

CHESS LIFE

June 2021 | USChess.org

Kids



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Chess Life Kids provides a foundational interest in chess for beginning level pre-teens through the use of games, instruction, and human-interest stories. It is intended to be useful for Youth members, parents, and coaches. If interested in writing for this publication, send a well-crafted query with writing samples to the editor at mmatthews@uschess.org.

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This month: GM Wesley So

In this issue

Tanitoluwa (Tani) Adewumi shot to fame in 2019 after winning the New York State K-3 scholastic championship while living in a homeless shelter. Since then, he's hit another major milestone: US Chess master! In this issue, John Hartmann gives you an update on Tani and we look some of his games and tactics. Jay Stallings also teaches a lesson on knight moves and how to create the ultimate knight outpost. Finally, meet our 2020 U.S. champion, GM Wesley So, in this month's My First Move and Chess Adventures.

This month's cover features our newest US Chess master, Tanitoluwa Adewumi. Photo courtesy of the Adewumi family.

CHESS STORIES

ACROSS THE



BY AL LAWRENCE

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

The Museum Moves to Miami

The World Chess Hall of Fame: Part II





Left: Displays throughout the Miami Hall shared information about all aspects of chess. Displays inside the “Time Tunnel of Chess” explained how chess developed from other, ancient games and became an organized sport. Right: This display showed us ways to time chess games down through the ages.

Above: A suit of armor guarded the spectacular collection of chess sets. Below: Chess sets can be designed in many ways, but don't try to bring this one to a tournament! Only the Staunton design can be used in official games.

The tower was shaped like a chess rook. It was 45 feet high! We walked through the entrance to the brand-new *World Chess Hall of Fame* in Miami, Florida, and into the dramatically dim “Time Tunnel of Chess,” with dots of light like stars overhead. The tunnel’s displays told us the story of how chess evolved from earlier games in Egypt and India, all the way to modern chess.

Then the tunnel opened up into a vast room, with displays all around. The “Ye Olde Chess Shoppe” showed us sets ancient and modern. Eye-catching exhibits explained chess subjects like clocks and ratings — all symbolically guarded by medieval suits of armor.

Through an archway, another room offered a giant rook pod with interactive computers and a high-tech presentation of the history of chess computers, as well as a chess table used by famous American former world champion Bobby Fischer. Up an incline, lined with displays, we could enter the museum’s very own theater, showing movies about chess.

After a dozen years in Washington, D.C., the Hall of Fame had moved to Miami. Steve Doyle, who had the idea of creating a chess hall of fame when he was president of US Chess, was now vice president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE). He helped the



Hall become the only World Chess Hall of Fame and Museum.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Left: Former World Champion GM Boris Spassky of Russia came to Miami to be inducted into the World Chess Hall of Fame in 2003. He played the most famous chess match of all time, losing his crown to American Bobby Fischer in 1972. Center: Bobby Fischer’s teacher, John “Jack” Collins was named “Chess Teacher of the Century.” The Miami Hall of Fame displayed the furniture the two used to study together. Right: Miami hosted the first World Hall of Fame inductions.





AVOID THE by Bruce Pandolfini TRAP!

PAWN GRABBING

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!

What is pawn grabbing? For the most part, pawn grabbing falls into the category of overextension. It usually has to do with either of two actions. Players go out of their way to attack and capture a pawn, such as a “poisoned pawn.” Or players unreasonably try to hold onto a pawn taken earlier. Many times pawn grabbing involves the queen. That is, one brings the queen out early, attacks an opposing pawn, takes it, then tries to get the queen back to civilization. This could waste a lot of time and often leads to loss of the initiative. The pawn grabber must decide if all the effort is worth it. Can the pawn grabber eventually catch up in development and survive any possible attack arising from the lost time? If the opponent does not get sufficient counterplay, and the pilfered

pawn can be kept, the extra material becomes significant. But before getting to that safe place, the pawn grabber must be on the lookout for something else: losing the queen. This month’s column shows how the queen can be lost by blindly walking into a poisoned pawn trap. Let’s take a closer look.

1. e4 ...

A king-pawn opening. The center is attacked and White’s queen and bishop are ready to come out. There is nothing new under the chess sun.

Q1) Is the move 1. e3 bad? (10 points)

1. ... c5

The Sicilian Defense, by far the most popular response to 1. e4.

Q2) What is the chief purpose of 1...c5? (10 points)

2. Nf3

White develops a knight and supports the thrust 3. d4. That advance would lead to an opening of the center.

Q3) After 2. d4 cxd4, how should White continue? (10 points)

2. ... d6

Black’s queen-bishop can now be developed. The e5-square is guarded, so that White’s king-pawn cannot advance menacingly against a knight placed on f6.

3. d4

This advance increases White’s space and lets the queen-bishop enter the game.

Q4) What is White’s best move after 3. ... b6 4. dxc5 bxc5? (10 points)



What is White's best move?

(Possible position after 3. ... b6 4. dxc5 bxc5)

3. ... cxd4

Black exchanges the c-pawn for the d-pawn to get a central pawn majority. If Black can survive White's early initiative, there are excellent chances for counterplay. That's one of the reasons the Sicilian is so popular.

4. Nxd4

White takes the pawn back, with attacking possibilities and a promising game.

Q5) Is 4. Qxd4 a blunder? (10 points)

4. ... Nf6

This is a natural developing move. It forces White to defend the e-pawn, which is held in place by Black's d-pawn.

5. Nc3

Another good developing move. It guards the king-pawn and the d5-square. Of course, with the knight on c3, White can no longer play c2-c4, setting up a Maroczy Bind.

Q6) Would 5. Bd3 have been better than 5. Nc3? (10 points)

5. ... a6

Black plays the Najdorf Variation, named after Polish/Argentinian grandmaster Miguel Najdorf.

