

# CHESS LIFE

## Kids

August 2021 | USChess.org

THE 2021 ALL AMERICA TEAM



# SHOP

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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.

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Tennessee 38557.

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This month: FM Thalia Cervantes Landeiro

### In this issue

GM Mac Molner writes about the 2021 National Online Scholastic Championships, the tournament that replaced SuperNationals in the wake of the pandemic. Grandmaster Mac is a chess player and coach who specializes in teaching children. To learn more about him, go to <https://grandmastermac.com/>. We also introduce the newest members of the prestigious All America Chess Team in this month's issue. Finally, FM Thalia Cervantes Landeiro tells her chess story in My First Move and Chess Adventures.

**This month's cover** features the members of our 2021 All America Chess team ages 13 and under. Cover design by Natasha Roberts.

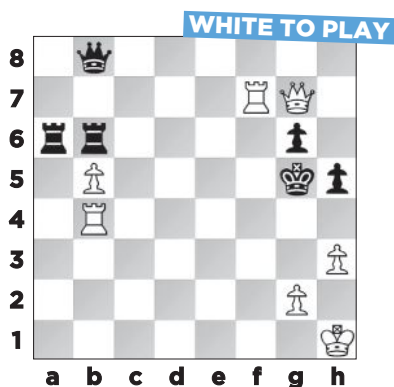
# IT'S YOUR MOVE!



BY: JOHN HARTMANN

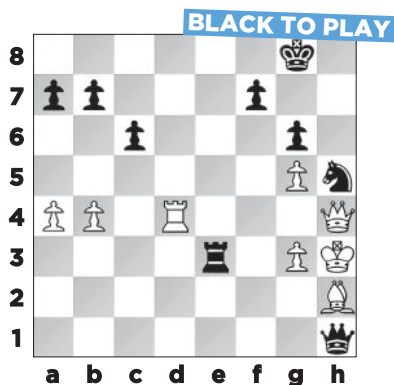
## TACTIC #1: MATE IN ONE

Harvey Hanke (1132)  
Johnson Weng (736)  
NOSC K-1 Championship,  
*Chessclub.com* (2), 06.12.2021



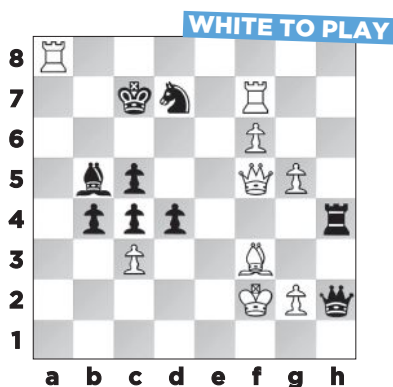
## TACTIC #2: MATE IN TWO

Ayush Roy (1547)  
Tanitoluwa Adewumi (2223)  
NOSC K-5 Championship,  
*Chessclub.com* (3), 06.12.2021



## TACTIC #3: MATE IN TWO

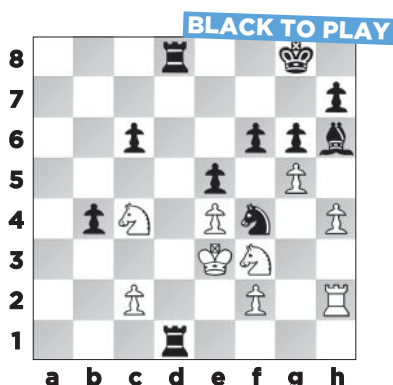
Luca Giorgio Tessiore (1914)  
Sepehr Golsefidy (1882)  
NOSC K-5 Championship,  
*Chessclub.com* (5), 06.13.2021



How to deliver mate?

## TACTIC #4: MATE IN TWO

Aadit Mordani (1199)  
Aidan Baker (673)  
NOSC K-3 Championship,  
*Chessclub.com* (4), 06.13.2021

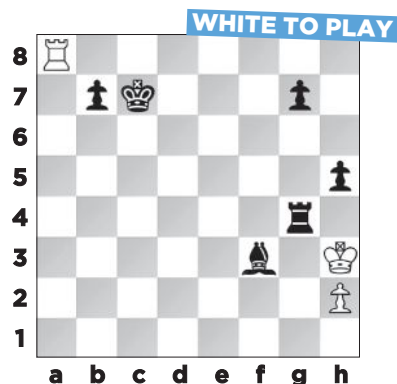


## TACTICS FROM THE NATIONAL ONLINE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

This month's tactics come from games played at the Finals of the National Online Scholastic Championship. We start off slowly, but ramp up to some pretty tricky puzzles. Can you keep up with some of America's best young chessplayers? Answers on Page 19.

## TACTIC #5: DON'T GIVE UP!

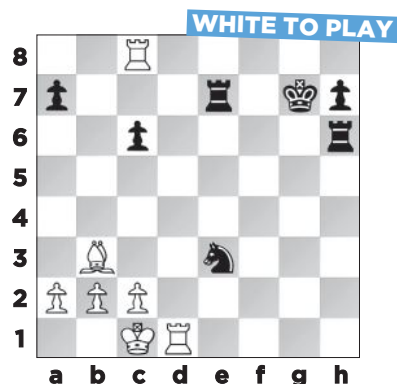
Alanzishun Chen (1041)  
Aadit Mordani (1199)  
NOSC K-3 Championship,  
*Chessclub.com* (5), 06.13.2021



It looks pretty bad for White here, down a bishop and two pawns. Is there any hope of saving the game?

## TACTIC #6: WIN MATERIAL

Joshua Grabinsky (2315)  
Nicholas Ladan (2095)  
NOSC K-12 Championship,  
*Chessclub.com* (1), 06.12.2021



Here White pushes the king into position (a "preparatory move") for an x-ray attack that wins material.



# CAN DO IT!

BY SIM JON EDWARDS

10TH U.S. CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPION

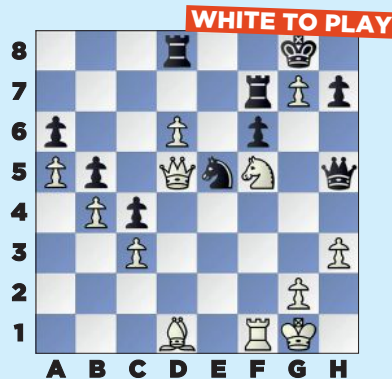
Watching the best players in action is a good way to improve. Recently, World Champion Magnus Carlsen played 39. Bc2-d1 in this position against Teimour Radjabov.

(see diagram next column)

Finding no reasonable way to save his queen, Black resigned. Carlsen intended 39. ... Qg6 40. h4 with the idea of h4-h5. 40. Ne7+ would also be winning.

White's pawn on g7 is a powerful force. Although the defending side often uses it as a shield, it can also help in a mating attack. In this quiz, a pawn

on g7 provides powerful assistance. Some of these are hard, but I know that You Can Do It!



Solutions on page 19.

## QUIZ 3

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 4

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 5

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 1

WHITE TO PLAY



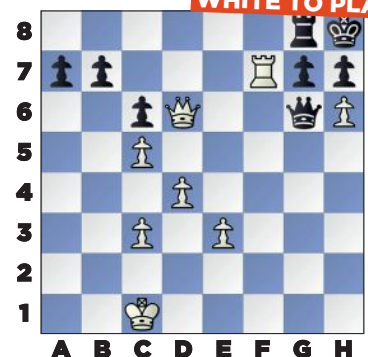
## QUIZ 2

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 6

WHITE TO PLAY



# CHESS STORIES

ACROSS THE



BY AL LAWRENCE

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

## The Hall Gets Its Own Building!

### The World Chess Hall of Fame, Part III

The friendly staff at the World Chess Hall of Fame gathers around the World's Largest Chess piece.



Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield — and an astronaut! — at the inaugural event for the new Boy Scouts' chess merit badge. Dr. Sinquefield was instrumental in its creation.

Ten years ago in St. Louis, the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF for short) got its very own building. Special movers gathered up all the treasures from the three previous Halls we've read about to bring to the new location.

Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield decided to purchase the multi-story building right across the street from the famous Saint Louis Chess Club they had already built and sponsored. The new WCHOF would house three important missions:

- A World Chess Hall of Fame to honor the chess greats in *world* history,
- A U.S. Chess Hall of Fame to honor chess greats in *American* history,
- A first-class *museum* dedicated to chess to preserve artifacts of our history.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME



Photos: Above: Vera Menchik was one of the first WCHOF inductees. Right: Celebrating the Apollo moon landing's 50th anniversary with a space and chess-themed exhibit in 2019.

But the job wasn't as simple as buying a building and putting items in glass cases. The inside of the building was completely renovated to make sure that temperatures, humidity, and lighting could be properly controlled. For the first time, the WCHOF was staffed with highly qualified *curators*, like Shannon Bailey and Emily Allred. "We work to make sure the historical treasures will be safely passed on to future generations," Bailey said.

