, at first it doesn't seem to be worth two pieces to get it there.

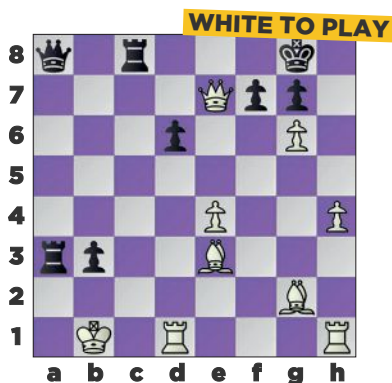
26. Qxe7 Nc4!

As the knight joins the fight, it attacks the a3-knight — the last defender of the white king. If that knight is removed, ... Ra5-a1+ is mate.

27. g6

Trying to counterattack.

27. ... hxg6 28. fxg6 Nxa3+! 29. bxa3 Rxa3



The final blow to White's defenses. The rook rules over the c-file and completely traps the undefended king. There is no way to defend now.

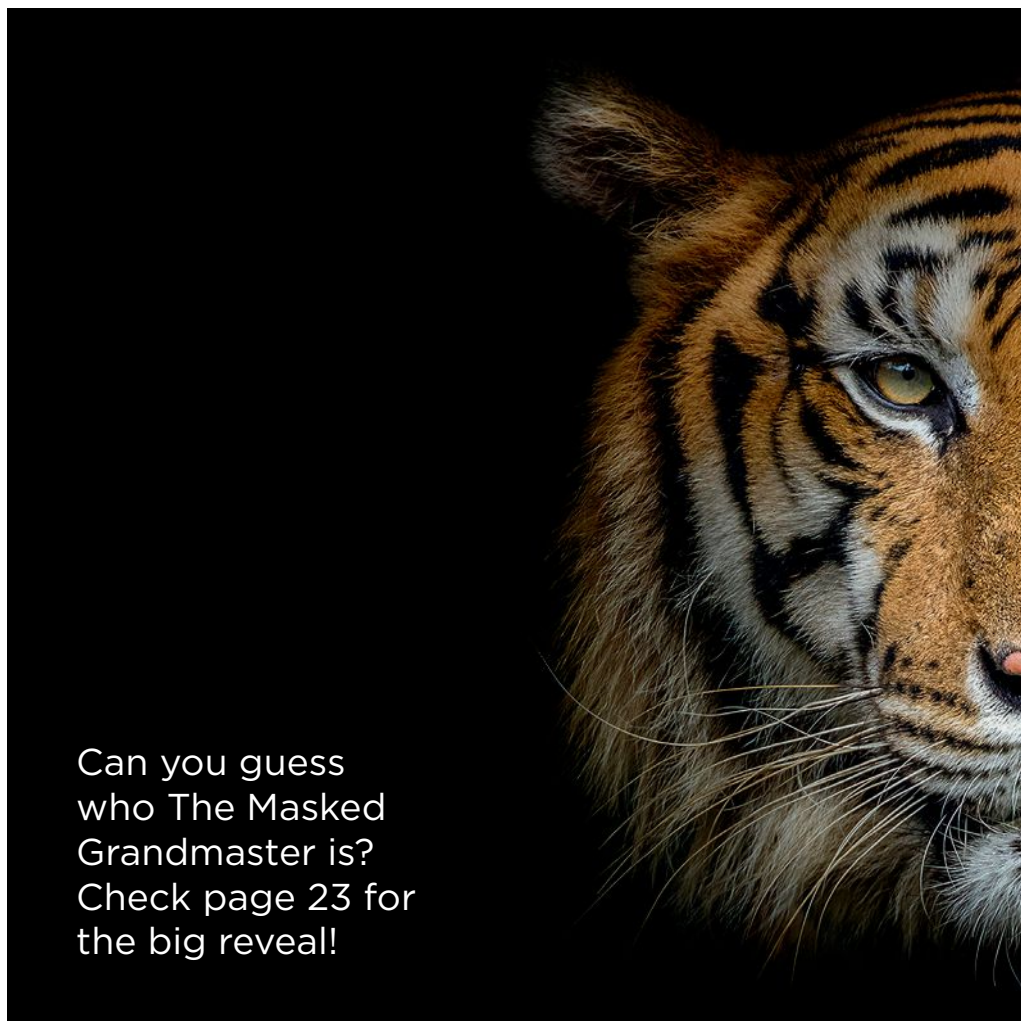
30. gxf7+ Kh7 31. f8=N+ Rxf8 32. Qxf8 Ra1+ 33. Kb2 Ra2+ 34. Kc3

The move 34. Kb1 would last longer, but it's hopeless after 34. ... Qxf8 because ... Qf8-a8 and ... Ra2-a1(+) threats are unstoppable.

