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PHOTO: CAROLINE KING



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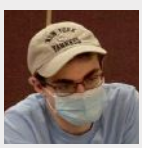
FM ALEX KING
(National High School, Tarrasch) is a national master and two-time Tennessee state champion. He teaches chess in Memphis and plays piano in his spare time. Recently he pushed his FIDE rating over 2300, making him a FIDE master; his title appears on his byline for the first time in this issue. For more on Alex, check out his appearance (Episode 97) on Ben Johnson's "Perpetual Chess Podcast."



IM JUSTUS WILLIAMS
(Mid-America Open) is an international master based in St. Louis, Missouri. At age 12, he was the youngest African-American to become a national master, and he was part of the famous I.S. 318 teams chronicled in the movie *Brooklyn Castle*. He attended Webster University, where he studied chess under GM Susan Polgar, and today he is the founder of Black Squares Chess, which works to incerase access to chess in minority communities.



BRIAN TAY
(National Middle School) is a rising ninth-grader who will soon be attending the prestigous Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. He started playing chess at age seven, and to date has played in 14 states and five countries. Besides chess, his other interests include math, video games, Rubik's Cube, and hiking, and he loves to eat durians. This is his first article for *Chess Life*.

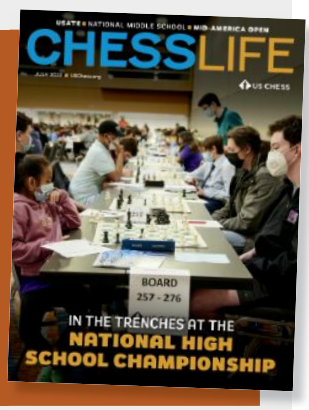


ALESSANDRO DE MARCHI-BLUMSTEIN
(Amateur Team East) has been playing chess since he was five, and since starting rated play in 2010, he has played in, and directed, nearly 200 tournaments. He led the chess club at Rutgers University, and currently he serves as the editor of the *Atlantic Chess News*.

ON THE **COVER**

With masks still in place at the 2022 national scholastics, the task of the on-site photographer was a difficult one indeed. But Caroline King was more than up to the challenge. Our cover shot, like all of her photos, beautifully captures a moment at the National High School (K-12) Championship.

PHOTOGRAPH BY **CAROLINE KING**



US CHESS

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IT USED TO BE THAT YOU COULD READ *CHESS LIFE* ONCE A month to keep up with the world of chess. Today's media landscape has changed, and in our 24-hour, always-on world, US Chess is doing its best to provide members news and information in the formats they prefer. Our internet and social media presence is growing with each passing day, so don't be left behind!

CHESS LIFE ONLINE

CHESS LIFE ONLINE (CLO) is our news page. Here you'll find the latest information about US Chess events, tournaments both large and small, and features like Wednesday Workouts and our award-winning series of podcasts. uschess.org/news

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USCHESS.ORG This is our front page, and the front door to the world of US Chess. Here you can find your way to your rating, to the latest news articles at CLO, to governance information, and to TLAs. And that's just the start. uschess.org

FACEBOOK All our chess news is shared here as it happens, along with more general updates about our organization and the social purpose of our 501(c)(3) mission. Think of it as a mixture of news and outreach. facebook.com/uschess



TWITTER This is where we share links and news to keep you updated on what's happening in the world of chess. We're not as witty as Anish Giri or Magnus Carlsen, but we'll do our very best to keep you informed and entertained. twitter.com/uschess

LINKEDIN We're still building our LinkedIn page, and we'd love to have you swing by and follow us. This is where we plan to share updates on our progress and development as a non-profit, as well as the accomplishments we're most proud of as we go along. linkedin.com/uschess

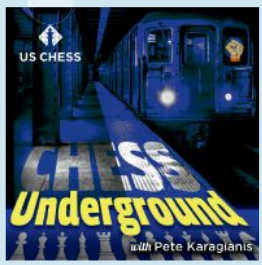
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YOUTUBE Our YouTube presence is one of our new areas of emphasis. We're ramping up our content production with interviews with America's top players, and introducing new series like Jen Shahade's "Class is in Session" recordings and John Hartmann's "Leveling Up" instructive videos. youtube.com/USChessFederation









Is it Tuesday? Then it's *podcast* Tuesday.

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You can find links to each podcast at iTunes, Spotify, and Google Podcasts at **new.uschess.org/podcasts**

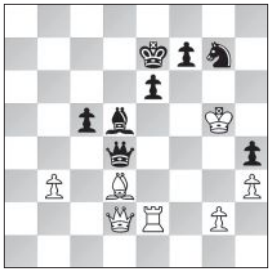
PODCASTS FROM US CHESS

ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

Aliens and analysis...

LONG ANALYSIS...

GM Elshan Moradiabadi gives analysis in Mikhaelyan – Moradiabadi (May 2022) for what could have been a problematic ending for White.



POSITION AFTER 46. Kg5

It seems to me that rather than the given analysis of 46. ... e5 47. Qe3 Ne6+ 48. Kh6 Bxb3 49. Bf5 Bc4 50. Re1 Kf6 is supplanted by better and simpler choices for White.

I am thinking 46. ... e5 47. Bc2 (to force the Queen trade) 47. ... Ne6+ 48. Kh6 Bb7 or even 47. Bc4 Ne6+ 48. Kh6 Bxc4 49. bxc4 Qxc4 50. Rxe5 with a playable game in both positions for White.

Lawrence Cohen
Via email

GM Moradiabadi responds:
Thank you for taking the time to play through all the analysis! Readers like you are what motivates authors to work hard. Unfortunately both your lines fail to improve on White's play. After 47. Bc2 Ne6+ 48. Kh6 Black should play the strong 48. ... Kd6! with a dominating position. If White trades queens, Black recapture with the c-pawn and the pawns roll. Similarly, after 47. Bc4 Ne6+ 48. Kh6 Bxc4 49. bxc4 Black can improve on your analysis with 49. ... f6! and gladly accept a queen trade.

PARTIAL RECALL

After reading GM Soltis' column (May 2022) about chess and sci-fi, I remembered reading another short story featuring chess and a spaceship finding a deserted planet. Here's what I recall of the tale.

When the crew sent a message to the planet, it was received by a computer. The ship's computer and the planet computer started an exchange to find common ground for communication. The first message was: 1. e4. After that, the ship's crew was never able to get control of its computer! To make the story interesting, the story had to fit on a postcard. Can't remember the author or the collection of stories; it was a long time ago.

Thanks for a great magazine.

Dick Follett
Via email

If anyone knows what the title of this story is, let us know! ~ed.

POSTCARDS

Larry Cox's "Postcards from the Inside" (May 2022) is an important article and much needed.

I have played several inmates from various states and have always enjoyed the games. Unlike many other players, they include "correspondence" along with their moves. Sometimes after I get to know that person a little better through our game, I ask them what are they doing while incarcerated. Many do improve themselves, and not only in terms of chess. One man was studying law and helping other inmates with appeals.

Some do not like to play inmates due to the time it takes for the moves to go back and forth. That just gives me more time to look at a position. Funny how often I see a better move after I put my postcard in the mailbox!

Another reason to playing inmates is that it helps promote "correspondence chess," and not "server chess." As newer folks become leaders, they are forgetting the roots and the people that have kept this game alive all these years. But that is a soapbox I had better not get on.

The moral of the story: do not be afraid to play an inmate. You will have a challenging game, and have a real learning experience. In the process, you might help someone like Vincent Robledo change their life for the better.

John T. Sarhage
Via email

Send your letters to ***letters @uschess.org***. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.

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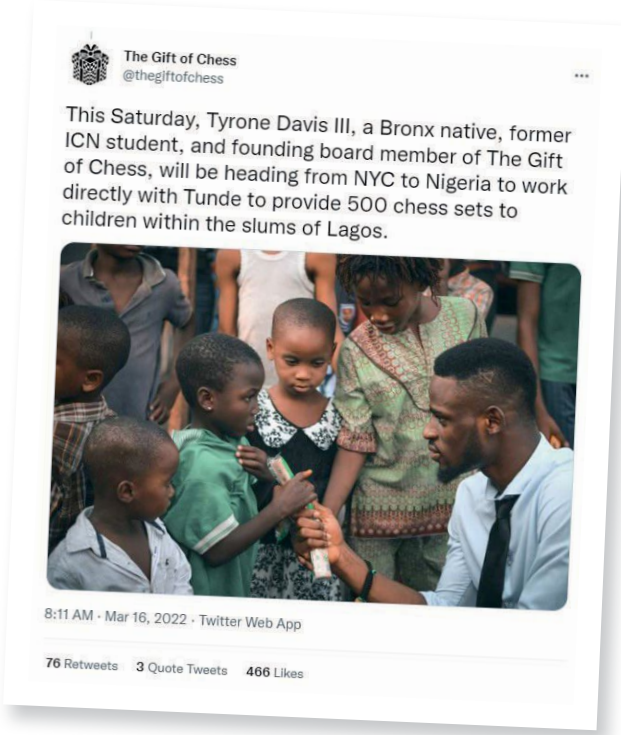
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For more information on the good work of the US Chess Trust, please go to *www.uschesstrust.org*. Or contact us at *info@uschesstrust.org*.

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

US CHESS TRUST

PAYING IT FORWARD



The Gift of Chess, from New York to Nigeria

BY **RYAN RODRIGUES**

IN MARCH 2019, TANITOLUwa Adewumi's story inspired and touched the hearts of millions around the world. Tani, a Nigerian refugee living in a homeless shelter at the time, won the Primary section of the New York State Scholastic Championships just a little over a year after learning the game. People across the globe celebrated Tani's story, which was profiled in *The New York Times*, and an overwhelming outpouring of support enabled Tani's family to move out of the shelter and into a home of their own.

Tani's success inspired Russell Makofsky — one of Tani's first coaches and the founder of Impact Coaching Network — to contemplate how chess could impact the lives of more children. In late 2020, during the height of the pandemic, Impact Coaching Network provided a free *Chesskid.com* account and virtual training sessions to every student at P.S. 42, a school comprised mostly of working-class families in Chinatown, to help keep them engaged while confined to their homes. Within a few months, the school led the entire network in puzzles, lessons, and videos completed on the platform.

Excited and encouraged by the students' enthusiasm for chess, P.S. 42's principal proposed giving every student at the school their own physical set. This initiative also was successful, leading to the obvious next phase of the project — why not replicate this effort at other schools and share the opportunities that chess creates with thousands of additional children?

In early 2021, The Gift of Chess was born. The initial goal was to distribute 10,000 chess sets to public students across New York City. The organization hoped to spark a love for chess, allow families and friends to connect over a physical chess board, and decrease screen time for kids stuck at home during the pandemic. Over the next few months, the organization raised money from the local chess community to support the purchase of the sets. In June, the 10,000 sets arrived in New York, and members from The Gift of Chess visited schools around Manhattan and Brooklyn to distribute them. Their efforts were captured by the local ABC news affiliate.

Soon, notes of appreciation poured in. Non-profits, schools, and chess clubs from around the U.S. and the world also began requesting chess sets. In 2022, in response to this demand, The Gift of Chess expanded its focus to four independent initiatives — youth education, global outreach, prison outreach, and elderly outreach, with the lofty goal of distributing 1,000,000 chess sets by 2030.

Tunde Onakoya, the founder of Chess in Slums Africa, had reached out to Russ three years earlier in March 2019 after Tani's story broke, and Russ and Tunde connected over a shared passion for chess and a joint belief in the transformative power of the game. Over the intervening three years, Tunde received global acclaim for his work teaching chess to vulnerable children in Lagos, Nigeria, showcasing the talent and untapped potential of these children to the world.

This past March, The Gift of Chess launched its first global initiative: The Gift of Chess board member and president of the MIT Chess Club, Tyrone Davis III, traveled to Lagos with 500 chess sets to distribute in partnership with Tunde and Chess in Slums. Tyrone was initially nervous about the trip, having never been to the continent. He was keenly aware that he would be exposed to an unfamiliar way of life.

Overwhelmed by the heat and humidity of Lagos and the chaos at the airport when he stepped off the plane, Tyrone says his nerves grew worse. His fears subsided, however, when Tunde greeted him and he realized that a dream that began three years earlier had finally come true: the power of chess had connected two communities halfway around the world.

Tunde and Tyrone squeezed the 10 boxes

PHOTOS: TWITCH (THIS PAGE), COURTESY FOLAJIMI EMMANUEL (FACING)



This page: Tyrone Davis meeting some of Lagos' young players



of boards and pieces into Tunde's truck and set off to distribute them. The next day, they visited Makoko, the world's largest floating slum, where Chess in Slums had already established a strong presence. Tyrone brought 100 sets to three different schools in Makoko and introduced some of the students to chess so they could play together and share tactics with others who were already familiar with the game.



Most of the students Tyrone met lived without electricity or access to the internet. Yet despite these material obstacles, the students displayed a tremendous aptitude and passion for chess. The Gift of Chess hopes that chess will be a strong positive force in the lives of these children, helping them to develop the strategic and critical thinking skills the game teaches.

Tyrone's trip to Lagos coincided with the Nigerian University Games Association's interuniversity sports competition, which included chess. He was able to visit the tournament venue and meet with several Nigerian chess players, university coaches, club coaches, and representatives from the Nigerian Chess Federation.

It quickly became clear that the demand for chess sets was incredibly high. Yakkon Damaryam, who founded a chess academy in Gombe State — 1,300 kilometers from Lagos — even traveled across the country to meet Tyrone and bring back sets for his students. The cost of chess sets in Nigeria averages 7,000 Nigeria naira — almost $17 per set — putting them out of reach for many in a country where over 80 million people live on less than a dollar a day. Galvanized by the demand for chess sets across the country and able to procure the sets at a much lower price point, The Gift of Chess has committed to sending an additional 5,000 sets to Nigeria this summer.

Through the eyes of the children, Tyrone, in his words, "saw the strength and beauty of Africa." Therefore, in addition to distributing these sets, Tyrone will sponsor the education of Benjamin, a chess prodigy from Lagos, through university. The trip affirmed for Tyrone and The Gift of Chess that chess is, indeed, a universal language. Tyrone and The Gift of Chess left Lagos determined to provide as many children as possible with the same opportunity to change their own lives.

Over the coming months, in addition to expanding its youth education and global outreach efforts, The Gift of Chess plans to officially launch its prison outreach and elderly outreach initiatives. The organization hopes chess will help prisoners improve their decision-making skills, develop strategic thinking, and provide a route into education and employment when they reintegrate into society. For the elderly, the Gift of Chess believes the game can combat social isolation and loneliness and mitigate the effects of cognitive decline and dementia. The Gift of Chess has also recently launched a free chess training application, available on both iOS and Android, to connect its global community.

If you would like to support The Gift of Chess's mission of transforming lives through the universal language of chess, you can do so at *www.gofundme.com/charity/gift-of-chess-inc*. The Gift of Chess is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



Now it can be revealed...

America's teams for the 2022 Chess Olympiad

BY **MATT MONTA**

AFTER POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO COVID, the 44th FIDE Olympiad takes place in Chennai, India from July 28 – August 10, 2022. The event, originally scheduled to take place in Russia, was relocated by FIDE following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Having earned the silver medal in 2018 after going gold in the Olympiad prior, the United States has assembled two teams of top talent, eager to leverage their massive skill to regain the top prize against more than 100 teams from around the world.

For the Open section team, IM John Donaldson reprises his role as captain with five of the strongest U.S. players, all seen above:

- GM Fabiano Caruana — 2783 (FIDE)
  1st in the U.S. / 4th in the world
- GM Levon Aronian — 2775
  3rd in the U.S. / 5th in the world
- GM Wesley So — 2775
  2nd in the U.S. / 6th in the world
- GM Leinier Dominguez — 2754
  5th in the U.S. / 12th in the world
- GM Sam Shankland — 2718
  6th in the U.S. / 25th in the world

For the Women's team, Armenian-American GM Melikset Khachiyan returns as captain, with GM Alejandro Ramirez serving as coach, to lead a roster of outstanding female competitors, also seen above in board order:

- GM Irina Krush — 2430 (FIDE)
  1st in the U.S. / 33rd in the world
- IM Carissa Yip — 2418
  2nd in the U.S. / 39th in the world
- IM Anna Zatonskih — 2387
  3rd in the U.S. / 61st in the world
- WGM Tatev Abrahamyan — 2297
  9th in the U.S.
- WGM Gulrukhbegim ("Begim") Tokhirjonova — 2332
  6th in the U.S.

With an average FIDE rating of 2763, the Open team will be one of the favorites, with only host India and China able to approach such team strength. (The Russian team would be a serious competitor, but they have been suspended from international play by FIDE along with Belarus.)

The American women clock in at an average FIDE rating of 2373, which, if historical precedent holds, would put them within the top dozen teams in Chennai.



Opening ceremonies begin Thursday, July 28, with first moves being played on July 29 at 3 p.m. local time (5:30 a.m. Eastern).

US Chess gratefully acknowledges to the Saint Louis Chess Club and the Kasparov Chess Foundation for their generous, continued support of the United States Olympiad teams and their efforts.

Those wishing to contribute to the U.S. Olympiad teams may do so through our secure online donation form at *uschess.org*. Click "Give," "Donate Online," and enter the amount in the box for "Olympiad Teams."

PHOTOS: COURTESY SLCC AND GCT

THE 2022 SAMFORD AWARD

Five winners announced in award's 36th year.

BY **IM JOHN DONALDSON**

THE FRANK P. SAMFORD, JR. CHESS Fellowship, marking its 36th annual award, has selected GMs Hans Niemann of New York, New York, Abhimanyu Mishra of Englishtown, New Jersey and Christopher Yoo of Dublin, California, IM Carissa Yip of Andover, Massachusetts, and FM Alice Lee of North Oaks, Minnesota, as its 2022 Samford Fellows.

Since its 1987 inception, the Fellowship has proven very useful. The Samford has become the richest and most important chess fellowship in the United States, having awarded over two million dollars the past three decades. The total value of the Fellowships has been increased several times over the years and is now $70,000 annually. Niemann will receive $25,000 and Mishra $15,000. Lee, Yip, and Yoo will each receive $10,000. Fellows are eligible to receive up to a maximum $84,000 in total support. The winners' terms begin June 1, 2022.

The winners were chosen by the Samford Fellowship Committee, consisting of Paul Samford (son of Frank P. Samford III and grandson of Samford Fellowship founder Frank P. Samford, Jr.), former U.S. Champion GM Yury Shulman, and IM John Donaldson. The winners' potential was determined based on their chess talent, work ethic, dedication, and accomplishments. The Fellowship is administered by the U.S. Chess Trust with particularly valuable services provided by Al Lawrence.

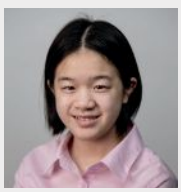
The Samford Chess Fellowship was created by the late Frank P. Samford, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Samford was a distinguished attorney and CEO of Liberty National Life Insurance Company (now Torchmark). He was active in civic, business, political, educational, and cultural affairs. Mr. Samford was also an enthusiastic competitor in chess tournaments. After providing financial support for several chess projects, he decided to do something significant for American chess. The result was the Samford Fellowship.

Many Samford Fellows have become strong grandmasters, members of the United States Olympiad team, and U.S. Champions. Four of the five members (GMs Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, and Ray Robson) of the 2016 and 2018 U.S. Olympiad teams which finished respectively first and tied for first, are former Samford Fellows. Recent Fellows like GMs Samuel Sevian and Jeffrey Xiong are also beginning to make their marks on American chess.

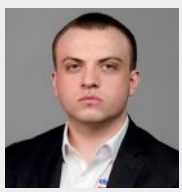
Generous contributions from the late Mrs. Virginia Samford and the Torchmark Corporation support the Fellowship. The Samford Fellowship is undoubtedly a fitting memorial to an extraordinary man. The dedication, creativity, and achievement that marked Mr. Frank P. Samford, Jr.'s life are examples for all chess players to admire and emulate.

SAMFORD WINNERS

1987 Joel Benjamin
1988 Maxim Dlugy
1989 Patrick Wolff
1990 Alex Fishbein
1991 Ilya Gurevich
1992 Alex Sherzer
1993 Ben Finegold
1994 Gata Kamsky
1995 Josh Waitzkin
1996 Tal Shaked
1997 Boris Kreiman
1998 Dean Ippolito
1999 Greg Shahade
2000 Michael Mulyar
2001 Eugene Perelshteyn
2002 Varuzhan Akobian
2003 Dmitry Schneider
2004 Rusudan Goletiani
2005 Hikaru Nakamura
2006 David Pruess
2007 Josh Friedel
2008 Vinay Bhat
2008 Irina Krush
2009 Ray Robson
2010 Robert Hess
2011 Alex Lenderman
2012 Timur Gareev
2012 Alejandro Ramirez
2013 Sam Shankland
2014 Daniel Naroditsky
2015 Samuel Sevian
2015 Kayden Troff
2016 Wesley So
2017 Jeffrey Xiong
2018 Awonder Liang
2018 Samuel Sevian
2019 Awonder Liang
2019 Samuel Sevian
2019 Christopher Yoo
2020 Nicholas Checa
2020 Awonder Liang
2020 Carissa Yip
2020 Christopher Yoo
2021 Praveen Balakrishnan
2021 Akshat Chandra
2021 Nicholas Checa
2021 Abhimanyu Mishra
2021 Hans Niemann
2021 Carissa Yip
2021 Christopher Yoo
2022 Alice Lee
2022 Abhimanyu Mishra
2022 Hans Niemann
2022 Carissa Yip
2022 Christopher Yoo


Lee


Mishra


Niemann


Yip


Yoo

PHOTOS: COURTESY SLCC



The USCF staff photo in 1977; Judy is fifth from left.

A Legend RETIRES

Judy Misner retires after nearly **52 years of service** to US Chess.

BY **DAN LUCAS**

JUDITH (JUDY) MISNER, OUR DIRECTOR of Administration, retired on May 27 after almost 52 years working for US Chess. She was hired on October 12, 1970, as a membership clerk and over the years has held these positions: Membership Supervisor, Membership Services Manager, Membership Director, Assistant Director, and her current position. Judy will remain with us in an independent contractor capacity for the time being.

On May 19, we held a retirement party for Judy at the US Chess office in Crossville, Tennessee. A number of telecommuting staff traveled in for this special event as did some former employees. Everyone wore a tie dye t-shirt in honor of Judy's favorite clothing item!

Judy told us that her favorite memory of working at US Chess was "tackling my fear of heights and attending the World Championship at the top of the World Trade Center in New York City."

Judy had previously told us about what she has learned about the value of chess: "I like the fact that chess can be rewarding on so many levels. You can take the game seriously or you can just have tons of fun by just playing the game. It makes me think about each move that I make — some are great and some not so great. However the process, I believe it's what helps me to look at other issues of my life and makes it easier to plan better. By looking at a problem and breaking it down almost like one move at a time, it usually helps to make the particular problem not so overwhelming.

"We taught chess to a friend of ours who had many health challenges that we met in the local nursing home. We would play chess every Saturday for four years until he passed. It was truly amazing how the whole experience had positive results for him, not only for mental stimulation, but also physically. The nursing home facility noticed the difference and made sure that there were chess sets available in the recreation room as they found out that many of the residents did enjoy playing the game. So it's not a win/loss or draw, it's a win/win for everyone."

Judy will now have more time to enjoy one of her favorite activities — staying home and watching stock car races on TV along with reruns of the old shows she watched growing up. She told us, "I am so grateful for all of the acquaintances, friendships and experiences that I have with so many great individuals over the years. They will all hold a special place in my heart forever."

A number of current and former employees, past presidents, and the current president recorded some video messages for Judy: This can be viewed at: *youtu.be/uYij1hXlhB0.*



PHOTOS: US CHESS

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Penmanship

When a pen matters more than a pin.

BY **GM ANDY SOLTIS**

WHEN OVER-THE-BOARD play resumed, some newcomers to chess were puzzled. Having been spectators at on-line tournaments for two years, they were seeing Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura actually moving pieces and hitting a clock.

And many of the newbies wondered: What's the deal with the pens?

After all, the moves of Carlsen and Nakamura were being recorded by tournament officials and on dozens of web site. Why did the players have to write them down?

Good question. Viktor Korchnoi scribbled tens of thousands of moves and lived long enough to use electronic scoresheets. He considered the custom of using scoresheets as antiquated as using hourglasses for chess clocks.

But the responsibility for establishing an official record of the game falls first of all on the players. US Chess's *Official Rules of Chess* says "each player is required to record the game (both the player's and the opponent's moves), move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible..."

There is no penalty for bad penmanship, except perhaps in the literal sense. Mishandling a pen almost made Magnus one of the shortest-reigning world champions.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

GM Magnus Carlsen
GM Viswanathan Anand
World Championship (6), Sochi, 11.15.2014

(see diagram top of next column)

The score was tied at the match half-way point when Carlsen made two simultaneous blunders. The first was **26. Kd2??.**



WHITE TO MOVE

The second was to freeze and hold his blue-and-white pen in his hand for several seconds. He was struck by "a feeling of complete panic," he said later.

His hesitation should have tipped off his opponent. If Vishy Anand had noticed the look on Magnus' face, he almost certainly would have won two pawns with 26. ... Nxe5!, when play might follow 27. Rxg8 Nxc4+ 28. Kd3 Nb2+! and 29. ... Rxg8.