The World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis celebrated its opening by honoring new inductees, including Vera Menchik,

the first and longest-reigning women's world chess champion. She held the title from 1927 to 1944, when she was tragically killed in the German "Blitz" — the World War II bombing of London. Menchik defeated many of the best male players in her day. When she beat a famous master, he was said to have joined the "Vera Menchik Club." Her induction was a historic start for the new WCHOF!

Since opening in 2011, the WCHOF has hosted field trips, fun programs, and special exhibitions of all kinds, attracting more than 130,000 visitors. That number is many times more

than all the visitors who attended all three previous Halls. In January 2022, the WCHOF will host a special 10th anniversary show.

Even if you can't visit the WCHOF in person, you can view many of its exhibitions by visiting its website: <https://worldchesshof.org/> Clicking on its live cam, you can even view the Guinness World Records' Largest Chess Piece and keep an eye on the Saint Louis Chess Club across the street. You might see some of the world's top grandmasters coming and going! And you can watch as the "campus" expands to host bigger events and display even more historical treasures.

The WCHOF offers instruction and hosts other informative children's events.



Halloween and chess were a natural fit at this 2018 event!



# AVOID THE by Bruce Pandolfini TRAP!

## THE OBSTRUCTIVE KNIGHT DEVELOPMENT

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!

Much of the time, the most active place to develop a knight to is a bishop-three square. Accordingly, for White's knights, we're talking about c3 and f3. For Black's knights, we're talking about c6 and f6. On occasion, especially for queen-knights, the second rank can be appealing when part of a logically planned setup. This could happen to avoid an annoying pin or to transfer the knight to a dynamically useful post. So White's queen-knight might develop to d2 and Black's queen-knight to d7. One potential problem with such a development is that it could block out the queen-bishop (the c1-bishop for White and the c8-bishop for Black). Thus, the king-three squares (e3 for White and e6 for Black) temporarily lose the bishop's protection, which could make certain sacrifices on f2 or f7 quite attractive. This month's column

shows a typical instance of a way to capitalize on this type of obstruction.

### 1. e4

This is one of the two most common moves for White. The other is 1. d4.

Q1) What move does White give up by playing 1. e4? (10 points)

### 1. ... d6

The Pirc Defense, named after the Slovenian grandmaster Vasja Pirc (pronounced something like Peerts, and nothing like Perk.)

Q2) The Pirc Defense encourages White to play what? (10 points)

### 2. d4

White's d-pawn advance takes control of the center. All of White's pieces can now be mobilized without moving any other pawns. White's position is solid with many options.

Q3) In ceding the center, what is Black's strategy? (10 points)

### 2. ... g6

Black prepares to flank the king-bishop. The same setup for Black could have been reached with a different move order, flipping moves one and two. If Black had started with 1. ... g6, the opening would be classified as a Modern Defense. Modern Defense or Pirc Defense, one often becomes the other.

### 3. Nf3

White continues with a natural developing move, supporting and attacking the center. Other moves were also reasonable, such as 3. Nc3, 3. Bd3, 3. Bc4, or moving the c-pawn or f-pawn.

Q4) For castling, how is 3. Nc3 different from 3. Nf3? (10 points)





3. ... Bg7

Black completes the kingside fianchetto. The dark-square bishop now aims at the white center. Once the g8-knight is moved, Black will be ready to castle.

4. Nc3

Both white knights have assumed their optimal attacking positions. Who knows which side White will castle on, or if White will castle at all.

Q5) Which is better: 4. ... Nc6 or 4. ... Nf6? (10 points)

4. ... Nd7

This move is okay. It avoids 4. ... Nc6 5. d5, not that that is so terrible. But after 4. ... Nd7, Black should be careful since it obstructs the c8-bishop's control of e6.

5. Bc4

White takes aim at the f7-pawn, and even the square e6, now that it has been weakened. But Black is fine. White could also have kept the edge with either 5. Be2 or 5. Be3, both of which were good developing moves.

Q6) How would Black have answered the pinning 5. Bb5? (10 points)

5. ... a6

Black's move seems to make sense, in that it supports the advance of the b-pawn and the subsequent development of the queen-bishop to b7. But it's actually costly.

Q7) Should White play 6. 0-0, 6. a4, or something else? (10 points)

6. Bxf7+

A surprising sacrifice! It works because of the knight at d7.

6. ... Kxf7

Black takes the material.

Q8) How should play continue after 6. ... Kf8? (10 points)

7. Ng5+

White's knight invades with a devastating check. Black has three moves and all three lose.

7. ... Kf6

A mistake, but Black was hopelessly lost anyway.

Q9) How does White continue after 7. ... Kf8 or 7. ... Ke8? (10 points)

8. Qf3 mate!

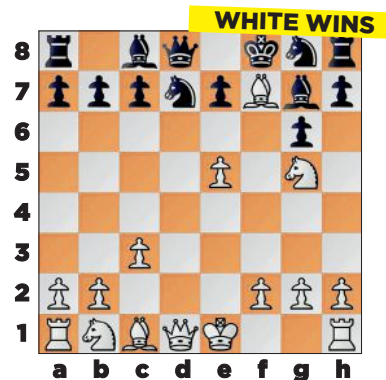


Q10) What was the last move Black could have played to avoid the trap? (10 points)

### ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

**Katarina Blagojevic vs. Vesmina Shikova**  
**Sofia 1967**

1. Nf3 g6 2. e4 Bg7 3. d4 d6 4. Bc4 Nd7 5. c3 Ngf6 6. e5 dxe5 7. dxe5 Ng8 8. Bxf7+ Kf8 9. Ng5



FINAL POSITION IN THE ILLUSTRATIVE GAME

### ANSWERS

- A1) White no longer has the option of moving the e-pawn to e3.
- A2) White is encouraged to play 2. d4, establishing a central pawn duo.
- A3) Black hopes White's center becomes weak and attackable.
- A4) With 3. Nc3, queenside castling becomes available sooner.
- A5) Both are okay, but 4. ... Nf6 speeds up castling and gets the nod.
- A6) Black would have played 5. ... c6, breaking the pin and gaining time.
- A7) White should play something else. There's much better.
- A8) White has a big edge after either 7. Bb3 or 7. Ng5.
- A9) Check or no check, 8. Ne6(+) wins Black's queen.
- A10) On move 5, Black could have played 5. ... Nb6, for example.

## 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

# THE NATIONAL **ONLINE** SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY GM MAC MOLNER

When I was a scholastic player, the tournament that meant the most to me was the spring nationals. I'd study year-round to do my best in what I considered my biggest challenge of the year. I didn't think that anything could be bigger than that, but I was wrong!

SuperNationals — which combines all national spring championship sections and has them compete in the same location — is the spring nationals super-sized. Seeing more than 5,000 kids from kindergarten to high school competing in the same place is one of the coolest experiences I've had as a player or coach.

Unfortunately, the pandemic changed the chess world as well as everything else. The in-person 2020 SuperNationals was canceled, but a version of it was moved online. While it's impossible to replicate a tournament like the SuperNationals, especially in an online setting, this year's National Online Scholastic Championships made the most of the opportunity. The online nationals consisted of two qualifying tournaments and then the main event for all of the participants who qualified.

To pull off a successful event, both the players and tournament organizers

had to make some adjustments. For instance, the time control for the online nationals was reduced to 40 minutes plus a five second increment so the tournament could fit into a two-day weekend. This led to fast-paced and exciting games, and the competition was fierce. Whether it's in person or online, when a competition like this comes together, you can be sure the players will be doing their absolute best.

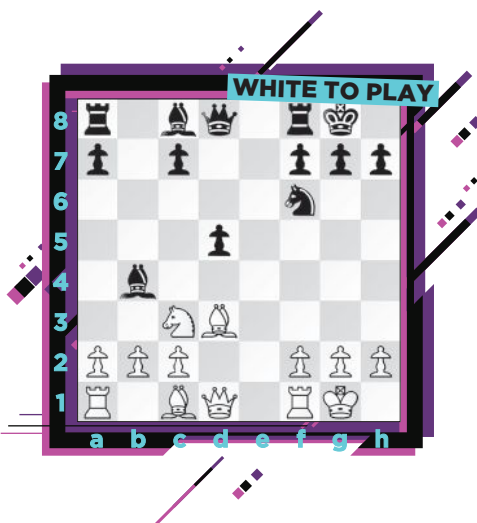
Winter Su of New York topped the K-1 section with 5½ out of 6. It's remarkable to see how strong this young section is becoming: it



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUBJECTS

contained players with ratings up to the 1600s and was close until the finish. Winter managed to come out ahead after a final round win over his opponent Harvey Hanke of Indiana. Here is the final round game between Winter and Harvey, which is well played throughout.

