

50th
Anniversary

CHAMPIONSHIP

2020

U.S. AMATEUR

TEAM



Parsippany, N.J.

Atlantic Chess News

Annual Edition, 2020 WORLD & U.S. AMATEUR TEAM EAST

Traditions

Traditions are around us during the holidays. Families gather, and some have a certain dinner or dessert or an ornament on the tree. It could be Uncle Lou's menorah, or maybe the cookies Mom makes. These are all familiar things that take us back in time to another year.

It's not just the holidays that have traditions. For some portion of fifty years, in the middle of February chess players trek to New Jersey for the Team. In New Jersey, going back to the founding of our state association in 1886, the major chess event in the state was held on what used to be called Washington's Birthday weekend. World chess champion Steinitz, a Montclair resident, supported the state in those early years.

Over time, the weekend festival evolved. Today we know it as the Team. The parade of World Champions coming here didn't stop. Spassky, Kasparov and Karpov all came. Chess greats like Reshevsky played in this very ballroom. Today's greats have all played here, from Serivan to Christiansen, from Lombardy to Benjamin.

But most importantly, this is our tradition: seeing old friends, going to the diner, laughing at the outrageous team names, and saying hello to a player we have not seen in years. Even better is playing for glory. Everyone knows the feeling of fighting a good game, maybe losing, but if the team still won it's all good.

We reflect back on the years and the changes in the world around us, and we salute days gone by and look forward to the next year and the one after that. It has been 50 years of great chess, fun, and tradition! Thank you and welcome once again. Welcome to the veterans of Teams gone by and to the new players. It won't be your last, but actually the first of many!

E. Steven Doyle
Chief Organizer
Past President, NJ Chess
Past President, US Chess
Honorary Member of FIDE

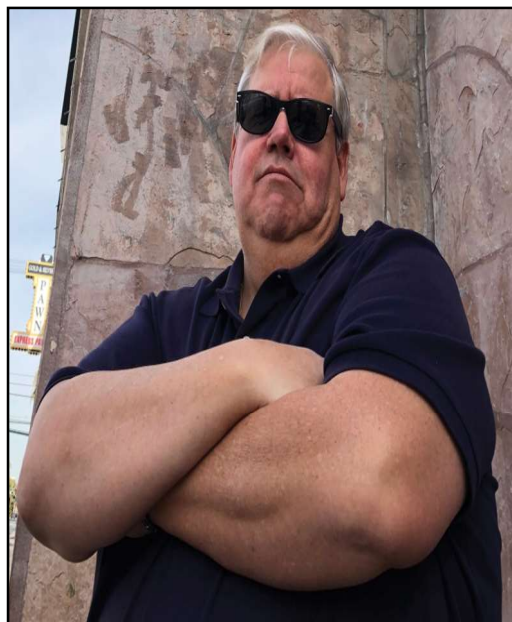


Photo Credit to Steve Doyle

Tremendous
thanks to John
Muth for the cover
graphic.

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A Few Words from the Editor

Welcome, dear readers, to the 50th annual World Amateur Team Tournament! This truly is a tournament of legendary proportions. It is, by far, the largest team tournament in the world. Despite the amateur label and lack of large prizes, it has drawn some of the great chess players of history. We often just call it “the Team,” and anyone who has played here can see why. This is not just a team tournament: it is the embodiment of what team chess should be. I regret that I only managed to play for four years before I got the call to help run the event, but I can confidently say now that those four tournaments will be some of the best ones in my hopefully very long chess life. My teams sat across from children and adults, people of all shapes and sizes, people from all sorts of places, novice tournament players and titled veterans. Most importantly, though, we all sat next to each other. That’s what the Team is about: chess people sitting next to, and eating with, and analyzing with, and laughing with their friends. In this issue, alongside our usual content, you will find a few pieces referencing the last 50 years of the Team.

On a related note, the NJSCF wants to publish your games! We hold three major tournaments every year (the current event, the US Amateur East Individual, and the NJ Open). As you will see here, we publish a ton of games from all three tournaments. These aren’t just GM games; we want to show off the skills of all of our players, from beginners up to world-class competitors.

Please, take advantage of the game-collection boxes that will be located at the TD desk during each of these tournaments this year. Give us a chance to show off your chess in our publications and on our website. Also, if you think there is something I can do to make this a more enjoyable edition next year, I want to hear about it! Finally, these pages do not fill themselves. If you have an idea of how to make this publication better or have some content that you think should be published, let me know at acneditor.njscf@gmail.com.

Finally, best of luck to you and your teammates this year. Thank you, players, for coming for the last 50 years of this epic tournament, and we look forward to having you for 50 more.

Sincerely,
Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein,
ACN Editor

The New Jersey Chess Federation is proud to support a variety of programs, tournaments and charities. These include:
The Monclair Sopranos
Alice Dong’s Chess Camp for Girls
The Charity Chess Championship
The World Disabled Youth Tournament
The USATE
The NJ Open
The USAE
The NJ Grade School Championships
and many others.

Check out the NJSCF online on njscf.org or on social media @njscf on Twitter and Facebook for info about NJ chess, our organizations, tournament results, and future tournaments!

The Atlantic Chess News was founded in 1973 by Glenn Petersen with the help of Pete Tamburro. This year’s edition is sponsored by the NJSCF and the United States Chess Federation.

This edition is dedicated to the great Denis Barry. He created this tournament a generation ago, and we are proud to carry on his dream. Denis was a legendary chess organizer and a president of the USCF. Steve Doyle, the current organizer of this tournament, was his protégé. Unfortunately, Denis passed after a brief illness in 2003. May he rest in peace, and may his legacy live on in this tournament.

RIP Don Carrelli

by Michael David Wojcio

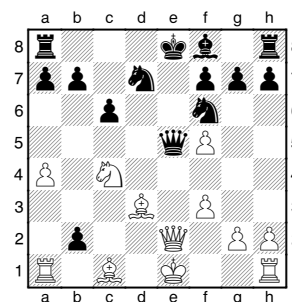
Don Carrelli was a good friend of mine. He died tragically on May 25th in Willingford, Connecticut while riding on a bike with a friend. He was only 37 years old. He was hit by a car driven by a person under the influence of mind-altering substances. He visited me in Las Vegas several months ago. Don told me about his travels to Thailand and Switzerland. He worked in the business offices of Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream Company. Don was also the former president of the Kenilworth Chess Club in New Jersey. Don taught chess to many students New Providence, NJ.

He gave me several of his chess students throughout the years for the Chessaholics Chess Teams at the World Amateur Team. Don had a great sense of humor; he was a juggler, a very smart businessman, a children’s chess teacher, a class A player, a section winner in the

2009 NJ Open, and a veteran of the Untied States Marines. Don was supposed to come and see me at the NYC Marathon on November 3, 2019. He told me he wanted to run that marathon someday. He also wanted to resume playing on the Chessaholics again in February of 2020.

Expert chess player Ian Mangion sent me one of Don’s games from when he was a B player. After looking at it, Don played this game like a master! I ran for Don at the New York Marathon in 2019.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.f3 e5 9.e4 exd4 10.exf5 dxc3 11.Bd3 cxb2 12.Qe2+ Qe5!!



13.Nxe5 bxa1Q 14.Nxc6+ Ne5 15.0-0 bxc6 16.Bb2 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Qxb2!! 18.Qxb2 Nxd3 19.Qe2+ Be7 20.Qxd3 0-0 21.Rc1 Rfd8 22.Qe3 Nd5 23.Qe4 Ba3 24.Re1 Bb4 25.Rf1 a5 26.g4 Re8 27.Qd4 Rad8 28.Rd1 c5 29.Qd3 c4 30.Qxc4 Ne3 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 0-1

What a beautiful game! It is rare to sacrifice a queen in the middlegame; to sacrifice two is the stuff of legend.



Photo courtesy of the Carrelli family

Last Year's Winners: Princeton Orange Leaps to the Top (with Princeton Black right on their Tail)!



The 2019 Team champions, from left to right: FM Ethan Li, Captain FM Kapil Chandran, Daniel Moreno, Zachary Holecek

With a clean 6-0 sweep of the tournament, Princeton Orange became last year's World Amateur Team champions. Princeton is no stranger to the Dennis Barry Award (which goes to the winner of each year's Team); they previously won back-to-back championships in 2013 and 2014. This year, a new group of some of the nation's brightest scholar-chess players took home the title: Captain FM Kupil Chandran lead the team, both as captain and in terms of his performance. He scored 5.5 out of six, beating two GMs and drawing a third on the way to a performance rating over 2600. Second board FM Ethan Li and third board Zachary Holecek both had strong, undefeated performances with 4 and 4.5 points, respectively. Finally, Daniel Moreno rounded out the team with a solid 3 points on board 4. This year's winners all have similar interests outside of chess: Kapil is studying math, Zachary and Daniel are studying financial engineering, and Daniel is studying economics.