Q7) How does 5. ... a6 attack the White center? (10 points)

6. Bg5

This is a typical continuation for White. White attacks the f6-knight and puts pressure on the d8-h4 diagonal.

6. ... e6

Black avoids doubled pawns, while giving the f8-bishop a square at e7.

7. f4

White plays aggressively, apparently threatening e4-e5, attacking the pinned f6-knight.

Q8) If 7. ... b5, does 8. e5 dxe5 9. fxe5 win a piece? (10 points)

7. ... Qb6

Black goes after the b2-pawn. Is it a poisoned pawn? That depends on what White and Black do.

Q9) If 8. Nb3, does Black win the e-pawn by 8. ... Qe3+? (10 points)

8. a3

White seemingly ignore Black's threat. The b2-pawn is apparently hanging. In such tricky situations, a player should check things out very carefully.

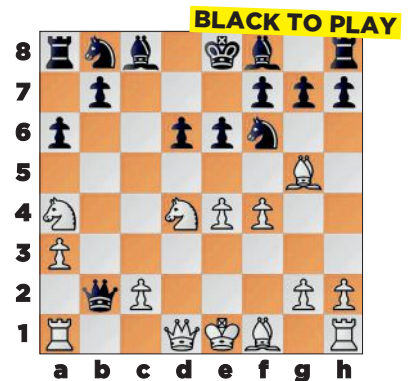
8. ... Qxb2

Black bites the bullet and takes the pawn. Truly, the way Black has

played this makes the b-pawn highly poisonous.

9. Na4

Once Black wakes up it will be clear the queen is trapped. So, Black resigns.



Black's queen is trapped

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

ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

Richard Lilja vs. Lars Laustsen
Copenhagen 2001

1. Nc3 c5 2. e4 g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. dxc5 Qa5 5. Nge2 Nf6 6. Ng3 h5 7. h4 Qxc5 8. Be3 Qb4 9. a3 Qxb2 10. Bd4 Nc6 11. Ra2



FINAL POSITION IN THE ILLUSTRATIVE GAME

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

Did you know you can find previous issues of Chess Life Kids online? To read "Avoid the Trap" (and all columns and features), go to uschess.org and click on "Chess Life Kids."

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

GIVE YOUR OPPONENT KNIGHTMARES

By Jay Stallings



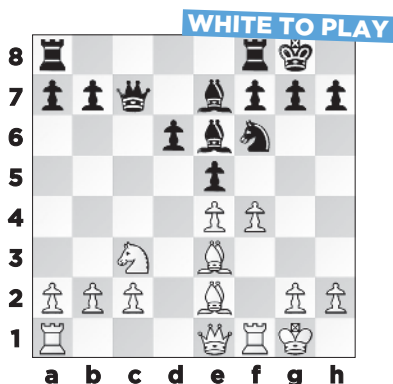
Lessons on Knight moves from “Coach Jay”

Knights break rules! They jump, they turn, and it seems that their moves often come as a surprise. To corral these free spirits, you must guide them to their best squares. But how precisely to do that? In this article we’ll cover key two ideas — creating an *ultimate* knight outpost, and finding just the right plan for *underutilized* knights.

The knight’s dream is to occupy an *outpost* — a square where it is supported by a pawn, and cannot be driven away by an opposing pawn. The *ultimate* outpost occurs when, additionally, no opposing minor pieces are able to attack that knight. When you see the potential for an outpost square, give yourself this prompt to help you create an effective plan:

EXAMPLE 1

Vasily Smyslov
Iosif Rudakovsky
Moscow, 1945



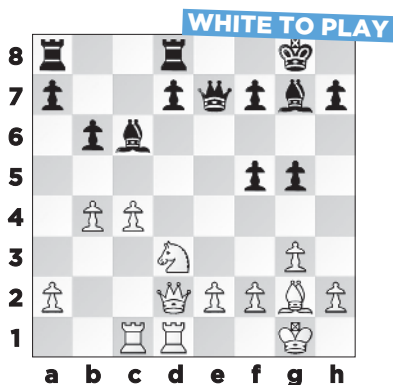
Question: What needs to be removed to make the outpost square the ultimate outpost square?

Answer: Black's light-squared bishop and knight.

Smyslov famously played **13. f5 Bc4? 14. Bxc4 Qxc4 15. Bg5!** and after removing Black's knight with **15. ... Rfe8 16. Bxf6 Bxf6**, his knight leapt into the ultimate outpost with **17. Nd5** and dominated the position.

EXAMPLE 2

GM Michael Adams
Jay Stallings
Simultaneous Exhibition, 2011



Question: What needs to be removed?

I would like to tell you that GM Adams spent enormous amounts of

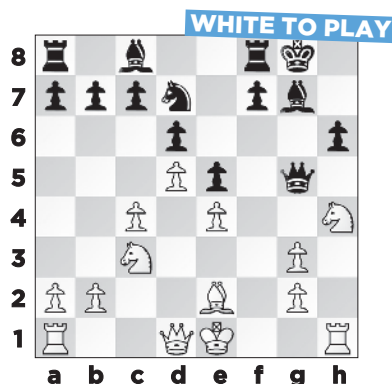
time at my board during this simul, but not for moves as obvious (to him) as this!

Answer: His outpost square is d5, and he needs to get rid of my light-square bishop.

After **19. b5! Be4 20. Nb4 h6 21. Bxe4 fxe4 22. Nd5** it's mission accomplished!

EXAMPLE 3

Yuri Balashov
IM Jonathan Penrose
Hastings, 1966/1967



Question: What needs to be removed to turn f5 into the ultimate outpost?

Answer: Black's light-squared bishop and the knight.

14. Bg4!!

One exclaim for the positional idea of getting rid of Black's bishop, and one because he sees the tactic that allows it. i.e., **14. ... h5? 15. Nf5! hxg4 16. Rh4!** (better than the flashy **16. Qxg4** due to **16. ... Bf6**).