**FOUR KNIGHT'S GAME [C47]**  
**Winter Su (953)**  
**Harvey Hanke (1455)**  
**National Online Scholastic Championship finals, Internet Chess Club (6), 06.13.2021**



This last-round game was between two players trying to edge out each other for the top spots. Winter Su finds a very energetic and convincing way to win the game.

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4**

This opening is known as the Scotch Four Knights. It is a very solid opening in which both sides develop their pieces to traditional squares.

**4. ... exd4 5. Nxd4 Bb4 6. Nxc6 bxc6 7. Bd3 d5 8. exd5 cxd5 9. O-O O-O**

**(see diagram top of next column)**

Both players play the opening perfectly up to this point. Now White chooses a move that is not very common but is reasonable.

**10. a3!?**

The most normal way to continue is 10. Bg5. The pin can be a bit

uncomfortable for Black but is definitely something they can deal with. 10. ... c6 11. Qf3. Now Black has several options and generally does fine from this position.

**10. ... Bxc3 11. bxc3 Be6**

The bishop is a bit passive here. Black had a good alternative in ... c5.

The most likely continuation after 11. ... c5! would be 12. Bg5 h6 13. Bh4 c4 14. Be2 Bf5. This would allow Black to finish development with an equal position.

**12. Re1 c6 13. Bg5 h6 14. Bh4 g5 15. Bg3 Bg4**

The move 15. ... Re8! was Black's best bet. The rook would be useful here, helping to prepare an eventual ... Ne4, with the goal of simplifying to help make the black king safer.

**16. f3 Bh5 17. h4 Nh7**

Better was 17. ... Ne4! This tricky move that would have helped Black's chances. After 18. Bxe4 (18. fxe4?? Bxd1!) 18. ... dxe4 19. Rxe4, White has a big advantage due to the extra pawn and more active pieces, but Black has better chances to defend once they trade queens.

**18. Bxh7+?**

White was better off continuing to put more pressure on the kingside with 18. Qd2! I like to remind students that just because two pieces have the same material value doesn't mean they are equally valuable in the position. The bishop on d3 is a very strong piece, whereas the knight on h7 is struggling to get back into the game.

**18. ... Kxh7 19. Qd4 Rg8 20. Qe5**

A bit better was 20. Re5!

**20. ... Qb6+**

Stronger was 20. ... gxh4!, which would help Black open up the g-file for counterplay.

**21. Bf2 Qd8**

From here on out, Winter plays incredibly well. He activates his pieces and drives away Black's defensive bishop. He finishes out the game with a beautiful invasion on the seventh rank.

**22. g4! Bg6 23. h5! Bxc2 24. Rac1 Bd3 25. Rcd1 Bc2 26. Rd2 Bb3**

The bishop is forced away from the kingside.



27. Qf5+ Kg7 28. Bd4+ Kf8 29. Bc5+ Kg7 30. Qe5+ Kh7 31. Qf5+ Kg7

champions showed a fierce opening choice with an exciting game.

### SICILIAN DEFENSE, DRAGON VARIATION [B76]

Andrew Wu (1690)  
Roshan Sethuraman (1709)  
National Online Scholastic Championship finals, Internet Chess Club (6), 06.13.2021

In this game White plays into an opening trap that is very good for Black but manages to squeak away with a draw and a share of first place.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6

The Dragon Sicilian, a long-time favorite of youth chess players.

6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 O-O 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. O-O-O d5 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxc6 bxc6

This is a very tempting move, especially if it's the player's first time seeing this position. It looks like this continuation wins a pawn but Black gets incredible compensation.

The more reserved standard approach here for White is 12. Bd4. Although it doesn't win any material, it is definitely a safer and more promising option for White. White aims to eliminate Black's powerful dark-square bishop and then play in the center.

12. ... cxd5 13. Qxd5 Qc7 14. Qxa8 Bf5!

This is the whole point of Black's play. Now there is a threat of mate on c2 as well as a discovered attack against the queen on a8.

15. Qxf8+ Kxf8 16. Bd3

Correct was 16. Rd2! h5 (this is played to prevent g2-g4), when Black has the better game due to the powerful bishops and upcoming attack.

16. ... Qe5! 17. Bxf5

(see diagram top of next page)

17. ... Qxb2+

This leads to a great position for Black but there was an even more convincing continuation.

Here is what Black missed: 17. ... Qxe3+! 18. Kb1 Qb6! This is the key move. Black threatens mate on b2 as well as to capture on f5, while protecting against mate on d8. Quite

32. Re7! Rf8 33. Qg6+! Kh8 34. Bd4+ f6 35. Qg7 mate.

A well-played game, especially considering the ages of the players. With chess like this, I wouldn't be surprised to see these players and the rest of their section making a big splash in the older sections in the future.

Next up is the K-3 section, which had a three-way tie for first place between Andrew Wu of Texas, Roshan Sethuraman of Arizona, and Sam Luger of New York. This was a tightly contested competition with the winning score of 5/6, showing how no one was able to separate themselves from the pack of players. The final game of the tournament between two of the eventual co-



12. Nxd5

ERIC LIU

K-5 CO-CHAMPION

TEXAS

RATING: 2045

LUCA TESSIORE

K-5 CO-CHAMPION

WASHINGTON

RATING: 1914



Sho Moritani of New York coming out first on tiebreaks. Eric Chang Liu (TX), Luca Tessiore (WA), Tanitoluwa Adewumi (NY), and Alexander Wang (NJ) all finished with 5 out of 6. Going into the final round of the tournament Sho, who had a perfect 5 out of 5 score, was matched with Tanitoluwa (Tani) Adewumi, who recently became a master and has taken the chess world by storm. Unfortunately, Tani started the tournament with a loss by forfeit, but he made up for it with five consecutive wins, ultimately tying for first. Here is his game against Sho Moritani.

**SICILIAN DEFENSE, ALAPIN VARIATION [B02]**  
 Tanitoluwa Adewumi (2120)  
 Sho Moritani (1467)  
 National Online Scholastic Championship finals, Internet Chess Club (6), 06.13.2021

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 Nc6 7. Nc3 d6 8. Nxd5 exd5 9. Bd3 Bg4 10. O-O dxe5 11. dxe5 Be7 12. Re1 O-O 13. h3 Be6 14. Be3 d4 15. Nxd4 Nxd4 16. Bxd4 Bb4 17. Re3 Kh8 18. Be4 Bd5 19. Qg4 Be6 20. Qd1 Bd5 21. Qf3 Bxe4 22. Rxe4 Qe7 23. a3 Bc5 24. Bc3 Qe6 25. Rd1 Rad8 26. Rh4 Qb6 27. Rxd8 Rxd8 28. Rf4 Kg8 29. Rxf7 Rd1+ 30. Qxd1 Kxf7 31. Qd5+ Ke7



a multi-purpose move! White can't prevent both threats and will end up losing material and still having an unsafe king. 19. b3 gxf5

**18. Kd2 gxf5 19. Rb1 Qc3+ 20. Kd1 Be5**

Of course not 20. ... Qxe3?? This would be a tragic way to go wrong, allowing 21. Rb8 mate.

**21. Re1 f6 22. Bxa7 Qa3 23. Bb6 Qd6+ 24. Ke2 Qe6 25. Kf2 Qxa2 26. Rbc1 Qa6 27. Be3 f4, Draw agreed.**

Black still has a large advantage here but perhaps the tournament situation played into the draw agreement here. A short but very exciting final game!

The K-5 section was an extremely competitive section. Five people eventually tied at the top, with



Up to this point Tani has done a very good job slowly improving his position and is ahead by two pawns. I was covering this game live on the official stream and wondered what Tani had in store. He found a very effective way to simplify the game and win easily.

**32. Qxc5+! Qxc5 33. Bb4 Qxb4 34. axb4**

Now that the dust has settled, White has reached a winning king and pawn endgame. White just needs to make sure to keep the e5 defended in order to make things as easy as possible.

**34. ... Ke6**

The attempt to win the e-pawn with 34. ... g5 is met with 35. g3! by transposing to the game.

**35. f4 g5 36. g3 h5 37. h4 gxh4 38. gxh4 Kf5 39. Kf2 Ke6 40.**

**Ke3 Kf5 41. b5 a6 42. bxa6 bxa6 43. b4 Ke6 44. Ke4 Kf7 45. f5 Ke7 46. f6+ Ke6 47. Kf4 Kf7 48. Kf5 Kf8 49. e6 a5 50. Kg6**

Taking here with 50. bxa5 would of course be easily winning as well.