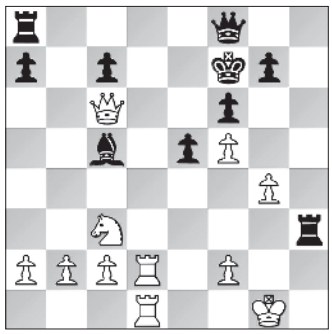
But Anand's eyes were focused on the board. He played **26. ... a4??.** Instead of winning and taking the lead, he lost the game and eventually the match.

There are several old-school traditions concerning scoresheets that have created problems. Perhaps the most bizarre was:

RUY LOPEZ, BERLIN DEFENSE (C67)

IM Jean-Luc Seret
IM Gilles Andruet
French Championship, Epinal, 08.11.1989

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3 Bc5 5. O-O d6 6. Nc3 Bg4 7. h3 Bh5 8. Be3 Nd7 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. g4 Bg6 11. d4 Bb6 12. dxe5 dxe5 13. Qe2 Qf6 14. Rad1 h5 15. Rd2 hxg4 16. hxg4 Nc5? 17. Bg5 Qe6 18. Nh4 Bh7 19. Rfd1 f6 20. Nf5! Qg8 21. Be3 Bxf5 22. exf5 Rh3? 23. Bxc5 Bxc5 24. Qe4! Qf8 25. Qxc6+ Kf7



White picked up his queen to deliver mate on e6. Before he could complete the move, **Black resigned**, officially ending the game.

But chess has unofficial traditions and conventions. One is that two players often exchange scoresheets so they can sign their opponent's sheet and confirm the result.

When they traded scoresheets, Black saw that White had written 26. Qe6 mate. Since that move wasn't actually played on this board, Black crossed it out.

This infuriated White. He responded by punching Black in the face and sending him to the hospital for eight stitches.

A disciplinary committee condemned White but let him continue in the tournament. That infuriated Black. He had been in first place but quit the tournament in protest. All because of a written move that wasn't played.

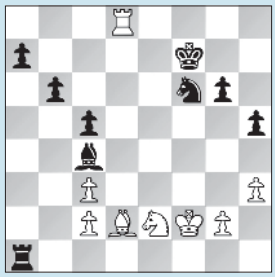
A primary problem with paper scoresheets is legibility. Brana Malobabic-Giancristofaro, a Canadian electrical engineer, said she tried and failed to decode her own scoresheet after a game at the 2002 Canadian Open. She said this inspired her to create an electronic scoresheet called Monroi.

QUIZ FOR JULY

THE INTERNATIONAL tournament played 100 years ago this July is remembered as the first José Raúl Capablanca played as world champion. It was also the first time in eight years that he faced his future nemesis, Alexander Alekhine. And it was the event that prompted Capablanca to set down the conditions ("the London Rules") under which he would defend his title in the future. Capa won the star-studded tournament easily. In each of the six diagrams from London 1922 you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a minor piece or rook. Solutions on Page 63.



PROBLEM 1
John Stuart Morrison
Milan Vidmar



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2
Henry Atkins
Alexander Alekhine



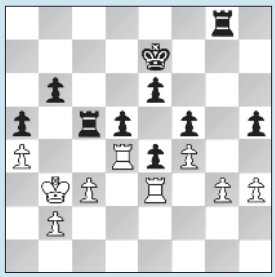
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3
Max Euwe
Milan Vidmar



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4
Victor Wahltuch
José Raúl Capablanca



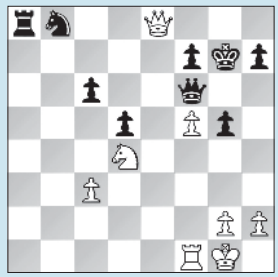
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5
Akiba Rubinstein
Davide Marotti



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6
Frederick Yates
Victor Wahltuch



WHITE TO MOVE

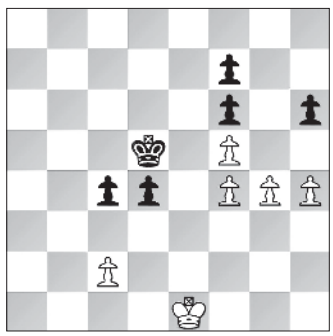
A scoresheet of record score is needed for claims of forfeiture and draw, such as three-time repetition. In the bygone days of adjournments, penmanship mattered a lot. Mikhail Botvinnik hinted that he lost his world championship title because of his opponent's lousy lettering.

Botvinnik was leading the 1963 championship match when Tigran Petrosian sealed his move in a winning position. The game was resumed and the adjourned move envelope was opened. Botvinnik insisted it was an illegal ... Kf8. Petrosian said it was a legal ... Kf7. The arbiter supported Petrosian.

After Botvinnik resigned, he demanded a photocopy of the move so he could study it. In his memoirs, he said he became upset while waiting for officials to provide the copy. When he finally saw it, he agreed Petrosian it had simply written ... Kf7 badly. But he had lost another game by then.

Tournament officials have traditionally trusted players when they made fuzzy moves like that. A Russian arbiter at the Women's World Championship of 1949-50 recalled the honesty of Gisela Gresser of the United States. Gresser sealed a move in her game one of the Soviet contenders for the title.

BILINGUAL
Gisela Gresser
Elisaveta Bykova
Moscow, 1950



WHITE TO MOVE

The FIDE rules at the time allowed Gresser to use English descriptive notation. When the arbiter, Alexander Prorvich, opened the adjourned game envelope, he saw that Gresser's 41st move began with "P" and ended with "5."

But he couldn't tell what was in between. "Knight?" he asked.

Gresser nodded and smiled. That is, "P-N5."

Gresser lost after **41. g5 fxg5 42. fxg5 hxg5 43. hxg5 Ke5.** Or 43. h5 Ke5 44. h6 Kf6 45. Ke2 g4.

When Prorvich wrote about this, in *64* magazine in 1977, he said he would have believed Gresser if she lied and said her move was 41. h5!.

Then Black could fall into *zugzwang* and lose after 41. ... Ke4? 42. g5! fxg5 43. fxg5 Kxf5 44. gxh6 Kf6 45. Kd2.

Instead, Black can draw after 41. ... Kd6, e.g., 42. g5 fxg5 43. fxg5 Ke7.

One last note for the newbies. Considering how often players change their mind, one would think that they should use a pencil to record their moves. But players who take tournament chess very seriously would consider that heresy.

Only a favorite pen can bring you good luck.

For up-to-date chess news and information, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

One Man's Tarrasch

The Tarrasch Defense for club players. Part 5 of 6.

BY **FM ALEX KING**

WELCOME BACK TO MY Tarrasch Defense series! In this fifth installment, we wrap up our theoretical coverage with a discussion of various sidelines and move orders, including when White avoids the Queen's Gambit or even 1. d4 entirely.

This series cannot cover every possible sideline and move order, but I will at least introduce White's major options and how I would recommend a Tarrasch player meet them. I hope you will see what I meant in Part 1 when I described the Tarrasch as "a near-universal setup against... pretty much everything except 1. e4." It is the "Swiss Army Knife" of chess openings!

We begin with a few loose ends in the Tarrasch proper:

LOOSE ENDS

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3

An example of how the Tarrasch covers a multitude of White setups is that the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit has no independent significance against it. If White tries to force the Exchange Variation immediately with 3. cxd5 exd5, then after 4. Nc3 (*4. Nf3* amounts to the same) 4. ... c5 we are in the normal Tarrasch position reached below after 4. cxd5 exd5.

3. ... c5 4. cxd5

Here 4. Nf3 appears natural, but in my experience, it is played primarily by players who are just making it up as they go along. Black should respond with 4. ... cxd4! 5. Nxd4 Nf6 when White already has to be careful not to get rolled in the center. After (a) 6. Bg5 e5!? 7. Nf3 d4 8. Ne4?? (better is *8. Nd5 Be7* but Black is still at least equal) 8. ... Nxe4!



This is similar to the famous "Elephant Trap" in the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit. After 9. Bxd8 Bb4+ 10. Nd2 Bxd2+ Black wins back the queen and remains up a piece. I have won several games with this trap, and you probably will too if you play the Tarrasch long enough.

Other moves: (b) 6. cxd5 Nxd5 is equal, and 7. e4 Nxc3 8. bxc3 e5!? 9. Nb5 a6! 10. Qxd8+ Kxd8 even leaves Black with a slightly better pawn structure. (c) 6. e3 is similar to the lines considered in Part 4.

4. ... exd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. g3

The kingside fianchetto is White's main setup, and was already covered in Parts 2 and 3. It is also frequently reached when White plays first moves such as 1. Nf3, 1. c4, or 1. g3, as discussed below. One important variation we have not considered yet is a double fianchetto by White:

6. ... Nf6 7. Bg2 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. b3



9. ... Bg4

Also possible is 9. ... Ne4!? but the setup with ... Bc8-g4 and ... Rf8-e8 is more universally applicable (e.g., against White move orders with a delayed Nb1-c3) and more analogous to Black's setup in the main lines from Parts 2 and 3.

10. Bb2 Re8 11. dxc5

Less threatening is 11. Rc1 cxd4 12. Nxd4 Qd7 with normal harmonious development.

11. ... Bxc5 12. Rc1

Against 12. Na4 I recommend the same ultra-safe retreating square 12. ... Bf8. Note that the d5-pawn is indirectly defended: after 13. Bxf6?! Qxf6 14. Qxd5 Rxe2 White has relinquished the bishop pair for nothing.

12. ... Bf8

Here this bishop is safe from exchanges and doesn't interfere with any of Black's major pieces. White has several ways to continue, but here is one example of Black's resources:

13. h3 Bf5!?

Typically we retreat this bishop to e6, but here we can afford to post it more actively, since White has less pressure than usual on our d5-pawn.

14. e3 Nb4!
Taking advantage of the weakened d3-square.

15. Ne1 Ne4 16. a3 Nxc3 17. Rxc3 Nc6
and Black was fine in "Shapkin" – King, Internet 2020, since if Black's d5-pawn falls, so will White's h3-pawn.

We now come to lines with 1. d4 but without the Queen's Gambit move c2-c4. This includes the extremely popular London System, as well as the somewhat less common Colle, Torre, and Pseudo-Trompowsky. Again, I cannot cover every detail of each of these systems, but I will show you the basics of how to meet them with the standard Tarrasch moves ... e7-e6 and ... c7-c5.

LONDON SYSTEM

1. d4 d5 2. Bf4



The London System.

2. ... e6 3. e3
In my experience 3. Nf3 will almost certainly transpose to the main line, e.g., 3. ... c5 4. e3 Nf6 5. c3 Nc6 transposing to below.

Against the trendy "Jobava London" beginning with 3. Nc3, the consistent 3. ... c5 is relatively unexplored. Now (a) after 4. e3 make sure to include 4. ... a6! to prevent any Nc3-b5 tricks, followed by normal development with ... Ng8-f6, ... Nb8-c6, ... Bf8-d6, etc.

If (b) 4. e4!? cxd4 5. Qxd4 Nc6 6. Bb5 (*6. Qa4!?* is best met with *6. ... Bb4!* followed by ... Ng8-e7, ... 0-0, and possibly ... Bb4xc3, with unclear but balanced play) 6. ... Bd7 7. Bxc6 bxc6 we have reached a reversed Chigorin Defense where White's extra tempo Bc1-f4 is not of any great use. I'd take Black's bishop pair and strong center any day of the week.

3. ... c5 4. c3 Nf6
Note that in most of these sidelines Black will play both ... Ng8-f6 and ... Nb8-c6, and move order *usually* doesn't matter.

5. Nd2 Nc6 6. Ngf3
If White includes 6. h3 then 6. ... Bd6 7. Bxd6 Qxd6 is very comfortable for Black, with 8. Ngf3 e5 equalizing similarly to the line given below against the Torre Attack.



This is a major tabiya of the London, and one that I have reached hundreds of times. The main line begins with 6. ... Bd6, but as London theory and practice continues to progress, my opponents have been increasingly well-prepared there. Recently I have been successfully experimenting with:

6. ... Nh5!?
While this is currently a trendy move at even the highest levels, the position is just a reversed version of the 4. e3 "Slow Slav" that I have played as White for many years. Black can play to grab the bishop pair by exchanging knight for bishop, or try to enforce a central pawn break with ... f7-f6 and ... e6-e5. Here are a few sample lines:

7. Bg5
7. Bg3 is rather cooperative. After 7. ... Nxg3 8. hxg3 I already prefer Black's bishop pair.

More sophisticated is 7. Be5 f6 8. Bg3 Nxg3 9. hxg3 since Black's kingside has been somewhat destabilized. Still, I don't think White has any advantage, e.g., 9. ... Qb6 10. Qc2 cxd4 11. exd4 Bd7 12. Bd3 0-0-0! 13. Rxh7 Rxh7 14. Bxh7. The computer actually gives Black an edge here, valuing the bishop pair and central majority higher than White's extra doubled pawn on g3.

7. ... Qb6
As played in a recent online blitz game of mine.

Another option is 7. ... f6!? as in the previous note. 8. Bh4 g6 (securing the h5-knight) 9. Bd3 cxd4 10. cxd4 Bd6 is Svane – Sarana, Germany 2022.

8. Qb3
More testing is 8. dxc5!? Qxc5 9. e4, although after 9. ... Be7 10. exd5 exd5 11. Nb3 Qd6 Black has a familiar IQP structure.

8. ... h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Nxg3 11. hxg3 g4
Black has acquired the bishop pair and retains at least equal chances. I went on to win a nice positional squeeze in Ionescu – King, Internet 2022.

2. Nf3

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3

Here I propose the consistent

2. ... e6





PHOTO: COURTESY SLCC

3. e3
This leads into the Colle System. Other moves include:

(a) 3. g3 c5 is likely to transpose back to the Queen's Gambit after a subsequent c2-c4 from White: 4. Bg2 Nc6 5. 0-0 Nf6 and here the only real independent option from White is the rather meek 6. c3!? when Black simply develops normally with 6. ... Bd6 followed by ... 0-0, ... b7-b6, and ... Bc8-b7 as in the Colle System lines below.

(b) 3. Bg5 is the Torre Attack. I propose 3. ... Be7!? 4. Bxe7 Qxe7 5. Nbd2 Nf6 6. e3 and now Black can try to liberate the c8-bishop before castling: 6. ... c5!? 7. c3 Nc6 8. Bd3 e5 with equality.

(c) 3. c4 c5 takes us back into familiar Tarrasch waters. Note that 3. ... Nf6 would allow White to move order us out of our normal Tarrasch main line with 4. Nc3 c5 5. cxd5 exd5 — see the discussion of ... Nf6 vs ... Nc6 in Part 4.

3. ... Nf6 4. Bd3 c5
Here White generally chooses between a reversed Semi-Slav with c2-c3 or a "Colle-Zukertort" with b2-b3.



5. b3
In my opinion the reversed Semi-Slav is less dangerous for Black, e.g., 5. c3 Nc6 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. 0-0 0-0 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. b4 Bd6 10. a3 e5 11. e4 Bg4 and Black was fine in Colle – Euwe, Zutphen 1924.

5. ... Nc6 6. 0-0 Bd6 7. Bb2 0-0 8. Nbd2 b6
The queenside fianchetto with ... b7-b6 and ... Bc8-b7 is my usual approach to developing when the c8-h3 diagonal remains blocked.

9. Ne5!? Bb7 10. f4
A natural attacking setup for White, but also weakening the e4-square.

10. ... Rc8 11. a3 Ne7
Opening the b7-bishop to control the e4-square. Ideally Black will go on to occupy that square with a knight after ... Ne7-f5, ... Bd6-e7, ... Nf5-d6, and ... Nf6-e4.

2. Nc3

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 c5!?
Here we can play 2. ... e6, but then 3. e4!? reaches a French Defense. For what it's worth, I think the French is a great opening, and it pairs well with the Tarrasch. But if you prefer to avoid it then the text move leads to independent and unclear play.



3. e4
Other moves are no big worry: (a) 3. dxc5 Nf6 4. e4 (*4. Nf3 Nc6*) 4. ... d4. (b) 3. Bf4 tries to transpose to the Jobava London. We can play 3. ... e6, as discussed in the London section, but there is another option in this move order: 3. ... Nc6 4. e3 (*4. Nb5?? Qa5+ 5. Nc3 cxd4*) 4. ... cxd4 5. exd4 Bf5 with easy equality.

3. ... dxe4 4. d5 Nf6
Now a recent high-level game continued:

5. Nge2!? e6 6. Nf4
This is Niemann – Duda, *chess24.com* 2022, when Black's safest path would have been...

6. ... Nxd5 7. Nfxd5 exd5 8. Qxd5 Qxd5 9. Nxd5 Bd6
with sufficient compensation for White, but also a solid position for Black.

PSEUDO-TROMPOWSKY

1. d4 d5 2. Bg5!?



This is the Pseudo-Trompowsky, one of White's only options that truly prevents our normal Tarrasch setup with ... e7-e6 and ... c7-c5. However, it is not very common, or very dangerous. I recommend:

2. ... h6 3. Bh4 c6
followed by ... Qd8-b6, ... Bc8-f5, ... e7-e6, ... Nb8-d7, and any reasonable kingside development. Black has a solid Slav setup with fully equal chances.

MOVE 1 SIDELINES

Finally we will consider White moves other than 1. d4. As I've repeatedly emphasized in this series, there is a major advantage to playing the Tarrasch. While Nimzo, Benoni, or Grünfeld players often have to maintain a separate dedicated defense against flank openings, we can usually just play our normal setup and expect to frequently transpose directly into the Tarrasch proper. Keep in mind that there are also potential transpositions to 1. e4 openings such as the French or Sicilian.

1. Nf3
On the club level, players who use this move are generally aiming for a Réti or for a King's Indian Attack, but on the master level and above, it is also commonly used as a way to backdoor into a 1. d4 opening while avoiding various Black possibilities along the way. For a Tarrasch player this kind of shadowboxing is superfluous, as we plan to set out our usual stall no matter what.

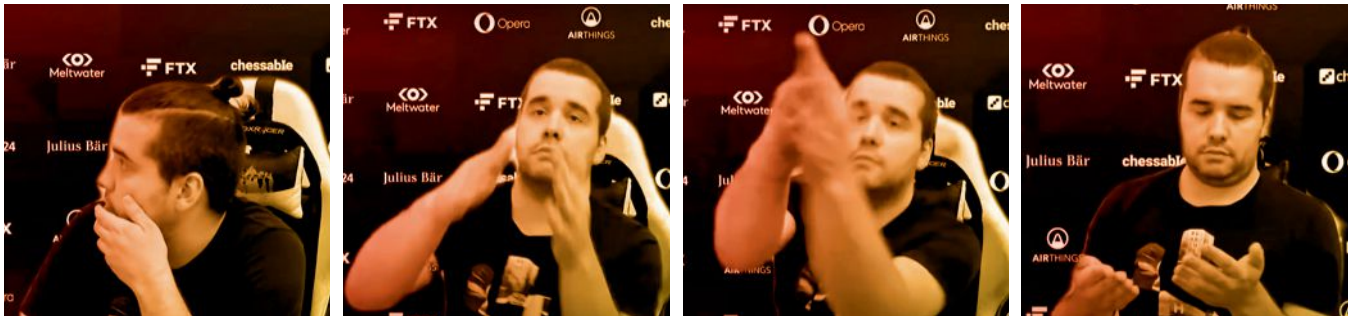
The English Opening begins with 1. c4, and it can be met with 1. ... e6 followed by ... d7-d5, when virtually the only possibility that doesn't transpose to 1. Nf3 or 1. d4 is the uncommon 2. e4!?. Here Black has a choice between an Exchange French with 2. ... d5 or a Sicilian with 2. ... c5.

1. g3 also has little independent significance against a Tarrasch setup, since after 1. ... d5 2. Bg2 Nf6 White will almost certainly play Ng1-f3 before long.

Miscellaneous White openings can be met quite solidly with our normal setup, e.g. 1. b3 d5 2. Bb2 e6 3. e3 c5 followed by ... Ng8-f6, ... Nb8-c6, ... Bf8-e7, and ... 0-0.

The Bird is met similarly: 1. f4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 and now (a) 3. g3 e6 4. Bg2 c5 5. 0-0 Nc6 followed by ... Bf8-e7 and ... 0-0. (b) 3. e3 might be one place where you'd want to diverge from our standard plan, as it gives White what he wants after 3. ... c5 4. b3 Nc6 5. Bb5. The position is fine for Black, but remember to keep an eye on the e5-square!

After 1. Nc3 d5 2. e4 Black can choose between transposing to the French with 2. ... e6 or playing more ambitiously with 2. ... d4!?.



1. … d5

This is the standard way for a Queen's Gambit Declined player to meet 1. Nf3.

If you have the French Defense in your repertoire, then you can also play 1. … e6 here — in fact, you can even premove this in online games from the starting position!

Likewise, if you play the Sicilian then you might instead play 1. … c5 inviting a transposition back to it. (*Nota bene*: don't premove it! 1. d4 c5 2. d5! is certainly *not* the Tarrasch.) In the case of 2. c4 then 2. … e6 followed by … d7-d5 will transpose to the main line below.

2. c4

Moving into Réti waters.

White's main setup without c2-c4 is the King's Indian Attack, with a main line running 2. g3 e6 3. Bg2 c5 4. 0-0 Nc6 5. d3 Nf6 6. Nbd2 Be7 7. e4 0-0 8. Re1.



This leads to rather different play than the Tarrasch, but at least Black's opening moves are the same. As a basic introduction, the main line continues 8. … b5 9. e5 Nd7 10. Nf1 a5 11. h4 b4 12. Bf4 a4 13. a3 bxa3 14. bxa3 when Black seeks counterplay on the queenside as in the "Mosquito Immortal" (Nepomniachtchi – So, *chess24.com* 2021). For analysis, see my article "The Crypto Gambit" in the August 2021 issue of *Chess Life*.

2. … e6 3. g3

Here 3. e3 is also met with 3. … c5 when White tends to avoid the "threat" of … d5-d4 by playing d2-d4 either here, or after first inserting 4. cxd5 exd5 5. d4 Nf6 when we have transposed to a position covered in Part 4.

3. … c5

As usual, we invite White to return to the Tarrasch proper at any moment with c4xd5 and/or d2-d4.

4. Bg2 Nc6 5. 0-0 Nf6



6. d4

This is an example of the sort of backdoor 1. d4 transposition I mentioned above. White has a more flexible version of the Tarrasch main line, without having committed to c4xd5. This position is also commonly reached from the Catalan move order 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 c5 4. g3.

The alternative 6. b3 leads to the double fianchetto setup covered earlier in this part: 6. … Be7 7. cxd5 (after *7. Bb2 d4! 8. e3 e5* Black is already better, since the b2-bishop is misplaced in this reversed Benoni structure) 7. … exd5 8. d4 0-0 9. Bb2 Bg4 and besides 10. Nc3 or 10. dxc5 transposing to positions we've already considered, the only alternative I've faced is 10. Ne5 against which Black has several good options, e.g., 10. … Bh5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. dxc5 Bxc5 as in Hanken – Akobian, Las Vegas 2005.

6. … Be7

The main line is the Catalanesque 6. … dxc4, but the text is more in the Tarrasch spirit.

7. Nc3

More backdoors: 7. cxd5 exd5 transposes to the main lines considered in Parts 2 and 3, while 7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. a3 is one of the "Small Step" variations from Part 3.

Above: GM Ian Nepomniachtchi battles GM Wesley So *and* a pesky bug in the "Mosquito Immortal." See Alex King's report in *Chess Life*, August 2021!

7. … 0-0

Now aside from the aforementioned transpositions 8. cxd5 and/or 8. dxc5, White can try to continue maintaining the tension with…

8. Bg5

Again I propose to react in the spirit of the main line.

8. … cxd4!? 9. Nxd4 h6 10. Be3 Re8

And White still has nothing better than to transpose back to Part 2 with…

11. cxd5 exd5



With that, we finally conclude our Tarrasch Defense repertoire analysis! In next month's finale, we will wrap up the series with some exercise positions and material for further research, including an annotated bibliography and a "who's who" of Tarrasch heroes and their model games.

Don't forget to drop us a line at *letters@uschess.org* if you'd like to ask a question about a specific recommendation!

Did you miss one of the previous installments of this repertoire? Check them out in the US Chess digital archives!

PHOTOS: YOUTUBE

Getting my REPS in

IM Justus Williams on his return to the board at the 2022 Mid-America Open

BY **IM JUSTUS WILLIAMS**

THE BATTLE OFF THE BOARD can be the deciding factor in the outcome of a game. What you do off the board before the first move is played can be the difference between glory and defeat.

By this, I don't mean the crazy mind games some people try, such as the famous antics featured in matches between Karpov and Korchnoi. Nor am I referring to proper sleep and relaxation.

I'm speaking about the mundane. The tiny details between victory and defeat. These are things like making the correct coffee order, knowing how to set a clock correctly, or what almost destroyed my fourth-round game at the 2022 Mid-America Open — an empty tank of gas.

The Mid-America Open is a tournament I've played in a few times since my move to St. Louis in 2016. While familiarity with the venue is certainly a plus at a local tournament, playing an out-of-town tournament also has its perks. There are fewer issues to take into account when traveling for a tournament. For example, I always stay at the on-site hotel. I don't have to worry about getting to the game, and I can safely stroll out of the elevator one minute to round start.

I get to stay at home when playing the Mid-America Open. I get the benefit of sleeping in my own bed, seeing my dog every night, and eating my normal breakfast. But I also have to worry about travel time.

There are trade-offs in both cases. But whether playing close-to-home or out-of-state, there is one constant about tournaments that I love: connecting with the people of the chess world at the events. This is something I've missed desperately these past few years.