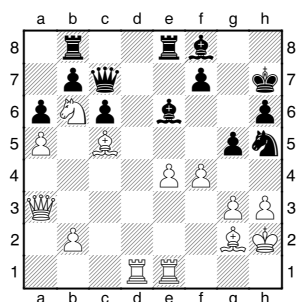
The path to 6-0 for Princeton Orange was a difficult one, with the victories in several rounds requiring some stellar perseverance after setbacks early on. For example, in their match against CKQ That, their perfect tournament almost came to an inauspicious end. Daniel's queen got trapped on fourth board, which left Princeton in a vulnerable position. Zachary then drew a higher-rated opponent on board 3, and Ethan squeaked out a victory in a drawish position to tie up the score. At this point, CKQ That's first-board GM, Arun Subramanian, decided to push for the win for his team, which was another high rated New Jersey team from a nearby chess academy that had solid chances to win the whole tournament. He pushed for a win in a balanced position, but Kapil repelled his assault and won the match for his team 2.5-1.5. A similar situation happened in the last round against Connecticut's Finest, wherein Daniel fell to an expert on board four before any of the other games in the match had concluded. The middle boards tied up the score, leaving Kapil, once again, with the weight of the tournament on his shoulders. In this matchup, though, their opponents had a more balanced lineup, and Kapil edged out his National Master opponent Arslan Otchiyev to complete the perfect tournament win and avoid the tiebreaker troubles that would have arisen from a draw. Following the win, hero captain Kapil told USCF journalist Al Lawrence, "USATE was a very difficult event that we were able to win because of our team's great resilience and a pinch of luck. In several rounds of the tournament we went down 0-1 early in a match. Each time, we had to fight hard to hang in there, resurface, and eventually swing the match around." Notably, this victory made Ethan one of a small number of people to ever win at the Team twice (he was a member of the Summer Academy for Talented Youth team that won in 2016).

It would be remiss of me not to mention the other Princeton team that came very close to victory this year. Princeton Black, made up of IM Vignesh Panchantham, Captain NM Aaron Balleisen, NM Christopher Yang, and Walter Li, scored 5.5 out of 6. It was almost by pure chance that the two teams never encountered each other on the way to first and third places overall, and they all agreed that such a match would have been quite interesting. As it was though, the more rating-balanced Princeton Orange managed to avoid any match draws, while Black drew another one of the top contenders in round 2. The teams admitted that they were often too busy with their studies to work on their chess during the school year. Despite this, they buckled down and prepared themselves to face the many strong, often titled opponents that they had to defeat on their way to first and third place. They attribute this in large part to their chess club. The strongest players, who are also the ones who go to club meetings most often, were instrumental in training some of their less experienced teammates so that they could play far above their ratings. The Princeton players are proud of their accomplishments and don't plan on stopping with this win. They were eagerly anticipating the Pan-American Collegiate Championship when I talked to them, and they emerged from that field tied for tenth place while facing many teams consisting of only IMs and GMs. They are excited to return to the Team this year to try to win it all again. You can check out the Princeton Chess Club and their various activities at <https://princetonchess.org> or @princetonchess on Facebook and Instagram.

Finally, Zachary was kind enough to annotate his round two game, which was one of the most important games of his personal tournament in addition to being a crucial victory for his team.

Holecek, Zachary (2023) –
Massey, Scott (2200)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3
0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e4 exd4
9.Nxd4 Re8 10.h3 a6 I was out of theory
here, but a6 is a popular continuation. I
decided to follow the normal develop-
ment pattern that White often uses in this
opening. 11.Re1 Rb8 12.a4 12.Rb1 c5
13.Nf3 b5 14.Qxd6 12...Ne5 13.Bf1 The
computer does not like this move, but b3
was unappealing. However, it turns out that
White retains a slight edge after b3. 13...h6
14.Be3 Kh7 15.f4 Ned7 16.Bf2 Nc5 17.Bg2
c6 18.a5 Nh5 19.Kh2 Qe7 20.Nb3 Nxb3
21.Qxb3 Qf6 22.Rad1 Qe7 White has a
very intuitive plan to follow, while Black
struggles to find good continuations. The
weak d6 pawn is a major drawback of play-
ing c6 in these types of positions. 23.Qa3
Bf8 24.Na4 Be6 25.c5 dxc5 26.Bxc5 26.f5
I missed the nice move f5, which can also
be a plan for White after f4. Here I was in
getting into some time trouble, so I was
trying to make moves that required less
calculation. 26...Qc7 27.Nb6 g5



I had not been playing very precisely,
but Black creates more weaknesses in an
attempt to create counterplay. g5 is just
losing. 28.Bxf8 Rxf8 29.f5 Ba2 is a nice
trick to try to confuse me into leaving g3
undefended in time pressure. 30.e5 Bd5
31.Nxd5 cxd5 32.Rxd5 Qc2 33.f6 Rfe8
34.Qf3 Qg6 35.Red1 Kg8 36.Qg4 Nxf6
36...b6 37.Bf3 White has other ways to win,
but winning the knight is the simplest.
37.exf6 37...Qxf6 38.Rf1 Qxb2 39.Qf5 Re7
40.Rd6 Kg7 41.Rf6
1-0

We won this round by a score of
2.5-1.5. It was the first of three rounds we
would win that way. After this game, I felt
confident that I could hold my own against
2200-rated players on board 3, and I was
able to avoid losing any games.

Second Annual Stockton University High School Team Chess Tournament

by Nicholas Carlson and Dr. Brad Forrest

The NJSCF is proud to support
various organizers throughout the state.
Read below about a tournament for high
schoolers run by the ambitious young
players at the Stockton University Chess
Club and sponsored by the NJSCF.
On February 23rd, 2019, Stockton
University in Galloway, New Jersey
hosted its second annual High School
Team Chess Tournament. Nineteen
students from three schools competed
in the four round, USCF-rated G/30;d5
tournament.

The top honors were taken by
the team of Jason Yan, Abhinav Ramidi,
Mayank Barad, Pranav Gaka, and Hazem
Zaky from High Technology High
School. They successfully defended High
Tech's title from last year. The victors
withstood a serious challenge from
the second-place team of Hugh Mai,
Grantas Mozuraitis, Eric Vilacoba, Owen
Greaney, and Kyle Novoa from Jackson
Memorial High School. After four close
rounds, these two teams were tied at
10.5 points (only the top four players
from each team counted for scoring).
The coaches agreed to allow the teams
to settle the championship with a blitz
tiebreaker, which High Tech won 3-2.

While several interesting games
were played during the tournament,
the round 2 match between Jackson
Memorial's Eric Vilacoba and High
Tech's Jason Yan (transcribed below) is
an excellent example of the level of chess
played at this tournament. For many
competitors, this was either their first
or one of their first rated tournaments.
Subsequently, these players (including
Eric, as evidenced by his level of play
shown below) played much stronger
chess than their ratings would suggest.

The organizers of this
tournament, Dr. Brad Forrest – Associate
Professor of Mathematics, Nicholas
Carlson – President, Osprey Chess
Club, and Nicholas Lang – President,
Stockton Gaming Club, would like to
thank the New Jersey Chess Federation
for their generous support of the
Stockton University High School Team
Chess Tournament. The organizers
also thank coaches John Bartlett,
Edward McDonald, and Sean Olson

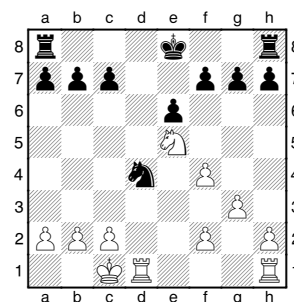
for supporting their students and the
tournament.

In addition to High Technology
High School and Jackson Memorial
High School, Oakcrest High School also
participated in the tournament.
The organizers of this tournament,
Dr. Brad Forrest – Associate Professor
of Mathematics, Nicholas Carlson –
President, Osprey Chess Club, Nicholas
Lang – President, Stockton Gaming Club,
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Vilacoba, Eric (568) - Yan, Jason (1725)

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Bf5 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Bd6 Black
strays from the book here and creates some
tension by threatening to double Whites
f-pawns. 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Bxf4 7.exf4
While the doubled pawns are not great,
White now has a very strong grip on the e5
square. 7...Qd6 8.g3 Nc6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.Ne5
This knight has planted itself in the center
and looks like it might be annoying for
Black. Still, it poses no immediate threat.
Black should simply play 10...0-0. 10...
Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qxe4 Qxd4 13.Qxd4
Nxd4 14.0-0-0!