**50. ... axb4 51. f7 Ke7 52. Kg7 Kxe6 53. f8=Q b3 54. Qb4 b2 55. Qxb2 Kf5 56. Qf6+ Kg4 57. Qg5+ Kf3 58. Qxh5+ Ke3 59. Qg5+ Kd4 60. h5 Ke4 61. h6 Kd4 62. Kf8 Ke4 63. Ke8 Kd3 64. Kd8 Ke4 65. Kc8 Kd3 66. Kb8 Ke4 67. Ka8 Kd3 68. h7 Ke4 69. h8=Q Kd3 70. Qhh4 Ke2 71. Qgg3 Kd1 72. Qhh2 Kc1 73. Qgg1 mate.**

This was a crucial win for Tani that allowed him to tie for first place.

Unlike the previous sections, the K-6 group had a clear winner: Floridian Erick Zhao prevailed with a perfect 6-0 record. This feat becomes even more impressive when considering that another master player, Brewington Hardaway of New York, was in the section. In the final round of the tournament, Erick and Brewington faced each other. I analyzed this game live on the official livestream and it was a blast trying to figure out what was going on in this intense match. Hopefully you'll enjoy it as well.

## SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION [B90]

**Brewington Hardaway (2219)**

**Erick Zhao (2285)**

**National Online Scholastic Championship finals, Internet Chess Club (6), 06.13.2021**

The final game of the K-6 section featured the number one and number two seeds paired against each other. As a spectator and chess fan, this is exactly what you want to see. Both of these players are already impressively rated over 2200, which is quite a feat for an elementary section. Going into this game, Brewington with the white pieces

had 4/5 and Erick Zhao with the black pieces had a perfect 5/5.

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

This is the Najdorf Sicilian. Many of the world's elite grandmasters favor this opening due to its active play for Black.

**6. Bd3**

White has many options in this position and Brewington goes for a move that isn't all that popular.

The move 6. Bg5 is considered one of White's most dangerous tries against the Najdorf. Another idea is 6. f3. This is a powerful setup known as the English Attack. White plans to pawn storm the kingside in the near future.

**6. ... e5 7. Nb3**

The best move in this position is 7. Nde2! The knight is heading towards g3 in order to access the f5 square and support kingside action. A possible continuation would be 7. ... Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Ng3 Be6,

**7. ... Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. f3?!**

More consistent with White's thematic play in the position is 9. f4.

**9. ... Be6 10. Be3 Nbd7 11. Qd2**

White should use this move to shut down some of Black's queenside counterplay with 11. a4!

**11. ... b5! 12. Nd5 Bxd5 13. exd5 Nb6 14. Bxb6 Qxb6+ 15. Kh1 a5**

The move 15. ... g6! would threaten to take the pawn on d5. It could also help support an eventual f7-f5 push on the kingside for Black. The d5-pawn is quite shaky.

**16. a4 b4 17. Bb5 Nh5 18. Bc6**

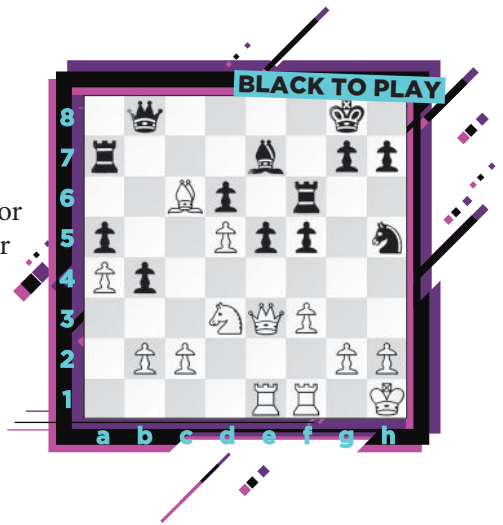
The move 18. c4! would give White the slightly better chances.

**18. ... Ra7 19. Rae1 f5 20. Qe3 Qb8 21. Nc1 Rf6 22. Nd3**

**(see diagram top of next column)**

**22. ... Rh6**

This move is strong although there is an even better move...



**22. ... f4!** During the live broadcast of the event I was analyzing this position with GM Joel Benjamin and the rest of the Passers.gg team and Joel suggested this move. It is extremely powerful. It prevents White's best defensive resource f3-f4 and gives White very little room to move around on the kingside. Black will follow up with ... Rh6, ... Bd8-b6, and ... Ng3+. **23. White is in big trouble after 23. Qf2 Rh6 24. Kg1 Bd8!**

**23. f4! e4 24. Nf2 Bd8 25. Nh3 Bb6 26. Qe2 Qd8 27. c3 Bc5 28. Qb5 Kf7 29. cxb4 axb4 30. Rc1 Be3 31. Rce1**

With 31. Rc4!, White could have gotten a winning advantage. Brewington has done a good job stopping Black's attack and now he can make progress on the queenside.

**31. ... Bc5 32. Rc1 Be3 33. Rc2 g6 34. Qxb4 Qh4 35. Qc3 Bxf4 36. Qd4 Re7 37. Qf2 Qxf2 38. Rcx2 g5 39. a5**

The move 39. b4 was a good way for White to get queenside play going. **39. ... e3 40. Re2 Kf6 41. Kg1? Be5 42. g4 Nf4 43. Nxf4 gxf4 44. gxf5 (see diagram top of next page)**

The tense middlegame has finally come to an end, but White's king is not out of the woods yet! Black has a very strong continuation that will still

## NOT PICTURED:

ANDREW **WU** K-3 CO-CHAMPION

RATING: 1710

TEXAS

ROSHAN **SETHURAMAN** K-3 CO-CHAMPION

RATING: 1689

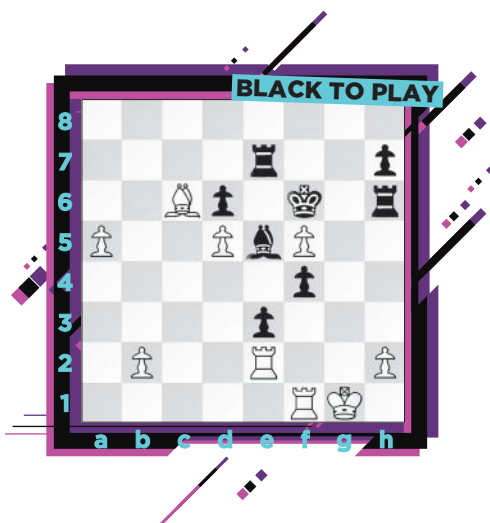
ARIZONA

HERSH  
**SINGH**

K-9 CHAMPION

WISCONSIN

RATING: 2255



lead to a crushing attack. The move that Erick played in the game is also enough to win the game.

### 44. ... Kxf5

Best was 44. ... Rg7+! 45. Kh1 Rh3!, when the threat of ... f4-f3 from Black leads to a winning attack. Despite the queen trade, White's king is still under heavy fire.

### 45. Ba4 Ke4 46. Bc2+ Kxd5

Black's king migrates over to the queenside and keeps the pawns at bay. Erick wins the game using good technique.

47. a6 Kc5 48. Bd3 Kb6 49. b4 Rg7+ 50. Kh1 Rh3 51. Be4 Kxa6 52. Bf3 Rh6 53. Rc2 Rhg6 54. Be2+ Kb6 55. Bf3 d5 56. b5 Bd4 57. Re2 Kxb5 58. Rb1+ Kc5 59. Rc1+ Kd6 60. Rd1 Ke5 61. Ree1 Rb6 62. Re2 Rb4 63. Rc2 Rc4

64. Re2 Rgc7 65. Rg1 Rc1 66. Kg2 Rxc1+ 67. Kxc1 Rc1+ 68. Kg2 Bc3 69. Ra2 Ra1 70. Rc2 d4 71. Be2 Ke4 72. Bf3+ Kd3 73. Re2 Rb1 74. Bg4 Rb2 75. Kf1 Rxe2 76. Bxe2+ Kd2 77. h4 d3 78. Bf3 e2+ 79. Kg2 e1=Q 80. h5 Qg3+ 81. Kh1 Qxf3+ 82. Kg1 Bd4+ 83. Kh2 Qg3+ 84. Kh1 Qg1 mate.

This game was a huge struggle with both sides having their chances. It was definitely a worthy contest to decide the national championship. Congratulations to Erick on his perfect record throughout the tournament.

The K-9 section was another strong batch of players. The whole group was filled with experts and masters from all over the country. Despite the difficult level of competition, Hersh Singh from Wisconsin emerged from the six games with a perfect score, defeating several masters and experts along the way. Hersh won his final round game with a nice tactic early in the middlegame.

## CATALAN OPENING [E01]

Hersh Singh (2255)

Rushaan Mahajan (2194)

National Online Scholastic Championship finals, Internet Chess Club (6), 06.13.2021

Hersh Singh, with the white pieces, emerged from the tournament with a perfect score after this final round

game. He managed to win in fast fashion with a nice tactical sequence in the middlegame.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Nf3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Bd6 6. Nc3 c6 7. Qc2 Nbd7 8. e4 dxe4 9. Nxe4 Nxe4 10. Qxe4 Nf6 11. Qc2 c5

White has gotten a nice position out of the opening and over the next few moves has a chance to open things up to his advantage.