The 2022 Mid-America was my first tournament back playing after a short hiatus, so I was keen to shake off the rust and use it as practice for an upcoming string of tournaments. In the end, and perhaps with a bit of luck, I was able to share first place with GM Harshit Raja, who edged me out on tiebreaks.

Heading into the first round, I was eager to get off to a good start. I remember thinking about how I wanted the game to go on my drive over, and I felt unusually calm as I took my seat. After a few moves in the opening, I took a step back and chuckled at my own arrogance. Absolutely nothing went the way I envisioned it while on my drive over. I was incredibly rusty — much more than I thought I would be. While I secured a decisive result in the end, I had to swallow my pride to do so. Who said being humble doesn't pay off?

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, PANNO VARIATION (E63)

IM Justus Williams (2423)
Nandhakumar Vaseegaran (2082)
26th Mid-American Open (1), 03.26.2022

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 d6 3. d4 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. g3 0-0 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. 0-0 a6 8. Bf4 Rb8 9. Rc1 b5 10. b3 bxc4 11. bxc4 Bb7 12. Qa4?!



As soon as I played this lackadaisical move, I immediately saw the refutation. But it was already too late. The engine loves 12. d5 Na5 13. c5! and if 13. … dxc5 14. Qa4 wins.

12. … Nd7

Opening the monster dark-squared bishop to

attack the d4-pawn, while also threatening ... Nd7-b6 and winning the c4-pawn.

13. Qd1!?
The queen has no place on a4, so I decided to rectify my mistake.

Trying to justify the queen move with something like 13. Rfd1? leads to trouble for White: 13. ... Nb6 14. Qb3 Na5.

13. ... e5 14. Bg5 f6 15. Be3
While I wouldn't mind playing Black here, I managed to straighten up and pull out the game.

15. ... Nb6 16. c5 Nc4 17. d5
Allowing the doubled pawns, which do seem weak; however, I haven't had too many opportunities in life to put a pawn on c6. So... you know.

17. ... Nxe3 18. fxe3 Ne7 19. c6 Bc8 20. Qd3 h6 21. Nd2
The rest of the game is not worth serious analysis, as most of it was played under time pressure. But in the interest of completeness...

21. ... f5 22. e4 f4 23. Rb1 Rxb1 24. Rxb1 g5 25. Rb8 Ng6 26. Bh3 Bxh3 27. Rxd8 Rxd8 28. Qxa6 Rf8 29. Qb7 Rf7 30. a4 g4 31. Nd1 fxg3 32. hxg3 Bf6 33. Nf2 Bg5 34. Nxh3 Bxd2 35. Qc8+ Kh7 36. Qxg4 Rg7 37. Kh1 Ne7 38. Qf3 Be1 39. Nf2 Rg6 40. Qf8 Ng8 41. Qf7+ Rg7 42. Qf5+ Kh8 43. Kg2 Ne7 44. Qe6 Ng6 45. Ng4 h5 46. Kf1, Black resigned.

Afterwards I talked with my opponent, and discovered we had very different thoughts on the battle! This game was decided by confidence, something that happens all too often in chess. My opponent did not realize how strong his position was. Rather than playing as if he had control of the game (which he objectively did) he played passively, allowing me to gain control. This is a mistake that even the best players in the world make, and while there isn't an surefire cure, I believe the best remedy is a healthy dose of confidence and trust in yourself. Ultimately this wasn't my best game, but nevertheless, a victory is a great way to start a tournament.

Even the most mundane details are important. Because I neglected them, my fourth game almost ended before it began.

I started my Sunday with the same routine I always do. Of course I didn't mind much when I received the wrong coffee order — it's just coffee after all. But the mixup was a sign of things to come.

I hopped on the highway to drive to the playing site, but I immediately realized that I failed to get gas the night before as I had planned. (My gas light lit up on my way to the venue the day prior.) Suddenly I looked down at my tank gauge in horror. I realized I had been driving around on empty for almost two days! I barely managed to make it to a gas station before my engine shut off. After refilling, I raced to the venue, arriving only 10 minutes late. "Not bad," I thought. But as the saying goes, when it rains it pours...

Fate wasn't done with me quite yet. When I arrived at my board 15 minutes late, I was elated to see my opponent didn't have a clock. Rolling with the punches, I went to the chess bookstore run by Kevin Zimmerman to buy one. I was excited to see a Chronos chess clock there, as I grew up playing on them when I was a kid. Perhaps I let nostalgia get the better of me, but I bought the Chronos. Funny thing, though — after sitting down at the board with it, I realized I didn't know how to set it, and neither did anyone else!

I was fortunate enough to see my friend FM Eugene Yanayt, who allowed me to borrow his clock. I'm still not sure on what the exact ruling should be on the time penalty for me, but in the end, the sportsmanship of chess prevailed. My opponent and I split the difference and we both started with half the elapsed time taken off our clock. I was grateful for this, as it meant I wouldn't be at a huge time disadvantage. It's not every day that you're late to a game and there's no clock in sight!

After all the setbacks I sat down at the board and took a long deep breath. Finally, it was time to let off some steam!

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK (A05)

Daniel Abrahams (2129)
IM Justus Williams (2423)
26th Mid-American Open (4), 03.27.2022

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 e6 4. 0-0 a6 5. d3 c5 6. Nbd2 Nc6 7. e4 Be7 8. e5 Nd7 9. Qe2 b5 10. Re1 Bb7 11. h4 Qb6 12. a4 c4 13. axb5 axb5 14. Rxa8+ Bxa8 15. Nf1 0-0 16. N1h2 Rc8 17. Bf4 cxd3 18. cxd3 Nb4 19. Rc1 Rxc1+ 20. Bxc1 Qc7 21. Bf4 Nc5 22. Ne1 Nb3 23. Nhf3 d4 24. Qd1 Bd5 25. Nd2 Qc1 26. Qxc1 Nxc1 27. Bf1 Na6 28. Nef3 Bc5 29. Ne4 Nb3 30. Nxc5 Naxc5 31. Nd2 Na1

Below: IM Justus Williams at the May 2022 GM Norm Invitational (A Group), hosted by the Charlotte Chess Center.



PHOTO: COURTESY CHARLOTTE CHESS CENTER



"The knight has left the chat." No trades — pieces are needed to take advantage of the weak pawns.

32. Bg5
Rerouting the bishop to better prospects.

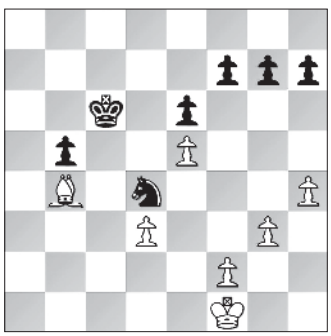
32. ... Na4 33. b4 Kf8
Now the king will gain needed tempos by attacking the bishop.

34. Bd8 Ke8 35. Bc7 Kd7 36. Bd6 Nc3 37. Bg2
Trading my most inactive piece. I would have played 37. f4.

37. ... Nc2 38. Bxd5 Nxd5
Now we've obtained the most pressure we can against the b4-pawn.

39. Nf3 Kc6
Better was 39. ... Ndxb4 immediately, with play continuing 40. Bxb4 (not *40. Nxd4? Nxd4 41. Bxb4 Nf3+* and Black wins) 40. ... Nxb4 41. Nxd4 Nxd3 42. Nxb5 Nxe5 when Black has good practical chances to convert the pawn.

40. Kf1 Ndxb4 41. Nxd4+ Nxd4 42. Bxb4



Here we see a good knight versus a bad bishop. Sometimes trading pieces may feel as though you're relieving the pressure, but in this position, this is not the case.

42. ... Nf3 43. Bc3 Kd5 44. Ke2 Nd4+
Less precise would be 44. ... Nxe5 45. f4 Ng4 46. Bxg7 when the win is becoming a bit unclear.

45. Ke3 Nf5+ 46. Kf4 Kc5
Now the active king does active things.

47. h5 b4 48. Bb2 Kb5 49. g4 Ne7 50. Ke4 Ka4 51. f4 Kb3 52. Bd4 Nd5 53. f5 Nc3+ 54. Kf3 Kc2 55. Bxc3
Stronger, but still insufficient, was 55. Bc5 b3 56. Ba3 Nb5 57. g5 Nxa3 58. g6 fxg6 59. h6 (or *59. fxe6 Nb5 60. e7 Nc7*) 59. ... gxh6 60. f6 b2 61. f7 b1=Q 62. f8=Q Qf1+.

55. ... Kxc3 56. g5
One last trick.

56. ... g6!, White resigned.

Round five saw my much-anticipated meeting with GM Mikhail Antipov. Going into the event, I hoped that I would get paired with him; in fact, his participation was one of the main reasons I played in the Mid-America. I haven't previously played Antipov, who is a strong GM, and I wanted the best practice I could find.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (A49)

IM Justus Williams (2423)
GM Mikhail Antipov (2615)
26th Mid-American Open (5), 03.27.2022

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 d6 5. c4 Bf5 6. Qb3 Qc8 7. Nh4 Be4 8. f3 Bc6 9. d5 Bd7 10. e4 c6 11. Nc3 cxd5 12. cxd5 0-0 13. Be3 Na6 14. a4 e6 15. 0-0 Nc5 16. Qd1 exd5 17. b4 Ne6 18. Rc1 d4 19. Bxd4 Nxd4 20. Qxd4 Ne8 21. Qd3 Qd8 22. a5 Rc8 23. f4 b6 24. a6 b5 25. Nd5 Bc6



26. Qe3?!
Attacking one of the softest spots in Black's position. This move is the beginning of a plan that is on the border of both winning and losing, but it's not my strongest option.

Even with a sizable lead on time, the move 26. Bh3 only came to me while I was completing the move. Becoming fixated on a linear path made it difficult to look for alternatives. Being aware of this in our play is a recipe for growth. Here's the main line I saw at the board: 26. ... Bxd5 27. Rxc8 Qb6+ 28. Kh1 Bc4 29. Rxc4 bxc4 30. Qxc4 and White has an advantage.

26. ... Bxd5 27. exd5 Rxc1 28. Rxc1 Qf6 29. Nf3
Maintaining stability on shaky terrain.

29. ... Qb2 30. Rc8 Nf6 31. Rxf8+ Bxf8 32. Qxa7 Nxd5 33. Qd4
Here I missed 33. Ng5!. As this threatens mate in two moves beginning with Qa7xf7, Black must spend time stopping checkmate, and White will queen the a-pawn.

33. ... Qc1+ 34. Kf2 Nc7 35. a7 d5 36. Qb6
[Editor's note: 36. Bf1! (or 34. Bf1!) gives the king more protection, avoiding perpetuals: 36. ... Qc2+ *(36. ... Qc6 37. Bd3)* 37. Be2 Qc6 38. Ne5 and so on.]

36. ... Bxb4 37. Qxc7 Bc5+ 38. Ke2 Qe3+ 39. Kd1 Qb3+ 40. Ke2 Qc4+ 41. Kd1, draw.

There were plenty of interesting games during the tournament. One I noticed in particular was the last round pairing between Griffin McConnell and Eugene Yanayt.

McConnell's name was familiar to me. I visited my friend's house before the tournament, and after greeting his mom, she asked me if I had heard about a chess master named Griffin McConnell. She said she heard about this young player on the local news, who despite undergoing multiple brain surgeries is not only playing chess but still improving!

As it turns out, this was the same McConnell, and I managed to catch the ending of his game against Eugene. The last round sometimes has a calm and peaceful allure to it, but that often only arises after the fireworks have fizzled out. This game is a perfect example of that.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, CLOSED VARIATION (B23)

Griffin T. McConnell (2164)
FM Eugene Yanayt (2221)
26th Mid-American Open (5), 03.27.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 e6 3. Nge2 Nc6 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. d3 Nge7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Bg5 h6 9. Be3 Nd4 10. Qd2 Kh7 11. Nd1 d5 12. c3

Nxe2+ 13. Qxe2 b6 14. f4 Ba6 15. e5 f6 16. exf6 Bxf6 17. Bd2 Qc7 18. Re1 Rae8 19. Nf2 Nc6



We have a position where Black's pieces seem to be more active, yet White has resources to keep the game level.

20. Ng4 Bg7 21. Rad1 h5
I think this is a mistake. Black cannot afford to see a knight landing on g5!

22. Nf2
The first step on the journey.

22. ... e5
Creating complications for White. More accurate is 22. ... Qd7, preparing ... e6-e5 by protecting the d5-pawn. But the knight can still head to g5 with 23. Nh3 e5 24. Ng5+ Kh8 and despite the weaknesses in the black position, it's still a game!



23. Bxd5
A missed opportunity.

Instead White had 23. f5!! which is a brilliant find by the computer! After 23. ... Rxf5 (worse is *23. ... gxf5 24. Qxh5+ Kg8 25. Bxd5+*) 24. Bxd5 we see possibly the cleanest version of what White was after.

23. ... exf4 24. Ne4
Keeping the queens on the board makes sense, but the rooks would dominate in this position. So it would have been better to play 24. Qxe8 Rxe8 25. Rxe8 fxg3 26. Bg8+ Kh8 27. Ne4 gxh2+ 28. Kh1 Qd7 29. Bf7+ Kh7 30. Ng5+ Kh6 31. Bg8 and Ng5-f7 on the next move should lead to a decisive edge.

24. ... f3 25. Ng5+ Kh8 26. Qxe8 f2+! 27. Kg2 f1=Q+ 28. Rxf1 Rxe8 29. Nf7+ Kh7 30. Ng5+ Kh8, draw.



GM Mikhail Antipov

Overall, the 2022 Mid America Open was a success for me. With four wins and one draw, I certainly cannot complain. The only bit I'm saddened by is that I did not win outright. Maybe an Armageddon game is in line for future determination of tiebreak situations? Still, considering it was my first tournament after a few months off, I was satisfied. It was the perfect event for me to get my reps in and shake the rust off for my upcoming GM norm-chasing run.

To any players who have taken some time away from the board, I hope you look at my results in this tournament as encouragement to make the leap back into rated play. There's something therapeutic about playing in person. In between games, I bumped into some interesting individuals. One of the most interesting was Michael Abron, who in 2019 became the sixth person to play in all 50 U.S. states. [See the May 2020 issue of *Chess Life* for more on Abron. ~*ed*.]

I also had the honor of hearing Kevin Zimmerman discuss his belief that "it takes a village or an ancestral community to bring success to the vision(s) of its inhabitants." Zimmerman aims to bring those aspirations into fruition through his work with the YMCA Wilson Gray Chess Club in Hartford, Connecticut.

This is not unlike the thinking behind my own organization, Black Squares, whose mission is grounded in increasing the access of chess in minority communities nationally. Not only was I able to play good enough chess to share first place, I made connections that will positively impact the youth for future generations through our collaborations!

2022 MID-AMERICA OPEN
AT A GLANCE
MARCH 25-27, 2022 | ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MAJOR: 1st-2nd: GM Harshit Raja, IM Justus Williams, 4½/5. 3rd-5th: GMs Mikhail Antipov and Alexander Fishbein, FM Christopher Shen, 4. **U1900:** Andrew Lewis Shiman, 4½/5. **U1700:** Andrew Stappenbeck, 4½/5. **U1500:** Ethan William Emanesson, 5/5. **U1200:** Austin J. Poulsen, 5/5. **BLITZ:** Ryan Amburgy, 8/8. **MIXED DOUBLES:** Sarah Walsh & GM Harshit Raja, Megan Garcia & Philip Gomory Keisler, Aria Hoesley & Jacob Sanders, 7. 302 players, six sections

For complete results, visit *www.midamericaopen.com*

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THE FIGHTING *Five*

Five players tie for first place at the 2022 National Middle School Championship.

BY **BRIAN TAY**

PHOTOS BY **RANDY ANDERSON**



THE 2022 NATIONAL MIDDLE School (K-8) Championship was held from April 28 – May 1 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. Formerly known as the National Junior High (K-9) Championship, this year's tournament attracted 931 players from 35 states. Numbers were slightly down compared to pre-pandemic levels, but this was to be expected. Masks were mandatory to help ensure everyone's safety.

My journey to the K-8 Championship began early in the morning, even before the sun came up. We left our house at 4:30 a.m. on Thursday to catch an early flight from Washington, D.C. to Dallas, Texas, as I was playing in the K-8 Blitz. Thankfully our flight was uneventful, and I managed to get some sleep on the plane. The blitz tournament format was six double rounds, with a time control of G/5, d0, and it had a massive field of 135 players. I ended up finishing in sixth place with 9½ points. Vaseegaran Nandhakumar and Ethan Guo shared first place with a score of 11/12.

With the blitz event over, the focus was now on the main event, which for me (as an eighth grader) was the K-8 Championship section. The competition looked tough, with the three top players being Brewington Hardaway, Jonathan Chen, and Troy Cavanah. All three are US Chess rated over 2200. At 2068, I was the 10th seed as play opened, and I could feel that this was going to be an intense competition. "The pressure," as they say, "is real."

The 2022 National Middle School (K-8) Championship was a seven round Swiss tournament, with a time control of G/120, d5. This meant that the games could run as long as four hours or more. From my perspective — at the board on the tournament floor — this year's event was full of surprise upsets, blunders, and mistakes, all typical for scholastic tournaments. This being Nationals, the pressure to win was also a major factor, and I think we see it in the final results.

During the first two rounds of any big Swiss, top seeded players are paired with lower rated players. And so it was in Grapevine. There were several surprising upsets that occurred right from the beginning. Jed Sloan (2104) lost to Vedant Margale (1666) in round one. Vaseegaran Nandhakumar (2048), the winner of the K-6 Blitz, succumbed to Aayush Wadhwa (1806) during round two. This was a "wake up call" for the players, reminding them that they needed to be careful and "laser focused" (I learned this term from my Dad) in their games.

It was clear that players' actual skill levels have not caught up with their published ratings due to the pandemic. It was therefore difficult to assess their "real" performances from a ratings perspective. Essentially you could say that every player was both underrated and strong! Besides the losses, there were also very long games. My game in the second round against Jude Kazan (1822) ran exactly four hours, and I managed to win in a complicated and messy endgame made more complex by our time troubles.

Saturday was going to be an endurance contest, with three rounds in a single day. Worse, as there was only five hours between the start of each round, there would not be much time to rest and eat after long games. I drew my round three game against Joshua Meng (1872), who ended up in eighth place at tournament end.

In round four, Aiden Teitelman (1735), who had a string of upset wins during the first three rounds, was up against Aryan Gutla (2171) with the black pieces. Aryan was Aiden's strongest opponent yet in Grapevine, and he scored a major upset win against an opponent that was rated 436 points higher. This is how he won to get to 4/4:

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION (B80)

Aryan Gutla (2171)
Aiden Teitelman (1735)
National Middle School (K-8) Championship (4), 04.30.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. g3 Nf6 7. Bg2 d6 8. 0-0 Be7 9. Re1 0-0 10. g4?!
White is not ready to start an attack with g3-g4-g5 and h2-h4. It only weakens White's own king. Instead 10. a4 with standard play is better.





10. ... Nc6 11. g5 Nd7 12. h4 Re8 13. Nce2 Bf8
Better is 13. ... Nf8! with the idea of ... Nf8-g6: 14. Be3 Ng6 15. h5 Nh4 and Black has a serious advantage.

14. b3 Nxd4 15. Nxd4 Ne5 16. Bb2?
This developing move loses control over the f4-square, allowing the black knight to find a juicy landing spot.



16. ... Ng6! 17. h5 Nf4 18. Bf1 Qd8
Attacking the weak g5-pawn. Also strong was 18. ... e5.

19. Nf3 e5!
Preparing ... Bc8-g4 to win the g5-pawn.

20. Bc1 Bg4 21. Bxf4 exf4 22. Bg2 Bxh5 23. Qd5 Bxf3 24. Bxf3 Re5 25. Qxb7 Rxg5+ 26. Kf1 Rb5 27. Qc6 Rc5 28. Qa4 Rc3 29. Ke2 Rxc2+
Black wins a second pawn and the game shortly thereafter.

30. Kf1 Rc3 31. Ke2 Rac8 32. Rad1 Qh4 33. Qd4 Qg5 34. Qd5 Qxd5 35. exd5 Rc2+ 36. Rd2 f5 37. Red1 g5 38. Rxc2 Rxc2+ 39. Rd2 Rc5 40. Kf1 g4 41. Be2 f3 42. Bc4 h5 43. Rd4 Kf7 44. Kg1 a5 45. Kh2 Kg6 46. Bd3 Bg7, White resigned.

Going into round five with 3½ points, I found myself paired against Aiden! Coming out of the opening, I had a difficult position but I was able to get counterplay with a pawn sacrifice. Eventually, he blundered under pressure after I got sufficient counterplay.

My game dragged on for three and a half hours into the night, ending past 10 p.m. There was only a five second delay so every move had to be made fast. In the end, I converted my extra piece and took all his pawns with my knight to win in a furious blitz battle.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, SÄMISCH VARIATION (E82)

Aiden Teitelman (1735)
Brian Tay (2068)
National Middle School (K-8) Championship (5), 04.30.2022

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nc3 0-0 6. Be3 b6 7. Qd2 c5 8. d5 e6 9. Bd3 exd5 10. cxd5 a6 11. a4 Nbd7 12. Nh3 Ne5 13. Nf2 Bd7 14. Be2

Left, top: Brewington Hardaway cogitates. Left, bottom: It's always advisable to check with the TD. Below: The round five matchup between Aiden Teitelman (right) and Brian Tay (left).





14. … b5
I would have had a difficult position if Aiden was able to play f3-f4, so I decided to sacrifice a pawn to free my position.

15. axb5?!
Correct was 15. 0-0! b4 16. Ncd1 followed by an eventual f3-f4.

15. … axb5 16. Rxa8 Qxa8 17. Nxb5 Bxb5 18. Bxb5 Rb8 19. Be2 Qa2 20. Nd1 Nc4 21. Bxc4 Qxc4 22. Qe2 Qxe2+
Here I thought I'd be able to get my pawn back in the endgame, but I soon realized that it isn't so easy.

Keeping the queens on the board with 22. … Qb3 23. 0-0 Nd7 would leave me with a lot of compensation.

23. Kxe2 Nd7 24. Bf4! Ne5 25. Kd2 Nc4+ 26. Kd3 Rb4
The concrete 26. … Nxb2+ 27. Nxb2 Rb3+ 28. Kc4 Rb4+ 29. Kd3 Rb3+ would force a draw.

27. b3 Na3 28. Bxd6 Rxb3+ 29. Ke2 Bd4 30. Bf4 c4 31. Bc1 Nb5 32. f4
I have very active pieces, but Rh1-f1-f3 is coming soon. I decided to try and win the e4-pawn.

32. … f6 33. Rf1 Nd6 34. Rf3 Rb1



35. Be3??
An unfortunate mistake. 35. Bd2 Nxe4 36. Ra3 would still hold the balance, although my active pieces would have given me good chances to make progress.



Right: It's hard to resist the drama on the round five top board battle between Eric Liu (right) and Brewington Hardaway (left).

35. … c3! 36. Nf2 c2 37. Nd3 Bxe3 38. Rxe3 Rd1 39. Rf3 Nxe4 40. Rf1 Rxf1 41. Kxf1 Nd2+ 42. Ke2 Nb3
And I won 30 moves later.

43. Ke3 c1=Q+ 44. Nxc1 Nxc1 45. Kd2 Nb3+ 46. Kc3 Nc5 47. Kd4 Nd7 48. Kc4 Kf7 49. Kb5 Ke7 50. Kc6 Nb8+ 51. Kc7 Na6+ 52. Kc6 Nb4+ 53. Kc5 Nd3+ 54. Kc6 Nxf4 55. g3 Nd3 56. Kc7 Ne5 57. d6+ Ke6 58. d7 Nxd7 59. Kc6 Ne5+ 60. Kc5 Nf3 61. h3 Ng1 62. h4 Kf5 63. Kd4 Ne2+ 64. Ke3 Nxg3 65. Kf3 Ne4 66. Ke3 Kg4 67. Kxe4 Kxh4 68. Kf3 f5 69. Kf4 h5 70. Kf3 g5 71. Kf2 f4 72. Kf3 and White resigned.
This game, along with a few others, was being commentated live on the US Chess Twitch channel by WGM Sabina Foisor and WIM Emily Nguyen. They both said that this game was "really, really scary;" at one point, Sabina even commented "that both players should go get some rest, offer a draw, and prepare for tomorrow's last two rounds." I'm glad I didn't hear that during the game!

Meanwhile, the board one battle between top seed Brewington Hardaway (2337) and Eric Liu (2195) was an important one for the standings. The position was equal after 12 moves, but Eric outplayed Brewington and went up an Exchange. However, he spent too much time thinking, and he eventually took a draw by repetition in a winning position with less than a minute remaining on the clock.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, KAN VARIATION (B42)

Eric Liu (2195)
Brewington Hardaway (2337)
National Middle School (K-8) Championship (5), 04.30.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Bd3 Qc7 6. 0-0 Nf6 7. Qe2 Bc5 8. Nb3 Ba7 9. Be3 Bxe3 10. Qxe3 Ng4 11. Qg3 Qxg3 12. hxg3 d6



After 12 moves, the players have reached an equal endgame. But now Brewington starts to go a bit wrong.

13. N1d2 Ke7 14. a4 Nd7 15. a5 Nge5 16. Be2 Nf6 17. f4 Nc6
Black aims to play … e6-e5 to free his position.

18. c3


Aiden Teitelman


Jonathan Chen


Brian Tay

I like 18. Bf3!, with the idea of defending the e4-pawn and readying to play Nd2-c4 next.