With a sneaky queenside castling maneuver
at the end of the trades, White picks up
a tempo. Now Black will have to fight to
prevent a devastating invasion on the d-file.
14...Nb5 15.Rhe1 Nd6 16.g4?!

White got a good position, but he looked
to the wrong side of the board to try to
push his advantage. The Nd6 is blockading
the d-file; it must be chased away! After
committing to a kingside push, White loses

his edge. Better was 16.c4 b6 17.b4 a5 18.c5 16...f6 Black finally manages to dislodge the cavalry. 17.Nd3 Kf7 18.h4 Rae8 19.g5. Without the doubled f-pawns, White might have something. As it stands, White is like a chicken; he crossed the road only to get to the other side. Now the advanced kingside pawns will become weak. 19...h6 20.Rh1 Rd8 21.f3 Nf5 22.Nc5 Now it is Black how has gained a terrific knight outpost, and this time there is no way to kick it. 22...b6 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Nd3 c5 25.c3?? White's position was defensible, if a bit depressing. After dropping a knight, though, there is no hope. 25...Rxd3 26.Rd1 Rxd1+ 27.Kxd1 Nxb4 28.gxh6 gxh6 29.Ke2 Kg6 30.Ke3 Kf5 31.b4 cxb4 32.cxb4 0-1

The Story of the Team: Fifty Years of History in the Making and the Story of Steve Doyle's Tournament

by Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein, based on an interview with Steve Doyle

For many of the younger folks at the Team (myself included), their only memory of this tournament is of a massive affair which boasts more than 1000 players, spans three days, and is held at the beautiful Parsippany Hilton. Of course, this was not always the case. I spoke to the organizer and chief tournament director of this tournament, Steve Doyle, to learn about how it had grown into one of the biggest team chess tournaments in the world. The story begins with another fellow, one who most readers probably don't know. Denis Barry was a prolific organizer and a president of the USCF. He first organized a team tournament for the tri-state area in 1971. At first, it was held in Pennsylvania to middling success. Denis and fellow USCF president Leroy Dubeck moved it to Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1972 after gambling rose to prominence. This set the stage for a young Steve Doyle to attend the tournament in 1974. The next year, and every subsequent year except for one, Steve eschewed playing in favor of helping to run the event. By 1976, he was in charge of prizes. Steve quickly rose through the ranks of chess governance, and by 1984 he was not only the president of USCF, but, more importantly, Denis's right-hand man at the Team. Denis retired in 1990 after a superb chess career, and Steve was undisputedly the showrunner at the Team.

In his nearly 50 years at the Team, Steve has seen several locations, each with their ups and downs. Especially in the early years, there were several close calls at some less-than-ideal locations. After a short stint in Atlantic City, the team moved to Asbury Park to escape the environment full of gambling and other vices. The tournament almost didn't run since the location switch was late in the planning phase, but organizers pulled through and managed to run a small event at the Empress Motel. After this near miss, they moved down to Cherry Hill for a tournament that might have ended some events. By the third day of the tournament, the directors were convinced that most of the players just wouldn't show up. The only food left in the hotel was bread and cheese cubes. The air condition was broken, which, despite the blizzard outside, was a problem because packed ballroom was quite warm. Speaking of the ballroom, the tournament only took up half of it. Due to a scheduling mix-up by the hotel, the other half was occupied by a Star Wars fashion show. Despite the lack of food, abundance of smelly chess players, and the Wookiee roars from across the room, the players didn't care. They had come to play chess, and they were going to finish the tournament no matter what. The Team was resilient; it moved to the Marriott in Somerset for the next year, and from there it persisted and grew. It outgrew the Marriott by 1983, and by 1985 it found its way to the Somerset Hilton. After ten more years, it grew even more and moved to its current location. This will be the 25th year it is held in the Parsippany Hilton, meaning that half of the Team's lifetime has been spent at what everyone agrees is an excellent location.

Though it has changed in many ways over the last 50 years, one thing has always been constant about the Team: there is always something exciting going on. Many iconic figures, from world champions Karpov and Kasparov to famous coaches like Jack Collins, who prepared Bobby Fischer to win his world championship. The Team was one of the first tournaments to be run with the assistance of a computer (all the way back in the Somerset days). The excitement also comes in the form of all the fun names and gimmicks that teams prepare in order to amuse themselves and compete for the relevant prizes. In all his time at the Team, Steve found the most amusing gimmick to

be the arrival of the "Scotch Gambiteers" one year. They entered from all four corners of the ballroom dressed in kilts and playing the bagpipes. At what other chess event could you find such a scene? The naming competition is generally almost as fierce as the chess games that follow. Ever since this side event started back when the tournament was in Atlantic City, players have found a way to make Steve laugh with creative new names. The first few years were mainly wordplay with the names of GMs. As they began to run out, players turned to well-known shows and pop culture to find new chess puns and the like for names. Names based on political happenings started around the time of President Clinton and have become one of the most popular options over the past twenty years. Just a few of Steve favorites over the years, in no particular order, are: "Searching for Bobbit Stitche"; "Trent Lot Says Black is OK"; "Pillsbury En Croissant"; and "Bill Clinton, is your Piece Hanging?"

It has been a long journey from the first US Amateur East to the Team we know and love today. We never could have come so far without the tireless work of so many tournament directors and other staff members over the years. Steve has led a group of some of the most experienced chess professionals in country to run the biggest team tournament in the world. Thanks to Steve and all of the other people who gift the chess world with the greatest tournament on Earth year after year.

On the next page are some pictures from the archives of our annotator, Pete Tamburro. These are some reports from the first few years of the Team.

United States Team Championship

Hosted by the Westfield YMCA Chess Club

February 20 and 21

Westfield YMCA (Main Gymnasium), Westfield, N. J.

Five-round Swiss, open to any team of five USCF members (4 players and one alternate), provided the average rating (per last publication) of the four highest-rated players is 2100 or less. Team captains must assign boards according to ratings, highest on Board One. Alternate may play only on Board Four and must be lowest-rated player.

Time limit: 50 moves in 2 hours, 13 moves per half hour thereafter. Rounds: Saturday 10 AM, 3:30 PM and 8 PM; Sunday 11 AM and 4 PM.

PRIZES

First Team: Trophy plus four clocks

Second Team: Trophy plus four clocks

Third Team: Trophy plus four clocks

First Team Under—1800: Trophy plus four clocks

First Team Under—1600: Trophy plus four clocks

First Team Under—1400: Trophy plus four clocks

First High School Team: Trophy plus four clocks

First Industrial Team: Trophy plus four clocks

Individual prizes: Top player on each board receives trophy and clock.

Top Pennsylvania Team: Trophy

Top New Jersey Team: Circulating Trophy

Best individual scores by New Jersey residents: Clocks to Boards 1, 2, 3 and 4.

ENTRY FEE: \$30 if mailed by February 14, 1971, later \$35 per team. Entries accepted at site from 8:30 to 9:30 AM Saturday, February 20.

Make All Checks Payable to U. S. C. F.

PLEASE BRING CLOCKS

Send entries and inquiries to:

Denis J. Barry
10 Saffron Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08817

PLEASE BRING CLOCKS

Nation's Capitol First U. S. Team Champions

In the very first U.S. Team Championship held, the District of Columbia Chess Team took the first place spot with a score of 5½-½. Their team consisted of five well-known D.C. players: Norman T. Whitaker, Prof. George Meyer, Kenneth Clayton, Ivan Romanenko and Captain Glenn Hartlieb. Held at the luxurious Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh, N.C., the event was hosted by the local Vass-Barden Chess Club. Mr. Edward Schmidt, an official of the State of North Carolina opened the event with the following prophecy: "It is my belief that the U.S. Team Championship has the possibilities of growing into one of the largest and most popular chess events in the United States. In a team match there is an esprit de corps that does not exist in individual tournaments. The State of North Carolina and the City of Raleigh are proud to have been chosen as the first hosts for this historic event."

Over 60 players completed representing 11 major teams. The Scarlet Knights Chess Club of New Jersey tied D.C. in match points but tallied 16 game points to D.C.'s 18½. U.S. Master Leroy Dubeck captured the Jersey title.

In the third place spot was the Independent Chess Club of N.J. followed by the Pittsburgh Chess Club.

The event was directed by Frank Brady and conducted by the U.S. Chess Federation. \$500.00 in cash prizes were awarded in addition to \$200.00 worth of trophies. The winning team gained one year's possession of the Maurice J. Kaspar Trophy for the U.S. Team Championship in addition to receiving individual trophies for each member of the team.