### 12. Bc3

The move 12. dxc5! leads to an even better position for White here. White wants to open the center and make the most out of his potentially powerful bishops. After 12. ... Bxc5 13. b4 Bd6 14. Bg2 0-0 15. 0-0 Bd7 16. Bc3, White is much better.

### 12. ... b6

After the continuation 12. ... cxd4! 13. Nxd4 Bd7 14. Bg2 Qc7, Black would be better coordinated and avoid the issues that pop up soon.

### 13. Bg2 Bb7 14. 0-0

Once again, 14. dxc5! would be strong.

### 14. ... 0-0 15. dxc5! Bxc5

(see diagram top of next page)

After this move, Hersh finds a winning tactical shot based off the weakness on h7 and the undefended bishop on b7.

### 16. Ng5! Ne4



Black does his best to limit the damage, but White plays well from here on out and converts the advantage smoothly.

Even worse is 16. ... Bxg2 17. Bxf6. This is the key point to the whole idea. The queen is threatened, along with mate on h7. Black has no way to avoid massive material loss.

**17. Nxe4 f5 18. Nxc5 Bxg2 19. Kxg2**

Another convincing way to win is 19. Nxe6.

**19. ... bxc5 20. Qe2 Qb6 21. Rad1 Qb7+ 22. Kg1 Rfd8 23. Qxe6+ Kh8 24. Qxf5 Rf8 25. Qg4 Qf7 26. Rd7, Black resigned.**

Hersh Singh pounced on the chance he had and made the most of it. A nice way to finish out his perfect record in the event.

The high-school section was

another tough struggle, with Justin Wang of Texas coming out on top.

Although it's hard to do a tournament like the SuperNationals justice, this year's online edition made the best of the opportunity. During the tournament, the players raised their games and showed off some great chess despite the change in conditions and faster time controls. As the end of the pandemic nears and over the board play is on the horizon, I think this tournament will be looked back on as perhaps the most unique nationals ever played.

For complete results, please visit <http://www.uschess.org/results/2021/noscch/>

## At A Glance

### 2021 National Online Scholastic Championships (finals)

Date: June 12-13, 2021

#### K-1 Section | 32 players

Top Finishers: 1st, 5½: Winter Su; 2nd-3rd, 5: Manish Kashyap, Owen Xu; 4th-5th: 4½: Tariq Yue, Ariv Debmisra; 6th-9th, 4: Harvey Hanke, Andrew Zou, Ojas Tendulkar, Delilah Emerson Colye; 10th-12th, 3½: Winston Wu, Suhas Indukuri, Lev Shangin

#### K-3 Section | 48 players

Top Finishers: 1st-3rd, 5: Andrew Wu, Roshan Sethuraman, Sam Luger; 4th-8th, 4½: Yusuf Mansurov, Abinoam Riji, Advik Garg, Sharath Radhakrishnan, Zachary Liu; 9th-12th, 4: Aaron Mendes, Avina Pawar, Krishna Rallabandi, Raphael Schwartz

#### K-5 Section | 47 players

Top Finishers: 1st-5th, 5: Sho Moritani, Eric Chang Liu, Luca Tessiore, Tanitoluwa Adewumi, Alexander Wang; 6th, 4½: Pranav Sathish; 7th-12th, 4: Rohan Rajaram, Sepehr Golefidy, Mahatib Kashyap, Ruoxiao Xia, Kyle Zhuang, Nikash Vemparala

#### K-6 Section | 32 players

Top Finishers: 1st, 6: Erick Zhao; 2nd, 5: Ronen Wilson; 3rd, 4½: Royal Buchanan; 4th-8th, 4: Abhiram Pothuri, Mohit Bayyrapu, Brewington Hardaway, David Siqi Liu, Aiden Teitelman; 9th-12th, 3½: Oskar Zoffer, Nitish Nathan, Jasper Ho, Dylan Yu

#### K-9 Section | 54 players

Top Finishers: 1st, 6: Hersh Singh; 2nd-3rd, 5: Nathaniel Shuman, Gus Huston; 4th-6th, 4½: Avi Kaplan, Rushaan Mahajan, Austin Mei; 7th-14th, 4: Terry Luo, Kevin Pan, Merric Hu, Natalie Wisniowski, Jayden Lee, Aarush Naveen, Jayant Maheshwari, William Wu

#### K-12 Section | 33 players

Top Finishers: 1st, 5½: Justin Wang; 2nd-3rd, 5: Nico Chasen, Arthur Guo; 4th, 4½: Derek Clasby; 5th-9th, 4: Suraj Oruganti, Eugene Yoo, Maximillian Lu, Owen McCoy, Thomas Kung; 10th-15th, 3½: Josh Grabinsky, Thomas Kung, Shelev Oberoi, Nicholas Ladan, Daniel Levkov, Gabriel White

See the complete standings at <http://www.uschess.org/results/2021/noscch/>



# THE 2021 ALL AMERICA TEAM

The All America Chess Team, created in 1987 to honor the very best players ages 18 and under, is one of the highest national recognitions a young chess player can attain. Each year the team is chosen based on age, rating, and chess activity, similar to the “all-conference” team selection in other sports. This year’s team members qualified based on their ages as of January 1, 2020, and their peak post-tournament ratings from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Since this award is a “post-season” selection, the minimum rating limits in each age group are reviewed annually by US Chess staff and the US Chess Scholastic Council.

In this issue we recognize members of the 2021 All-America Chess Team ages 13 and under. The key below will help you match names to the cover photos — the number next to each name indicates its cover location. For a complete list of team members, visit <https://new.uschess.org/news/2021-us-chess-all-america-chess-team-selected>. *Chess Life Kids* congratulates each of the 43 members of the 2021 All-America Chess Team for receiving this prestigious award!

## AGE 13 (MIN. RATING 2350)

**CHRISTOPHER WOOJIN YOO (18)**  
California

**ARTHUR GUO (21)**  
Georgia

**JASON WANG (23)**  
Ohio

**NICO WERNER CHASIN (19)**  
New York

## AGE 12 (MIN. RATING 2300)

**JASON LIANG (22)**  
New York

**ERIC YUHAN LI (14)**  
California

**EVAN PARK (20)**  
Pennsylvania

## AGE 11 (MIN. RATING 2225)

**LIRAN ZHOU (17)**  
New York

**DIMITAR MARDOV (15)**  
Illinois

**LIAM HENRY PUTNAM (16)**  
New York

**ERICK ZHAO (12)**  
Florida

## AGE 10 (MIN. RATING 2150)

**ABHIMANYU MISHRA (10)**  
New Jersey

**BREWINGTON HARDAWAY (9)**  
New York

**BRYAN XIE (13)**  
California

**ALICE TERESA LEE (8)**  
Minnesota

## AGE 9 (MIN. RATING 2050)

**RYO WENYU CHEN (4)**  
Texas

**ANDY AUSTIN WOODWARD (11)**  
Texas

**ALEXANDER J WANG (7)**  
New Jersey

**ANDREW JIANG (6)**  
Georgia

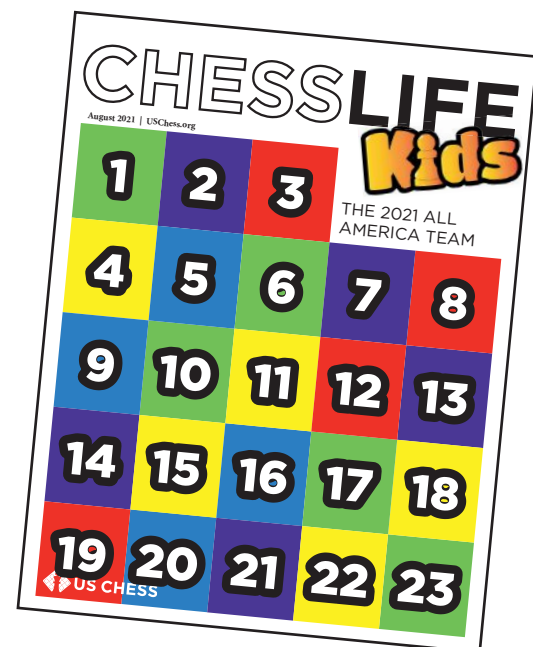
**TANITOLUWA ADEWUMI (3)**  
New York

**YUVRAJ RUDRA CHENNAREDDY (5)**  
Illinois

## AGE 8 & UNDER (MIN. RATING 1950)

**RYAN SUN (2)**  
Massachusetts

**LUCAS JIANG (1)**  
California



# 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 August 31, 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 "XXXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

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

## Grand Prix

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 73rd Annual New Jersey Open Championship

SEPTEMBER 4-6, NEW JERSEY  
US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80