18. ... Rb8
The immediate 18. ... e5! would be better, as White's knights are not ready to take the d5-square.

19. Nd4 Bd7 20. b4 Rhc8 21. Rfc1 g6 22. Bf3



22. ... e5?!
Mistimed. Now White can quickly exploit the weaknesses on d5 and b6. Instead 22. ... b5! would give Black a slight advantage.

23. Nc2 Rc7?
Black has to put pressure on the c3-pawn before White's knights get active: 23. ... Na7! 24. Ne3 Nb5 25. c4 (*25. Ndc4 Be6*) 25. ... Nd4 26. Nd5+ Nxd5 27. exd5 and White has a small advantage.

24. Ne3 Rbc8? 25. Ndc4 Rd8 26. Nb6 Kf8 27. Ned5 Ne8
Brewington chooses to give up the Exchange immediately. The alternative 27. ... Nxd5 28. exd5 Na7 29. fxe5 dxe5 30. d6 traps the rook.

28. Be2 Be6 29. Nxc7 Nxc7 30. Bc4 Bxc4 31. Nxc4
The position has cleared, leaving Eric up an Exchange. But he got very low on time and chose to take a draw.

31. ... exf4 32. gxf4 d5 33. exd5 Nxd5 34. g3 h5 35. Ra2 Re8 36. Rd2 Nf6 37. Rcd1 Re7 38. Rd3 Kg7 39. Nb6 Re2 40. R1d2 Re1+ 41. Kg2 Re8 42. Nd5 Ng4 43. Kf3 Rh8 44. Ne3 Nf6 45. Nd5 Ng4 46. Ne3 Nf6 47. Nd5, draw.

After round five, Troy Cavanah (2209) was the only person at 4 points who won, so he was in clear first with 5/5. Brewington was the top rated player at 4½/5, so they played each other in round six. Troy had the white pieces but was slowly outplayed from the get-go.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, KAN VARIATION (B43)

Troy Cavanah (2209)
Brewington Hardaway (2337)
National Middle School (K-8) Championship (6), 05.01.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. Nxc6 dxc6 8. 0-0 Nf6 9. f4 e5



I was sitting next to this game in the sixth round. Troy got a great position out of the opening, but here he starts to get outplayed.

10. fxe5?
The stronger 10. Qe1! , followed by completing development, would keep an advantage.

10. ... Ng4!
Black is not in a hurry to take the e5-pawn and instead secures his king first.

11. Qf3 Be6 12. Bf4 0-0-0 13. Bc4 Bxc4
Brewington missed an intermezzo here: 13. ... Qb6+! 14. Kh1 Bxc4 15. Qxg4+ Be6 16. Qf3 Qxb2 and Black has a big advantage with the bishops and a better pawn structure.

14. Qxg4+ Be6 15. Qe2 Qb6+ 16. Be3 Bc5
Possibly better was 16. ... Qxb2 17. Na4 Qa3 18. Nb6+ Kb8 19. Qf2! when preventing ... Bf8-c5 could give some counterplay.

17. Bxc5 Qxc5+ 18. Qf2 Qxe5 19. Rad1 f6 20. Na4 Bg4 21. Nb6+ Kb8 22. Nc4 Qc7
Going pawn grabbing with 22. ... Qxe4! looks a bit scary, but I think Black can take it. After 23. Qg3+ Ka8 24. Nd6 Qb4 25. c3 Qb6+ 26. Rd4 Be6 27. Qxg7 (else Black is just up a pawn) 27. ... Rhg8 28. Qe7 (28. Qxh7? Rxd6!) 28. ... Qxb2 I think Black might have the edge?

23. Rd3 Rhe8 24. Rxd8+ Rxd8

(see diagram top of next page)

25. e5?!



Trying to fix his weaknesses with forcing play, but it doesn't work. Black only has a slight edge after 25. h3.

25. ... Be6!
Not 25. ... fxe5?! 26. Re1 Re8 27. Qg3 with equality.

26. exf6?!
One mistake too many.

White has to try 26. Nd6! keeping the position sharp. After 26. ... fxe5 27. Ne4 Black is better with his extra pawn. Better is 26. ... Qa5 when we have to look at a long, forcing variation: 27. exf6 Rxd6 28. f7 Bxf7 29. Qxf7 Qb6+ 30. Qf2 Qxb2 31. Qf8+ Kc7 32. Rf7+ Rd7 33. Rxd7+ Kxd7 34. Qf5+ Kd6 35. Qxh7 Qxa2 36. Qxg7 Qb1+ 37. Kf2 Qxc2+ and Black is winning, but it's still very complicated.

26. ... Bxc4 27. f7 Rf8 28. Qc5 Rxf7!
The only move!

29. Qxc4 Qb6+ 30. Kh1 Rxf1+ 31. Qxf1 Qxb2
And Brewington converted his extra pawn.

32. Qd1 Ka7 33. h3 a5 34. a4 Qb4 35. Qa1 g6 36. Qg1+ Ka8 37. Qa1 h5 38. Qa2 Qe1+ 39. Kh2 Qe5+ 40. Kh1 Qd5 41. Qa1 Qc4 42. c3 Ka7 43. Kh2 g5 44. Qd1 h4 45. Qc2 Qf1 46. c4 Qf4+ 47. Kh1 Qe5 48. Kg1 Qe1+ 49. Kh2 Qg3+ 50. Kh1 Qe3 51. c5 Qe1+ 52. Kh2 Qb4 53. Kh1 Qd4 54. Kh2 Qe5+ 55. Kh1 Qe1+ 56. Kh2 Kb8 57. Qc4 Qd1 58. Qg8+ Ka7 59. Qc4 Qd5 60. Qc3 Ka6 61. Qb2 Qxc5 62. Qe2+ Ka7 63. Qd2 Qe5+ 64. Kh1 Qc5, White resigned.

Jed Sloan and Nikash Vemparala (1988) played a very back-and-forth game with lots of mistakes for both sides.

GIUOCO PIANO (C50)

Jed Sloan (2104)
Nikas Vemparala (1988)
National Middle School (K-8) Championship (6), 05.01.2022

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. d3 Nf6 5. 0-0 0-0 6. a4 a6 7. c3 d5 8. exd5 Nxd5 9. b4 Be7 10. h3 Be6 11. Re1 Bf6



12. Qc2?? Ndxb4! 13. cxb4 e4 14. Bxe6 fxe6 15. Ra3 exf3 16. g3 Nd4 17. Qc4 Qd5 18. Ra2 Qh5 19. Kh2
Now it's Black's turn to give away his advantage.

19. ... g5?
White is both uncoordinated and undeveloped after the correct 19. ... b5! 20. Qxc7 Qd5!.

20. Re4!
The only move to prevent ... g5-g4, but a strong one. White's king now appears safe, and the black queen is misplaced.

20. ... b5 21. Qc5 Nb3 22. Qc2 Nxc1 23. Qxc1 Rad8 24. Qe3 e5?
Blocking in the f6- bishop. Now White grabs the advantage, but 24. ... Rd6 would keep the balance.

25. Nd2
The f3-pawn and the e4-square are big weaknesses.

25. ... Bg7 26. Rg4 h6



27. Nxf3??
Blundering into a fork. White has a small advantage after 27. Ne4.

27. ... Qf7 28. Rc2 Qxf3 29. Qc5 Qxd3, White resigned.



Vaseegaran Nandhakumar



Jed Sloan



Troy Cavanah



Left: The first moves in the game between Sihan Tao and Aryan Gutla. Note our author catching the camera's eye!

A wild game!

In the last round, Brewington Hardaway and Jonathan Chen (2265) whom I lost to in the penultimate round, were both at 5½/6 and paired against each other. Brewington got an advantage from the opening, but missed a pawn break later in the game that might have earned him a winning advantage. The game was drawn.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE, ADVANCE VARIATION (B12)

Brewington Hardaway (2337)
Jonathan Chen (2265)
National Middle School (K-8) Championship (7), 05.01.2022

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. h4 h5 5. Bd3 Bxd3 6. Qxd3 Qa5+ 7. Nd2 e6 8. Ngf3 Nh6 9. c4 Qa6 10. b3 Nf5 11. a4 b6 12. 0-0 Be7 13. Ba3 Qb7 14. g3 0-0 15. Rfc1 Bxa3 16. Rxa3 Na6 17. Nf1 dxc4 18. bxc4 Rfd8 19. Qe4 Qe7 20. Ra2 Qd7 21. Rd1 Nb4 22. Rad2



22. .... a6?!
The black kingside comes under attack.

23. Ng5 b5 24. Qe2?!
The central break 24. d5! (threatening d5xe6) is strong. After 24. ... cxd5 25. cxd5 the b4-knight is hanging, and the e6-pawn is loose.

24. ... bxc4 25. Qxc4?
White still has an advantage after 25. Qxh5 although the c4-pawn can become dangerous.

25. ... a5 26. Qe2 g6 27. Ne4 Nd5 28. Qc4 Rdb8
Black has equalized and the game was drawn 15 moves later.

29. Qc1 Kg7 30. Nh2 Rb6 31. Nf3 Qe7 32. Nc5 Nb4 33. Ng5 Rd8 34. Qc3 Rdb8 35. Kh2 Ra8 36. Kh3 Rh8 37. Qf3 Nd5 38. Kh2 Rhb8 39. Nge4 Ra8 40. Rd3 Rab8 41. Kh3 Rb2 42. R1d2 Rb1 43. Rd1 R1b2, draw.

Another upset — this time 200 points — occurred on the board I was sitting next to in round seven. Aryan Gutla lost to Sihan Tao (1975). From a theoretical Sicilian Dragon Opening, Aryan was outplayed and fell into a nice checkmate.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, DRAGON VARIATION (B76)

Sihan Tao (1975)
Aryan Gutla (2171)
National Middle School Championship (7), 05.01.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 0-0 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. 0-0-0 d5 10. Qe1 e5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. exd5 Nxd5 13. Ne4 Qc7 14. Bc5 Rd8 15. Bc4 Be6
This is a known position from modern Dragon theory, but Black quickly runs into difficulties.



16. h4 Nf4 17. Bxe6 Nxe6?!
It's better to trade rooks first with 17. ... Rxd1+! 18. Qxd1 Nxe6 so that Bc5-d6 is met with ... Qc7-a5.

18. Be3?!
Why not 18. Bd6! Qb6 19. h5 with a good advantage?

18. ... Rd5?!
Black can shut down White's kingside counterplay with 18. ... f5! 19. Nc3 h5! while taking a big share of the center.

19. h5 Rad8 20. Qh4 Qd7?
After 20. ... Rxd1+ 21. Rxd1 Rxd1+ 22. Kxd1 gxh5 (in light of the h5-h6 threat) 23. Qxh5 Qa5 White is better due to the weak black pawns, but Black can seek counterplay with his queen.

21. Rxd5 Qxd5?
White is winning anyway, but this speeds things up.

22. hxg6 Qxa2?



Allowing a nice checkmate.



Top: The winners, minus Vaseegaran Nandhakumar. Bottom: All hail the team champs from Hunter College Campus School!

23. Nf6+! Kf8 24. Qb4+ c5 25. Qxc5+!, Black resigned.
The main line goes 25. Qxc5+ Nxc5 26. Bxc5+ Rd6 27. Bxd6 mate.

At the end of the tournament, there was a five-way tie for first place at 6/7. Brewington won first place in tiebreaks followed by Jonathan Chen, Troy Cavanah, Vaseegaran Nandhakumar, and Ilya Levkov. Five co-champions don't happen very often! I tied for 6th place, winning the 7th place medal, in the main event.

For me, there were definitely some "firsts" in this tournament. This was the first time all my games were played on a DGT board. I also had the chance to try a "Texas-style Crust Pizza" (who would have thought that's a thing?) that was invented by a local pizzeria in Grapevine.

What is a Texas-style crust pizza, you might be wondering? It's a sauce-stuffed crust pizza brushed with garlic butter on top. Now I can say that I have tried three styles of pizzas, and all during chess tournaments: New York style (for the numerous times I have played at Marshall Chess Club), Chicago's deep-dish (during the North American Youth Chess Championship in 2021), and now Texas-style. Chess and pizza, the perfect combination!

Looking back, the 2022 National Middle School (K-8) Championship was challenging, stressful, and a lot of fun. This was the last time I get to play in the K-8. I'm already looking forward to playing in the National High School (K-12) Championship next year as a new high schooler!



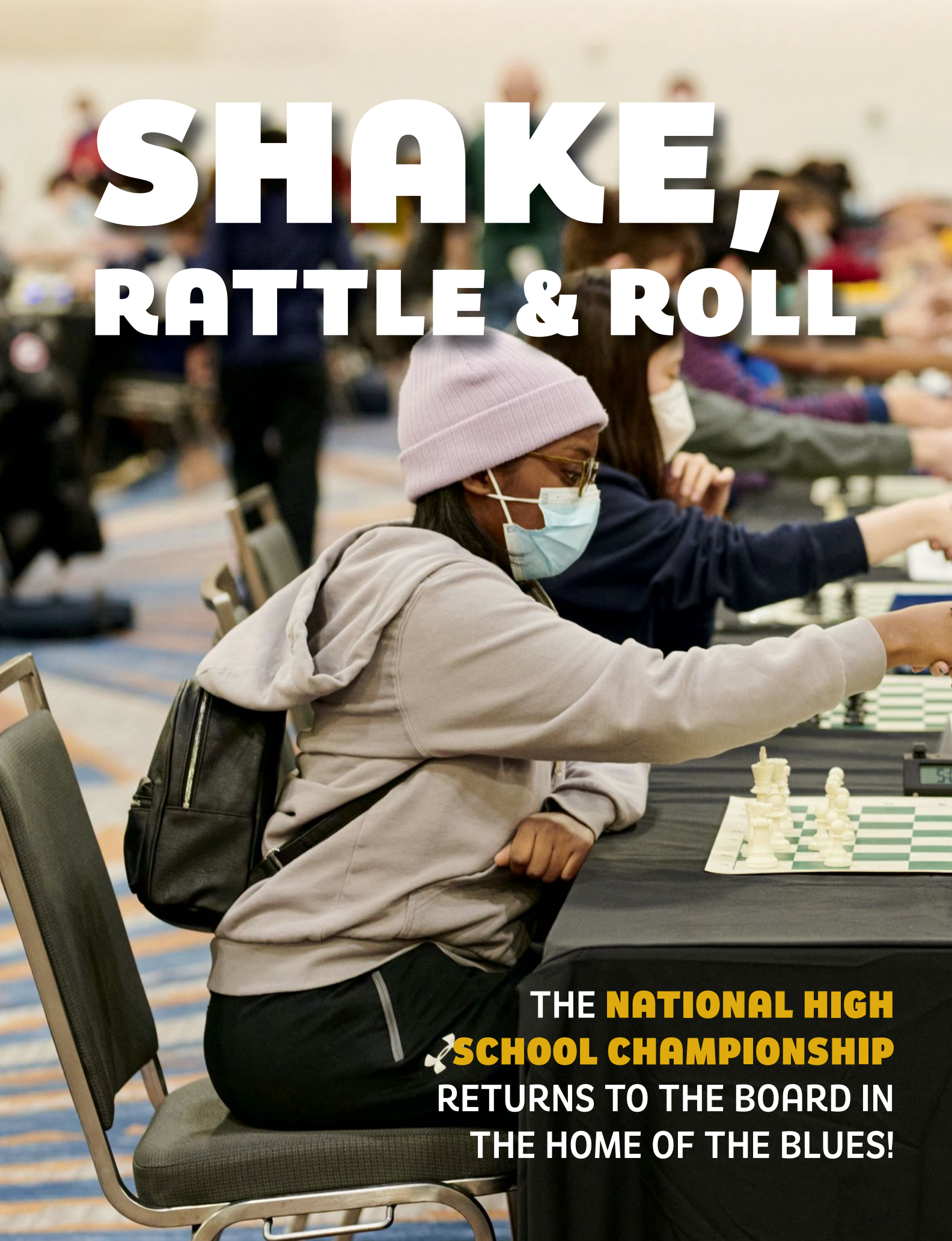
2022 NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8) CHAMPIONSHIP, AT A GLANCE

APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2022 | GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS:
K-8 CHAMPIONSHIP: Brewington Hardaway, Jonathan Chen, Troy Cavanah, Vaseegaran Nandhakumar, Ilya Levkov, 6/7. **K-8 U1700:** Ella Guo, Sudeep Vadderaju, 5½/7. **K-8 U1400:** Jonathan Zheng, Jethro Liu, Kasper David Ostafin Hurst, Suhavi Tiruveedhula, 6/7. **K-8 U1100:** Samuel Tyler Joiner, 6½/7. **K-8 U900:** Benjamin Gorden, Jonathan E. Hamill, 6½/7. **K-8 U700:** David Ologunleko, 7/7. **UNRATED:** Shivanandhan Sriraman, 7/7. **BLITZ:** Vaseegaran Nanehakumar, Ethan Guo, 11/12. **BUGHOUSE:** Alexander bianchi & Logan Shafer, Advait Nair & Akshat Suresh, 8/10.

TEAM WINNERS:
K-8 CHAMPIONSHIP: Hunter College Campus School (New York, NY), 19. **K-8 U1700:** I.S. 318 (Brooklyn, NY), 16½. **K-8 U1400:** PS 180 (Brooklyn, NY), 21. **K-8 U1100:** I.S. 318 (Brooklyn, NY), 19½. **K-8 U900:** I.S. 318 (Brooklyn, NY), 20½. **K-8 U700:** I.S. 318 (Brooklyn, NY), 22½. **BLITZ:** I.S. 318 (Brooklyn, NY), 31.

For complete results, visit *www.uschess.org/results/2022/ms/*



SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

THE **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP** RETURNS TO THE BOARD IN THE HOME OF THE BLUES!



WRITTEN BY **FM ALEX KING**

PHOTOS BY **CAROLINE KING**

I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED LAST year to see the announcement that the 2022 National High School (K-12) Championship (NHS) would be held in my adopted hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. After all, we hardly ever have national scholastic events here — the last one was the National Junior High Championship in 1988! However the stars aligned for us to host this year's edition, I knew that it would be a terrific opportunity both for the local scholastic community to see a national championship up close, as well as for the national scholastic community to visit and get a taste of Memphis.

The tournament, held from April 8-10 at the Renasant Convention Center in downtown Memphis, was indeed a success in many ways. Not least of those was its symbolic significance as a return to some level of normalcy for national scholastic chess. Two years ago, as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning to surge in the U.S., the 2020 NHS was canceled, an unprecedented occurrence in the event's 50-year history. It would be the first of many U.S. Chess national events in 2020-21 to be canceled or moved online. The Memphis edition of the NHS was the second national scholastic event to return in person, after the National K-12 Grades Championship in December 2021.

Approximately 1,060 players competed in Memphis, which is admittedly a bit of a low turnout compared to the almost 1700 players in the last pre-pandemic NHS in 2019. Ongoing health concerns undoubtedly contributed to this low attendance, even with US Chess' policy requiring face masks in the playing hall and other public areas of the tournament. An unlucky additional factor was severe weather before the start of the event, which disrupted the travel plans of some participants. (More on that later.)

I was fortunate to be able to attend this event as more than just a spectator. The Dalton School (New York, New York), one of the top-seeded teams in the K-12 Championship section, was looking for help for the weekend, and their head coach Beatriz Marinello, a friend and former employer of mine, asked if I was available. I was already familiar with some of the Dalton players and parents from my time working at the Marshall Chess Club some years ago, and I jumped at the chance to reconnect with them.

My last time attending the NHS was my own senior year of high school in 2007, and I was looking forward to once again experiencing the unique energy and excitement of a national event. An added thrill was that my sister Caroline was hired by US Chess to

GUEST GM EVENTS





Left: GM Ben Finegold scored 18½/20 in his simul, with Sean Beavers the only one to defeat him. Below: blitz and banter with Ben!

be the official photographer for the event. She's not a chess player, so I got a kick out of seeing her at the event and her terrific photos in the daily *CLO* reports.

The weekend began with several side events leading up to the main tournament. On Thursday morning the Bughouse tournament saw 22 two-player teams competing, with first place shared between two teams scoring 9/10 each: Leonardo Liu and Daniel Levkov, both of New York, and FM Nico Chasin of New York and IM Alexander Costello of California. In the evening the Blitz tournament also saw a tie for first between two players with 11/12, with IM Anthony He of Washington taking the title on tiebreaks over Hersh Singh of Wisconsin.

Special guest GM Benjamin Finegold conducted a 20-board simultaneous exhibition on Friday morning, scoring 18 wins, one draw, and one loss to 10th grader Sean Beavers of Virginia. Finegold, a larger-than-life online streamer and personality, demonstrated plenty of in-person charisma as well. My sister Caroline related the following one-liner she overheard Finegold rattle off to an unsuspecting high-schooler in his Friday afternoon play-all-comers blitz session:

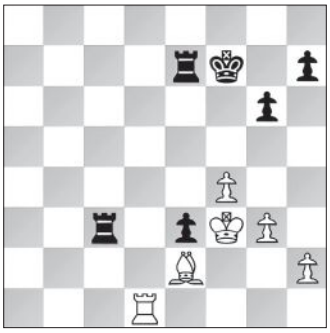
Finegold: What's your name?
Kid: Zach.
Finegold: Are you sure?

Other on-site attractions included the bookstore (my personal favorite!); vendor booths hosted by Chessable, the Memphis Chess Club, and others; and the Girls Club, a designated space for girls participating in the tournament to meet, play, and learn together. This space, hosted by US Chess Women's Program Director WGM Jennifer Shahade, featured some special events of its own, including a book signing and photo event by Shahade for her recently published *Chess Queens: The True Story of a Chess Champion and the Greatest Female Players of All Time* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2022).

On Friday afternoon the main event began, a seven-round Swiss in six sections: Championship, U1900, U1600, U1200, U800, and Unrated. The time control was 120 minutes for the whole game with a five-second delay per move, making for some long days indeed!

The early rounds saw the top seeds perform for the most part as expected, ably dispatching their lower- (and probably under-) rated opponents. At the end of the second day, and after five rounds, the only perfect 5/5 was IM Anthony He, after the slightly higher-rated IM Arthur Guo of Georgia was held to a draw in round five by Vishnu Vanapalli of North Carolina:

TIME TO GRIND
Vishnu Vanapalli (2234)
IM Arthur Guo (2503)
National High School (K-12) Ch (5), 04.09.2022



WHITE TO MOVE

54. h4!
A strong defensive move. Earlier in the endgame Black had chances to undermine White's structure with ... g6-g5, but now this break is firmly restrained, after which Black has no good way to make progress. Still, Guo continues pressing — in the end perhaps too stubbornly.

54. ... Ke6 55. Rh1 Kd5 56. h5 Kd4 57. hxg6 hxg6 58. Rd1+ Kc5 59. Rd8 Re6 60. Rf8 Ra3 61. Rd8 Kb4 62. Rd4+ Kc5 63. Rd8 Kb6 64. Rf8 Kc6 65. Rd8 Kc7 66. Rf8 Kd6 67. Rb8 Ke7 68. Rb5 Kf6 69. Rc5 Re7 70. Rc6+ Kg7 71. Rd6 Rc3 72. Rb6 Kf7 73. Ra6 Rd7 74. Rb6 Rd2 75. Rb7+ Kf6 76. Rb6+ Ke7 77. Rb4 Rd6 78. Re4+ Re6 79. Ra4 Kf6 80. Ra5 Rd6 81. Re5 Re6 82. Ra5 Re7 83. Ra6+ Kg7 84. Ra5 Kf7 85. Ra6 Rec7 86. Ra4 Re7 87. Ra5 Ke8 88. Ra6 Kf7 89. Ra5 Kg7 90. Rb5 Re6 91. Rb7+ Kf6 92. Rb5 Ke7 93. Rd5 Ra3 94. Rb5 Kd7 95. Rc5 Kd6 96. Rb5 Rc3 97. Ra5 Ke7 98. Ra7+ Kd6 99. Ra6+ Ke7 100. Ra5 Kf6 101. Rb5 Ra3 102. Rc5 Ke7 103. Rb5 Kd7 104. Rc5 Kd6 105. Rb5 Kc6 106. Rb4 Kd5 107. Rb5+ Kd4 108. Rb8 Kc3 109. Rd8 Kc2 110. Rc8+ Rc3 111. Rd8 Kc1 112. Rd1+ Kc2 113. Rd4 Rb6 114. Re4 Kd2 115. Rd4+ Kc2 116. Re4 Rbb3 117. Re6



117. ... Kc1!?
Rather a bridge too far. Instead 117. ... g5!? was better, accepting simplifications that lead to a draw.

118. Rxg6 Rb2 119. Re6 Kd2 120. Rd6+ Kc1
Admitting his failure to make progress by inviting a repetition. Here White could even switch gears to playing for a win with 121. g4!?, but with only seconds left on both players' clocks, Vanapalli decides to accept the repetition.

121. Re6 Kd2, draw.

Meanwhile, I was getting to know the Dalton team — and they were leading the team standings! Their top player, 10th grader FM Gus Huston, was rated almost as high as I was, and was in contention for individual first place with 4½. Nate Shuman, another 10th grader, and seventh grader (!) Iris Mou were both US Chess rated experts and had 4 points each. I knew those three from my years at the Marshall Chess Club, back when they were in elementary school. The rest of the team were also underclassmen: 10th grader Ryan Peterson had 3½ points and ninth graders Maxwell Massiah and Max Mottola were at 3½ and 3, respectively.