Asked about next year's site Brady announced that no city had been chosen at that time and that bids from cities would be accepted up to November of 1961.



The first U.S. Team Champions—from left to right, Prof. George Meyer, Kenneth Clayton, Frank Brady—Tournament Director, Ivan Romanenko, Glenn Hartlieb, Norman T. Whitaker.

Lajcik Dominates

Tom Lajcik, local chess expert, bested a field of 33 players from 6 states in the 4th Cincinnati Open Chess Tournament held at Central Parkway Y.M.C.A. recently. With a score of 4½-½, he conceded only one draw to Jerry Fink of

Dayton who shared 2nd to 5th places with a score of 4-1 with Richard Ling of Dayton, Edward Formanek of Berwyn, Ill. and David Berger who won the prize for the highest ranking junior player as well. Berger has been both a player and organizer in the Cincinnati High School league and has also shown his strength in individual tournaments.

Seidman Tops Powerful Field

U.S. Master Herbert Seidman of Brooklyn, N.Y. topped an extremely strong field of 38 players in the N.Y. State Championship recently. A nine round Swiss was held at Cazenovia, N.Y. and Seidman placed ahead of a field of nine Masters and 14 Experts with an average tournament rating 2400. He scored 7½-1½—losing only one game to the defending champion Dr. Erich W. Mardhand and drawing one with David Grimsbow of Toronto, Canada. He defeated International Grandmaster Paul Benko in addition to Masters Paul Brandts, and Ariel Mengarini and Experts Joseph G. Rosenstein, Benjamin Greenwald, Mitchell Saltzberg, David Grimsbow and Dr. Bruno Schmidt. Benko tied Seidman in game points but remained a half-point behind in tie-breakers. Clear third while enjoyed by Grimsbow at 6½-2½ while five players tied at 6-3: Jan Pajlens of Brooklyn, Mitchell Saltzberg of New York City, John Westbrock of Brooklyn, Brian Owens of Great Neck and David Grimsbow of Rochester. The event was directed by Frank Brady and sponsored by the New York State Chess Association. At the association's annual meeting Harold C. Evans of Binghamton, N.Y. was elected President and Theodore Loos of Jamaica, N.Y. Vice-President. Master Emeritus Harold M. Phillips was re-appointed Treasurer.

Sommerville Best In Summer

The Penn State Summer Open was won by Richard Sommerville with a score of 4½-½ in a field of 26 players. Held at the beautiful campus of PSU the event was directed by Mordecai Treblow, a graduate student at the university. Rev. George Bingham of Shamokin, Pa. and Pittsburgh's Bill Byland scored four points and were awarded 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. Master Emeritus Bill Ruth of Collingswood, N.J. and J. Glenn Waltz of Pittsburgh were fourth and fifth with scores of 3½-1½. Dr. Robert G. Bernreuter, Dean of Admissions of PSU awarded the prizes and additional awards went to E. S. Alley as the Top Class A player, Carl Deitrich, Top B, David Yont, Top C and Robert Speer, Top Unrated.

Lajcik is also the holder of the Parkway Club Championship and the Cincinnati City Championship. He has held both titles for two years running. Richard Ling won the prize for the highest ranking A player. Don Elston of Hamilton, Ohio, and Mike Thayer won the prize for the highest ranking B or C player.

AUGUST, 1961

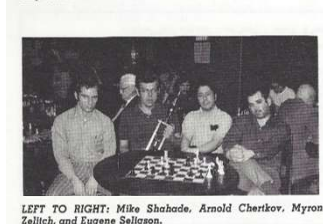
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1971 U.S. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

By Dr. Leroy Dubeck,
USCF President

Thirty-four teams competed in the 4th U.S. Team Chess Championship, held at the Westfield YMCA, Westfield, New Jersey. This turnout was far larger than at previous team tournaments (1961, 1962, and 1964).

The Franklin Mercantile Team captured first place with 4½ match points out of 5 maximum. The 1971 U.S. Team Champions consisted of USCF Master Mike Shabade (3½-1½), Arnold Chertkov (3½-1½), Myron Zelitch (4-1), and Eugene Seligson (4-1). They represented the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is located in rather spacious quarters in the St. James Hotel. This Club, boasting about 150 members, is open seven days a week. Its Activities Manager, Tony Buzek, also captained the championship team.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mike Shabade, Arnold Chertkov, Myron Zelitch, and Eugene Seligson.

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CHESS LIFE & REVIEW

more readily afford this move. But why move the Pawn at all, particularly since the move limits the scope of his own Bishop? Certainly the text does not permanently prevent White from playing P-KB4. Black ought to advance his plan of exchanging rooks so that he may control the open file, temporarily at least, in some compensation for the Bishop pair. 17. Rf8; 18. QxR, R-Q1; 19. Q-K2, N-K4 and Black seems no worse off than White. Any fear of Q-R5 in that line is groundless.

16. B-B3, N-B1; 19. K-N2, N-K3; 20. B-N4,



With this move White's advantage becomes more tangible. Black is forced to enter an inferior ending, one which, although not necessarily lost, is extremely difficult to hold under pressure of tournament conditions.

20. Rf8; 21. Rf8, R-Q1; 22. Rf8ch, Nf8; 23. B-B8, Temporarily tying down the Knight, thus gaining time to get the other Bishop into the field.

23. P-KR3; 24. P-N3, K-R2; 25. B-R3, P-Q2; 26. P-KR4, There is less and less room for the Black pieces. In order to free his Knight he must surrender the valuable diagonal on which his Bishop is posted.

26. P-B4. Sad, but what else? Perhaps waiting tactics should have been adopted, K-N2 and P-KR4. In that case White played P-KJ3—for the Black Queen has no way into the White position to administer annoying checks—followed by Q-Q3-Q7.

27. P-R5, The purpose here is to demolish the Black King-position to expose that monarch to attack.

27. Q-B3; 28. B-KN4, K-N2; 29. Q-B4, PxP; 30. BxRP, N-K3. The Knight is out, but where to now?

31. B-KN4, N-B2; 32. Q-Q3, White was clearly on his way to the win but here Black ends the fight by overloading a piece.

31. N-N4; 32. B-Q7, P-B3; 34. BxQ, P-Q2; 35. BxN. Black resigns.

STUDENTS WIN U. S. TEAM TITLE

Warming up for their European trip, five members of the U.S. Student Team travelled to Bethesda, Md. on July 10 to play in the 3rd United States Team Championship. William Lombardy, Charles Kalme, Bernard Zuckerman and Michael Valvo comprised the Students and were scored an easy victory in a ten-team field. With an average USCF rating of 2446 (!) they breezed through the five-round Swiss with the greatest of ease. Runnersup were the Scarlet Knights (N.J.) 4-1 and third was Franklin-Mercantile (Philadelphia).

The event was held at the Bethesda Youth Center and a generous prize fund of \$600 was donated by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Round 13

All I can say about this game is that I didn't win, or couldn't win, or even might have lost. Well, I'll let the reader solve the problem. The final round game:

SICILIAN DEFENSE

WHITE: James McCormack BLACK: W. Lombardy
1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N-KB3, P-Q3; 3. P-Q4, PxP; 4. NfP, N-KB3; 5. N-QB3, P-QR3; 6. B-K2, P-K4; 7. N-N3, B-K2. In my game with Pandy from the same tournament, I had played 7. B-K3. To keep my opponent off balance I decided to vary from that course. Unfortunately, my only adversary had something prepared a la Geller-Fischer, Curacao 1962. It wasn't until I found myself tangled in the same position Fischer got, that I began to wonder about my chances. However, I was encouraged by the course of the Kirby-R. Byrne game, which, only after a complicated opening, was being reduced to a drawn Knight and Pawn ending.

8. Q-O, Q-O; 9. B-K3, B-K3; 10. P-B4, Q-B2. The alternative 10. P-P is better in this position, since White has already lost time with B-K3 and must lose a tempo to make the normal recapture of BxP.

11. P-B5, B-B5; 12. P-QR4, Q-NQ2. Black could try to equalize with 12. P-Q4, but it seems that after 13. PxP, R-Q1; 14. BxR, QxR; 15. N-R5, Q-B2; 16. N-N3, Black might have difficulty trying to win the game.

16. B-N5; 17. P-R5 threatening N-B6. 13. P-R5, P-QN4. Black must break now, else R-R4 prohibits any further bids for active counter-play.

14. PxP, e.p., N-NP; 15. K-R1, KR-B1. As an afterthought I decided that R-K1-N1 was better. 16. BxN, QxR; 17. BxR, RxB; 18. Q-K2, R-N5; 19. R-R2, Q-N2? Up to this point all had been the game Geller-Fischer. It was my good fortune to change course, Fischer, as I understand, had played 19. Q-B2. The text has merit at least in that it draws my opponent away from that well-trodden line, perhaps making him feel a little less secure.