14. ... Nc5 15. Bxc8 Qxg3+ 16. Kf1 Raxc8 17. Nf5

Almost a pure ultimate outpost, as Black's knight would require an arduous journey to safely attack the f5 square.

17. ... Qf4+ 18. Qf3 Kh7 19. Ke2 Rh8 20. Rh4 Qxf3+ 21. gxf3 Rcg8 22. Rah1 Ra8

This position gives us an easy segue into the other point about knights:

Repositioning an underutilized knight

As we continue our game from above, we see that Balashov has a plan for the queenside knight as well. Here is your prompt:

Question: If I could pick up my underutilized knight and place it anywhere on the board, where would it be?

Answer: The e3-square!



23. Nd1!

Knights are curious creatures that often seem to jump away from their target before settling into a dominant square.

23. ... Nd7 24. Nde3 Kg8 25. Rg1 Rh7 26. Rhg4, Black resigned.

Attacking a key square from a square with a future

When maneuvering knights, consider these two questions:

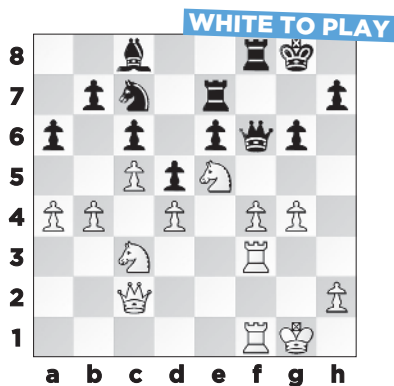
1. Can I pick up tempi on my route?
2. Which square will give my knight the most options once I get there?

In this game from 1905, Schlechter wants to grab more space and control of key squares in Black's kingside by

pushing the g-pawn to g5; however, he decides to guard the f5-square first. While his knight cannot pick up any tempi en route to guarding f5, he correctly determines which route (Nd1-e3 or Ne2-g3) gives him the most flexibility after the job is done.

EXAMPLE 4

Carl Schlechter
William John
Barmen, 1905



29. Nd1! Rg7 30. Ne3 Qe7 31. g5
Bd7 32. N3g4!

Now we realize why Nd1-e3 was much better than Ne2-g3. From e3, Schlechter's knight was able to move into g4 and h6, and eventually to f7 and then into the e5 outpost! If it had been at g3, the knight would have reached a dead-end. Black resigned on move 50 though he was never down material.

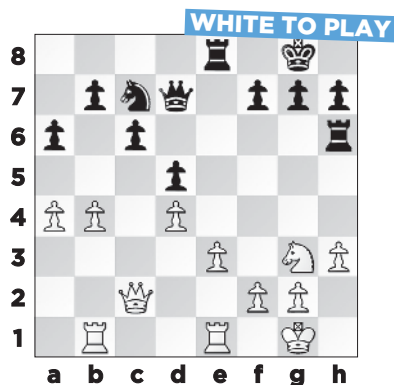


Six knight moves in a row!

In Salo Flohr's famous win over Max Euwe, White's knight chooses an odd, but logical, path to its destination.

EXAMPLE 5

Salo Flohr
Max Euwe
Amsterdam, 1932



Flohr surely considered the differences between Ne2-c1-d3 and taking a longer route to b3. Though the path through d3 would have given him more flexibility, he chose the longer route in order to hinder Euwe's attempt to lift his rooks to the third rank.

Flohr seeks to create weaknesses by simply threatening to move his knight into menacing squares. In particular, he eyes the greener pastures of the e5 and c5 squares.

23. Nf1! Re7 24. Nh2

This threatens 25. Ng4 with tempo, followed by a knight jump to the e5-square.

24. ... Rhe6 25. Nf3 f6

Blocking the rook's path back to g6 or h6.

26. Nd2 Re8 27. Nb3 R6e7 28. Nc5

Six knight moves in a row! The game is not yet won, but White is imposing his will on Black. Euwe resigned after 46 moves.

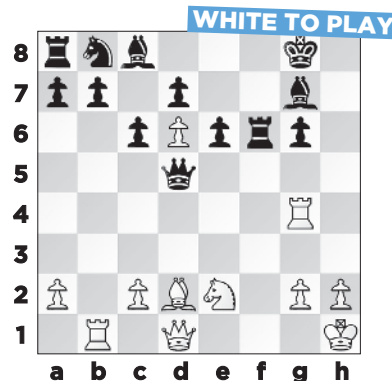
Knight serves eviction notices

In a game that tops at least one "Computer Game of the Year" list,

Leela calculates a plan that pushes Black's two most active pieces from their best squares.

EXAMPLE 6

Leela
Stockfish
CCC finals, 2020



20. Nc3!

The impulsive 20. Nf4 lacks the foresight of how the knight should best be utilized.

20. ... Qh5 21. Ne4 Rf7 22. Ng3!

And though Leela could have moved the knight here directly from e2, now it has moved here with tempo after the eviction of Black's queen and rook. Black was checkmated on move 126, showing once more that computers don't know when to resign!

One final note: I would certainly regret not taking this opportunity to remind you to always look for ways to suppress your opponent's efforts for optimum knight placement.

NM Larry Smith and Patricia Brennan assisted with this article.



Coach Jay, an expert-level chess player, is a certified FIDE Trainer (one of only 19 in the U.S.) with 25 years

coaching experience. He runs a non-profit organization that has taught chess to over 40,000 students.



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TANI MAKES MASTER!

TANITOLUWA ADEWUMI'S STAR CONTINUES TO RISE. By John Hartmann



Above: Tani is all smiles after becoming the Fairfield County champion and attaining master status; center, every chess champion needs a three-piece suit!; right, Tani's book cover.