The only upperclassman on the team, 11th grader Langley Beaudoin, had missed the Friday rounds after a delayed flight due to the weather. Sadly, three other Dalton players had canceled flights that they were unable to reschedule, and had to miss the tournament entirely. The team standings were based on only the top four individual scores, but it was remarkable to see how many strong players there were at Dalton — if not for the travel complications, they could have fielded the equivalent of over two full teams!

This was no accident — Dalton's chess program is simply amazing, as I learned from talking with the parents and Beatriz. Following in the footsteps of her predecessor David MacEnulty, the Dalton head coach from 2003-2019, Beatriz puts in a tremendous amount of work building up the program. She teaches classes during the school day at the Dalton elementary school, runs early-morning, after-school, and weekend meetings for the competitive players, creates student-to-student mentorship programs and other community service activities, secures ongoing logistical and material support from the dedicated parents, and of course, makes sure the kids compete in tournaments.

Playing opportunities abound in New York City — as Nate's dad, Michael, remarked, the question for scholastic players isn't, "When's the next tournament?" but rather, "Which tournament should I play in this weekend?". This constant practice pays off when it's time to travel to national tournaments. By Michael's count, Dalton has won more than 30 national team titles over the past ten years. The current 10th graders (including Gus and Nate, classmates since kindergarten) have won Grade Nationals nine out of the past 10 years!

It was clear that these kids were going to excel with or without me, but I did my best to help prepare them for their games and analyze with them afterwards. I also made sure they got some high-quality Memphis brain food from Gus's World-Famous Fried Chicken! Speaking of "Dalton Gus," he delivered a powerful positional win in round six:

SPICY!

FM Gus Huston (2332)
Jason Lu (2200)
National High School (K-12) Ch (6), 04.10.2022



The Vanapalli – Guo matchup from round five







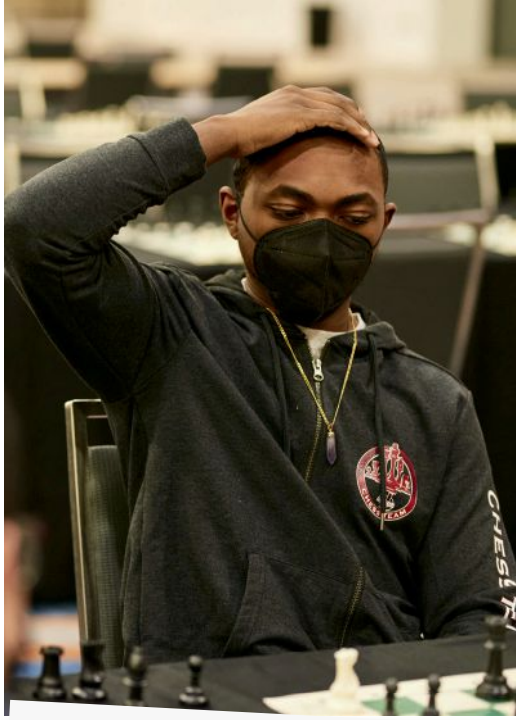
BUGHOUSE







GIRLS' CLUB







Sights and scenes from the 2022 National High School (K-12) Championship, including WGM Jennifer Shahade speaking to the Girls Club (above), clocks and contentions at the Bughouse tournament (left), and a sample of the many faces seen in Memphis.







DRAMA!



WHITE TO MOVE

12. Nxd5 Bxe5
After 12. ... Qxd5 White's other knight heads to b6 with 13. Nc4!.

13. Nb6 Ra7
White's knight outpost on the b6-square paralyzes Black's queenside for almost the entire rest of the game.

14. Bh6 Bg7 15. Be3 Bd4 16. c3 Bxe3 17. fxe3 Nc6 18. d4 cxd4 19. exd4 Bf5 20. b4 e5 21. dxe5 Qe7 22. Qe1 Qxe5 23. Bf3 Qg7 24. Rd1 Ne5 25. Qe3 Re8 26. Rfe1 f6 27. h3 Qe7 28. Bg4 Bc2 29. Nd5!
Finally the knight returns to the center, immediately winning material for White.

29. ... Qf7 30. Qxa7 Nxg4 31. hxg4 Rxe1+ 32. Rxe1 Qxd5 33. Qd4, Black resigned.

Also in round six, IM Arthur Guo threw the race for individual first wide open by knocking out the leader IM Anthony He in a wild game:

TACTICS!

IM Arthur Guo (2503)
IM Anthony He (2466)
National High School (K-12) Ch (6), 04.10.2022



WHITE TO MOVE

26. e6!!
Allowing Black to pin and win White's queen.

26. ... Bc5?
Taking the bait. Correct was the improbable 26. ... Rdc7! 27. exf7 Ka8! with an unclear position.

The Blitz tournament is always a source of excitement and intrigue. As we see above, this year's edition was no exception.

27. Qxc5! Rxc5 28. exd7 Rc2 29. Rd4!
This may have been what Black missed. Now he is forced to return the queen, after which White is just up material and winning.

29. ... Kc7 30. Rxd5 Bxd5 31. Rd1 Ne7 32. Bf6 Kxd7 33. Bxe7, Black resigned.

Meanwhile, rival NYC school Columbia Grammar (CGPS) was pulling even with Dalton in the team standings. Their top player FM Nico Chasin managed to escape a bad position against his bughouse teammate IM Alexander Costello:

BUGGING OUT

FM Nico Chasin (2411)
IM Alexander Costello (2380)
National High School (K-12) Ch (6), 04.10.2022

(see diagram next page)

40. ... Qb6?!
Correct was 40. ... Nd4! 41. Qxd4 Qxg5 when Black's extra piece is more likely than in the game to outweigh White's three extra pawns.



BLACK TO MOVE

41. Qf4 Ne3 42. Nf3 Nf1+ 43. Kh1 Qe3 44. Qh4
Already a perpetual check is looming — for both sides!

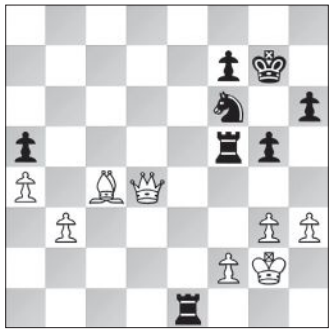
44. ... Be4 45. Qd8+ Kg7 46. Qf6+ Kg8 47. Ng5 Ng3+ 48. Kh2 Nf1+, draw.

At the end of round six, Dalton and CGPS were tied for first place with 18½ points each, with Dalton's tiebreaks slightly higher. Everything would be decided by the final round!

On board one, Gus faced IM Guo. They were the only two players with 5½ points, so either player could take clear individual first place with a win. Instead Gus made the safe decision to offer a draw in a clearly better but unbalanced position, securing both players a share of equal first place:

PEACEMAKER

FM Gus Huston (2332)
IM Arthur Guo (2503)
National High School (K-12) Ch (7), 04.10.2022



WHITE TO MOVE

36. Qd2
The players agreed to a draw. Here 36. Qa7! was riskier but also stronger, e.g., 36. ... Ne4 37. f3 Nd6 38. Qd4+ Rf6 39. Bd3 with good winning chances for White.

This draw allowed several other players to join the lead, starting with Bijan Tahmassebi of Maryland:

BAM!

Andrew Guo (2051)
Bijan Tahmassebi (2234)
National High School (K-12) Ch (7), 04.10.2022

(see diagram top of next column)

18. ... Nd3+!!
A spectacular winning shot.

19. exd3
19. Qxd3 is met with 19. ... Rxa1+ 20. Bxa1 Qxd3 21. exd3 Bxf3 when 22. Rg1 is impossible due to 22. ... Bxb4+ 23. Bc3 Bxc3 mate.



The calm before the round seven storm on the top boards



BLACK TO MOVE

19. ... Bxf3 20. Rxa8 Qxa8
White has avoided losing material for the moment, but his position is hopelessly uncoordinated and vulnerable.

21. Rg1 Rg4 22. Bc3 Rxb4!
Another fantastic tactic.

23. Qc2
23. Bxb4 again leads to disaster after 23. ... Qa1+ 24. Kd2 Bg5+! 25. Kc2 Bd1 mate.

23. ... Ra4 24. h4 Ra2 25. Qb3 Ra3 26. Qb5+ Bc6 27. Qe5 f6?
An unfortunate inaccuracy, spoiling what might otherwise have been the best game of the tournament. Black had many winning moves, including 27. ... Qa4!?.

28. Qxe6 Kf8 29. Bxf6?
Instead, after 29. Bd2! threatening Bd2-h6+, White has time to untangle with something like 29. ... Ra1+ 30. Ke2 Ra2 31. Bh3 Qa4 32. Qe3 Bb4 33. Rd1 and the position is unclear.

29. ... Ra1+!
The sacrificial mating attack resumes.

30. Bxa1 Qxa1+ 31. Ke2 Qb2+ 32. Ke3 Qc1+ 33. Ke2 Qb2+ 34. Ke3 Bc5+ 35. Kf4 Qd4+ 36. Kg5 Be7+, White resigned.

Two players from North Carolina, Advaith Karthik and Vishnu Vanapalli, also made it to 6/7.

SHAM SAC

IM Alexander Costello (2380)
Advaith Karthik (2158)
National High School (K-12) Ch (7), 04.10.2022

(see diagram next page)

34. ... Rxe3! 35. Rxe3 Re8
Winning back the rook and remaining a







Top: a blitz tryptych. Right: Blitz winner IM Anthony He. Below: Bughouse winners Chasin & Costello (left), Liu & Levkov (right).

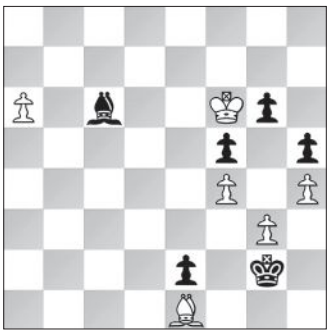


BLACK TO MOVE

piece up, although White fought on for 25 more moves before finally throwing in the towel.

ONE TEMPO

Vishnu Vanapalli (2234)
Elijah Platnick (2125)
National High School (K-12) Ch (7), 04.10.2022



BLACK TO MOVE

63. ... Kf1?
Certainly a tempting blunder. Instead Black needed to play 63. ... Kf3 in order to meet 64. Kxg6 with 64. ... Kg4!. Play might follow 65. a7 Bb7 66. Kf6 Bc6 67. Ke7 Kf3 holding the draw.

64. Bc3 Kf2 65. Kxg6
Now Black is one move short to defend his remaining kingside pawns.

65. ... Kxg3 66. Kxf5 Kxh4 67. Be1+ Kh3 68. Kg5 Bf3 69. f5 Kg2 70. f6 Bd5 71. a7 Kf1 72. Bh4 e1=Q 73. Bxe1 Kxe1 74. f7 Bxf7 75. a8=Q
and White eventually won.



A strange incident occurred on board three, where fifth grader Andrew Jiang of Georgia resigned in a normal opening position on move seven against FM Nico Chasin. The reason for this remains unclear. In any case, Chasin joined the big leaders' tie, as did IM Anthony He, bringing the total to seven players tied for individual first place. IM Arthur Guo finished with the highest tiebreaks, but all seven players earned the title of National High School Co-Champion.

In the race for team first place, CGPS only managed 1½ points in round seven, but Dalton's Nate Shuman and Iris Mou also suffered last-round losses. However, Max Mottola and Ryan Peterson compensated by winning their games. Ryan even converted the notorious bishop-and-knight mate comfortably within the 50-move rule:





TEST TIME

Donald Johnson (2208)
Ryan Peterson (2120)
National High School (K-12) Ch (7), 04.10.2022

(see diagram next page)

66. Kd6 Nd3 67. Ke6 Ba3 68. Kf6 Nf4 69. Kg5 Be7+ 70. Kg4 Bf6 71. Kg3 Nd3 72. Kg4 Ne5+ 73. Kg3 Ke3 74. Kg2 Ke2 75.



THE WINNERS

The winners, left to right: Karthik, Vanapalli, Huston, He, Chasin, Tahmassebi. Camera-shy: IM Arthur Guo.



WHITE TO MOVE

Kg3 Bg5 76. Kg2 Bf4 77. Kg1 Kf3 78. Kh1 Be3 79. Kh2 Ng4+ 80. Kh1 Nf2+ 81. Kh2 Bf4+ 82. Kg1 Bg3 83. Kf1 Bh2 84. Ke1 Ne4 85. Kd1 Ke3 86. Ke1 Nd2 87. Kd1 Kd3 88. Kc1 Bg3 89. Kb2 Bd6 90. Kc1 Be5 91. Kd1 Bg3 92. Kc1 Nc4 93. Kd1 Ne3+ 94. Kc1 Be5 95. Kb1 Kc3 96. Kc1 Bf4 97. Kb1 Nc4 98. Ka2 Kc2 99. Ka1 Nb2 100. Ka2 Bd6 101. Ka1 Nd3 102. Ka2 Nc1+ 103. Ka1 Be5, mate.

The Dalton team had won first place! Their 21 points avoided a tie with CGPS's 20 points. This clear margin of victory was necessary, since by the end of the tournament CGPS's tiebreaks were actually higher than Dalton's. Another team, Westwood of Texas, also scored 20 points, finishing below CGPS in third place on tiebreaks.

Incredibly, with all of Dalton's national team titles over the years, this was apparently the first time they had ever won High School Nationals! Gus's dad, Mark, observed, "There will always be up and down games, but having such a deep and strong bench I think makes all the difference." Indeed, even if Dalton's fourth-highest score Max Mottola (4½) had been replaced by their fifth- or sixth-highest scores Iris Mou (4) or Maxwell Massiah (4), they still would have won clear first place.

Looking at the first-place team winners in the "under" sections, I was happy to see Tennessee's neighbors Kentucky and Alabama represented among these winners — being close enough to drive rather than fly can make all the difference in being able to field a full team for nationals.

2022 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) CHAMPIONSHIPS AT A GLANCE

APRIL 8-10, 2022 | MEMPHIS, TN

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS:

K-12 CHAMPIONSHIP: IM Arthur Guo, Vishnu Vanapalli, FM Gus Huston, IM Anthony He, Bijan Tahmassebi, FM Nico Chasin, Advaith Karthik, 6/7. **K-12 U1900:** Jack Leitzell, 6½/7. **K-12 U1600:** Luke Leon Robin Anatol, 6½/7. **K-12 U1200:** Caleb Gray, 7/7. **K-12 U800:** Levi Jacobs Schmuel, 7/7. **K-12 UNRATED:** Darin Michael Clark, Moses Bidwell, Peter Kezdy, 6½/7. **BLITZ:** IM Anthony He, Hersh Singh, 11/14. **BUGHOUSE:** Leonardo Liu and Daniel Levkov, IM Alexander Costello and FM Nico Chasin, 9/10.

TEAM WINNERS:

K-12 CHAMPIONSHIP: Dalton (New York, NY), 21 points. **K-12 U1900:** Lakeside School (Seattle, WA), 19 points. **K-12 U1600:** Niles North (Skokie, IL), 18½ points. **K-12 U1200:** Valley High School (Louisville, KY), 21 points. **K-12 U800:** UMS-Wright (Mobile, AL), 20½ points. **K-12 UNRATED:** Wauwatosa East High School (Milwaukee, WI), 22 points. **BLITZ:** Columbia Grammar & Prep (New York, NY), 37 points.

For full results and standings, visit: *www.uschess.org/results/2022/hs/*

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WORLD CHESS HALL of FAME



Back to the Board in Parsippany!

BY **ALESSANDRO DE MARCHI-BLUMSTEIN**
PHOTOS BY **MIKE SOMERS**

THERE ARE MANY PLAYERS for whom the Amateur Team East is a yearly ritual. But after 50 years, the tournament had to take a hiatus in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the online version was better than nothing, even last year's winners agreed that the biggest team tournament in the country was not *quite* as enjoyable when contested on the internet. So there was much excitement when, thanks to the diligent work of IA Steve Doyle and his team of directors, the biggest over-the-board team tournament in the U.S. returned over President's Day weekend.

Some things were different this year. After a record 329 teams participated in 2020, there were only 254 teams in Parsippany this year. Many of the older teams couldn't make it due to COVID concerns, and everyone present was required to wear a mask. The players understood, and there were (essentially) no complaints. They were just glad to be back.

One of the East's unique traditions is the pre-round announcements. Some rounds see prizes given away, and some have special contests. This year featured special remembrances for four directors who had sadly passed away in the last year.

Glenn Petersen was a crucial member of the staff in the early days, and a consistent competitor in more recent years. IA Carol Jarecki, Joe Ippolito, and IA Ken Ballou were all present at the 2020 Team tournament. Their smiling faces and expertise were sorely missed this year.

The winners of the best name and best gimmick prizes are decided at the start of round four, and there were some good ones this year. The gimmicks were so good this year that there were two prizes! One went to FM Sunil Weeramantry and his "Weer-a-pantry" of students dressed up as grocery items. The "Four Strong Squares" donned ornate hats naming the crucial central squares e4, d4, e5, and d5.

Above, Team ICN (L to R): Lev Paciorkowski, Bahadur Khodzhamkuliev, Kenneth Fernandez, and Jon Rigai.

It's true that the East is not a big money tournament, and there are no GM norms available. Still, there are many impressive games every year. Here is an upset by up-and-coming 12-year-old New York City master Brewington Hardaway against tri-state mainstay GM Michael Rohde.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, TAIMANOV VARIATION (B47)

Brewington Hardaway (2346)
GM Michael Rohde (2427)
2022 Amateur Team East (1), 02.19.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Nxc6 bxc6 7. Qf3 Rb8 8. Bd3 Nf6 9. g4 d6 10. g5 Nd7 11. Qg3 Nc5 12. Be2 e5 13. f4 Ne6 14. f5 Nd4 15. Bd3 Qb6 16. b3 Ba6 17. Na4 Qb7 18. Bb2 Be7 19. c3 Bxd3 20. Qxd3 Nb5 21. c4 Nd4 22. Bxd4 exd4 23. Qxd4 Bxg5 24. Qxg7 Qb4+ 25. Kf1 Qd2 26. Qxh8+ Kd7 27. Qb2 Qf4+ 28. Qf2 Qxe4 29. Rg1 Be3 30. Re1 Qd3+ 31. Qe2 Qxf5+ 32. Kg2 Rg8+ 33. Kh1 Qe4+ 34. Rg2 f5 35. Nc3 Rxg2 36. Nxe4, Black resigned.

Talented young people like Hardaway are only able to achieve their potential because of the efforts of dedicated coaches. He started out as a student of the Impact Coaching Network (ICN), an organization that focuses on improving the lives of countless Brooklyn students by teaching them chess. Over the years they have trained numerous award-winning players and teams.

This year, ICN coaches were the ones who won the awards, taking first place at the Amateur Team East! Originally, all four members of the ICN team were supposed to be ICN coaches, but one had to drop out at the last minute. With just two days before first moves, it looked like the team might not have enough members to play.

But someone heard that NYU grad student Lev Paciorkowski was looking for a team and brought him on board. Lev met Jon Rigai, who is a career chess coach and the team's organizer, for the first time on the train to the tournament.

There were two more players waiting for them in Parsippany. Hailing from the Dominican Republic, Kenneth Fernandez is a coach and finance professional. He worked briefly with Hardaway, and extensively with FM Tani Adewumi. (You may have heard of him.) Bahadur Khodzhamkuliev, a.k.a. Coach Bah, is a former top junior from Turkmenistan who emigrated to the United States in 2017. With all four players —literally — in place, ICN was ready to do battle.

The team easily dispatched their opponents in the first two rounds and squeaked out a win against a higher-rated squad in round three. Round four was another tough match. Rigai had a short but exciting win on board four, securing the team's perfect score going into the final day of play.

FOUR KNIGHTS GAME (C47)

Marc Dedona (2054)
Jon Rigai (1959)
2022 Amateur Team East (4), 02.20.2022
Annotations by Jon Rigai

1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e5 3. Qe2
My opponent spent 15 minutes to come up with this move. Perhaps he was trying to avoid my preparation — we've played each other several times before.

3. ... Nc6 4. Nf3 Bc5 5. Nd5
You need a good reason to move the same piece twice in the opening. White is falling behind in development.

5. ... d6 6. c3 Ng4
OK, I moved the knight twice too, but this move comes with a serious threat.

7. Ne3 0-0 8. b4 Nxe3 9. fxe3 Bb6 10. Bb2 Qf6 11. a3 Qg6 12. d3 Be6 13. 0-0-0 a5
Now that White has committed his king to the queenside via 13. 0-0-0, I want to rip open some files to the enemy king so that my pieces can infiltrate.



14. g3
I think 14. b5 was essential, trying to keep the queenside closed. But Black is better and it only postpones things.

14. ... axb4 15. axb4 Ra2 16. Bg2 Rfa8 17. Kc2
This loses on the spot. White had to try 17. Rd2 or 17. Nd2.

17. ... Rxb2+, White resigned.
The point is that after 17. ... Rxb2+ 18. Kxb2 Ra2+ I win the queen.

The dreaded 9 a.m. Monday morning match ended with a convincing victory for ICN. Fernandez put the pressure on the opposition by winning the first point of the match, and his team followed through to score 3½-½ against "Moderna Chess Openings." Here is that key win:

FRENCH DEFENSE, WINAWER VARIATION (C15)

Bryan Weisz (2106)
Kenneth Fernandez (1974)
2022 Amateur Team East (5), 02.21.2022
Annotations by Kenneth Fernandez



Left: the winners of the best gimmick prize "Four Strong Squares." (But why is the notation wrong?!)

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qd3 dxe4 5. Qxe4 Nf6 6. Qh4 Bd7 7. Bd3 Bc6 8. Nf3
The wrong square for the knight, although I didn't capitalize! Better is 8. Nge2 Nbd7 9. 0-0 Be7 as in Hector – Eingorn, Debrecen 1989.

8. ... Nbd7
I should have played 8. ... Bxf3 9. gxf3 Nc6 10. Be3 Nd5 and after 11. Qxd8+ Rxd8 12. Rb1 (avoiding the worst of White's problems) 12. ... Nxc3 13. bxc3 Bxc3+ Black is much better.

9. Bg5 Be7 10. Ne5 Nd5
An alternative is 10. ... Nxe5 11. dxe5 Nd7 12. Bxe7 Qxe7 13. Qg3 0-0-0 14. 0-0-0 — it's not often both sides castle queenside!



11. Nxd5
This looks like it might have won a piece... until you see that the knight would be trapped on c7 at the end!

11. ... Bxd5
The key variation is: 11. ... Bxg5 12. Nxc7+ Kf8 13. Qg3 (or *13. Nxe6+ fxe6 14. Nxd7+ Bxd7 15. Qg3*) 13. ... Nxe5 14. dxe5 Rc8 15. Nxe6+ fxe6 16. Rd1 when Black is up a piece for two pawns.

12. Bxe7 Qxe7 13. Qg4 Qb4+ 14. Kf1
Only slightly better is 14. c3 Nxe5 15. Qxg7 (not *15. dxe5? Qxg4;* best is *15. cxb4 Nxg4*) 15. ... Nxd3+ 16. Kd2 Qxb2+ 17. Kxd3 0-0-0 when Black wins.

14. ... Nxe5 15. Qxg7 0-0-0
The best move is 15. ... Nxd3! 16. Qxh8+ Ke7 17. Qxa8 Qxb2 18. Rd1? (*18. cxd3 Qxa1+ 19. Ke2 Qxh1* and Black's threats can't be stopped) 18. ... Qxc2 is mate shortly.

16. Qxe5 Rhg8 17. f3 Qxb2 18. Kf2
If 18. Rd1 Bc6.

18. ... Bc6 19. Bxh7 Rxd4! 20. Qe3
Not 20. Bxg8 Rd2+

20. ... Rgd8
And the rest, as they say, is technique!

21. Rae1 Rd2+ 22. Re2 Rxe2+ 23. Qxe2 Qd4+ 24. Kf1 Qa1+ 25. Qe1 Rd1 26. Kf2 Rxe1 27. Rxe1 Qd4+ 28. Kf1 Bb5+ 29. Bd3 Bxd3+ 30. cxd3 Qxd3+ 31. Kf2 Qd4+ 32. Kg3 c5 33. Re4 Qd6+ 34. Kh3 f5 35. Ra4 a6 36. g4 fxg4+ 37. fxg4 Qd3+ 38. Kh4 c4 39. g5 Qd4+ 40. Kh5 Qd1+, White resigned.

This victory meant that ICN came into the last round with the only unblemished record in the ballroom. They started off strong against "Sons of Bishops," but some staunch resistance and a swindle by their opponents gave the Sons a 2-1 score with one game to go.

Tiebreaks are often critical in team events. As round six began, there were five other teams with the potential to attain 5½ points with a match win, but four of them drew, leaving "CKQ-Rafa21," led by GM Magesh Panchanathan, as one of only two teams that would pass the five-point mark. Frantic calculations revealed that whichever team got to 5½ *on board one* would be the overall winner.

And so, in a thrilling finish to an amazing weekend of chess, everything came down to the last game in the last round on the first board of the first match.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B50)

Issac Chiu (2338)
Lev Paciorkowski (2424)
2022 Amateur Team East (6), 02.21.2022
Annotations by Lev Paciorkowski

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5!? dxe5 5. Nxe5 Bd7!?
This is a very rare move that I recently took a look at. Why not give it a whirl in the final round of a big tournament?!

6. Be2 Nc6 7. Nxd7 Qxd7 8. 0-0 g6 9. Re1 Bg7 10. d3 0-0
White has the bishop pair, but Black has a clamp on the d4-square. Black can always expand on the queenside; meanwhile, I am not sure what White is supposed to do.