20. N-R5, Q-B1; 21. N-Q5, N-N; 22. PxN, B-B3; 23. P-B4, Correct was N-B6. 23. Q-B1; 24. Q-B1, P-K5. Having previously turned down a goodly number of offers of the draw, Black has decided to play it safe, and so in turn offers the draw. Well, may he have done so, for White still has the advantage and may even win a Pawn: 25. N-H6, R-N6 (best); 26. QxP, Rf8; 27. Rf8, KR-B1. The game would then be far from decided, but nevertheless, White has his Pawn.

White accepted the draw. In a tight situation, sometimes a good reputation is better than a good move! Certainly I hadn't played more than one good move in this game, and the quality of that debatable—1. P-QB4!

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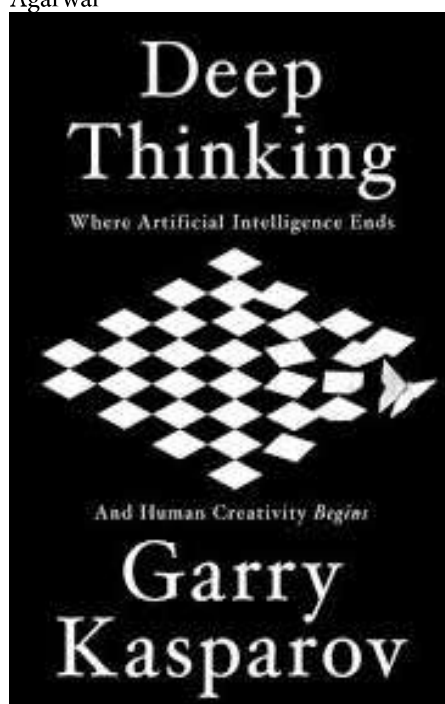
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One other treat: here is a list of the best team name winners each year since the inception of this tradition. The range of references is amazing.

2015	Legalize Caruana
2014	NSA is Perpetually Checking
2013	Rg3 Offensive Rook of the Year
2012	Team Romney: We Play Both Sides of the Board
2011	Chilean Defense: No Minor Pieces Trapped
2009	I Can See Russians from My Board
2008	No Longer Searching for Bobby Fischer
2007	e2 Brute?
2006	Dick Cheney Attack: Bird's Variation
2005	King of Pop perpetually Touches Minor Pieces
2004	USCF Unstable Cash Flow
2003	Trent Lott Says Black is O.K.
2002	Enron's 401K Plan – No Perpetual Check
2001	Harry Patzer and the Poisoned Pawn
2000	Does Your Peter Leko
1999	Forking Geniuses
1998	Mr. Clinton Your Piece is Hanging
1997	Tickle Me ELO
1996	Hickory, Dickory, Doc, We're Going to Win a Clock
1994	Searching for Bobby Sticher
AND	Searching for Bobbit's Bishop
1993	White Pawns Can't Jump
1991	My Flag is Falling and I Can't Get Up
1990	We Don't Ivanchuk a Pawn
1989	Two Knights, Let it Be Lowenthal
1988	Little Karpov Horrors
1987	You Rook Mahvelous
1986	Baked E Lasker
1985	No Pawn Intended
1984	Tahlstoy's War and Pieces
1983	Saemisch Usual
1982	Buenas Nochess (Good Knight)
1981	Tarrasch Collectors
1980	This was the first year for which we have record of the best names. The contest was not yet formalized, so the organizers simply noted a few of the names that they particularly enjoyed: Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars; The Meat Machines; Pochahantis & the Nimzo-Indians; The Pawnographics; Kiss My Rooks; The Vera Mecnchik Brigade; Future Schach

Deep Thinking: Where Machine Intelligence Ends and Human Creativity Begins

A book review by Yuvanshu Agarwal



There are many examples of media that pertain to the history and future of technology, from the occasional informative article on the progression of technology through humanity to the regular stream of novels about the dangers of artificial intelligence (AI). One example is one of my personal favorite stories, James Cameron's classic movie *The Terminator*. However, no movie magic compares to GM Garry Kasparov's latest book, *Deep Thinking: Where Machine Intelligence Ends and Human Creativity Begins*, where Kasparov provides a fresh and optimistic outlook on AI after battling computers for his career and legacy. As the first player to battle Deep Blue, a supercomputer capable of playing at world champion level, Kasparov understands the development and progression of chess machines and technology throughout history to the point where it surpassed human chess strength and the impact these machines will have on the future of humanity.

As an avid chess player myself, I am a big fan of former world champion Garry Kasparov. He is one of the greatest players of all time, and his popular book *My Great Predecessors* has improved the chess knowledge and skill of millions of players around the world. He currently runs the Kasparov Chess Foundation, an

organization which has provided a chess education to millions of students across the United State, and helped foster some of America's greatest chess talents. Apart from being a retired chess champion and coach, Kasparov is a brilliant writer. Among his works are other bestsellers such as *Winter is Coming* and *How Life Imitates Chess*. To put the cherry on top, Garry has been lecturing at famous universities and speaking to AI experts and futurists for a long time.

Kasparov is one of the people asking the big questions. In today's society, we constantly worry about the addition of super intelligent machines into our jobs, lives, and future, and we wonder how to make this inevitable addition as beneficial as possible. Kasparov highlights his own outlook by explaining that super intelligent machines might take away blue-collar and white-collar jobs, but we need to adapt to the change instead of resisting it. Kasparov draws a parallel to the Sputnik movement that prompted America to hustle in the space race by describing how America needs to gain more incentive and proactivity by thinking of their long-term agenda instead of their short-term struggles. I feel that we need to follow his positive and more digital-utopian-type viewpoint to see a future that is more technologically advanced in a beneficial and positive way.

Apart from discussing the impact of super intelligent entities, Kasparov brilliantly describes the makeup of the earliest chess machines. Before there was Fritz, Houdini, or Stockfish, more elementary chess programs existed such as the Kotok-McCarthy program, the ITEP machine, the far more developed Belle, and the infamous Deep Blue. The history of such programs is important because it demonstrates the first attempts at configuring machines with intelligence. The chess engines we use today have only come through an exponential increase in processing speeds and the trial and error of numerous coding methods that could replicate human chess understanding.

One of the most important aspects of Kasparov's book is his match between the infamous Deep Blue and the conspiracies and emotions behind it. Kasparov describes his personal experiences, thoughts, and emotions both on and off the board in an unprecedented way. It was mind boggling to be in the shoes of a man that was being watched by millions and up against a merciless computer, battling for his chess

legacy. Here Kasparov is like John Henry: he knows that he has to do everything in his power to beat the train. This match is so crucial for the world of technology and artificial intelligence because it demonstrates the tipping point at which machines officially surpass humans at a previously human-dominated activity. As Kasparov mentions, "There is no going back."

Although Kasparov supplies an abundant amount of knowledge on the makeup of chess machines and the contributions they had in his match, I would have appreciated more insight into how and why other artificial intelligence entities or machines are currently being developed. A fantastic piece of literature, I rate Deep Thinking: Where Machine Intelligence Ends and Human Creativity Begins 4.5 out of 5 stars. Chess is only the beginning. As humanity, we have yet to realize the incredible impact that artificial intelligence will strike upon our world.

Monclair Sopranos: The Final Season (in the PRO Chess League)

story by Sean Finn, annotations by GM Mac Molner

The NJSCF is proud to support high-level chess. The Monclair Sopranos played in the Professional Rapid Online (PRO) Chess League, an online, rapid time control, world-wide arena for the greatest players in the world, including reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

As the 2020 season of the PRO Chess league commences, many New Jersey and tri-state chess fans are confused: where are the Montclair Sopranos?

The Sopranos finished the 2019 season with proud accomplishments and high hopes for the future. The bottom two teams in each division were subject to relegation; we had avoided this fate before the season had even ended, making the playoffs only to get eliminated in the first round in an 8-8 draw that allowed Saint Louis – the eventual champions – to advance on draw odds. In the months leading up to 2020, the league let us know about some rule changes regarding streaming and other minor tweaks that left little doubt that the Sopranos would be back with a vengeance. As PRO Chess League fans watching the 2020 season already know, the Sopranos, along with many other teams, are no longer competing. So, what happened?