34. ... Qa5+ 35. Kd3 Qb5+ 36. Kd4 Ra4+ 37. Kc3 Qc4+, White resigned.

For The Masked Grandmaster, this game set the tone for the tournament — he ended up tying for first with 10/13. He kept playing well, and soon deservedly won an undisputed World Championship, becoming the first non-Russian to do so since Bobby Fischer — definitely a “big win.” Even in his 50s, he's still one of the top players in the world.

Some people wonder why someone as “nice” as The Masked Grandmaster plays such attacking games. Why did he not argue or fight? The “single virtue that's carried me through my years of playing chess,” he replied, “is curiosity.”



Can you guess who The Masked Grandmaster is? Check page 23 for the big reveal!

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, 2021 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: <https://new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar>

Online

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2021 US Junior Chess Congress Online

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 - SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

Organized by Chess Weekend and Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. Platform: *Chess.com* Sections & Rounds: 6 Sections based on Age on 9/1/20. Higher of 2021 Apr OTB or ONL reg suppl rating used. **1-day Sections:** Age 6&under, Age 8&under: Sat., April 10, 5SS G/15+5: 11a, 1p, 3p, 5p, 7p ET. Age 10&under: Sat., April 10, 5SS G/25+5: 11a, 1p, 3p, 5p, 7p ET. Age 12&under, Age 14&under: Sun., April 11, 5SS G/25+5: 11a, 1p, 3p, 5p, 7p ET. **2-day Championship Section:** Age 16/18&under: Sat. AND Sun., April 10-11, 6SS G/60+5: 12p, 3p, 6p ET both days. **Bye:** Max 2 half-point byes, last 2 rounds irrevocable & must request before Round 1. **Individual Prizes:** Commemorative plaques or medals to Top 10 players overall, Top 3 players in under-sections (see website for rating cutoffs). **Team Competition:** Clubs and school teams may compete for team prizes within each section: Min 3 players, Top 3 scores count towards team score. Awards to Top 5 teams (Top 3 in Champ.) **Fair Play:** Monitoring through webcam is mandatory for everyone! 1-day sections: 1 webcam; 2-day section: 2 cameras. QC Check-in sessions will be provided. Violations may be reported to the US Chess Ethics Committee. **Entry Fees:** 1-day sections \$40 by 3/15, \$50 3/30, \$60 by 4/9. 2-Day Section: \$50 by 3/15, \$60 by 3/30, \$70 by 4/9. Registration closes at 6PM ET on 4/9. USCF membership req. **Enter Online:** <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/USJCC2021> **Side events:** Thurs. Arena, Fri. Blitz, Sat. Roundtable Discussion, Sun. *ChessKid.com* rapid tournament. Full event details: milibrary.org/juniorchesscongress. **Questions:** 2021juniorcongress@gmail.com.

US Amateur K-8 East Under 1200, Online at ICC

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021

5-SS, G/30 +5. In one section: Under 1200. Wooden Set in Leather Box to Top Three. Plastic set in Leather Bag to 4 - 10th place and top 2 U900 and top 2 U600. Registration: Online at www.njscf.org \$40 from 4/15/21 to 5/26/21. NO ENTRIES AFTER 5/26/21. Rounds Sat (5/29): 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8pm. One 1/2 point bye allowed if requested WITH entry fee. All players must be on Zoom with at least a side view. See www.njscf.org for full rules and details during registration period. Email akiedes@gmail.com for more information. All Prizes Subject To Fair Play Analysis. NO PHONE OR EMAIL ENTRIES.