11. Ne4 b6
I think that 11. ... Nxe4?! 12. dxe4 would be a bad idea. As we'll see in the game, White will be forced to play c2-c3, leaving the d3-pawn backward and weak. This transformation would pre-solve that problem for White!

12. Nxf6+ Bxf6 13. c3 Bg7 14. Be3 Rfd8 15. Qc2 Rac8 16. Bf1 e6
Perhaps 16. ... Nd4!? is possible, but I felt like after 17. Qd2 Nf5 the knight was misplaced. I was instead aiming for ... Ne7-d5 instead to support ... b5-b4.

17. Rad1 Ne7 18. Bg5 h6 19. Bc1 b5 20. Qb3 b4
Black now feels slightly preferable. White's bishops are passive, and I am close to creating targets on the queenside.

21. Re4 Nd5 22. Bd2 a5 23. a3



I took my longest think of the game here. It feels like there should be a tactical breakthrough for Black, and indeed, there is:

23. ... bxc3 24. bxc3 c4!
Now White is forced to accept some structural weaknesses.

25. Rxc4
Not 25. dxc4? Nxc3.

25. ... Rxc4 26. Qxc4 Rc8 27. Qa6 Nxc3
By this point, the games on boards two and three were drawn, while I could see our board four was in trouble. I would need to win this game to tie the match. But how?

28. Bxc3 Rxc3!
It seems that White underestimated this idea, sacrificing a pawn for activity. After 28. ... Bxc3? I really did not like 29. d4! when White is much closer to a draw — my pieces are suddenly poorly coordinated.

29. Qxa5 Rc2?





Above and right: the annual match between cadets from West Point and Annapolis is one of the highlights of the Amateur Team East.



Tempting, but I realized after playing this that it gives White a golden opportunity to liquidate things. The patient 29. ... Bd4! was correct.

30. Rd2?!
Better was 30. d4! Bxd4 and only now 31. Rd2! would nearly secure the draw. White's pieces actually benefit from losing the d-pawn, as now the f1-bishop can get out.

30. ... Rc1 31. Qa8+ Kh7 32. Qe4 Qb5?!
More precise was 32. ... Bc3! 33. Re2 Qb5 preventing White's Qe4-b4.

33. Qe2
After 33. Qb4 I had intended 33. ... Qe5 when it looks like the threats of ... Qe5-a1 and ... Qe5-e1 are decisive, but I was shocked when I found the only defense: 34. Ra2! and White (barely) holds things together.

33. ... Qb1 34. d4
Forced, as ... Rc1-e1 was threatened.

34. ... Re1 35. Qd3 Qc1
Threatening ... Re1xf1+.

36. Ra2
Also forced — the rook had no other square! Case in point: 36. Rc2? Rxf1+.

36. ... Bxd4
Black has won the pawn back and preserved his dominating pieces. I felt very optimistic that I would also win White's a-pawn, keeping good chances to convert the resulting opposite-color bishop-and-major-piece endgame while up a pawn.

37. g3
Mistaken would be 37. a4? e5 38. a5 e4 and ... e4-e3 is crushing.

37. ... Rd1 38. Qe2 e5 39. Kg2 Qb1 40. Rd2 Qb7+ 41. Kg1 Ra1 42. Ra2 Rb1 43. a4 Qd5 44. Rd2
Not 44. a5?? Rxf1+!.

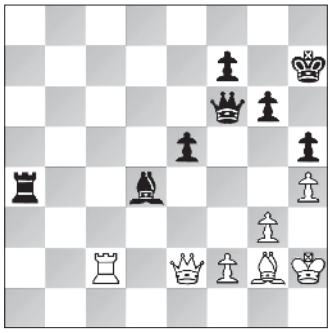
44. ... h5 45. h4 Ra1 46. Kh2
I had another nasty trick prepared in case of 46. Qb5? Qf3 47. Qd3 Bxf2+!.

46. ... Qc6!?
The pawn grab 46. ... Rxa4 left me concerned about 47. Qb5! Qa8 48. Bg2 when it felt like White is coordinating his pieces very nicely. I figured I could take the a4 pawn later under better circumstances.

47. Rc2 Qf6 48. Bg2 Rxa4

(see diagram next page)

This is the endgame I was envisioning. Objectively, it is holdable for White, but it is not easy, especially with little time on the clock.



49. Bd5 Qe7 50. Kg2 Rb4
The ideal place for my rook is on the f6-square, where it covers f7 and attacks f2.

51. Bf3 Qd7
Covering the c6-square so that I can begin the rook transfer. Note that 51. ... Rb6 directly makes no progress after 52. Rc6 Rb2 53. Rc2.

52. Bc6
Hindering my plan!

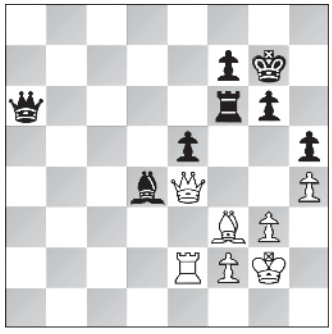
52. ... Qa7 53. Bf3 Kg7 54. Qd2 Rb6 55. Ra2!?
I thought 55. Rc6 would be more to the point, although perhaps White was concerned about 55. ... Rb2 56. Rc2 Rb1 when my plan to double major pieces on the back-rank looks menacing.

55. ... Qe7
Now White can no longer stop my rook from reaching the f-file.

56. Qd3 Rf6 57. Ra6 Rf5
Fun fact: 57. ... e4? would actually win if I hadn't played the "prophylactic" 53. ... Kg7 a few moves earlier, but here it loses only because after 58. Qxd4 exf3+ 59. Kh2 my rook is pinned, and, to add insult to injury, Black is even in *zugzwang* here!

58. Qe4 Qb4 59. Ra2 Qb3 60. Re2 Rf6
I'm slowly making progress here. White is tied down to the defense of the f2-square, and at the right moment I thought I could try to switch my major pieces to White's back rank to create mate threats. The position is still defendable, but it's getting tougher.

61. Qd5 Qb6 62. Qe4 Qa6



63. Qb7?!
This seems impractical.

63. ... Qxe2! 64. Bxe2 Rxf2+ 65. Kh3 Rxe2
The engine assures me that White can construct a fortress, but humans with only minutes on the clock will find it very difficult to draw this position.

66. Qf3 Rb2 67. g4?
The losing move — now the h4-pawn is indefensible. White had to sit and wait instead.

67. ... Rf2 68. Qd1 hxg4+ 69. Qxg4 Rf5 70. Qe4 Bc5 71. Qd5 Be7!
Only now does it become clear that after ... Be7-f6 and ... Rf5-h5, the h4-pawn falls and Black has a winning position.

72. Kg3 Bf6 73. Qc6 Rh5 74. Qd7 Rxh4
All that's left is to advance the pawns while avoiding perpetuals.

75. Kf3 Rd4 76. Qc6 Rf4+ 77. Kg3 Rf5 78. Qe4 Bg5 79. Qd5 Bf4+ 80. Kf3 Rg5 81. Qc6 Rg3+ 82. Kf2 Re3 83. Qd6 g5 84. Qe7 Rh3 85. Qd7 Rh6 86. Kf3 Rg6 87. Kg4 Re6 88. Kf3 e4+ 89. Ke2 Rd6 90. Qf5 Rd2+ 91. Ke1 e3 92. Qg4 Kg6 93. Qf3 f5 94. Qc6+ Kh5 95. Qf3+ Kh4 96. Qh1+ Rh2 97. Qf3 Bg3+ 98. Kd1 e2+, White resigned.

Within five minutes, the results were confirmed and reported to the winners, who shouted out in excitement and celebrated an unexpected victory. After so much drama just filling out a lineup, this squad is now looking forward to trying to defend their title next year.

2022 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM EAST, AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2022 | PARSIPPANY, NJ

WINNERS: 1st: ICN (Lev Paciorkowski, Bahadur Khodzhamkuliev, Kenneth Fernandez, Jon Rigai). 2nd: CQK - Rafa21 (GM Magesh Panchanathan, Marcus Mairena, Marcello Berger, Eithan Sapir). 3rd: Corona Exchange Variation (FM Gus Huston, Nathaniel Shuman, Iris Mou, Ryan Peterson). 4th. GMs4life (Tejas Rama, David Zhurbinsky, Daniel Girsh, Vikas Rama). 5th: Tactical Shots (FM Nathan Solon, Andrew Hoy, Joaquin Carlson, Charles Slade).

CLASS PRIZES: U2100: Cornell A. U2000: Re-U-Knighted (and it feels so good). U1900: Albin and the Chipmunks. U1800: CKQ - Last Stand. U1700: John Cena Position. U1600: Eastern Tigers. U1500: Caruanicron Variant. U1400: What's your team name? U1300: Rutgers Scarlet Knights. U1200: CKQ - Jersey Boys. U1000: CKQ - 4 Knights.

THE TOPS: Top College Team: Princeton Tangerine. Top HS Team: UCVTS Monarchs. Top Middle School: High Rising 7th Rank Pawn. Top Elementary School: SAHY - The 4 Blunders. Mixed Doubles Team: ICA 2 - The Matrix. Senior Team: Riott Squad. Company Team: NYCA TEam A. Top Coaches: ChessNYC1. Top Female Team: Trophy Wives. Family: All Knights Practitioners. Top Future team: Veni Vidi Vici. Top Military College: Naval Academy 1. Top Parent/Child: Lowerbucks 1. 1st Scholastic: Corona Exchange Variation. 2nd Scholastic: AJAB

STATE WINNERS: CT: Moderna Chess Openings: Omicron Variant. MA: Tactical Shots. NJ: VICTOR. NY (Benjamin Award): ICN. PA: New Year, New Missed-Takes. VA: Four Knights in Quarantine.

See complete standings at: *njscf.org/usate-2022/*

MAKE YOUR MOVE

BY **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE TAKEN FROM SEVERAL RECENT over-the-board tournaments.

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

Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in 1-2 weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles. You will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Solutions are on page 63.

TACTIC I.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC II.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC III.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC IV.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC V.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VI.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC VII.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VIII.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC IX.



WHITE TO MOVE

Position 1: STANDARD 1-2 PUNCH
Position 2: DISCOVERED POWER
Position 3: NOT ENOUGH SQUARES
Position 4: WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
Position 5: CRISS-CROSS
Position 6: ATTACKERS AND DEFENDERS
Position 7: BUILT ON SAND…
Position 8: TARGET THE MONARCH
Position 9: STRIKE FIRST!

American Gladiators

A battle between two all-time American greats

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

FROM 1900 TO 1904, TWO renowned American champions, Frank Marshall and Harry Nelson Pillsbury, contested 11 punch-for-punch chess games. In those eleven brawls, the two battlers drew only twice, with nine knock out results. Going into this their final game (Cambridge Springs 1904) they were all tied up. Perhaps trying to surprise Marshall by getting out of the opening books, Pillsbury (Black) essayed a system that was little appreciated then, and with which he soon went astray. Several slight missteps later, Marshall's pressuring attack won the point and gave him the lifetime edge.

PIRC DEFENSE (B09)

Frank Marshall
Harry Nelson Pillsbury
Cambridge Springs 1904

1. e4 d6 2. e4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. f4 Bg7



Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that White's move is on the next line.**

5. e5 **Par Score 5**
With a big pawn center, Marshall immediately uses it for attack. Accept ***full credit*** for 5. Bd3, 5. Nf3, or 5. Be2. ***Deduct 1 point*** for 5. Be3, which would be met by 5. ... Ng4.

5. ... dxe5
By exchanging pawns here, Black can thereafter use the d5 square.**

6. fxe5 **Par Score 5**
White naturally captures toward the center, opening the f-file and avoiding a trade of queens.

6. ... Nd5
Black offers a trade of knights. Add ***1 bonus point*** if you had seen that 6. ... Nh5 loses a piece to 7. g4.**

7. Nf3 **Par Score 5**
White strengthens the center and prepares for kingside castling, which is a little better than trading on d5, bringing the Black queen to the center. You may accept ***full credit*** for 7. Bc4.

7. ... Nc6
This move is of course playable, but in these types of games, theory has shown that it's often better to keep the c-pawn unblocked for flexibility.**

8. Bc4 **Par Score 5**
Marshall develops with a temporary gain of time.

8. ... e6
This defense weakens dark squares, while obstructing the c8-bishop. Better were 8. ... Nb6, 8. ... Nxc3, or 8. ... Be6, threatening to win a piece.**

9. Bg5 **Par Score 5**
A move that's pretty hard to resist. But you may accept ***full credit*** for either 9. 0-0 or 9. Ne4.

9. ... Nxc3
Black clarifies central matters first, since both queens are now hanging.**

10. bxc3 **Par Score 5**
Deduct 2 points for 10. Bxd8?, when the desperado 10. ... Nxd1 allows Black to win material.

10. ... Ne7
Pillsbury deals with the threat and unobstructs his c-pawn. Still, White has a solid advantage, with plusses in space, time, and opportunities for attack.**

11. 0-0 **Par Score 5**
Marshall is all setup to explode on the kingside.

11. ... h6
If 11. ... 0-0 instead, either 12. Qd2 or 12. Qe1 keeps White in the catbird seat.**

12. Bf6 **Par Score 6**
In addition to the text, White has a number of good moves. Accept ***full credit*** for 12. Bh4, 12. Bc1 (thinking of transferring the bishop to a3), or even 12. Bxe7.

12. ... Bxf6
By capturing here, Black hopes to slow down White's assault. But it remains strong, even after the trade.**

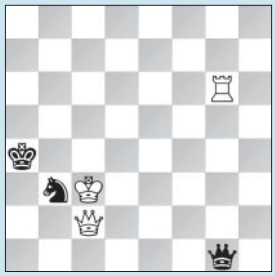
13. exf6 **Par Score 5**

ABCS OF CHESS

THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALL related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, Black is to move. Solutions are on page 63.

JULY EXERCISE:
It's natural to be repelled by certain variations our opponents could try. So, we do whatever we can to avert those lines, even playing second best moves to steer clear of them. One solution is to play into those dreaded variations every chance we get. But we might not face the lines in question that often. Fortunately, we can play against and study those situations with training software. By such constant practice, we can do more than overcome our fears. We can turn weaknesses into strengths.

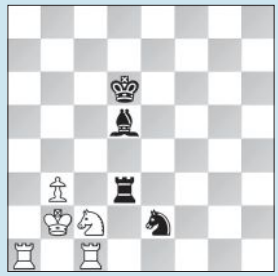
PROBLEM 1
Mating net



PROBLEM 2
Mating net



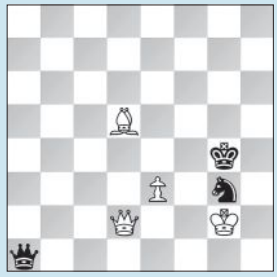
PROBLEM 3
Mating net



PROBLEM 4
Mating net



PROBLEM 5
Mating net



PROBLEM 6
Mating net



13. ... Nf5
Pillsbury threatens a fork on e3, and possibly the risky capture of the f6-pawn. On 13. ... Nd5, Marshall could have continued 14. Qd2 with the better prospects.**

14. Qe2 **Par Score 6**
The fork is averted. To take or not to take on f6? That is the question confronting Pillsbury.

14. ... Qxf6
Pillsbury's answer is to take it.**

15. g4 **Par Score 6**
Marshall immediately drives away the knight, exposing the f-file to rook attack. You may accept ***full credit*** for either 15. Ne5 or 15. Rae1, both of which are active placements.

15. ... Nd6
Black saves his knight while aiming to trade it off for White's bishop.**

16. Ne5 **Par Score 6**
White's knight occupies a powerful central post, with a gain of time against the black queen.

16. ... Qe7
This saves the queen, but a more active way of doing so would have been 16. ... Qg5.**

17. Bd3 **Par Score 5**
Marshall definitely wants to keep the bishop, and does so, aiming at a Black weakness.

17. ... 0-0
Finally Black castles. The move 17. ... Qg5, though costing a tempo, remained a worthy alternative.**

18. Rf2 **Par Score 6**
It may take a few moves, but Marshall plans to mount pressure along the f-file.

18. ... Kg7
Pillsbury aims to shore up some kingside weaknesses, but he's behind in development and his coordination is not good.**

19. Raf1 **Par Score 5**
Doubling rooks. White's pieces are poised for the kill.

19. ... Bd7
This clears the home rank, but not in time.**

20. Rf6 **Par Score 6**
A decisive invasion. The rook is safe from capture: 20. ... Qxf6? 21. Rxf6 Kxf6 22. Nxd7+.

20. ... Rg8
Black would like to play ... Bd7-e8, but first must get his rook off the f-file. However, it's too late.**

21. Nxg6 **Par Score 7**
A decisive breakthough. Now on 21. ... fxg6, there follows 22. Rxg6+, soon mating (***1 bonus point***).

21. ... Qxf6
This seems to get two rooks for the queen, but it doesn't quite work.**

22. Rxf6 **Par Score 5**

22. ... Kxf6**

23. Qe5, mate. **Par Score 2**
An inspired game by Marshall. ⯁



Check out the US Chess Digital Archives at *uschess.org* for more "Solitare Chess" columns by Bruce Pandolfini!

Rook Pawn Magic

Part 2 of 2

BY **GM JOEL BENJAMIN**

THIS MONTH WE SEE HOW rook pawns have a particular impact on endings with bishops and queens.

BEES OF OPPS

Joel Benjamin (2320)
Jeremy Silman (2370)
Lone Pine, 1979



WHITE TO MOVE

I've achieved a big endgame advantage against a player who would later write a great endgame book. Silman follows the principle of trading pawns when behind in the endgame.

31. bxc4

White has an interesting choice here. If White can create a "sustainable" queen, the other side of the board won't matter. But if Black can give up his bishop to eliminate those pawns, I will need to keep something on the queenside to win.

Here 31. b4 c3 brings another dilemma. 32. Bxc3 Bxa2 would avoid the rook pawn problem and give me a more "queenable" b-pawn, but it is also easier to exchange. That looked least attractive to me, though the engine points out I will eventually get my queen after 33. g5 Bf7 34. Kg4.

It turns out that 32. a3 c2 33. Bb2 should win easily, though I was squeamish about letting a pawn all the way to the seventh rank.

31. ... Bxc4 32. a3 Ke7

Here I had to find a way to advance the pawns without them getting blocked.

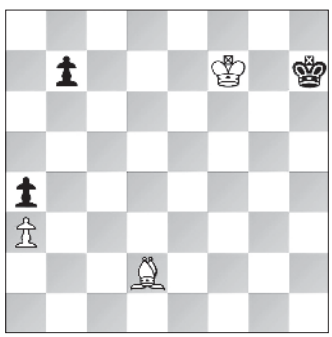
33. h4 Bb3 34. h5

34. g5 Bd1+ blockades the pawns.

34. ... Bd1+ 35. Kf4 Kf7 36. h6 a5 37. Bc3 a4 38. g5 Bc2 39. g6+ Kg8

Of course not 39. ... hxg6 40. h7.

40. Kg5 Bb1 41. Kf6 Bc2 42. Bd2 Bd3 43. gxh7+ Kxh7 44. Ke6 Kg8 45. f6 Bc4+ 46. Ke7 Bb3 47. f7+ Bxf7 48. h7+ Kxh7 49. Kxf7

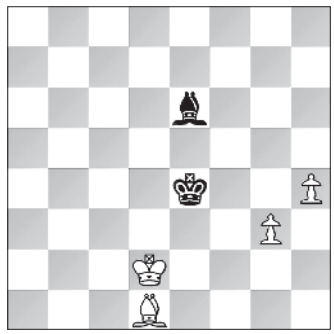


The standard plan of mopping up the pawns would come up short. If the black king gets to the other corner, the wrong-colored bishop will be of no use. But White can win easily with a "fake stalemate," forcing Black to transform my lowly a-pawn.

49. ... Kh8 50. Bc3+ Kh7 51. Bg7! b6 52. Bf8 Kh8 53. Bh6 Kh7 54. Bg7 b5 55. Bf8, Black resigned.

ON HIS WAY

GM Magnus Carlsen (2864)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (2803)
Tal Memorial, Moscow, 2013

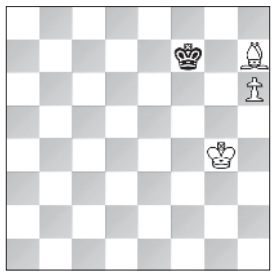


WHITE TO MOVE

With knowledge of the bishop and wrong rook pawn rule, converting this one to a win looks problematic. Black is poised to chop the pawn when it goes to g4 and then run the king to the corner. I was not sure myself if White could win, but Magnus shows a convincing method.

51. Ke2 Bg4+ 52. Ke1 Be6 53. Kf2 Ke5 54. Ke3 Bd7 55. Bc2 Bg4 56. Bg6 Bd7 57. h5 Kf6 58. Kf4 Be6 59. Be4 Kg7

It transpires that Black cannot draw by sitting on the g-pawn: 59. ... Bd7 60. h6 Be6 61. g4 Bxg4 62. Kxg4 Kf7 63. Bh7!



This well-known theme keeps the king from getting to the corner.

60. Kg5 Bd7 61. h6+ Kh8 62. Kf4 Be6 63. Bf5 Bf7 64. g4 Bh5 65. g5 Kg8 66. Be6+ Kh7 67. Kf5 Bg6+ 68. Kf6 Kh8 69. Bd7!

69. Kxg6 would be stalemate but now the bishop is forced to a short diagonal.

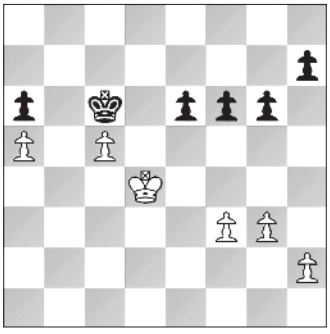
69. ... Bh5
Or 69. ... Bd3 70. Bf5.

70. Bc6 Kh7 71. Bd5 Bg6 72. Bg8+!, Black resigned.

Sometimes the lowly rook pawn can rescue a seemingly hopeless race.

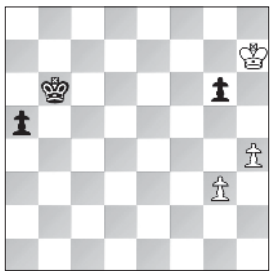
AT THE CLUB

IM Keaton Kiewra (2375)
FM Aaron Jacobson (2311)
Saint Louis IM Norm, 2019



WHITE TO MOVE

Here White played **43. h4** and after **43. ... e5+ 44. Kc4 f5 45. f4 e4 46. Kd4 e3 47. Kxe3 Kxc5 48. h5 gxh5 49. Kd3 Kd5** he resigned. He passed on the drawing move 43. f4, perhaps miscalculating the long line 43. ... e5+ 44. fxe5 fxe5+ 45. Kxe5 Kxc5 46. Kf6 Kb5 47. Kg7 Kxa5 48. Kxh7 Kb6 49. h4 a5

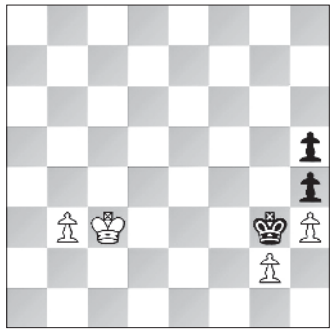


Now after 50. Kxg6 a4 White is able to queen one move after Black, but Black's queen will eliminate it immediately. But White draws with 50. g4! a4 51. h5 gxh5 52. gxh5 (after *52. g5? h4* White promotes first but Black queens with check and swaps down) 52. ... a3 53. h6 a2 54. Kg8 a1=Q 55. h7 with the classic queen versus rook pawn draw.

We've struck gold when two rook pawn anomalies appear from the same position.

WHICH MIRACLE?

IM Luis Santos (2369)
IM Fabio Bruno (2410)
European Senior Ch, Porto, 2014

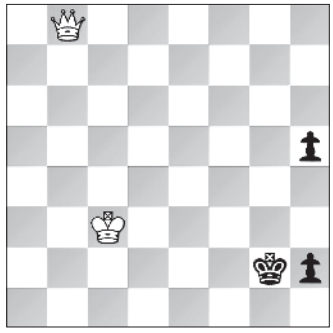


WHITE TO MOVE

White can choose between a miracle win and a miracle draw, both hinging on the peculiarities of rook pawns.

64. b4??
It seems like White queens in plenty of time to win.

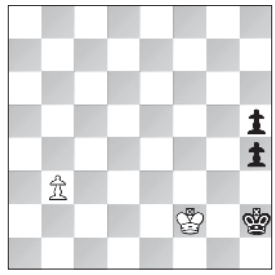
64. ... Kxg2 65. b5 Kxh3 66. b6 Kg2 67. b7 h3 68. b8=Q h2



We have an exception to the rule of an extraneous pawn creating a win for the queen. The h5-pawn happens to be perfectly placed, preventing a critical check on g4! The king can't be forced into the corner without taking the pawn, which brings back the stalemate.

69. Qb7+ Kg1 70. Qb6+ Kg2 71. Qc6+ Kg1 72. Qc5+ Kg2 73. Qg5+ Kf2 74. Qh4+ Kg2 75. Qe4+ Kg1 76. Qg6+ Kf2 77. Qe4 Kg1 78. Qe1+ Kg2 79. Qe2+ Kg1 80. Qe3+ Kg2 81. Qg5+ Kf2 82. Qxh5 Kg2 83. Kd4, draw.