Despite fighting the good fight
NJ State Chess Federation

on behalf of NJ, we could not get the powers that be at Chess.com and the League leadership to reconsider a last-minute major overhaul to the league as we knew it. A number of teams are gone along with a number of beloved policies. Worst of all – New Jersey is gone! The PRO Chess League decided to tear up the existing rules, and along with them, their commitment to promoting women in the league through rating incentives. They eliminated many teams (particularly here in the US) despite dedicated players, fanbases, managers and sponsors. Most insulting to New Jersey, they made it clear to us right before our 2020 season was to start that they had decided they wanted one Tri-State team, and they wanted it to be New York. Why did this happen? To be perfectly transparent, we are still not sure. The reasons provided have been inconsistent and conflicting, and we can only say we do not agree with these changes.

One of the most devastating changes to the rules was throwing out the average rating cap. This affects underrated, up-and-coming kids and chess professionals below the 2600 mark. It also affects women. The league previously used the rating cap to incentivize teams to sign women by allowing teams with women a higher cap. These are priorities not only shared by managers, players, and fans, but also, of course, by sponsors. Sadly, these changes came so late in the game that it was nigh impossible to push back, although, being the Jersey boys and girls we are, we did try. Like most teams, we had started contracting in September, and we did so with more fervor than ever based on the league rating cap rules at the time. In the case of the Sopranos, the league knew about the ongoing and generous sponsorship from the New Jersey State Chess Federation, but they declined to reveal that there would not be a New Jersey team until the 11th hour. To say it plainly: NJ is a great chess state, and we deserve better.

Despite all of these frustrating changes, the Sopranos remain proud of the past three seasons and committed to growing and engaging the New Jersey chess community and broader online community. In the spirit of celebrating the great chess in the great state of Jersey (and recognizing that it takes more than

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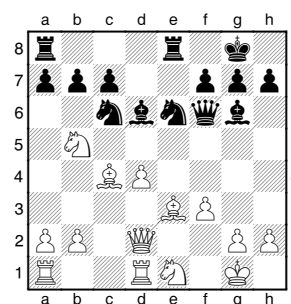
a few rule changes to get a Soprano down for good), let's take a look at last season's impressive gameplay:

The 2019 season was a whirlwind, and the Sopranos battled hard in what many considered to be the toughest of the four divisions: the Atlantic Division. In fact, the season admittedly started with a low point. The Sopranos lost our first match – and not just to any team. We lost 9-7 to our local rivals from across the Hudson – the New York Marshalls. Although it was certainly a disappointing season opener, the team took solace in the impressive play from WGM Carissa Yip, who upset GM Anton Demchenko in the first round.

(1) Yip, Carissa (2279) - Demchenko, Anton (2679)

08.01.2019

Carissa goes into this game as a significant underdog but capitalizes on an unexpected chance. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 Ne4 5...d5 This is a vastly more popular move, but I think the move featured in the game is very underrated. 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Now Black has a serious choice. 7...Bd7 (7...Bc5 is another option). 6.Qe2 Nc5 7.0-0 Ne6 8.Rd1 d5 9.exd6 Bxd6= 10.c3 0-0 11.cxd4 Re8 12.Be3 12.Qf1! This would be the best way to get out of the pressure on the e-file and set up the threat of d4-d5. The game is about level. 12...Nf4 13.Qd2 Qf6 14.Ne1 Bg4 14...Qh4! 15.g3 Is not a concern due to the intermediate check on h3 15...Nh3+ 16.Kh1 Qh5μ 15.f3 Bh5 16.Nc3 Bg6 17.Nb5 Ne6??



This is a very big blunder which is pretty surprising considering the standard nature of the fork that Black walks into. 18.Nxd6! cxd6 19.d5 Ne5 20.Bb5 Maybe Black missed this move which guarantees material gain. 20...Nf8 21.Bxe8 Rxe8 22.Bd4 Qh4 23.f4 Ned7 24.Nf3 Qd8 25.Re1 Re4 26.Ng5 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 h6 28.Nf3 28.Ne6! This would be a fancy and strong way to

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force simplification. 28...fxe6 29.dxe6 Nf6 30.e7+- 28...Nb6 29.Qa5 Qb8 30.Bxb6 axb6 31.Qxb6 Nd7 32.Qe3 Nf6 33.Nd4 Qa8 34.f5 Bh7 35.Qa3 Qd8 36.Qb3 Qc7 37.Kh1 Kh8 38.a4 Qc5 39.Nf3 Bxf5 40.Qxb7 Be4 41.Qxf7 Bxd5 42.Qf8+ Kh7 43.Re7 Qc1+ 44.Ng1 Qg5 44...Bxg2+!= 45.Kxg2 Qg5+ with a perpetual check. 45.Re2 Ng4 46.h3 Ne5 47.Qxd6 Nd3 48.Rd2 Nf4 48...Qxd2- + 49.Nf3 Bxf3 50.gxf3 Qg3 51.a5 Qxf3+ 52.Kg1 Qg3+ 53.Kf1 Qxh3+ 54.Ke1 Qh1+ 55.Kf2 Qh2+ 56.Ke3 Qg3+ 57.Ke4 g5 58.Qe7+ Kg6 59.Qe8+ Kf6 60.Rd6+ Kg7 61.Qe7+ Kg8 62.Rd8# There were a few scary moments near the end of the game, but that's common for fast time controls and part of what makes the PRO Chess League so exciting to watch. What an impressive victory for Carissa!

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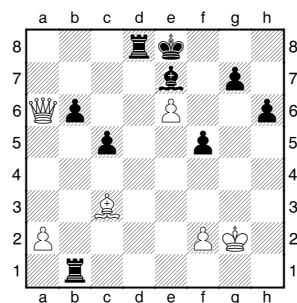
We really picked up in the next two matches. The Sopranos beat the London Lions 8.5 – 7.5, fending off what was nearly a last-minute comeback in the final games. The Sopranos then beat the Pittsburgh Pawngrabbers in week 3 with a decisive 10-6 finish – a satisfying accomplishment against division rivals who edged out the Sopranos from qualifying for the playoffs in 2018 (the only year the Sopranos failed to qualify). Critical to victory was poker pro and chess expert from New Jersey Dan Smith. Fielding the underrated Smith allowed GM Guseinov, GM Sevian and GM Lenderman to dominate the top three boards for us in one of the cleanest wins of the season, but it was Smith himself who really shined this match by upsetting 4-time US Champion GM Alexander Shabalov.

(2) Smith, Daniel (2047) - Shabalov, Alexander (2529)

023.01.2019

I grew up playing in youth tournaments with Dan. He has since become a world-class poker player, but every now and then he busts out the chess board with impressive results! Here he takes on former US Champion Alex Shabalov. 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Bc4 Dan was following the advice of one of our mutual friends, Alex Barnett. This is not a common variation, but it contains some practical problems for Black. 5...c6 5...e6 6.d4 d6 7.cxd6 cxd6 Now we are back in a variation of the c3 Sicilian. 6.Nc3 Nxc3? This accelerates White's development and leaves Black struggling to develop the rest of their pieces. 6...e6!?: 6...d6! 7.cxd6 exd6 8.Nxd5 cxd5 9.Bxd5 dxe5 10.Qb3 with an

interesting but balanced position. 7.dxc3! e6 8.b4 8.Be3!± 8...b6 9.cxb6 axb6 10.Be3 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Nf3 Be7 13.Qd4 13.a4! Black needs to rearrange their pieces on the queenside; this move will help keep their pieces restricted while retaining the option to advance at a good moment. 13...c5! 14.Qg4 Kf8?! 14...g6,, 15.b5 Nc7 16.c4 Ra4 17.Qe4! Dan finds a great way to regroup his pieces and keep his queenside protected. Black's c7-knight is a permanent problem as long as White can maintain his central space. 17...f5 18.Qc2 Qa8 19.0-0 Kf7± 20.Rfd1 20.Ng5+! 20...Rd8 21.Rd2 h6 22.Rad1 Ke8 23.h4 23.Re2! The computer points out this strong maneuver: 23...Kf7 24.Bc1 Ne8 25.h4 Ra7 26.h5 Kf8 27.a3! Now it's clear why the Bishop belongs on c1. White prevents all of Black's pawn breaks, so he is condemned to passive defense. 23...Rb4 24.Rd3 Qa4 25.Qd2? Rxc4-+ 26.Rxd7 Qxd1+ 27.Qxd1 Rxd7 28.Qe2 Rb4 29.Bd2 Rb1+ 30.Kh2 Nxb5 31.g4! In a bad situation, Dan is able to make the game very complicated. This was a great choice in a fast time control game like this one. 31...Nd4 32.Nxd4 Rxd4 33.gxf5 Rxh4+?? 33...Rb2! 34.Kg2 exf5 35.Qa6! Rd4 36.Bc3 Rd8 37.e6+- By this point, White has managed to completely turn the tables. The e6-pawn is a devastating wedge in Black's position.