55S; Newly Renovated Headquarters Plaza Hyatt, a luxury hotel including spa. Masks required. Please go to [NJSCF.org](http://NJSCF.org) for additional information and a list of our COVID-19 rules. Free parking for day visitors. For chess rate (\$139/night) use <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/MORRM/G-NJCS> for online reservations. **Please register for hotel by 8/2.** Short walk to train station with service to New York and Philadelphia (via Newark). 5 minute walk to many restaurants and shopping. **EF:** \$78 if received by 8/28, GMs and IMs free entry, \$81 online at [njscf.org](http://njscf.org) until midnight 9/2, \$90 onsite. **Re-entry:** \$40. In 3 sections, Open Section, Under 1800, Under 1600. With 3 day and 2 day schedules. **Prizes:** Open: \$1000, \$850, \$700, \$500, \$450, Class Prizes: 2200 - 2399: \$400, \$250, \$100; 2000 - 2199: \$400, \$250, \$100; U2000: \$400, \$250, \$100; Class Prize: Top Senior (55+): \$150; Trophy to NJ Champion. Under 1800 Section: \$400, \$250, \$100, Class Prizes: Top Senior (55+): \$150. Under 1600 Section: \$400, \$250, \$100, Class Prizes: Top Senior (55+): \$150, Top D, E & F: \$150. \$100 prize for best Open section game. \$100 prize for best game in either Under 1800 or Under 1600 section. **All sections get these trophies:** Top 3, Top Senior over 55, Top under age 16, Top under age 13. Unrated may

win first place in Open section only. **3 day registration at hotel:** 9:00am-11:00am 9/4. **2 day reg at hotel:** Sunday, 9/5 9-10 am. **Rounds:** 3 day Saturday 12:00 & 6:30 pm, Sunday 11 am & 6 pm, Monday 9 am & 3:30 pm. **Rounds:** 2 day 1-2-3(G/60 d5) Sunday 10:30 am, 12:45 pm and 3:00 pm. 3 Day and 2 Day schedules merge in round 4. Mail checks made payable to NJSCF to: Hal Sprechman, 15 Reigate Ln., Manchester, NJ 08759. Entries should include name, USCF ID and expirations, mailing address, email address, phone, section and schedule desired and entry fee. **Address:** 3 Headquarters Plaza, Morristown, NJ 07960 **Organizer:** Harold Sprechman **Email:** [halsprechman@gmail.com](mailto:halsprechman@gmail.com) **Phone:** (732) 259-3881 **Website:** <http://www.njscf.org>

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### Indy FIDE \$10,000

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OR 25-26, INDIANA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

55S; 3 or 2 Day Option. Delta Hotels by Marriott, 5860 Fortune Cir W, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Free WiFi, Free Airport Shuttle, Free Parking, Restaurant on site. **\$10,000 BASED ON 130 PAID ENTRIES!** **Premier (1901+)** [FIDE Rated] \$1200, \$800, \$500, \$300 U2300: \$600, \$400 U2100: \$500, \$300 Reserve (1601-1900) \$800, \$500, \$300; U1750: \$200 **Novice (1301-1600)** \$800, \$500, \$300; U1450: \$200 **Apprentice (unrated -1300)** \$800, \$500, \$300; U1000: \$200 **Bonus:** Trophies to all prize winners in Reserve, Novice, and Apprentice! (USCF tiebreaks used for trophies) **Premier Section:** FIDE + USCF rated, uses FIDE rules. This tournament will use USCF ratings for pairings and prize purposes. Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID before the first round. USA players without a FIDE ID must agree to represent USA in international competition in order to play and must provide necessary information to receive a FIDE ID. Default late forfeiture time is 1 hour. TD may extend at TD's discretion. Players must use provided score sheets and submit copies each round. No electronic notation devices allowed in the Premier section. **Schedule All Sections: 3-Day:** (G/90, inc/30) Fri: 7PM Sat: 10:30 am 4:30 pm Sun: 9 am 2:30 pm **2-Day:** (Rounds 1 & 2 = G/45, inc/5) (Rounds 3-5 = G/90, inc/30) Sat: 10:30 am, 1 pm, 4:30 pm (merge) Sun: 9 am 2:30 pm **First two rounds of 2-day Premier section not FIDE rated.** **Byes:** Up to two ½ point byes available if requested before the end of round 2, cannot be changed. TD reserves the right to combine sections based on turnout. Unrated may play up at TD's discretion. Bring boards, sets and clocks, supplies are limited. **Entry Fees:** \$128 by 9/10, \$140 after, \$160 on site. **Discounts:** \$10 discount to senior players (55+) **Re-entry:** \$65. Re-entry is not allowed in the Premier Section. **Playing Up:** Players may play up ONE section for a \$25 fee. Minimum USCF rating to play up in the Premier Section is 1800, **no exceptions.** **GM IM WGM FREE Entry! No deduction if committed by 9/10- Please contact TD.** **Email:** [bcchessclubindy@gmail.com](mailto:bcchessclubindy@gmail.com) or call / text 317-286-6183 to register. **PayPal:** PayPal users please send payment to: [bcchessclubindy@gmail.com](mailto:bcchessclubindy@gmail.com). Please include your USCF and FIDE ID (if applicable), published regular rating, schedule, and best contact info to send entry confirmation. **Add \$4 for PayPal fee / per player. Credit Card:** by phone ok until 9/23, player pays cc fees. PayPal or cash at site, no checks. Please join / renew USCF membership at least 24 hours before the tournament. Maximum player capacity may be limited to 150. **Early registration is highly encouraged. (The last few events have sold out!) Sign up early and guarantee your spot!** Our last FIDE event had 155 players! **Cross table:** <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202105168032.0-12787646> **On site registration:** Friday: 4:30 to 5:45 pm. Saturday: 8 am to 9:30 am. **Face coverings may be required depending on Indiana Covid-19 rules.** Sanitizer, Scoresheets, pens,

ibuprofen etc., Water stations available (All Free). No eating at the board, drinks are ok. **NO CELL PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES! Subject to DQ, Metal Detectors will be used.** **Blitz Side Event:** 7 SS Open double round (14 games); Sat: 9:30 pm, USCF blitz rated, G3 +2, **EF:** \$25 (GM's Free) \$275, \$175, \$125, U1800 \$100, U1500 \$75, based on 45 paid entries. September Published USCF Blitz ratings used. **Questions:** Please email B C Chess Club at: [bcchessclub-indy@gmail.com](mailto:bcchessclub-indy@gmail.com) or call / text 317-286-6183 anytime Please go to our Facebook Page: B C Chess Club for more updates, photos and details. **Hotel Rate:** \$105 by 9/18 Call 317-247-9700 or go to link. 20% discount at on-site restaurant, mention the chess tournament. **Hotel Link:** <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1622041882371&key=GRP>. **ORGANIZER:** B C Chess Club **Email:** [bcchessclubindy@gmail.com](mailto:bcchessclubindy@gmail.com) **Phone:** 1317-2866183 **Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/indychessfun/>

## Climb the Rating Ladder Weekly Courses with USCF Rated Online Games

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

Weekly online courses for scholastic players with USCF-rated online games! Students play one rated game every week after which the instructor analyzes the games with the class as a group. **Time control:** Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second increment. Courses on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays! View our full offering of courses on [dmvchess.com](http://dmvchess.com) **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** [courses@dmvchess.com](mailto:courses@dmvchess.com) **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** <http://www.dmvchess.com/>

## Regional

### IDAHO

WEEKLY ON SUNDAY AND SATURDAY, STARTING FROM SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

#### Chandra Alexis Chess Club

The Chandra Alexis Chess Club is open Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., for lessons, games and tournaments. The club offers weekly 4 RD/SS USCF/FIDE rated and scholastic team tournaments. We are located at 7337 W. Northview Street, Suite 4, Boise, ID 83704. Suite 4 is the Blue Pencil White Pawn office. As seating is limited to 12 players, all tournaments are invitation-al. Check [chandraalexischessclub.org](http://chandraalexischessclub.org) for registration information. Contact USCF Senior TD/FIDE National Arbitrator for the U.S., George Lundy, 208-375-1211 evenings.