The win could only be achieved by investing in four king moves in a row! From the initial diagram: 64. Kd3! Kxg2 65. Ke2 Kxh3 66. Kf3 Kh2 67. Kf2

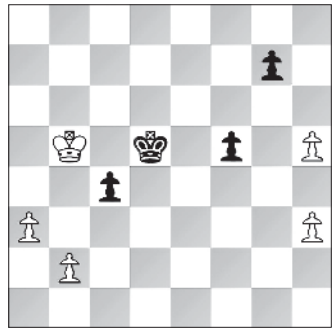


The b-pawn makes up time fast as Black has two pawns to push to complete his stalemate cocoon: 68. ... h3 68. b4 Kh1 69. b5 h2 70. b6 h4 71. b7 h3 72. Kg3! Kg1 73. b8=Q h1=Q 74. Qb1, mate.

Finally, rook pawns can give birth to cursed queens.

GRIMHILD?

GM Mark Tseitlin (2484)
FM Tomas Krnan (2331)
Canadian Open (analysis), 2004



WHITE TO MOVE

60. a4
The consequences of 60. Kb4 are a bit off-topic, but Black wins as follows 60. ... f4 61. Kc3 Kc5! 62. h4 f3! 63. Kd2 Kb5 64. Ke3 Ka4 65. Kxf3 Kb3 66. a4 Kxb2! 67. a5 c3 68. a6 c2 69. a7 c1=Q 70. a8=Q Qh1+.

60. ... f4 61. a5
It looks like White will be the first to use a new queen, but Black has a clever tempo gainer.

61. ... c3! 62. bxc3 f3 63. a6 f2 64. c4+ Kd6 65. a7 f1=Q 66. a8=Q Qb1+ 67. Ka6 Qa2+ 68. Kb7 Qb3+ 69. Ka6
The king is herded into a coffin next to its queen. Neither 69. Ka7 Kc7 nor 69. Kc8 Qxc4+ would change anything.

69. ... Qxc4+ 70. Kb6 Qb4+ 71. Ka6 Qa4+ 72. Kb7 Qb5+ 73. Ka7 Kc7
And Black mates. ◆

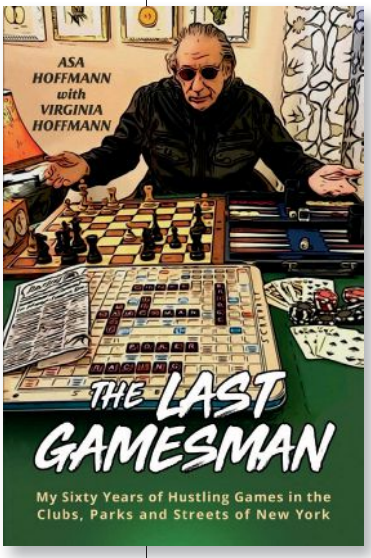
Unsung Heroes

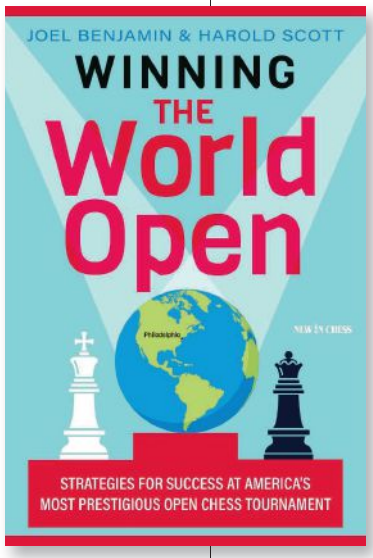
Two books that transmit key moments in American chess history

BY **IM JOHN WATSON**

THE WORLD OPEN (WHICH the authors grant is 'immodestly titled') has always been associated with big turnouts and big prizes. The first edition was held in New York City in 1973, with a record-shattering total prize fund of $15,000 attracting 725 players. The event caught on, and within a few years it had moved to Philadelphia where the prize fund had risen to $46,000.

In 1985, defying the decline in popularity following the Fischer boom, the tournament expanded to a record 1506 players, and by 1989, the prize fund had risen to $220,000. For nearly 50 years it has remained the premier Swiss System event in the United States, changing the American chess landscape along the way. For ambitious young players, it was one of the few U.S. events at which one could achieve FIDE title norms or, for that matter, get to see leading grandmasters from around the world in action.





In Winning the World Open: Strategies for Success at America's Most Prestigious Open Chess Tournament, GM Joel Benjamin and Harold Scott recount the history of the tournament in impressive detail. They devote six chapters to different time periods (e.g., 1973-1979, 1980-1989, etc.) and intersperse full-length chapters about 16 "heroes of the World Open," players who have participated often and won multiple titles. Benjamin is himself one of these heroes: he won outright or tied for first place a record six times(!). Most of these players contributed to the book by giving interviews, and in many cases, they supplied annotated games.

There is a division of labor here. Scott handles all the chapter introductions, involving a great deal of research, and writes two additional chapters: one about FM Bill Goichberg and the other an entertaining account of the many cheating incidents at the Open. Benjamin provides all the annotations to the 189 games (mostly complete games, with some fragments) and tactics exercises.

Benjamin has written many fine books, and his insightful annotating style keeps the book lively and interesting. He tends to pick complex and double-edged games which illustrate the fighting spirit of the combatants, rather than displays of technical virtuosity. The notes are carefully chosen to illuminate key points of each game without ever getting too dense and distracting.

An overview of World Open history will mean different things to different readers, and certainly a part of the book's appeal will be nostalgic. It serves as a tribute to many great players who have devoted their lives to chess. I find it particularly gratifying to have sections about players who have been extremely successful and contributed to the game in various ways, but aren't normally discussed in contemporary books and magazines. Younger players may not know much about GMs Dmitry Gurevich, John Fedorowicz, or Alex Shabalov, for example, but for me and many others they are really are "heroes of the game" who have encouraged and inspired generations of American players.

I was especially glad to see that the first chapter is devoted to Bill Goichberg, the founder of the Open and its organizer to this day. Scott gives us a description of Goichberg's early career as a tournament director, with all kinds of exotic details of which I was unaware. Goichberg essentially made it up as he went along, becoming a major contributor to the format, rules, and conventions of the modern American Swiss System tournament. He was instrumental in giving opportunities to numerous young players of the post-Fischer era and went on to a lifetime of involvement with developing and promoting American chess.

In fairness, it should be said that the conditions at the World Open have not always been to everyone's taste; the authors refer to them as 'no frills.' And not all of the memories are entirely nostalgic.

I only went to a few World Opens. Looking

back, I wish that I'd attended more often, but to me, the event was too crowded and too much of a madhouse. Of course, those are the attributes that attracted my more adventurous contemporaries. I was amused to see that GM Larry Christiansen had some of the same reservations: "He didn't like being there. The atmosphere of a big crowded room of people wasn't for him. He dreaded the packed elevator rides if he wasn't able to get a low floor at the Adam's Mark." On the other hand, Larry soldiered through and won the tournament twice!

The authors make a valiant attempt to discover what distinguishes World Open winners from the rest of us, and more specifically, why some players have consistently ended up fighting for the top prizes. This is fun to pursue and leads to some interesting discussions. Alas, I don't think they come up with any advice that will turn the reader into a champion at this year's event. Benjamin's summary from the Preface is about as good as it gets:

> We see a wide spectrum of styles, personalities, and approaches among our champions. Some were emotional, others unflappable. Some preferred technical chess, others engaged in constant tactical battles. Some paced themselves, some went hard for wins in almost every game. There is no one way to win the World Open. But it certainly helps to be as adaptable as possible to opponent, tournament standing, round number, etc. At the same time, know who you are and what you do best. And it doesn't hurt to be psychologically tough, with all the pressure to win.

All true, I'm sure — but of course, it doesn't hurt to be a great player to begin with.

Here's a fun miniature by Benjamin, with his notes. Emory Tate was legendary for entertaining accounts of his wild attacking games.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C00)

GM Joel Benjamin (2591)
Emory Tate, (2309)
World Open, 07.03.2000
Annotations by Joel Benjamin

1. e4 e6 2. d3 c5 3. Nf3 d5 4. Qe2 dxe4 5. dxe4 Ne7 6. Na3! Nec6 7. c3 Be7 8. Bf4 0–0 9. Qc2 Nd7 10. Bb5 g5?
Black's position is awkward, but 10. … e5 11. Bg3 Qc7 gives him a position. This wild advance is so unprincipled that I knew I had to smack it down hard.

11. Be3 f5 12. exf5 exf5 13. 0–0–0 f4 14. h4! gxh4
Other moves: (a) 14. … fxe3 15. hxg5 Rf7 16. Bc4. (b) 14. … g4 15. Ng5 Bxg5 16. hxg5 Qe7 17. Bd3, etc.



15. Bxc5!! Bxc5 16. Rxh4 Qe7 17. Bc4+ Kh8 18. Rdh1 Nf6 19. Ng5
There are simply too many attackers, though Tate ensures a few more curious moments.

19. … Be3+ 20. Kb1 h5 21. Rxh5+ Nxh5 22. Rxh5+ Kg7 23. Qh7+ Kf6 24. Rh6+ Ke5
Or 24. … Kxg5 25. Qg6 mate. GMs are rarely called upon to place checkmate on the board. I decided that a knight mate was a bit more aesthetic than 25. Qe4 mate.

25. Nf3, mate.

I often hear chess history lovers complain that books about players so seldom contain much biographical or cultural material, even when they are called *The Life and Games of… or My Life and Games*, or if their title is simply the name of a player. Increasingly, games and annotations fill most of such books, swamping a player's biographical details.

To some extent, that's because professionals today begin playing at an early age, gain a secure source of income, and tend not to face the dramatic real-world struggles that so many of their forebears put up with, including war, hardship, incessant poverty, and ill health. But there's always been a subculture of devoted players who have professions outside of chess, as well as ones who live on the margins of the sport.

In New York, more so than any other city, chess gamblers have been skilled and reliable fixtures in clubs and parks. Asa Hoffmann is one such, although his playing strength and successes make him unique. Hoffmann is a FIDE Master and US Chess Life Master who has claimed countless GM scalps in regular tournaments, but he is better known for his successful gambling on chess and other games. In *The Last Gamesman: My Sixty Years of Hustling Games in the Clubs, Parks and Streets of New York,* co-written with his wife, Virginia, Hoffmann tells the story of his growing up in New York and evolving into a player and hustler.

The book isn't organized around Hoffmann's games or results; in fact, there is only one game, a blitz game that he won against Fischer. Rather, the typical chapters are about chess venues, chess stories, and assorted themes, including women in chess, chess and music, and cheating in chess. For many, the book will have a strong nostalgic appeal. I particularly enjoyed the descriptions of the Flea House, the Manhattan Chess Club (in various locations), the Marshall Chess Club, and the Bar Point Club, all of which I saw in person.

Through Hoffmann's eyes, we meet famous players such as Fischer (a whole chapter!), Reshevsky, Kamsky, and the Polgars, as well as New York stalwarts such as Zuckerman, Lombardy, Benjamin, Rohde, Ginsberg, Bonin, and Dlugy. But the most entertaining stories are about the eccentric characters and hustlers who inhabited the chess underworld and kept things lively with their humorous banter and adventures. There's an entire section about fistfights and other physical altercations in the clubs!

The last seven chapters deal with Hoffmann's other gambling and gaming pursuits: a lengthy one on horse-racing and shorter ones on scrabble, poker, bridge, checkers, backgammon, and gin rummy. Knowing little about these fields, I enjoyed the many eccentric characters and anecdotes in each of them.

Doubtless this book will appeal most to New Yorkers, yet everyone can enjoy Hoffmann's stories and observations. You won't pick up many improvement tips here, not about chess nor even about how to hustle. But you'll get a flavor of an exotic, fascinating culture which is rapidly — and in some ways sadly — disappearing.

Joel Benjamin & Harold Scott. Winning the World Open: Strategies for Success at America's Most Prestigious Open Chess Tournament. *New in Chess, 2022. ISBN 978-9056919856, 288 pages. (Available from* uscfsales.com, *product code B0264NIC, $29.95)*

Asa Hoffmann & Virginia Hoffmann. The Last Gamesman: My Sixty Years of Hustling Games in the Clubs, Parks and Streets of New York. *Gatekeeper Press, 2022. ISBN 978-1662922602, 240 pages.*

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 July 31, 2022 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "$XXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "$XXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

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

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

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX

U.S. Senior Open
JULY 22-24, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center **Address:** 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 **Overall prize fund:** $8,000 & plaques **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Kevin Bachler **Email:** *contact@cavemanchess.com* **Phone:** 224-985-5245 **Website:** *https://www.cavemanchess.com/* **TLA ID:** 33626

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

U.S. Junior Open
JULY 22-24, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center **Address:** 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 **Overall prize fund:** $800 to $1300 & plaques **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Kevin Bachler **Email:** *contact@cavemanchess.com* **Phone:** 224-985-5245 **Website:** *https://www.cavemanchess.com/* **TLA ID:** 33625

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

122nd Annual United States Open Chess Championship
JULY 30-AUGUST 7, CALIFORNIA

Event site: Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa **Address:** 371333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 **Overall prize fund:** $50,000 **GP Points:** 300 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-1234 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/usopen* **TLA ID:** 33031

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX

2022 U.S. Masters Championship
NOVEMBER 23-27, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel **Address:** 8629 JM Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Peter Giannatos **Email:** *info@charlottechesscenter.org* **Phone:** n/a **Website:** *http://www.charlottechesscenter.org/usmasters* **TLA ID:** 33716

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix continues in 2022. For information visit *new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program.*

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Memphis Super Summer Swiss!
JULY 1-3, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** $7,500 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *https://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 33985

GRAND PRIX

24th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
JULY 2-4, CALIFORNIA

Event site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites **Address:** 2224 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95821 **Overall prize fund:** $8,600 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** John P McCumiskey **Email:** *sactochess@sbcglobal.net* **Phone:** 916-524-9479 **Website:** *http://sacramentochessclub.org* **TLA ID:** 33486

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 DFW FIDE Premier 5
JULY 8-10, TEXAS

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North **Address:** 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Luis Salinas **Email:** *info@dallaschess.com* **Phone:** 214-632-9000 **Website:** *http://www.dallaschess.com/* **TLA ID:** 32575

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

15th annual Chicago Class
JULY 15-17, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32928

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

26th annual Pacific Coast Open
JULY 15-17, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Los Angeles Airport Hilton **Address:** 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90045 **Overall prize fund:** $25,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33003

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

27th annual Bradley Open
JULY 15-17, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport **Address:** 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks CT 06096 **Overall prize fund:** $15,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33517

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

5th annual Queen City of the Prairie Open and Fort Worth Championship
JULY 15-17, TEXAS

Event site: Home2 & Tru by Hilton Euless DFW West **Address:** 2570 TX-121, Euless, TX 76039 **Overall prize fund:** $1,400 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Louis Reed **Email:** *AllianceChess@gmail.com* **Phone:** (817) 752-4788 (text only) **Website:** *https://www.facebook.com/AllianceChess* **TLA ID:** 33694

GRAND PRIX

$12,000 Joe Yun Memorial
JULY 15-17, OHIO

Event site: Hilton Inn Akron Fairlawn **Address:** 3180 W. Market Street, Akron, OH, 44333 **Overall prize fund:** $12,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Progress With Chess **Email:** *stacia@progresswithchess.org* **Phone:** 2163469643 **Website:** *https://progresswithchess.org* **TLA ID:** 33919

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

7th annual Chicago Class Blitz
JULY 16, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33653

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual Southern Open
JULY 22-24, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32940

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

23rd annual Pittsburgh Open
JULY 22-24, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Doubletree Green Tree **Address:** 500 Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh 152052 **Overall prize fund:** $13,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33004

GRAND PRIX

2022 Houston Chess Festival
JULY 22-24, TEXAS

Event site: DoubleTree by Hilton Bush International **Address:** 15757 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032 **Overall prize fund:** $13,100 **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Francisco Guadalupe **Email:** *fguadalupe@aol.com* **Phone:** n/a **Website:** *https://www.kingregistration.com/event/2022HouChessFest* **TLA ID:** 33512

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX

Caveman Medior Open
JULY 22-24, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center **Address:** 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 **Overall prize fund:** $5,000 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Kevin Bachler **Email:** *contact@cavemanchess.com* **Phone:** 224-985-5245 **Website:** *https://www.cavemanchess.com/* **TLA ID:** 33627

PLEASE NOTE

DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

TLAs appearing in *Chess Life* must be uploaded online on the 10th, two months prior to the issue cover date in which the ad is to appear. (For example, October TLAs must be uploaded no later than August 10th.) TLAs uploaded past this deadline cannot be published without special approval by US Chess.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Southern Open Blitz
JULY 23, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 **Overall prize fund:** $500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33655

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

52nd annual Continental Open
JULY 27-31, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Sturbridge Host Hotel **Address:** 366 Main St (Rt 20 West), Sturbridge MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90 **Overall prize fund:** $35,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32986

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

8th annual Continental Open Blitz
JULY 30, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Sturbridge Host Hotel **Address:** 366 Main St (Rt 20 West), Sturbridge MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90 **Overall prize fund:** $500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33654

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th Annual Washington International
AUGUST 13-17, MARYLAND

Event site: Rockville Hilton **Address:** 1750 Rockville Pike; Rockville, Maryland 20852 **Overall prize fund:** $26,725 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michael Regan **Email:** *mregan@stsci.edu* **Phone:** 410-419-5130 **Website:** *https://mdchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32910

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

12th annual Central California Open
AUGUST 19-21, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

Event site: Doubletree Hotel **Address:** 2233 Ventura St, Fresno CA 93710 **Overall prize fund:** $10,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33310

GRAND PRIX

2022 MN International Chess Festival: FIDE Norm Open Section
AUGUST 19-24, MINNESOTA

Event site: Embassy Suites Bloomington **Address:** 2800 American Blvd West, Bloomington MN 55431 **Overall prize fund:** $10,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Wisconsin Chess Academy **Email:** *abetaneli@hotmail.com* **Phone:** (608) 334-2574 **Website:** *https://www.mnchessfestival.com/* **TLA ID:** 33879

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

54th annual Atlantic Open
AUGUST 26-28, VIRGINIA

Event site: Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport **Address:** 2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington VA 22202 **Overall prize fund:** $30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33304

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

17th annual Indianapolis Open
AUGUST 26-28, INDIANA

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport **Address:** 8910 Hatfield Drive, Indianapolis IN 42641 **Overall prize fund:** $14,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33669

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2022 Las Vegas Open
AUGUST 26-28, NEVADA

Event site: Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel & Casino **Address:** 3555 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89109 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Vegas Chess Festivals **Email:** *vegaschess@gmail.com* **Phone:** 702-930-9550 **Website:** *https://vegaschessfestival.com* **TLA ID:** 34049

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th annual Atlantic Open Blitz
AUGUST 27, VIRGINIA

Event site: Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport **Address:** 2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington VA 22202 **Overall prize fund:** $500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33656

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

144th annual New York State Championship
SEPTEMBER 2-5, NEW YORK

Event site: Albany Marriott **Address:** 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 **Overall prize fund:** $18,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33610

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

81st New England Open
SEPTEMBER 3-5, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center **Address:** 219 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886 **Overall prize fund:** $4,300 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Massachusetts Chess Association **Email:** *info@masschess.org* **Phone:** 603-891-2484 **Website:** *http://www.masschess.org* **TLA ID:** 33968

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

74th Annual New Jersey Open Championship
SEPTEMBER 3-5, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Hyatt Regency Morristown **Address:** 3 Headquarters Plaza, Morristown, NJ 07960 **Overall prize fund:** $8,050 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Hal Sprechman **Email:** *halsprechman@gmail.com* **Phone:** 732 259-3881 **Website:** *http://njscf.org* **TLA ID:** 33989

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

8th annual New York State Blitz Championship
SEPTEMBER 4, NEW YORK

Event site: Albany Marriott **Address:** 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 **Overall prize fund:** $800 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33651

Continental Chess OTB Tournament Schedule

See www.chessevents.us for details, possible changes, other events

CHICAGO CLASS, July 15-17 or 16-17, Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel. $30,000 guaranteed prizes.

PACIFIC COAST OPEN, July 15-17 or 16-17. $25,000 guaranteed. Site changed to LAX Hilton.

BRADLEY OPEN, July 15-17 or 16-17, Sheraton Hartford at Bradley Airport. $15,000 guaranteed prizes.

SOUTHERN OPEN: July 22-24 or 23-24, Wyndham Orlando Resort. $20,000 guaranteed prizes.

PITTSBURGH OPEN: July 22-24 or 23-24, Doubletree Green Tree. $13,000 guaranteed prizes.

CONTINENTAL OPEN: July 27-31, 28-31, 29-31 or 30-31, Sturbridge, MA. $35,000 guaranteed. 9 round top section with norms possible, others 7 rounds.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA OPEN: Aug 19-21 or 20-21, Doubletree Fresno. $10,000 guaranteed prizes.

ATLANTIC OPEN, Aug 26-28 or 27-28, Arlington VA. $30,000 guaranteed prizes.

INDIANAPOLIS OPEN, Aug 26-28 or 27-28. $14,000 guaranteed prizes.

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, Sept 2-5, 3-5 or 4-5, Albany Marriott. Out of state welcome. 6 rounds, guaranteed prizes raised to $18,000.

MIDWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS Oct 7-9 or 8-9, Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel. $20,000 guaranteed prizes.

EASTERN CHESS CONGRESS Oct 28-30 or 29-30, Westin at Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ. $25,000 guaranteed prizes.

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

GRAND PRIX

83 WV Chess Assoc State Championship

SEPTEMBER 10-11, WEST VIRGINIA

Event site: Huntington YMCA **Address:** 917 9th St., Huntington, WV 25701 **Overall prize fund:** $865 **GP Points:** 6 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Craig Timmons **Email:** *craigtimmons@gmail.com* **Phone:** 3044152119 **Website:** *https://www.wvchess.org/* **TLA ID:** 34086

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE)

SEPTEMBER 16-18, INDIANA

Event site: Noblesville Schools Community Center **Address:** 1775 Field Dr, Noblesville, IN 46062 **Overall prize fund:** $15,000 **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** B C Chess Club **Email:** *bcchessclub-indy@gmail.com* **Phone:** 13172866183 **Website:** *https://www.facebook.com/indychessfun/* **TLA ID:** 33810

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual Midwest Class Championships

OCTOBER 7-9, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33973

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress

OCTOBER 28-30, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village **Address:** 201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540 **Overall prize fund:** $25,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33992

GRAND PRIX

2022 NC Open

NOVEMBER 25-27, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel **Address:** 8629 JM Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 **Overall prize fund:** $11,000 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Grant Oen **Email:** *info@charlottechesscenter.org* **Phone:** n/a **Website:** *http://www.charlottechesscenter.org/usmasters* **TLA ID:** 33715

Online

Climb the Rating Ladder with GM Angel Arribas Lopez: 1100 to 1600 - Online Course for Serious Students

JANUARY 7-DECEMBER 25, 2022

Event site: Online **Address:** *lichess.org* **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** *courses@dmvchess.com* **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** *https://www.dmvchess.com/courses-register/climb-the-rating-ladder-1100-1600-fridays* **TLA ID:** 32556

Regional

ALABAMA

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

See Tennessee.

JULY 23, 2022

Alabama Dual-Rated State Chess Championship

Event site: Evangel Church **Address:** 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36117**Overall prize fund:** $1,350 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Doug Strout **Email:** *evangelchess@yahoo.com* **Phone:** n/a **Website:** *http://www.facebook.com/evangelchessclub* **TLA ID:** 33605

ARIZONA

JULY 15-17, 2022

26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

See Tennessee.

CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021-ONGOING

PCC LBX Hangar Sunday Action

Event site: LBX Hangar Building (inside and out) **Address:** 4150 McGowen St, Long Beach CA 90808 **Overall prize fund:** 80% of total entry fee **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** John Tan **Email:** *paromountchessclub@gmail.com* **Phone:** 3107356871 **Website:** n/a **TLA ID:** 31701

JULY 15-17, 2022

26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 19-21, 2022

12th annual Central California Open(CA-N)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

CONNECTICUT

JULY 15-17, 2022

27th Annual Bradley Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022

52nd annual Continental Open (MA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 30, 2022

8th annual Continental Open Blitz (MA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

52nd annual CONTINENTAL OPEN

July 27-31, 28-31, 29-31 or 30-31 - $35,000 guaranteed prizes!

Master 9 rounds, others 7 rounds, GM & IM norms possible, Sturbridge, Mass.

Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main St (Rt 20 W), Sturbridge MA 01566, near the CT border (I-84 Exit 6, near I-90). Free parking. Visit Old Sturbridge Village (osv.org), swim in Cedar Lake, visit shops & galleries.

Master Section: 9 rounds, July 27-31, Open to FIDE 2100/up, USCF 2200/up (see peakrating.us) or foreign FIDE rated.. 40/80, SD/30 +30. FIDE rated.

U2200 to U1400 sections: 7 rds, July 28-31 or 29-31. 40/80, SD/30 +30 (3-day rds 1-2 G/60 d10), both merge & play for same prizes. No unrated in U1800 to U1400. U2200 & U2000 are FIDE rated.

U1200 section: 7 rounds, July 30-31, G/60 d10.

Master: $3000-1500-1000-900-800-700-600-500-400-300, clear/tiebreak win $200 bonus, FIDE U2300/Unr $2000-1000.

Minimum prize $700 to foreign GMs who enter online by 7/13 and play all games with no byes, $300 to US GMs and foreign IMs/WGMs who play all games with no byes.