US Chess Membership Rates: Premium (P) and Regular (R)

(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

Type	1 yr	2 yr
Adult P	\$49	\$95
Adult R	\$40	\$75
Senior (65+)	\$40	\$75
Young Adult P (25 & UND)*	\$35	\$65
Young Adult R (25 & UND)*	\$26	\$48
Youth P (16 & UND)*	\$30	\$55
Youth R (16 & UND)*	\$22	\$40
Scholastic P (13 & UND)*	\$25	\$45
Scholastic R (13 & UND)*	\$17	\$30

*Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online-only access to Chess Life and Chess Life Kids. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice. *Ages at expiration rate of membership being purchased.*



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More information:

chessevents.us

MY FIRST MOVE



GM JOHN BURKE

2020 U.S. JUNIOR 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!

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

My grandma taught me the rules of chess when I was about five, and I soon started reading the book *Chess For Dummies*. A couple of years later, a friend of my dad recommended that I join a tournament, so he signed me up for the second grade state championship.

THE “A-HA!” MOMENT

A really important game for me was my win against GM Arun Prasad in the last round of the 2015 World Open. I achieved my first IM norm — my first classical victory over a GM — and won the \$4,000 U2300 prize. Towards the end of the game, once I knew that I would win, I started trembling. I could barely even speak afterwards. It was a surreal moment and was my first really significant tournament result.

BECOMING A NATIONAL CHAMPION

It was thrilling to win the U.S. Junior Championship! I was actually only nervous at the



very start, since I was not used to playing high-stakes events online. After I got into the flow of the tournament, I was concentrated and calm.

THE CHESS HERO'S HERO

I've always admired GM Magnus Carlsen, as most people do. He finds ways to play the most unpleasant move for the opponent, which is why he wins so many "boring" positions. I'm also a fan of GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (MVL), since he plays exciting chess and some of my favorite openings.

MY FAVORITE OPENING

My favorite opening since I was about 1800 has been the Grünfeld. If [GM Garry] Kasparov and [GM Bobby] Fischer used it, that's good enough for me!

MY FAVORITE CHESS BOOK

My favorite chess books are GM Garry Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series. I'm a huge chess history nerd, and those books have everything you could want to know about the great players of the past.

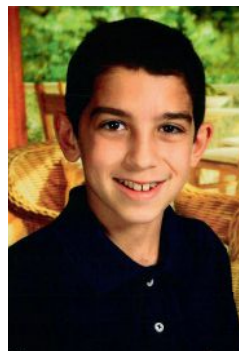
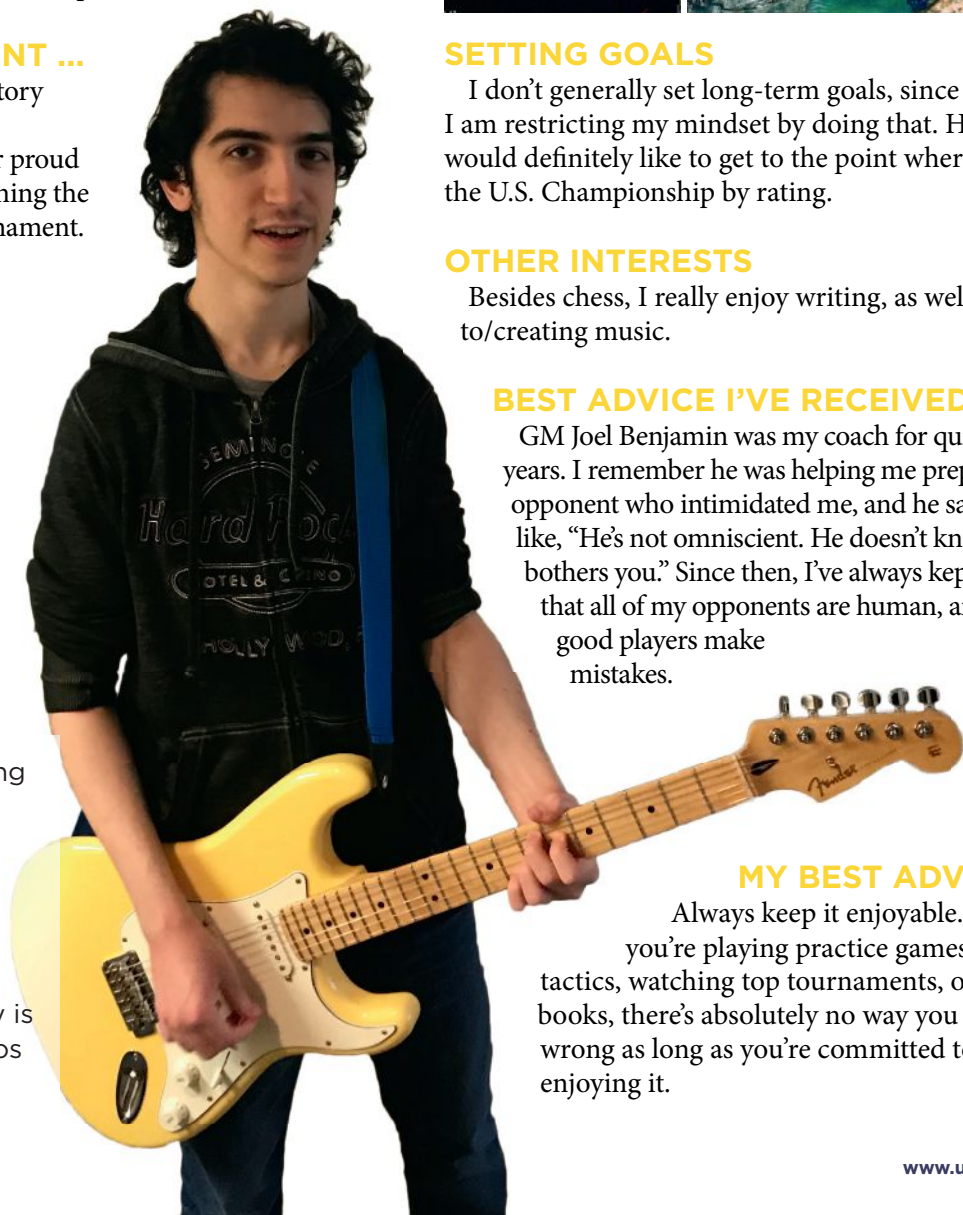
A PROUD MOMENT ...