### ILLINOIS

AUGUST 16-21, 2021

#### 2021 North American Youth Chess Championships

Presented by the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation, International Chess School, US Chess, & FIDE America. **FIDE & USCF Rated - FIDE Titles and Norms will be awarded.** 9 SS, G/90 + 30 second increment per move. **Open & Girls Sections:** Age as of 1/1/2021, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 18. **EF:** \$150.00 thru Jun 15, \$175.00 thru Jul 15, \$200.00 thru Aug 15, \$225.00 onsite. **Blitz EF:** \$30 thru Jul 15, \$40 thru Aug 15, \$50 onsite. **Schedule:** **Aug 16 - 5 pm Blitz, Aug 17 - 9 am Opening Ceremony, 10 am Rd 1, 4 pm Rd 2, Aug 18 - 10 am Rd 3, 4 pm Rd 4, Aug 19 - 10 am Rd 5, 4 pm Rd 6, Aug 20 - 10 am Rd 7, 4 pm Rd 8, Aug 21 - 10 am Rd 9, 3 pm Closing Ceremony. **Titles to be Awarded:** FIDE Titles and norms will be awarded to the top 3 players in each section. **Awards:** Trophies for the top 10 players in U8 - U14 sections; Top 5 players in U16 & U18 Section. **HR:** Hilton Chicago, 720 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605 \$165 single/double, \$189 triple, \$214 quad. **Reservations:** Online or 1-312-922-4400 Reserve early rate may increase / sell out. **Byes:** No half-points byes, only zero-point byes. Info: online at: <https://www.naycc2021.com/>**

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OR 25-26, 2021

#### Indy FIDE \$10,000 (IN)

See Grand Prix.

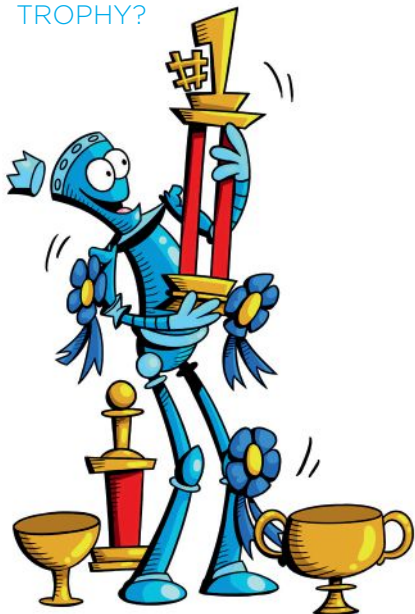
### INDIANA

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OR 25-26, 2021

#### Indy FIDE \$10,000 (IN)

See Grand Prix.

CHECK OUT ALL THESE UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS! WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE TROPHY?



## KENTUCKY

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OR 25-26, 2021

Indy FIDE \$10,000 (IN)

See Grand Prix.

## MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OR 25-26, 2021

Indy FIDE \$10,000 (IN)

See Grand Prix.

## NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

New Jersey Scholastic K-8 Championship

5-5S, G/30 d5. Newly renovated! Hyatt Morristown, 3 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. Phone: 973-

647-1234, mention NJ Chess. Free parking, public transportation to NYC, Phil. walking distance, 30 restaurants, shops and parks within 5 minute stroll. Masks must be worn. Please go to [NJSCF.org](http://NJSCF.org) for additional information and COVID-19 rules. In three sections: Under 1200, Under 900, Under 600. Trophies to Top Ten in each section. **Registration:** Saturday, Sept 4th, 11 am - 12 noon. **Rounds:** 12:30 pm, then ASAP. EF: \$35 if postmarked by August 25th. \$45 cash at site. \$37 online at [njscl.org](http://njscl.org) until midnight 9/2. One 1/2 point bye allowed if requested with entry fee. August Rating Supplement used. **Entries:** to Hal Sprechman, 15 Reigate Ln, Manchester, NJ 08759. Entries must include section, name, USCF ID and expiration date, mailing address, email address, phone number, and entry fee. Checks made out to NJSCF. Questions to [halsprechman@gmail.com](mailto:halsprechman@gmail.com), phone: (732) 259-3881. W.

## OHIO

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OR 25-26, 2021

## Indy FIDE \$10,000

See Grand Prix.

## WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 2-3, 2021

### 16th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys

**2-day Championship Sections:** K-5 Open, K-8 Open, K-12 Open, K-5 Girls, K-8 Girls, K-12 Girls. Format: 6SS, G/60; d5. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated. Rounds: Sat/Sun @ 9:30am, 12:00pm, and 2:30pm. Prizes include \$100,000 in Scholarships to Webster University! **1-day Sections** (Saturday-only): K-3 Open, 4-8 Open, 9-12 Open, K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, 4-8 U900. Format: 5SS, G/30; d5. Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated Open sections, NWSRS rated Reserve sections. Rounds: Sat @ 9:30am, 11:00am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm. WA State Elementary Qualifier. **Fun Side Events:** Saturday 10/2: 11am-12pm - Parents & Coaches Seminar, 2-3pm - Girls

Workshop, 5:30-8pm - Simul and Q&A. Sunday 10/3: 8:30-9:30am - Breakfast w/ Susan, 10am-4pm - Polgar Chess Camp, 5-5:30pm - Puzzle Solving Competition, 5:30-7pm - Blitz Championship. **All Sections:** Registration deadline Fri. Oct 1 @ 5pm. Check-in required only for those that did not pre-pay: 8 - 8:45am. Unpaid players not checked in by 8:45am will receive a zero-point bye for any missed rounds. Trophies for top-scoring individuals and teams. Higher of US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings. **Hotel Information:** Hyatt Regency Bellevue, address above. **Phone:** 425.698.4250, request the Polgar Chess block. For online hotel reservations: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-SPOL> Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is 9/3/2021. **Flyer:** [https://nwchess.com/calendar/SPFNO\\_2021.pdf](https://nwchess.com/calendar/SPFNO_2021.pdf) **Address:** 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004 **Organizer:** Washington Chess Federation **Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) **Phone:** 206-769-3757 **Website:** <http://www.spfno.com/>

# ANSWERS

## PAGE 4/IT'S YOUR MOVE

### TACTIC #1: MATE IN ONE

75. h4, mate.

Sometimes the humblest member of the team is the most important. Here, the h4-pawn (supported by the b4-rook) delivers checkmate.

### TACTIC #2: MATE IN TWO

One of America's newest masters (see the June issue of *Chess Life Kids!*) finds this mate-in-two.

36. ... Qf1+ 37. Kg4 Qf5, mate.

### TACTIC #3: MATE IN TWO

30. Qxc5+

Note that the pin is critical here, else ... Nd7xc5 saves the day!

30. ... Bc6

The only move, but this allows...

31. Qxc6, mate.

### TACTIC #4: MATE IN TWO

Black finds a nice idea to deliver mate-in-two:

32. ... R8d3+

Of course 32. ... R1d3+! is the same idea

33. cxd3 Rxd3, mate.

### TACTIC #5: DON'T GIVE UP!

39. Rf8

Here White missed the fantastic 39. Rc8+!! and the point is that the rook can never be taken because it will be stalemate, i.e. 39. ... Kb6 40. Rc6+! Ka5 41. Ra6+! Kb4 42. Rb6+! Kc3 43. Rb3+! Kd4 44. Rb4+! and so forth. So long as the

rook keeps checking — and there's no indication that the checks ever run out — Black can never make progress.

39. ... Bg2, mate.

### TACTIC #6: WIN MATERIAL

Here White pushes the king into position (a "preparatory move") for an x-ray attack that wins material.

32. Rg8+! Kf6 33. Rd6+! Kf5 34. Rxh6

Up a rook, White went on to win the game.

34. ... Nf1 35. Rf8+ Kg5 36. Re6 Rxe6 37. Bxe6 Ng3 38. Rg8+ Kf4 39. Rg4+ Kf3 40. Rg7 h5 41. Rxa7 h4 42. Ra3+ Kg2 43. Rxd3+ hxd3 44. Bd7 c5 45. Bc6+ Kf2 46. a4 g2 47. Bxd2 Kxd2 48. a5 Kf2 49. a6 Ke3 50. a7 Kd4 51. a8=Q Kc4, and Black resigned.

## PAGE 5/YOU CAN DO IT!

Solution #1: 1. Nh6 mate

Solution #2: 1. Rh8 mate

Solution #3: 1. Rf8+ Kxd7 [1. ... Nxf8 2. gxf8=Q mate] 2. R1f7 mate

Solution #4: 1. g7+ Kxd7 2. Nh5+ Kh8 3. Rxh6 mate

Solution #5: 1. hxd4+ Bxd4 (other defenses lose heavy material) 2. Bh6 (other wins are possible) 2. ... Bxh6 3. g7+ Bxd4 4. Ng6 mate

Solution #6: 1. hxd4+ Bxd4 (to avoid the loss of the black queen) 2. Qb8+ Rg8 3. Qe5+ Rg7 (again to avoid the loss of the queen) 4. Rf8 mate

# MY FIRST MOVE



FM THALIA CERVANTES  
LANDEIRO  
RISING STAR

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

## STARTING OUT

I learned to play chess in Cuba when I was seven years old. I was in second grade when my physical education class was presented with the game. I had heard of chess before because it is a very big part of Cuban culture, but that's when I first learned the rules and began to get interested in it.

## CHESS IN CUBA VS. CHESS IN THE UNITED STATES

Even though chess in Cuba is highly competitive, there is no comparison to playing chess in the United States. The U.S. is a much bigger country with better resources. Once I arrived here my eyes were opened to so many new sources that could allow me to improve. The competition is a lot tougher, and you really have to work hard to climb to the top.