We first introduced Tanitoluwa (Tani) Adewumi in the August 2019 issue of *Chess Life Kids* after he'd won the New York State K-3 scholastic championship. His feat gained national attention when *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof told the story of how Tani overcame the odds to win the championship despite living in a homeless shelter.

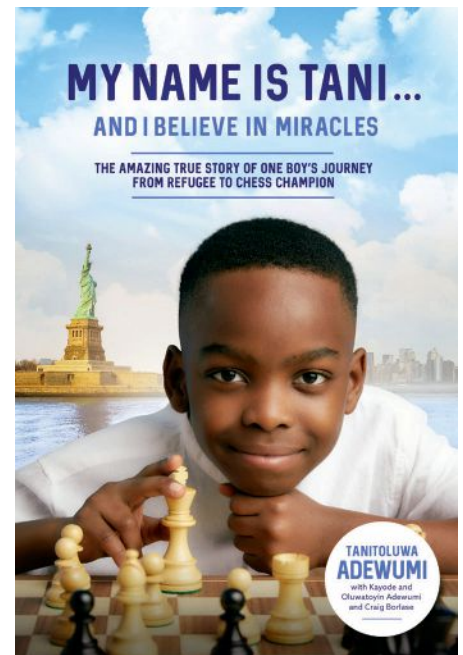
Tani began playing chess at New York's P.S. 116 elementary school. His first coaches, Russell Makofsky and Shawn Martinez of Impact Chess Network, were instrumental in starting him down his path. Makofsky, who oversees the P.S. 116 chess program,



even waived the chess club fees so Tani could participate.

After Kristof's article appeared, Tani's family moved into a permanent home and exciting opportunities opened up for Tani. He visited the Saint Louis Chess Club during the 2019 U.S. Championship and got to play blitz and Puzzle Rush with GM Hikaru Nakamura and WGM Jennifer Yu.

In 2020, Tani added "author" to his growing resume. His book, *My Name is Tani... and I Believe in Miracles*, is even in the process of being turned into a motion picture! In his book, Tani writes about falling in love with chess: "I've got a chessboard, I've got someone to play with, and I'm in a chess club. I'm a chess player.



"I don't know if that counts as a miracle, but it sure feels like one."

All the while Tani has continued to work on his game, and his talent has continued to blossom through hard work and perseverance. These days he is coached by GM Georgi Kasheishvili, but Tani also receives help and direction from FM Mike Klein of *chesskid.com* and Super-GM Peter Svidler with *chess24.com*.

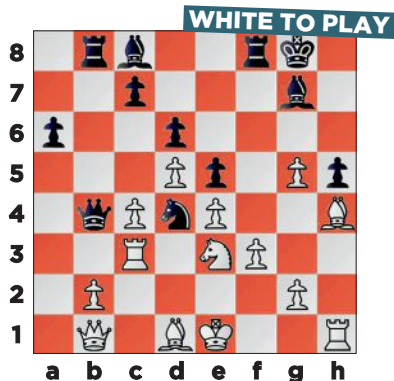
On May 1, 2021, Tani's hard work paid off: He won the Fairfield County (CT) Chess Club Championship and became a US Chess rated master. At 10 years, seven months, and twenty-eight days, Tani is (according to US Chess records) the 28th youngest person to make master in American history.

Tani had to defeat two experts, a master, and an International Master on the way to the Club Champion title and his master rating. His win over IM Justin Sarkar is given below, along with his first victory over an IM when Tani was just nine years old. And check out page 14 for Tactics with Tani!

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E73)

IM Justin Sarkar (2466)
Tanitoluwa Adewumi (2165)
CCFC Club Championship (1),
05.01.2021

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7
4. e4 O-O 5. Be3 d6 6. Be2 Nc6
7. Nf3 Ng4 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bh4 g5
10. Bg3 e5 11. d5 Nd4 12. h4 f5
13. hxg5 f4?! 14. Bh4 h5 15. Nh2
- Qd7 16. Nf1! a6 17. f3 Ne3 18.
- Nxe3 fxe3 19. Qd3 b5 20. Rc1 b4
21. Nd1 Qa4 22. Qb1 b3 23. axb3
- Nxb3 24. Rc3 Rb8 25. Nxe3 Nd4
26. Bd1 Qb4



Thus far the veteran IM has outplayed the young phenom. White has a large advantage, but the pressure on the b2-pawn is a bit worrisome. How to proceed?

27. O-O??

Perhaps Sarkar thought that a pawn and a knight would be enough for the rook, but now Black just has a winning position. Simply unpinning before castling with 27. Qd3 Qxb2 28. O-O keeps White well ahead.

27. ... Qxc3 28. bxc3 Rxb1 29. cxd4 exd4 30. Nf5

No better is 30. Nc2 d3 31. Ne3 a5 and White's weaknesses, combined

with the fast-moving a-pawn, spell trouble for Sarkar.

30. ... Bxf5 31. exf5 Rxf5 32. Bc2

Perhaps White had calculated this far, thinking he'd get back the Exchange, but now Black has a simple way to stay ahead in material.

32. ... Rxf1+ 33. Kxf1 Re5 34. f4 Re3 35. f5 d3 36. Bd1 Bc3 37. f6 d2 38. Be2 Rd3 39. Bd1 Re3 40. Be2 a5 41. g6 a4 42. f7+ Kf8 43. Bg5 Rd3 44. Bd1 a3 45. Ke2 Rg3, White resigned.

PSEUDO-TROMPOWSKY (D00)

IM Jay Bonin (2305)
Tanitoluwa Adewumi (1963)
Marshall Chess Club Action (1),
03.05.2020

1. d4 d5 2. Bg5!?

A little off-beat, but still decent. While the bishop doesn't attack anything right now, it does prevent Black from moving the e-pawn due to the pin, and if Black plays 2. ... Nf6, White can consider capturing the knight and doubling Black's pawns.