In addition to my victory in the 2020 U.S. Junior Championship, another proud chess moment was winning the 2018 U.S. Masters tournament.

... AND A DISAPPOINTING ONE

I've had several disappointments in junior tournaments when I was younger. I narrowly finished second in the 2015 and 2016 U.S. Cadet Championships, which was painful.

Photos: top, analyzing games with GM Joel Benjamin at the 2011 World Youth in Brazil; lower right, in the Bahamas, age 12; lower left, age 11; right, another hobby is making music. Photos courtesy of subject.



SETTING GOALS

I don't generally set long-term goals, since I feel like I am restricting my mindset by doing that. However, I would definitely like to get to the point where I qualify for the U.S. Championship by rating.

OTHER INTERESTS

Besides chess, I really enjoy writing, as well as listening to/creating music.

BEST ADVICE I'VE RECEIVED

GM Joel Benjamin was my coach for quite a few years. I remember he was helping me prepare for an opponent who intimidated me, and he said something like, "He's not omniscient. He doesn't know what bothers you." Since then, I've always kept in mind that all of my opponents are human, and even very good players make mistakes.

MY BEST ADVICE

Always keep it enjoyable. Whether you're playing practice games, doing tactics, watching top tournaments, or reading books, there's absolutely no way you can go wrong as long as you're committed to chess and enjoying it.