37...Kf8 38.Qb7 Rbd1 39.Bxg7+ Kxg7 40.Qxe7+ Kg6 41.Qf7+ Kg5 42.e7 Rc8 43.e8Q Rxe8 44.Qxe8 Rd4 45.Qe7+ Kh5 46.Qf7+ Kg5 47.Qg7+ Kh5 48.Kf3 This was a hard fight and an impressive victory over the former US Champion.

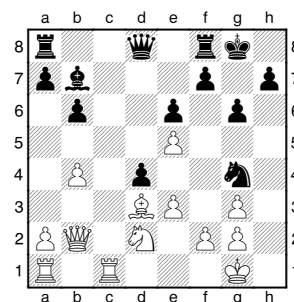
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In week 4, the Sopranos competed in the first of three Battle Royales during the season – a special format week weighted more heavily than regular weeks. Each team played one round in board order against seven other teams across the different divisions at

the faster 10min + 2sec time control. The Sopranos placed a solid 4th with strong play from new members of the Sopranos squad like WGM Sabina Foisor, the 2018 US Women's Champion.

(3) Kiewra, Keaton (2362) - Foisor, Sabina-Francesca (2276) 30.01.2019

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 I've always known Keaton to be an aggressive and active player. It's a bit surprising to see him playing the London system, but it's been gaining a lot popularity lately. 2...e6 3.e3 Bd6 4.Bg3 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 7...Ba6 8.Ne5 c5 9.c3 Nc6 10.Nd2 Ne7 11.Qb1 is a common idea to help set up play on either wing. 11...g6 12.b4 12.f4 Qc7 13.Bh4 Ne8 12...cxb4 13.cxb4 Nf5 13...Nh5!? This would be a good response as well. It gains the bishop pair and prepares f7-f6 to expel the knight. 14.Rc1 Nxg3 15.hxg3 Bxe5!? 16.dxe5 Ng4 17.Qb2 d4?! is a clever idea to unleash the light-squared bishop and use the d-file pins to free up Black's pieces. Surprisingly, though, it turns out that White's knight ends up with the most potential after all of this once it starts heading towards the weakened d6 square.



18.Qxd4?! 18.exd4! Nxe5 19.dxe5 Qxd3 20.Nc4!² The knight will be a major pain on d6. 18...Nxe5 19.Qxe5 Qxd3 20.Nf3 Rac8 20...Bxf3! 21.gxf3= 21.Qd4 Qf5 22.g4 Qd5 23.Qxd5 Bxd5 24.Ne5 Rfd8 25.g5 Kf8 25...Kg7! Black needed to fight for the f6-square as soon as possible. 26.f3² Ke7 27.a4 27.e4! Bb7 28.Ng4! White will follow up with e4-e5 and Nf6 with a dominating dark squared bind and annoying pressure on the h7 pawn. 27...f6 28.gxf6+ Kxf6 29.Ng4+ Ke7 30.Kf2 h5 31.Ne5 Kf6 32.Nd7+ Ke7 33.Ne5 Kf6 34.Nd7+ Ke7 35.Rxc8 Rxc8 36.Ne5 Kf6 37.Nd3? 37.Nd7+ White needed to bail and go for the repetition. This is their last chance. If White allows Black's rook and king to infiltrate, there is no possible way it can be better for White. 37...Rc2+!µ 38.Kg3 g5 39.a5 Rd2 40.Ra3 Bc4 41.axb6 axb6 42.Ne1 h4+ 43.Kh2 Bf1 44.Kg1 Bc4 45.Rc3

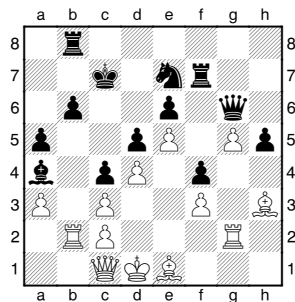
b5 46.Rc2 Rd1 47.Kf2 Rb1 48.f4 g4 Once Sabina was given a chance, she didn't let it slip. Nice resilience was shown by the 2018 US Women's Champion.

0-1

Next, the Sopranos beat the Miami Champions with another clutch performance from Smith on board 4. The gollo3wing match promised to be even tougher, though. The Saint Louis Arch Bishops, led by super GMs Fabiano Caruana and Wesley So, were widely seen as the favorites to win the league. It was a tough match which the Sopranos lost, though they did draw some blood, most notably with high school grandmaster Nico Checa beating Fabiano Caruana.

(4) Caruana, Fabiano (2828) - Checa, Nicolas (2508)

This is the most impressive victory of the year for any of the Sopranos players. Not much could top our young GM's performance from this game in which he beat the number 2 player in the world. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3** Fabiano has had some impressive results on the White side of the French Defense and is typically a player to emulate for how to play against the French. I believe Nico always plays the French, so this is an interesting struggle in the making from the first few moves. **3...Bb4 3...Nf6** This is, of course, a serious alternative as well. **4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.h4** is not the most popular move here. Qg4 is more common and considered the mainline. **7.Qg4** can lead to very sharp play **7...Qc7 8.h5 h6 9.Nf3 b6 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bd3 Ba4** is a standard idea to freeze White's queenside. **12.0-0 c4 13.Be2 Nbc6 14.Nh4 0-0-0 15.Bg4 Qd7 16.Bh3 Rdg8 17.Re1?** **17.g3** This is a good idea to prevent White's pieces from becoming too tangled. White needs to deal with the threat of g7-g5 as soon as possible. **17...g5!** Now Black has a serious edge. **18.hxg6 fxg6 19.g4 g5 20.Ng2 Ng6 21.Be3 Qh7 21...Kb7!** Black would like to clear the h3-c8 diagonal of targets for the White light-squared bishop in order to play h6-h5 with a big attack. White's position is on the verge of collapse. **22.Ra2 Rf8 23.Rf1 Kd7 23...Nf4! 24.f3 Nce7 25.Kf2 Rf7 26.Ke2 Rhf8 27.Qb1 Nc6 28.Rf2 Nf4+ 29.Nxf4 gxf4 30.Bd2 h5 31.g5 Qg6 32.Rg2 Kc7 33.Be1 a5 34.Rb2 Rb8 35.Qc1 Ne7** White has finally stabilized his position, but he misses a tactic which causes massive material losses. **36.Kd1??**



36...Qd3+ 37.Qd2 Qxf3+ 38.Qe2 Qxh3 39.Rh2 Qg4 In a previous year of the league, Caruana managed to wiggle his way out of a lost position against Soprano GM Charbonneau, but not this time. Caruana resigned, and our high school GM had the win of a lifetime.

0-1

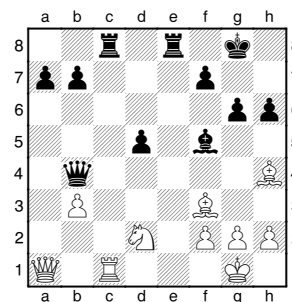
The loss to Saint Louis was followed by a disappointing sixth place finish in the second Battle Royale. After holding a top 4 spot in the standings for most the season, qualification for the playoffs suddenly seemed much less likely, especially with the Webster Windmills scheduled next in week 8. The team from Webster, under the expert guidance of Susan Polgar, had an undefeated record against the Sopranos in 2017 and 2018, and this was a must win match. This year, finally, it was the Sopranos who emerged victorious.

(5) Shimanov, Aleksandr (2610) - Sevian, Samuel (2647)

26.02.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 The Trompowsky is a frequent opening in fast time control games. There isn't a ton of theory, and the positions White reaches are generally pretty easy to play. **2...d5 3.e3 g6 4.Nd2 Bg7 5.Ng3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.c3 Qb6 8.Qb3 c4 9.Qc2 9.Qa3!** This was the best way for White to fight for an opening edge. After the game continuation, White handed the initiative over to Black, and Sevian made the most of it. **9...Bf5 10.Qc1 Nc6 11.b3 cxb3 12.axb3 Rac8 13.Qb2 Rfe8** This is simple but very convincing play from Sevian. Black is completely mobilized he will play e7-e5 in the near future with good activity. **14.0-0 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Nd2 Bf5 17.Bf3 h6 18.Bh4 e5 19.Rfc1?? 19.Rac1! 19...exd4 20.exd4 Nxd4!** This shows great tactical vision in a quick game! **21.cxd4 Bxd4 22.Qa3 Bxa1 23.Qxa1 Qb4!** This is the main point of

the combination. There is a double attack against d2 and h4. There's no way save both.