2. ... c5 3. dxc5 Nc6 4. e4 d4 5. c3 f6 6. Bd2 e5

Very logical play by Tani so far. He has grabbed the center and will get his pawn back soon.

7. Bc4

White should have considered 7. b4!?, trying to keep a pawn for his troubles. If Black gets greedy with 7. ... dxc3 8. Nxc3 Nxb4 it's suddenly White who has a development advantage and better chances. Here's a sample line: 9. Nf3 Bxc5 10. Na4! Bd6 11. Rb1 and White is much better.

7. ... Bxc5 8. Qb3!?

Aggressive, trying to attack the king on the light squares, but it will be hard to checkmate Black without more pieces involved.

8. ... Nge7! 9. Bf7+ Kf8 10. Bh5 g6 11. Bh6+ Ke8 12. Bg7?

This looks like it should win material, but there is a tactical problem. Can you guess what it is?

12. ... Rg8 13. Bxf6 dxc3

Opening the c5-bishop's path to the f2-square. Even better is 13. ... Rf8! when the h5-bishop still hangs and the f2-square will come under attack.

14. bxc3 Rf8 15. Bxe7 Bxf2+!

A great *zwischenzug* — a German word for an "in-between move."

It would have been okay to play 15. ... Qxe7 too, but this gives White a little more breathing room after 16. Bf3. The game continuation is much more accurate.

16. Ke2 Qxe7

The h5-bishop is still under threat, and Black can attack the queen with ... Bc8-f6, gaining time for even more development. It's hard to see how White can survive here.

17. Bf3 Qc5!

The check on e3 looks very bad for White, and after ... Bf2xg1 there's also the threat of material loss.

18. Nd2 Qe3+ 19. Kf1 Bh4

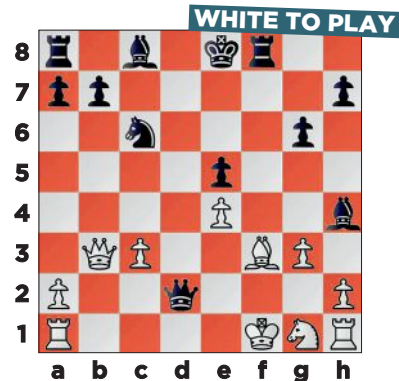
What's the idea behind this move? Of course, it's ... Qe3-f2 mate.

20. g3

Stopping the mate threat, but now Tani grabs a piece.

20. ... Qxd2, White resigned.

There's a nice point behind the final move. After 20. ... Qxd2 White can't capture the bishop.



Why not? It's mate in three: 21. gxh4 Rxf3+! 22. Nxf3 Bh3+ 23. Kg1 Qe3 mate.

Congratulations to Tani and his family from his friends at *Chess Life Kids!*

TACTICS WITH TANI!

You have to know your tactics to become a master. Can you solve these tactics problems, all of which are taken from Tani Adewumi's games?

The positions move from easier to harder, and the answers follow each one but are upside-down so you can't read them. No cheating!

X-RAY ATTACK

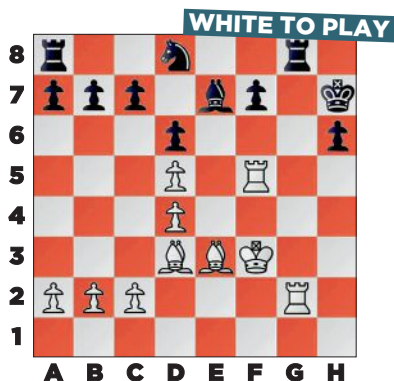
Caden Cao (1464)
Tanitoluwa Adewumi (1946)
New York State K-5 Championship
(2), chessclub.com, 04.17.2021



19. ... Bb3! A skewer or x-ray attack on the queen and, through it, the rook. 20. Qd2 Bxd1 21. Qxd1 and Black went on to win in 37 moves.

MATE IN TWO

TanitoluwaAps116 (1807)
ElementZero (1545)
ChessKid.com, 05.13.2021



Here Tani finds a pretty mate in two: 20. Rxf7+ Kh8 21. Rh7, mate.

DOUBLE ATTACK

GrayUltimateWish (1128)
TanitoluwaAps116 (1711)
ChessKid.com, 03.02.2021



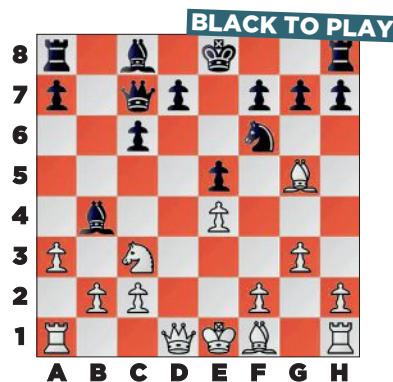
Black is up the Exchange and has an extra pawn.
Nxc2+ 9. Kd1 Nxa1 10. Qxc5 c2 on the king and rook. 8. Qc4

7. ... Nb4! A double attack aims at two targets — the king, some material, or a square — at the same time. Here Black attacks the queen and the c2-square, which can't be defended easily. Note that there's a knight fork from c2 on the king and rook. 8. Qc4 Nxc2+ 9. Kd1 Nxa1 10. Qxc5

If you want even harder puzzles, check *Chess Life Online* on June 9th for more, including a neat shot that Tani used to defeat FunMasterMike!