U2200, U2000, U1800 sections: Each $2000-1000-500-300-200.

U1600, U1400 sections:: Each $1400-700-400-300-200.

U1200 section: $800-400-300-200-100, top Under 1000 (no unr) $200-100..

Prize limits: See chessevents.us.

Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player team (avg. under 2200) combined score, all sections: $1000-500-300-200.

Master entry fee: $228 online at chessaction.com by 7/25, $250 until 6 pm 7/27 online or at site. **GMs** free. **IMs, WGMs, FIDE rated foreign**: $78 at chessaction.com by 7/25, $100 until 6 pm 7/27 online or at site. **FMs or FIDE 2300/over:** $128 by 7/25, $150 until 7/27 online or at site.

U2200 to U1400 entry fee: $158 at chessaction.com by 7/25, $180 online or at site until 1 hr before rd 1..Re-entry $100.

U1200 Section EF: $83 online by 7/25, $100 online or at site until 9 am 7/30.

USCF membership required. See chessevents.us for special rates.

Online entry fee $5 less to MACA members, join/renew at masschess.org.

5-day schedule (Master): Reg Wed to 6 pm, rds Wed 7, Thu 1 & 7, Fri 11 & 5, Sat/Sun 10 & 4.

4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7, Fri 11 & 5, Sat/Sun 10 & 4.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 10 am, rds Fri 11, 2 & 5, merges with 4-day Fri at 5 pm.

2-day schedule (Under 1200): Reg. Sat to 9, rds Sat 10, 1, 4, 7, Sun 10, 1 & 4..

Half-pt byes OK all rds (limit 3, 2 in last 4 rounds);must commit before rd 3.

All: Covid rules: see chessevents.us. Bring set, board, clock if possible-none supplied. Unofficial or Online Regular ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Hotel rates: $99-99-109, use link at chesstour,com (group code 2208CONTIN),, or 800-582-3232, reserve by 7/13.

Entry: Chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803). Refunds, $15 service charge. Questions: director@chess.us, chesstour.info. Entries posted at chessaction; click "entry list" after entering.

Blitz Sat 10 pm, enter by 9:40 pm.

DELAWARE

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

FLORIDA

JULY 22-24, 2022

30th annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 23, 2022

9th annual Southern Open Blitz (FL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

GEORGIA

JULY 22-24, 2022

30th annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

ILLINOIS

JULY 15-17, 2022

15th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 16, 2022

7th annual Chicago Class Blitz (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 6, 2022

2022 Summer Open Chess Tournament
Event site: Salem Community Activities Center **Address:** 416 E Oglesby St, Salem, IL 62881 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Carl Purcell **Email:** *purcellelectric@sbcglobal.net* **Phone:** 6182678145 **Website:** n/a **TLA ID:** 34062

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

17th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

30th annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

INDIANA

JULY 15-17, 2022

15th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

17th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

30th annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

LOUISIANA

JULY 22-24, 2022

2022 Houston Chess Festival (TX)
See Grand Prix.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See *www.MDChess.org* for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signup for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the $48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

4th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MASSACHUSETTS

JULY 27-31, 2022

52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 30, 2022

8th annual Continental Open Blitz (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

4th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

MISSOURI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

NEVADA

JULY 15-17, 2022

26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 19-21, 2022

12th annual Central California Open(CA-N)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 8, 2022-ONGOING ON SATURDAY

ICA Super Saturday IN-PERSON Quads
Event site: Community Church of Glen Rock **Address:** 354 Rock Road, Education Building, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** International Chess Academy **Email:** *chessdirector@icanj.net* **Phone:** 2018198280 **Website:** *https://www.icakidsonline.com* **TLA ID:** 32450

JULY 15-17, 2022

27th Annual Bradley Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022

52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

4th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2022

New Jersey Scholastic K-8 Championship
Event site: Hyatt Morristown **Address:** 3 Speedwell Plaza, Morristown, NJ 07960 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Hal Sprechman **Email:** *halsprechman@gmail.com* **Phone:** 732 259-3881 **Website:** *http://njscf.org* **TLA ID:** 33990

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NEW YORK

JULY 15-17, 2022

27th Annual Bradley Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 22-24, 2022

23rd annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022

52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

4th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2022

144th annual New York State Championship (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

8th annual New York State Blitz Championship (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NORTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

OHIO

JULY 22-24, 2022

23rd annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

17th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club
Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See *www.northpennchess* club.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

JULY 22-24, 2022

23rd annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

4th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2022

144th annual New York State Championship (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

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

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SOUTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 31,2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club

Event site: Douglas Community Center **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 3810 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *https://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 32334

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

2022 Glenn Snow Memorial (FIDE) (IN)

See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

JULY 22-24, 2022

2022 Houston Chess Festival (TX)

See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open

Event site: The Westin Tysons Corner Hotel **Address:** 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043 **Overall prize fund:** $5,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** *josh@dmvchess.com* **Phone:** 703-609-0499 **Website:** *https://www.dmvchess.com/beltwayopen* **TLA ID:** 33978

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship

Event site: The Westin Tysons Corner Hotel **Address:** 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** *josh@dmvchess.com* **Phone:** 703-609-0499 **Website:** *https://www.dmvchess.com/beltwayopenscholastic* **TLA ID:** 33981

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

4th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

AUGUST 27, 2022

9th annual Atlantic Open Blitz (VA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

WASHINGTON

JULY 15-17, 2022

26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

WEST VIRGINIA

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 6, 2022

The 1st Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

WISCONSIN

JULY 15-17, 2022

15th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

30th annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*



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PAGE 13 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 35. ... Rd1! wins material with the threat of 36. ... Ke7. White resigned after 36. Ng3 h4. **PROBLEM 2.** 56. ... b5! threatened 57. ... b4! 58. Rc4 Rb1 and .... Be4-d3. White resigned after 57. Qxb5? Qd2!. **PROBLEM 3.** 41. ... Kf5! 42. Kc2 Ne4!, e.g., 43. Kd3 b3 44. axb3 axb3 or 43. g6 hxg6 44. hxg6 Kxg6 45. Kd3 Kf5 46. Kc4 b3 47. axb3 a3!. **PROBLEM 4.** The Black pawns won after 34. ... h4! 35. gxh4 e5! 36. fxe5 f4, e.g., 37 Re1 Ke6 followed by … Ke6xe5, … f4-f3, … Ke5-f4. **PROBLEM 5.** Take partial credit for 33. Qxf6+ Qxf6 34. Bd4 but full credit for the faster 33. Nxh6! and now 33. ... Rxf7 34. Nxf7+ or 33. ... Rf8 34. Qxf8+ Rxf8 35. Bd4. **PROBLEM 6.** 30. Ne6+! Kh6 31. Qf8+ Kh5 32. Ng7+ Kh4 and now fastest is 33. Qb4+ but White's 33. Ne8 also won.

PAGE 49 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 17. Bxh7+! A typical Greek gift sacrifice. **17. ... Kxh7** Or 17. ... Kh8 18. Bb1 and White has won a pawn. **18. Ng5+ Kg6 19. Qxg4 f5 20. Rxf5!** Absolutely decisive. White achieves less after 20. Qh4 Rh8 21. Qf4 Qxf4 22. gxf4 and White has only won a pawn. **20. ... Rxf5 21. Ne4+** and **Black resigned** in Magold – Ceteras, Bucharest 2022. **TACTIC 2. 24. Bxd6!** The best and **Black consequently resigned** immediately. Note that White also gains a decisive advantage after 24. Nxf5 Qxf5 25. Bxd6 Ne5 26. Be2! Rf7 27. Nxe4 but this is not as convincing as the game continuation.; A possible continuation was 24. Bxd6 Qxd6 (or *24. ... Nb6 25. Bxe7 Nxc4 26. Bxf6 Nxd2 27. Bxg7 Kxg7 28. Re2* and White is winning) 25. Nxf5 Nb5 26. Nxb5 axb5 27. Bb3 and Black is toast. Sakaev – Kokarev, Russian Teams 2022. **TACTIC 3. 15. ... Bxd4!** This tactical trick also exists in the English Opening (a Dragon Variation but with the colors reversed) **16. Bxd4 e6 17. Be3** The more obvious alternatives do not work either: 17. Ne3 e5 18. Ba7 Rb7 and the bishop is trapped. Or 17. Nf4 Nxd4 18. Qxd4 e5 and the fork wins a piece. **17. ... exd5 18. Qxd5 Qc7** It was even better to play 18. ... Nde5!, e.g., 19. f4 Be6 and White can resign. **19. Rfd1 Nce5 20. Ra7 Qxc2 21. Rd2 Qb1+ 22. Kh2 Nf6** and **White resigned** in Sonntag – Pruijssers, Bundesliga 2022. **TACTIC 4. 19. Nb6! Rab8** It was relatively best to play 19. ... Qa3 although 20. Nxa8 Rxa8 21. Bxe4 dxe4 22. Qd8+ Qf8 23. Qxf8+ Kxf8 24. Kf1 wins for White.; Note that 19. ... Qxa2 20. Nxa8 Rxa8 21. Bxe4 is even worse for Black as the queen cannot return to f8 as in the above line. **20. a4!** The queen is trapped and **Black resigned** in Isik – Danaci, Turkey 2022. **TACTIC 5. 21. Qxb6! Nxb6 22. Rxe7+!** and **Black resigned** as he cannot prevent mate. For instance, 22. Rxe7+ Kxe7 23. Bg5+ Ke8 24. Rd8 mate. The criss-crossing bishops take all the squares away from Black's king. Roberson – Parliagras, 4NCL 2022. **TACTIC 6. 16. ... Nc3! 17. Rxd8+** Or 17. bxc3 Qxa3+ 18. Kb1 Bxb3 and White cannot defend. **17. ... Rxd8 18. Qe1** 18. bxc3 Qxa3+ will end the game rapidly in Black's favor. **18. ... Rd1+ 19. Qxd1 Nxd1 20. Kxd1 Bxb3 21. cxb3 Qe3 22. Bc4 b5 23. Bxf7 Qd3+ and White resigned** in Stepanecu – Bilych, Bucharest 2022. **TACTIC 7. 17. a4!** Before this and White's next move, it could appear that Black had a pretty decent position, but after White's next move, it becomes clear that his castle comes crashing down. **17. ... bxa4 18. b4!** The black queen is being chased away, White wins back the a-pawn and now the assault on the queenside takes shape. Black is completely without hope. **18. ... Qc7 19. Rxa4 Qb7 20. c4?!** It was better to play 20. Qa2 Be4 21. Ra5 and Black can soon resign. **20. ... Rfb8 21. c5 dxc5 22. bxc5 Qb3 23. Rxa6??** White wins with 23. Qa5 Qb2 24. Bc4 and Black is without counterplay. **23. ... Rxa6** Black could have saved himself with 23. ... Bb2! 24. Rf1 Bc3 25. Rxa8 Rxa8 and White has nothing better than to repeat moves with 26. Bd1 Qc4 27. Be2 Qb3 with a draw. **24. Bxa6 Qa3? 25. Bf1 Rb2 26. Qd1 Rb3 27. c6?** 27. Bh6! **27. ... Rxe3 28. fxe3 Qxe3+ 29. Kh1 Be5 30. Qe1?** 30. c7! Bc8 31. Rc4! **30. ... Qh6 31. h3 Qf4?** 31. ... Bg3! **32. g3 Qd4? 33. Bg2 Bd6 and Black resigned.** Xiong – Kevlishvili, American Cup blitz 2022. **TACTIC 8. 20. e6!** The only move to win. After 20. Na4 Nxa4 21. Qxd3 Nac5 22. Qd1 Rd8, White has the better chances but Black is still very much alive. **20. ... Nf6** Black has several alternatives but nothing works for him: a) 20. ... Ne5 21. exf7+ Kf8 (or *21. ... Kxf7 22. Nf3! Qxc3 23. Bxc5 Bxc5 24. Nxe5+ Kg7 25. Qxd3* and White has won a piece) 22. Nf3 Nxf3+ (or *22. ... Ncd7 23. Bd4!*) 23. Qxf3 Qxc3 24. Rac1 Qa3 25. Bd4 Rh7 26. Rc3 Qxa2 27. Rxc5 and Black can resign; b) 20. ... 0–0 21. exd7 Qxc3 22. Rc1 Qa3 23. Bh6 Bf6 24. Nb3 Nxb3 25. Qxd3 Qxa2 26. Rc2 Qa3 27. Bxf8 Rxf8 28. Rc4 and White is winning; c) 20. ... Qxc3 21. exd7+ Nxd7 22. Rc1 Qa3 23. Bf4 0–0 24. Re3 and White wins a piece. **21. Nxc6** Or even stronger 21. Na4 Nxa4 22. exf7+ Kxf7 23. Qxd3 and Black is completely busted. **21. ... Qxc3 22. exf7+** Or 22. Rc1 Qa3 23. exf7+ Kxf7 24. Nxe7 Ncd7 25. Rc7 Qxe7 26. Qb3+ Qe6 27. Rxd7+ Nxd7 28. Bd5 and White is winning. **22. ... Kxf7 23. Rc1 Qa3 24. Nxe7 Ne6 25. Nd5 Ne4 26. Qf3+ Kg7 27. Rc3 Qxc3 28. Nxc3 Nxc3 29. Bd2** and **Black resigned**. Papp – Sturt, Levente Memorial 2022. **TACTIC 9. 13. e5!** The only winning move. **13. ... dxe5** The alternatives do not work for Black either, for instance, 13. ... Nd5 14. Nxd5 Bxd5 15. Bxd5 (*15. Qxa5!*) 15. ... exd5 16. exd6+ and Black will lose; or 13. ... b4 14. Nxe6 bxc3 15. Nxg7+ Kd8 16. Qf4 and Black's king will not survive the central onslaught; or 13. ... Nd7 14. Bxe6 fxe6 15. Nxe6 b4 16. Nc7+ Kf7 17. e6+ Kg8 18. N3d5 Nf6 19. e7 and Black can resign. **14. Nxe6! fxe6** Or 14. ... e4 15. Nxf8 Kxf8 16. Qd6+ Kg8 17. Qe7 and Black is busted. **15. Rxe5! Rd8 16. Rxe6+! Be7 17. Rxe7+!** White now wins Black's queen. **17. ... Kxe7 18. Nd5+** and **Black resigned**. Hernandez Moya – Forgas Moreno, Capablanca Memorial 2022.

PAGE 51 ABCS OF CHESS

PROBLEM 1. Mating net: It is mate in one: **1. ... Qd4 mate. PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** Black mates with **1. ... Rg2 mate. PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** Black mates by **1. ... Rxb3+ 2. Ka2 Nc3 mate. PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** White falls to **1. ... Rh3+ 2. Kg2 Rh2 mate. PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** Black mates by **1. ... Qh1+ 2. Kf2 Qf1 mate. PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** Black mates in two: **1. ... Qxa3+ 2. Kxa3 Ra5 mate.**

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66-80	2000-2199
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36-50	1600-1799
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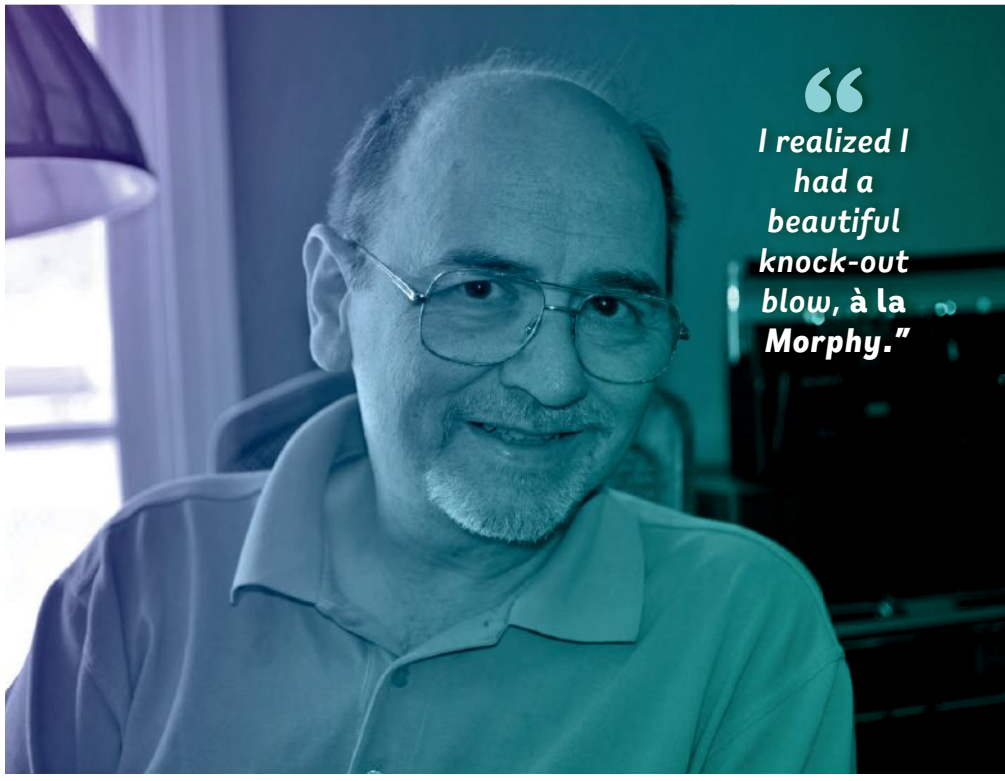
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MY BEST MOVE

MIKE SPLANE

WITH AN ASSIST FROM DANA MACKENZIE

LIFE MASTER, FIVE-TIME KOLTY CLUB CHAMPION, FIRST POSTHUMOUS "MY BEST MOVE" AUTHOR



THIS GAME WAS PLAYED IN a G/15 tournament at the Kolty Chess Club in San Jose, California. Normally I don't write up games that are not US Chess rated but this one has an interesting idea and some very fun tactics.

We were playing with a five-second delay, and before the game I commented that with the delay the game could take all night. He said, "Well, I don't know. Maybe you'll crush me quickly." I laughed, not thinking that was even remotely possible.

FRENCH DEFENSE, FORT KNOX VARIATION (C10)

Mike Splane (2200)
Joji Escoto (1966)
Kolty Chess Club, San Jose, 08.18.2011

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bd7 5. d5?!

Preventing ... Bd7-c6 and heading into a position where White hopes to exploit a lead in development and a safer king. I came up with the idea at the board in a flash of inspiration. To my delight it actually turned out to be a playable idea. After the game I found one game where it had been played previously, so I can't claim to have invented a theoretical novelty.

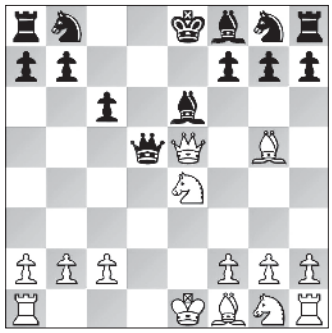
5. ... exd5 6. Qxd5 c6?

Looks logical, removing the threat to b7 and forcing my queen to move, but this gives my knight access to the d6 square. The black position immediately becomes critical.

7. Qe5+ Be6 8. Bg5 Qd5?

(see diagram next column)

When I showed this game to a group of masters and experts one of the masters, after a quick glance at the position, suggested this move. So it at least passes the "looks good" test. Over the board I initially thought this move forced a queen trade, and was quite unhappy with the results of my opening, but then suddenly I realized I had a beautiful knock-out blow, *à la* Morphy.



9. Rd1!!

MY BEST MOVE. The black queen has nowhere to go. If it moves off the file then 10. Rd8 is mate.

9. ... f6

Forced. The counterattack on my queen gets him out of the mating threat and gains a tempo to save his queen. I looked at winning a pawn with 10. Rxd5 fxe5 11. Rxe5 but my instincts told me there had to be a better line.

10. Bxf6!

If 10. ... gxf6 11. Nxf6+ Nxf6 12. Rxd5, and if 10. ... Nxf6 11. Rxd5.

10. ... Qxe5 11. Rd8+ Kf7 12. Bxe5 Nf6 13. Ng5+!

[A final "scorpion's sting," which Mike had to foresee before playing his 11th move. He was always fond of this kind of zwischenzug *at the end of a long combination. Note that if White had grabbed the knight at b8 too hastily, he would have lost material: 13. Bxb8? Bb4+! and the knight check has a dual purpose. If Black moves his king to e7, it blocks the bishop and allows 14. Rxb8. If he plays 13. ... Kg6, then 14. Nxe6 not only wins a piece but also protects the rook on d8, so that 14. ... Bb4+ becomes harmless. This is true chess wizardry! – DM]*

Black resigned.

After the game my opponent asked me how long I spent preparing that line. I'm not sure he believed me when I told him I made it up over the board.

Mike Splane died on August 10, 2021, at the age of 67. This material is drawn from his book titled *Chess Wizardry*.

PHOTO: COURTESY USHA ANDRA

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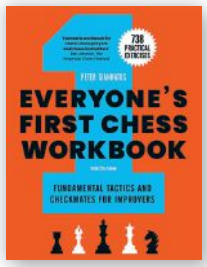
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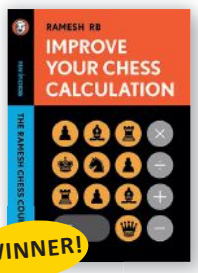
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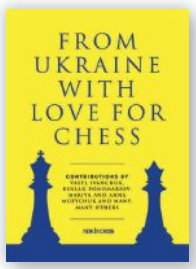


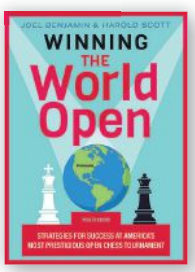
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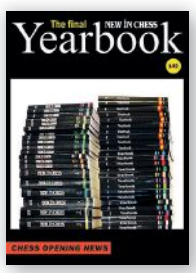


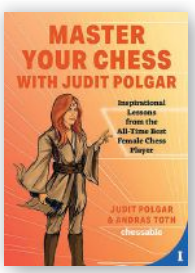
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Joel Benjamin & Harold Scott

In this new book, GM Joel Benjamin and Harold Scott present the history of the World Open, from its humble beginnings to the juggernaut it has become today. There are many entertaining stories and scandals that the reader will enjoy. *Winning the World Open* is as entertaining as it is instructive.

The final Yearbook – the end of an era

After 38 years, 142 Yearbooks, and more than 35,000 pages, the New In Chess Yearbook series comes to an end. In the final Yearbook, issue 142, you will still find more than two dozen new ideas in modern opening theory, ranging from the Rossolimo Sicilian to the King's Indian.



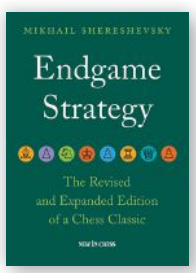


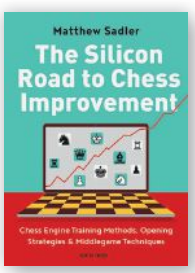
Private Lessons from Judit Polgar
Judit Polgar & Andras Toth

Judit Polgar was the best female chess player for a record 26 years. In this book, she reveals some of the secrets of her success and has created a course based on the training she received as a young player. It feels like private lessons from one of the best players in the world.

The updated classic with 100 extra pages
Mikhail Shereshevsky

In this widely acclaimed chess classic, Mikhail Shereshevsky explains how to master the most important endgame principles. Where other endgame manuals focus on the basics and theoretical endgames, this book teaches the 'big ideas' that will help you find the most promising and most practical moves in any endgame.



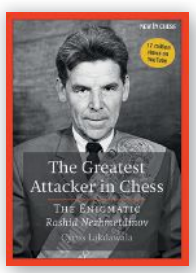


Explains how an Engine can Help Your Chess
Matthew Sadler

Matthew Sadler explains what is best in opening prep and improving your technique: playing training games against your engine! He also shows how the top engines tackle crucial middlegame themes, and presents new strategies that the engines found in popular openings such as the Grünfeld and the Sicilian. Your chess engine can do so much more than just calculate variations!

The Greatest Attacker in Chess!
Cyrus Lakdawala

Rashid Nezhmetdinov (1912-1974) played fearless attacking chess. His games, full of tactical pyrotechnics, are his legacy and have reached an ever-growing audience on YouTube with more than 17 million views! In this book, Cyrus Lakdawala shows in more than one hundred games how Nezhmetdinov bluffed and how he kept his cool to out-calculate his opponents.

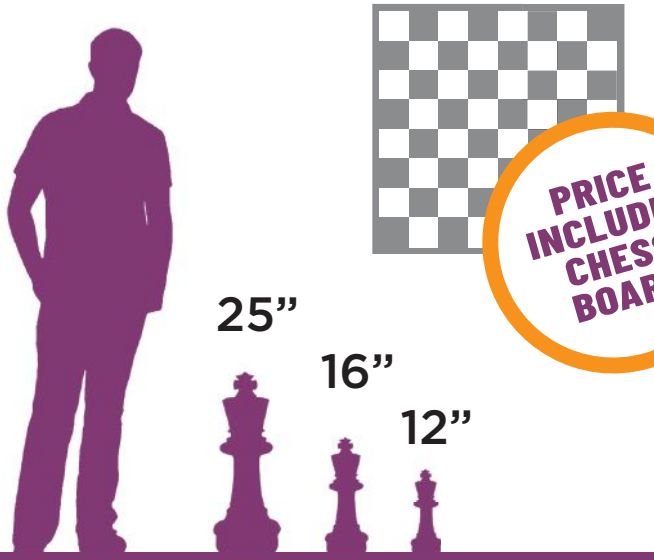


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