## THE CHESS HERO'S CHESS HERO

My chess hero has always been Bobby Fischer. With my limited resources back in Cuba and no WiFi, I only



had some of his documentaries to watch. That, along with his explosive style, really cemented in my mind, and to this day he is still my favorite. I also take inspiration from Boris Spassky, Judit Polgar, and of course the Cuban World Champion Jose Raul Capablanca.

### FAVORITE OPENING

When I was about a year or two into chess and had already won the Havana State Championship for girls between the ages of 7 and 9, I told my coach I was tired of replying 1. ... e5 to the King's Pawn as Black. I specifically told him that "I wasn't a kid anymore" and wanted to play the Sicilian. He taught me the Najdorf and I still play it to this day. Nowadays I play both 1. ... e5 and 1. ... c5, but the Najdorf will always be in my heart after playing it for so long.

### TOURNAMENT PREP

It is important to always prepare for a chess tournament. Usually the best preparation is to sharpen your tactics and calculation by solving puzzles before the event. Play some practice games with the time control of the tournament to get in shape and review

any big opening hole you have in your repertoire.

### FUTURE GOALS

I already consider myself a professional chess player, so my personal goals are not very different from my "real life" ones. I want to become a grandmaster and keep promoting chess. I will soon enter university, too, and I am hoping to have a good academic career and learn from their chess team.

### A DEFINING DISAPPOINTMENT

Every chess player has disappointing chess moments, and I am not an exception. One of the defining moments of my career was when I was nine years old and was playing in a national tournament with girls older than me. In round two, I kept looking out the window of the playing hall, which had a view to the pool. I wanted to go to the pool instead of concentrating on my game. Because I was distracted, I lost the game. My mom confronted me about this

Photos: right, with GM Leinier Dominguez; bottom, broadcasting for the Saint Louis Chess Club; facing page, ready to play! Photo, Dominguez courtesy of subject; others courtesy of the Saint Louis Chess Club.



afterwards, and I realized that losing the game was my fault because I hadn't paid attention. After that, I started focusing on my games and started to actually spend my clock time looking for the best moves.

### OUTSIDE OF CHESS

In general, chess is always involved in my life, even when I am not professionally playing. I work with the Saint Louis Chess Club as a streamer and instructor, while also streaming chess for fun on my own Twitch channel. I also enjoy reading and cooking. My passion for cooking comes from my mother, who owns a Cuban food truck here in Saint Louis called Havana's Cuisine.

### MY BEST ADVICE

Work hard. Sometimes it is not easy, but if you stay dedicated and work hard, results will come. The time you spend on chess will be reflected later in your results. Enjoy!

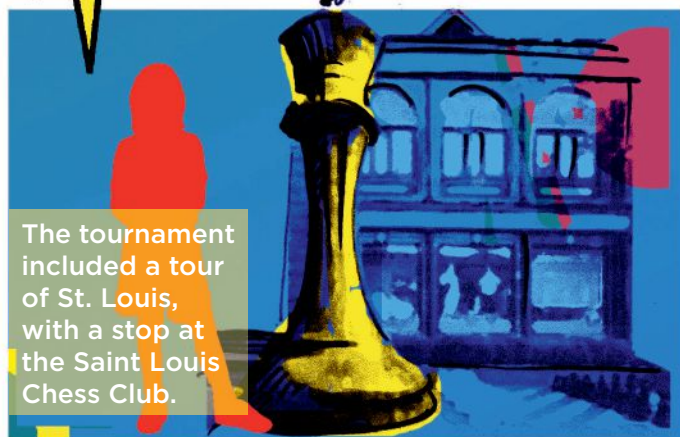


# CHESS ADVENTURES

with  
FM Thalia  
Cervantes  
Landeiro



I arrived in the U.S. in July 2014 to play in the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls Invitational.



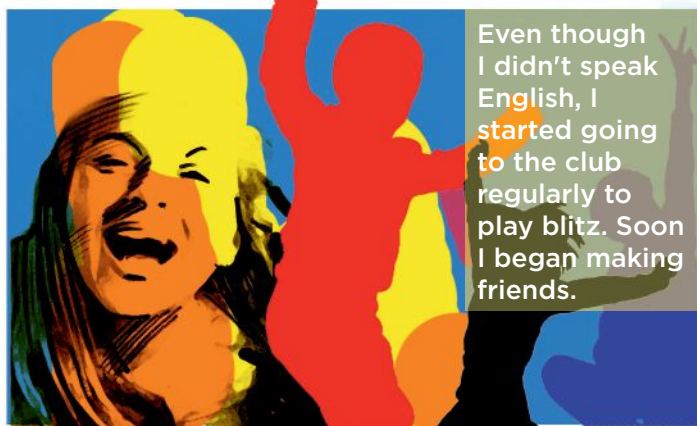
The tournament included a tour of St. Louis, with a stop at the Saint Louis Chess Club.



My mom signed me up for a membership while I was with the other players.



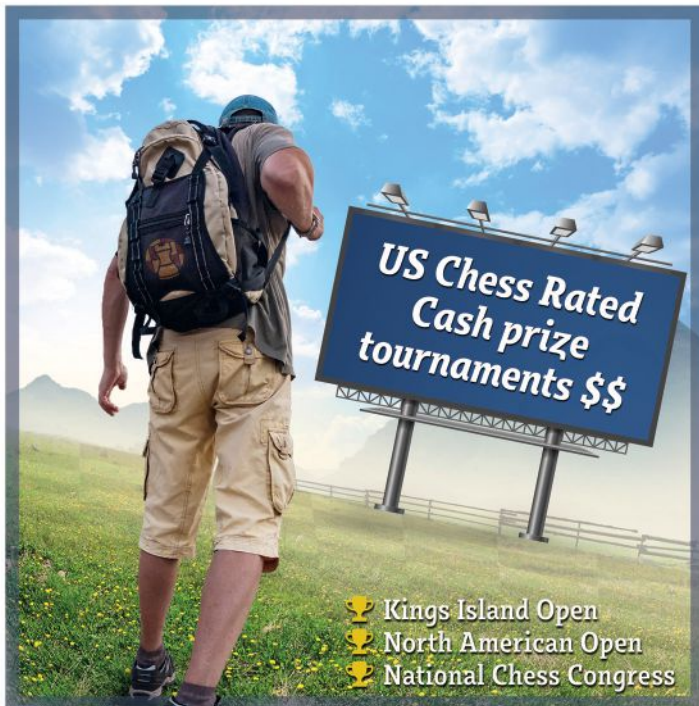
We decided to move to St. Louis, in part because of the chess club.



Even though I didn't speak English, I started going to the club regularly to play blitz. Soon I began making friends.



Today I play in some of the club's most prestigious events and work as an instructor.



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More information:

[chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us)



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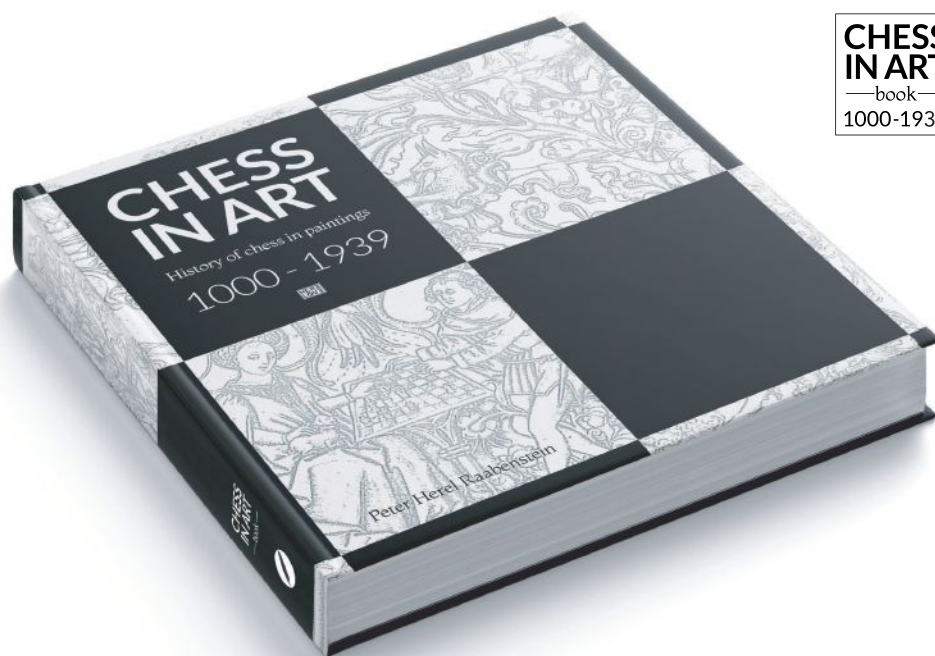
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