REMOVING THE DEFENDER

HugeTerrificRhino (1420)
TanitoluwaAps116 (1717)
ChessKid.com, 03.02.2021



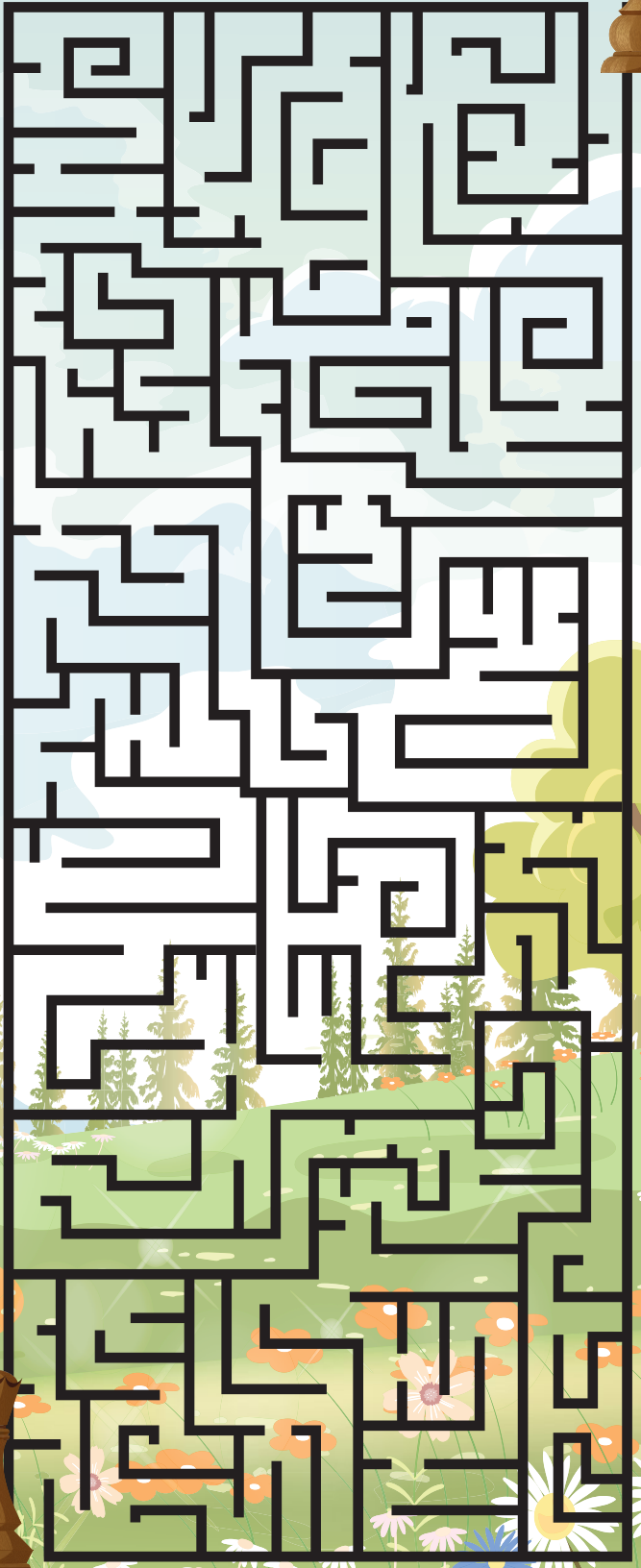
10. ... Bxc3+! A removing the defender tactic. The e4-square is now undefended. 11. bxc3 Nxe4 This wins a pawn, but the way that Tani follows this up deserves careful study. 12. Bd2 Qb6! Developing the queen and attacking the f2-square. 13. Qe2 d5 Defending the knight, and freeing the bishop to move. 14. Qf3?! Bg4! 15. Qe3 White can't take the bishop: if 15. Qxg4 Qxf2+ 16. Kd1 Qxd2 mate! 15. ... Qb2 16. Rd1? White had to play 16. Rcl with a much worse position. 16. ... Bxd1 17. Kxd1 Qb1+ 18. Ke2 Qxc2 19. f3 Nxd2 20. Qxe5+ Kf8 21. Qd6+ Kg8, White resigned

IT'S YOUR MOVE!



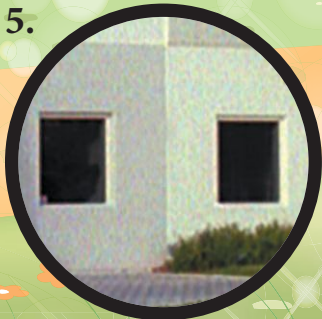
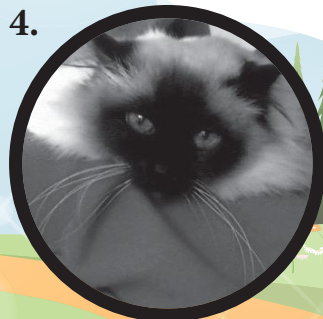
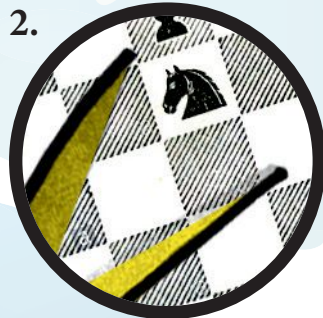
HELP THE PAWN BECOME A QUEEN!

Find a clear path to the queen. Watch out for traps and dead ends! Solution on page 19.



DID YOU SEE THAT?

What can you spy with your eagle eyes? Look carefully at the art and photos in this month's *Chess Life Kids* and see if you can figure out where these close-ups came from! Answers on page 19.

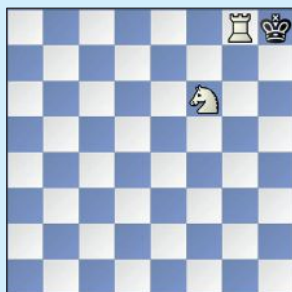
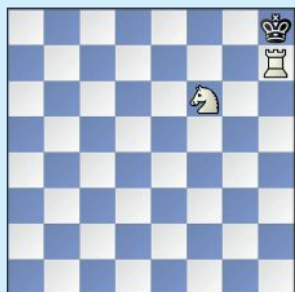




CAN DO IT!