CHESS ADVENTURES

with
GM John
Burke

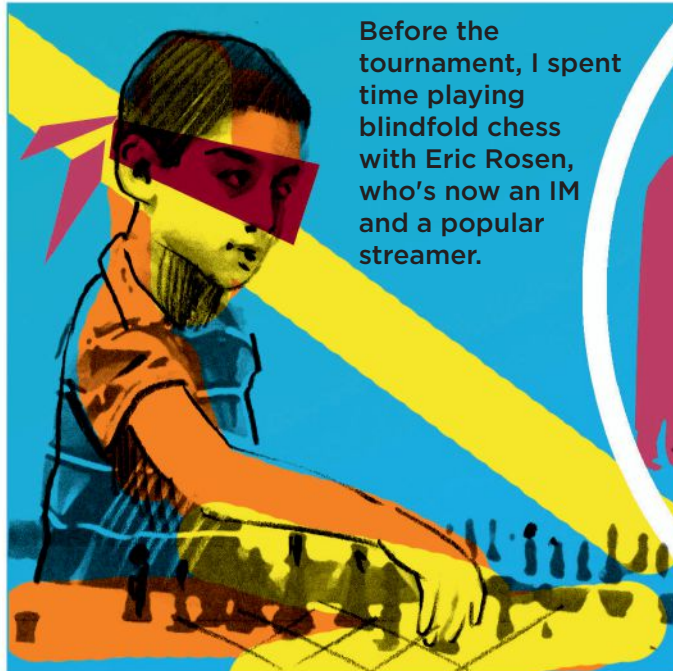


In 2011, I traveled to Brazil for the World Youth Chess Championship.



I was amazed by the size of the playing hall and the number of countries represented.

I met many future American GMs as well, including Jeffery Xiong, Nicolas Checa, Awonder Liang, and Ruifeng Li. I finished the tournament with a strong 6/9 score! Plus I made a lot of new **FRIENDS!**



Before the tournament, I spent time playing blindfold chess with Eric Rosen, who's now an IM and a popular streamer.



ART BY VAL BOCHKOV

PAGE 4/IT'S YOUR MOVE

- 1) Burke (pg. 10)
- 2) Morphy (pg. 7)
- 3) Karjakin (pg. 16)
- 4) Copycat (pg. 8)
- 5) Yip (pg. 12)
- 6) Grunfeld (pg. 21)
- 7) Spassky (pg. 5)
- 8) Tiger (pg. 17)
- 9) Carlsen (pg. 21)
- 10) Alekhine (pg. 10)



PAGE 5/YOU CAN DO IT!

- Solution #1: 1. Qh8+ Nxh8 2. Rxh8 mate
 Solution #2: 1. Qh8+ Bxh8 2. Rxh8 mate
 Solution #3: 1. Qxh8 Bxh8 2. Rg8 mate
 Solution #4: 1. Qh8+ Bxh8 2. Rxh8 mate
 Solution #5: 1. Qxh8+ Nxh8 2. Rf8 mate
 Solution #6: 1. Qxh8+ Kxh8 2. Bf6+ Qg7 3. Re8 mate

PAGE 16/MASKED GRANDMASTER



The Masked Grandmaster is Viswanathan Anand, an Indian chess grandmaster and former world champion. Anand was the first Indian to achieve the rank of grandmaster, and in April 2006, he became the fourth player in history to surpass an Elo rating of 2800.

During his early career, Anand was known for his rapid playing speed. He won the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship in 2003 and 2017, the World Blitz Cup in 2000, and numerous other top-level rapid and blitz events. Many consider him the greatest rapid chess player of his generation.

PHOTO BY SPECTRUM STUDIOS, COURTESY OF SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB.



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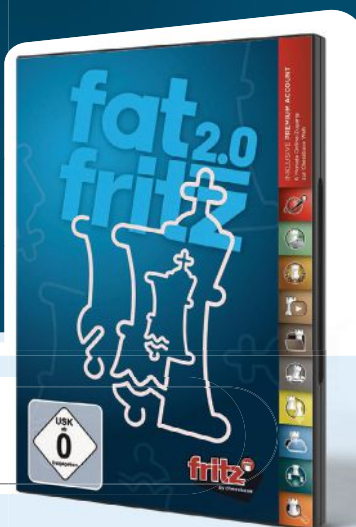


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- 64-bit program interface
- Includes current Fritz 17 program interface
- ChessBase Premium Account (6 months) with access to training videos, Playchess, tactics training, and much much more!
- Database with 1 million games, etc.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Minimum: PC Core i3 or i5 / AMD FX or Ryzen 3, 2 GB RAM, Windows 7/8/10 64Bit, DirectX9, graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 11 and Internet access.
Recommended: PC Core i7, i9 or AMD FX, Ryzen 7/9 and Windows 10 64-Bit, 4 GB RAM, Windows 10, DirectX10, graphics card with 512 MB RAM or more, Windows Media Player 11, DVD ROM drive and Internet access.
System requirements for ChessBase Account: Internet access and up-to-date browser, e.g. Chrome, Safari. Runs on Windows, OS X, iOS, Android and Linux.

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