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

It really is not important to remember the names of the various checkmates. Today's mate has been called the Arabian Mate, or the Hook Mate. Whatever it's called, it sure is pretty! Here are the basic patterns to remember.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

In each example, White's knight rests on f6. The rook delivers the mate to a king in the corner. The knight supports the rook and also prevents the king from escaping.

With this knowledge, you should be able to solve all six positions in the quiz. They do get harder, but armed with this knowledge, I know that You Can Do It!

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



to be. Therefore, if you require a queen for promotion, and have none, please stop both clocks and summon a director for assistance in locating a queen; an up-side down rook, for instance, will be considered as a rook, not any other piece, notwithstanding any agreement of the players and/or the otherwise prevailing USCF policy. Ratings: For section qualification and pairing purposes, we will be using the greater of players' over-the-board or online USCF regular ratings (if any), but this tournament will affect only your over-the-board USCF regular/quick ratings. Title: The highest scoring resident of McLennan County (and adjacent counties)

will receive the title of Waco Scholastic Chess Champion. Tiebreaks: If any trophy is tied between two or more persons, the following tiebreaks, in the stated order, decide its recipient: Modified Median; Solkoff; Cumulative; Kashtan; Sonneborn-Berger; Cumulative of Opposition; Coin Flip. Waiting: There will be a skitties room immediately adjacent to the tournament hall, which will be made available to players, parents, etc., for waiting in-between/during rounds. Furthermore, you may also take advantage of the hotel lobby or patio, wherein plentiful supply of seating may be available. Affiliate: The affiliate which the rated sections of

this tournament will be rated under is Innovative Chess Solutions. Other Notes: In all games played, once you drop a piece on a legal square, it constitutes your move and cannot be reversed. Please bring your chess sets and clocks. Sections are subject to merger in the unlikely event of low turnout. Contact: If you would like to receive more information, please email csbrown.entrepreneur@gmail.com. We hope this has been helpful to you, and that we will see you at this grand championship on July 17! Address: 5701 Legend Lake Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712 Organizer: Innovative Chess Solutions

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

But the driving force for the lavish new hall layout was its sponsor Sidney Samole, president of Excalibur Electronics. He loved chess but couldn't always find a partner when he could play. Then he saw an episode of the old TV show *Star Trek*. "I watched Spock playing against Starship Enterprise's onboard computer!" Inspired, Sid went

to work making a chess computer that really worked. He patented the first self-contained chess computer. He sold chess computers all over the world and earned a lot of money. Sidney wanted to give back to chess.

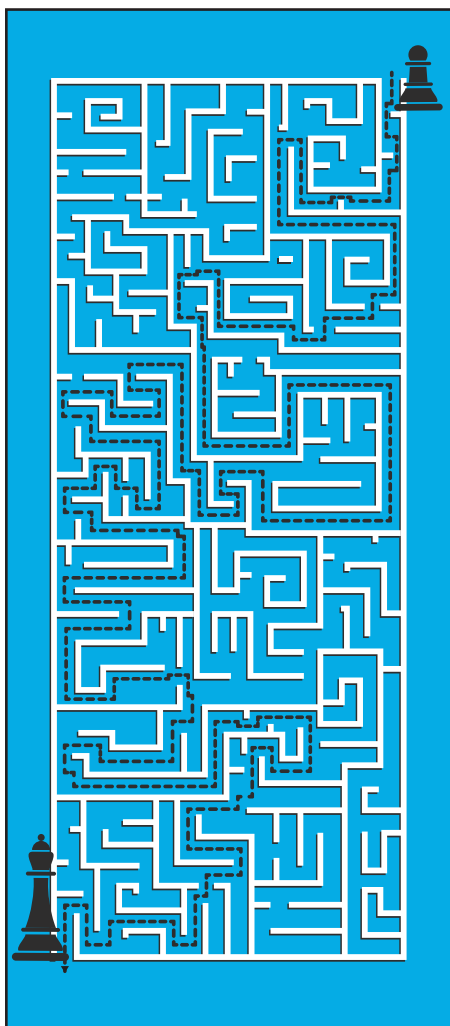
He created a special place for the World Chess Hall of Fame in Miami. Although Sidney died before the new home of chess could be opened in

2002, his son Shane Samole took over to make his dad's dream come true: The World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum!

As special as the Hall was in Miami, it eventually moved to St. Louis where it now has its very own building. Be sure to see the August *Chess Life Kids* for the final installment of the World Chess Hall of Fame story!

ANSWERS

PAGE 15/MAZE



PAGE 6-7/AVOID THE TRAP!

A1) Not at all. White might even transpose into a French in Reverse.

A2) Among other reasons, Black wants to trade the c-pawn for the d-pawn.

A3) White should then play either 3. Nf3 or 3. c3.

A4) White wins big material with 5. Qd5.

A5) It's not a blunder. But why bring out the queen so early?

A6) No. By ignoring d5, Black soon gets in the freeing move ... d7-d5.

A7) It supports ... b7-b5, and then ... b5-b4, driving away the c3-knight.

A8) No, since Black has 9. ... Qc7 10. exf6 Qe5+.

A9) Not at all. White keeps a positional plus with 9. Qe2.

A10) On move 8, Black could have played 8. ... Nbd7, 8. ... Be7, or 8. ... Nc6.

PAGE 15/DID YOU SEE THAT?

1. Pillow, page 1 (cover)

2. Scissors and chess puzzles, page 22

3. Suit of armor, page 5

4. Cat, page 21

5. Windows, page 4

6. *Chess Life Kids* magazines on shelf, page 12

PAGE 16/YOU CAN DO IT!

Solution #1: 1. Nf6+ Kh8 2. Rxh7 mate

Solution #2: 1. Nf6+ Kg7 2. Rh7 mate

Solution #3: 1. Rb7+ Kd8 2. Nxc6 mate

Solution #4: 1. Qxh7+ Rxh7 2. Rg8 mate

Solution #5: 1. Nf6+ Kh8 2. Ng6 mate

Solution #6: 1. Rc7+ Ka8 2. Ra7+ Kxa7 3. Nc6+ Ka8 4. Rxb8 mate

MY FIRST MOVE



GM WESLEY SO

2020 U.S. CHAMPION

OLYMPIAD GOLD MEDALIST

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

HOW IT BEGAN

I taught myself chess at six years old after receiving a gift of a small plastic chess set with instructions in it. There were no chess players in my family or among my friends, so I never had the idea that one day I would be playing chess for a living.

THE DEFINING MOMENT

After becoming a grandmaster at 14 years of age, which was the seventh youngest ever at the time, it occurred to me, “Hey, maybe I can really do this!”

THE CHESS HERO'S CHESS HEROES

Locally, I admired GM Eugene Torre [as a child]. Internationally, I admired the games of many great players like [Garry] Kasparov and [Anatoly] Karpov and Bobby Fischer. [As an adult] I like a lot of player's games if they are beautifully done, but I don't make heroes out of them.



PHOTO COURTESY SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB



Clockwise from upper left: A young Wesley; becoming a U.S. citizen; with mother Lotis Key and Hollywood agent Walter Partos; showing his affinity for cats.

FAVORITE OPENINGS

When I was younger, my favorite opening was 1. e4 for White (*Traps and Zaps* was my first-ever book and it helped form my aggressive style at a young age). These days I like to play a lot of different openings or I get bored.

TOURNAMENT PREP

I study the games of my opponents, prepare some openings, and try to keep myself sharp. In addition, I try to spot my weaknesses and work on them.

MEANINGFUL MOMENTS

I am grateful for all the awards and titles I've received. Each one was a thrilling moment that had its own special meaning because usually I couldn't believe it was happening to me. Winning two U.S. Championships was big, and so was getting double gold at the Chess Olympiads. But you know...whenever you win it's an incredibly big moment.

HANDLING DISAPPOINTMENT

I have had too many chess disappointments to count. But losing is part of the game — you should just cry a little and move on as soon as possible. I make my living in professional sports. Until I retire there will always be another win and another loss just around the corner.

ON BECOMING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

I love the USA. America helped me when no one else could or would. I came here willing to work hard and so much opportunity was opened to me even though I was a “nobody.” My career takes me all over the world now and there is absolutely nowhere as great as the USA. I am proud to be a citizen.

FUTURE GOALS

To play chess better and stop making so many mistakes. My main problem is lack of consistency over a period of time.

OUTSIDE OF CHESS

I like to swim, bike, and play with any kind of animal.

BEST ADVICE RECEIVED

This is a job. It's what you DO to provide for yourself and help others. It is not what you are (given by Lotis, my mother).

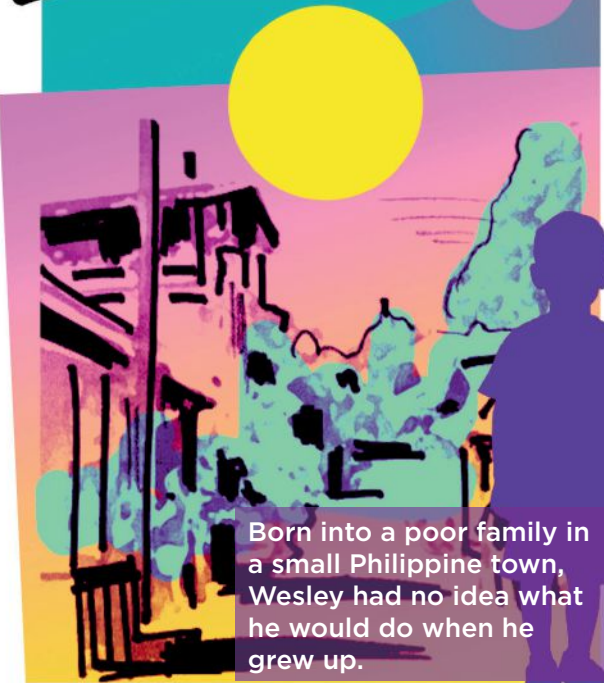
MY BEST ADVICE

Be happy. If you want to play chess professionally, make sure you are happy doing the enormous amount of work it requires. Otherwise, play for fun and do something else for a living.

PHOTO, RIGHT COURTESY SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB; ALL OTHERS COURTESY WESLEY SO

CHESS ADVENTURES

with
So
GM Wesley



Born into a poor family in a small Philippine town, Wesley had no idea what he would do when he grew up.

When he was six years old, Wesley received a small plastic chess set as a gift. It had instructions inside, so he taught himself the game.



To improve, Wesley cut out newspaper columns on chess and followed the moves.



By age 14, Wesley was a grandmaster. At 18 he moved to the U.S., became #2 in the world, won the U.S. Championships twice, and won two Olympic gold medals. You never know what exciting adventures will happen in your life!

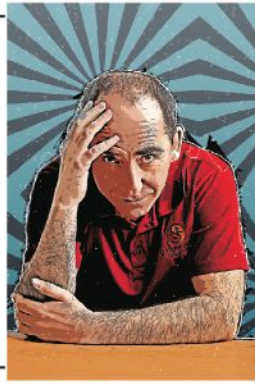


At 10 years old, Wesley went to his first international event, the World Youth Chess Championship, in Greece. He had never been on an airplane or traveled anywhere, even in the Philippines. He was amazed by the hotel, the food, and the many nationalities there. At 12 years old, at the same event in France, Wesley tied for first place.



ART BY VAL BOCHKOV

CAVEMAN CHESS CAMP JULY 25-30



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