24.Bf6 Qxd2 25.Rd1 Qf4 26.Bxd5 Kh7 27.Bxf7 Re2 28.Bd5 Rd2 28...Qxf2+ 29.Kh1 Rce8! This is the most efficient way to wrap things up. **29.Re1 Qxf2+ 30.Kh1 Re2 31.Rf1 Ra2 32.Qd1 Qe2 33.Qe1 Qxe1 34.Rxe1 Re2! 35.Ra1 Be4 36.Bxe4 Rxe4** forcing simplification and limiting resistance. **37.h3 Re6 38.Bb2 a6 39.Rf1 Re7 40.Rf6 g5 41.Rb6 Rc6 42.Rb4 Rc2 43.Bf6 Rf7 44.Be5 Rc5 45.Bg3 Rb5** Overall, this was a very clean and impressive victory over a strong grandmaster.

0-1

With two weeks left in the regular season, the Montreal Chessbrahs and the Montclair Sopranos were neck and neck for playoff contention, which made the week 9 loss to Montreal all the more devastating. The season was not yet over though, as the last and final week would be the third Battle Royale. With so many teams competing against each other it was impossible to know beforehand exactly what score would clinch a spot in the playoffs. The Sopranos put forth a dominating performance with GM Guseinov, GM Checa, IM Sturt and IM Bartell grinding through the competition to win clear first and leapfrog back over the Chessbrahs into the playoffs.

(6) Sturt, Raven (2429) - Wang, Tianqi (2329)

12.03.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 Like Keaton Kiewra, Sturt tries his luck with the increasingly popular London system. He has better luck than Keaton. **3...c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 Nc6 6.Nbd2 d5 7.c3 Nh5 8.Be3 Bd6 9.Ne5 g6 10.g4** (my favorite move in chess) **10...Ng7 11.Bb5 11.h4!?** My computer likes playing this position in the style of a gambit with an incoming kingside attack. I think it is extremely difficult for a person to play like this. **11...Bd7 11...0-0!** Now Black can play

NJSCF Tournament Review

In addition to the Team, the NJSCF organizes several other tournaments to give our players of various ages and levels the chance to play competitive chess in many categories. From the first-time players in our scholastic events to the GMs that battle for our state championship every year, there is a tournament for everyone. Following are some brief reviews and games from these tournaments. If you are interested in playing any of these events, be sure to check out our website, njscf.org, for dates and schedules.

USAEE 2019 Recap

By Chief Assistant TD Richard Davisson

The US Amateur East was hotly contested yet again on Memorial Day weekend. A record-breaking 223 players competed in the main event, which was the largest turnout on record (dating back to 1991), while the scholastic tournament drew 75 youngsters between kindergarten and 8th grade. The tournament experimented with an earlier starting time on the final day to get games finished faster and players home earlier. Thanks to an abbreviated time control (implemented last year), every round started on time, making for a very smooth schedule. This isn't to say that there was no time for fun, though, as players who submitted their games for the best game prize were rewarded with entry into the gift card raffle held at the beginning of each round. Players were also able to analyze their games and battle in countless blitz games in the skittles room just down the hall from the playing room. Another throng of players could be found at the vendor's stand, where, as always, Fred Wilson offered a wide array of both new and out of print books as well as equipment.

The tournament was once again held at the Hyatt Regency in Morristown, NJ, which offers an in-house restaurant for players to sit down and enjoy a meal as well as some sandwiches and other snacks for a quick bite in between games. The hotel also features a Starbucks, helping players get a kick-start for the early morning rounds. Spectators and players alike enjoyed a sitting area next to a small indoor waterfall, while, outside of the hotel, a number of restaurants are just a stroll away. The Morristown Green serves as a pleasant outdoor area in which to walk around, and the train station is just a quarter mile down the road as well. Overall, we think the tournament has found a wonderful home at the Morristown Hyatt, and, if attendance is any indicator, the players seem to agree.

As always, the last round featured fierce competition. Despite the abundance of talented youngsters vying for the trophy, it was NJ chess veteran Gregory Nolan who

emerged victorious in the U2200 championship section with a score of 5.5/6. The U1800 section was won by International Chess Academy's Malina Pavlova with 5.5/6, while Vernon Khong claimed the U1400 title. Chess in the Schools, despite failing to win 1st place victories across the board as they had last year, managed another strong showing. They collected as many trophies in the top 2 sections as the rest of the field combined. A full breakdown of the results can be found on the following page.

With the last of the players leaving before the sun began to set, the 2019 US Amateur East concluded neatly and expediently. We hope to see you at the Hyatt once again for Memorial Weekend 2020.

The following is Malina's third round game, which is one of several 100+ point upsets that she achieved on the way to her U1800 section victory.

(7) Moravek, Christopher (1778) - Pavlova, Malina (1617)

26.05.2019

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 Ne7 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.f4 c5 7.e5 Nbc6 8.Nf3 Nf5 9.0-0 h5 10.Ne2 Bd7 11.d4 Qb6 12.c3 cxd4 13.Nfxd4 f6 14.Kh1 fxe5 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.fxe5 Bxe5 17.Nf4 h4 18.Ng6 Rh7 19.Nxh4 0-0-0 20.Qe2 Rdh8 21.Be3 Qc7 22.Kg1 Rxh4 23.gxh4 Bxh2+ 24.Kh1 Rxh4 25.Rf3 Qe5 26.Qd2 Qh8 27.Qe2 Ne5 28.Raf1 Bb5 29.c4 Bxc4 30.Qc2 Bf4+ 31.Kg1 Bxe3+ 32.R3f2 Ng4 33.Bxd5 Rh1+ 34.Kg2 Qh3#

New Jersey Senior Open Recap

by Organizer Dov Gorman

The 2019 NJ Senior Open was held December 28-29 at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill Hotel, home of the upcoming 2021 U.S. Open. The tournament was an official NJSCF tournament to determine the state representative to the U.S. Senior championship. The field consisted of 22 players including one IM and four Masters in two sections, Open and Reserve.

The 2-day, five round schedule was rather physically and mentally demanding, and is likely to change in future iterations of this event. Nevertheless, many of the matches featured tense, hard-fought battles that went down to the wire, making this tournament fun to watch. The winner of the Open section was decided in the last game, while there was a three-way tie in the Reserve section.

International Master Leonid Sokolin won the Open section with 4 points out of 5 games using convincing positional play. Solokin started slowly, drawing Leroy Hill, and he gained steam as the tournament progressed. IM Sokolin has been slightly active in the past few years, and his comeback is very welcome. We are sure that NJ has gained a worthy representative. He analyzed his game with runner-up FIDE Master Karl Dehmelt with assistance from his friend, ex-World Champion GM Alexander Khalifman.

The Reserve section was very competitive. There were a couple of surprising game results and lead changes. The final standing was a three-way tie for first with four points between Ronald Stokes, Ed McDonald, and Robert Colucci.

We expected an exciting tournament and it delivered! Congratulations to the winners. We are looking forward to continuing this event in 2020 and beyond.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e6 4. 0-0 Nge7 5. Re1 a6 6. Bf1 6. Bxc6 is much more popular, but after Nxc6 7. d4 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Qc7 9. Nc3 Bd6 Black is still fine. **6...d5 7. e5 Nf5 8. g3** is too passive to create any problems for Black. **8... Be7 9. Bg2 0-0 9... g5** was interesting but looked too ambitious to me. **10. d3 f6 11. Nc3 b5 11... Nxe5 \$5 12. Nxe5 fxe5 13. Rxe5 Bd6 14. Re1 Qf6 12. Bf4** White is not creating any problems for Black in the opening, and they quickly get a worse position. **12...Nfd4 13. exf6 Bxf6 14. Ne5** loses a pawn by force. **14...Nxe5 15. Bxe5 Bxe5 16. Rxe5 Rxf2 17. Kxf2 Qf6+ 18. Kg1 Qxe5 19. Qd2 Bb7 19... Bd7** was likely more accurate. **20. Re1 Qd6 21. Ne2 e5 22. Nxd4 cxd4 23. Qg5 Re8 24. Qf5 Bc6 24... e4** was more direct. **25. a3 Qf6 26. Qh5 g6 27. Qg4 Kg7 27... e4** was still better. **28. Rf1 Qe7 29.**

h4 h5 30. Qd1 Qd6 30... Rf8 31. g4 spices things up a bit. **31... Rh8 32. Qf3 Qe7 33. g5 Rf8 34. Qxf8+ 34. Qg3** certainly looked much more resilient **33... Qxf8 35. Rxf8 Kxf8 \$17 36. Bh3 \$6 Ke7 37. b4 \$2 Bd7 \$19 38. Bg2 Kd6 39. Kf2 Bg4 40. Ke1 Bf5 41. Kd2 e4 42. c3 Ke5 43. cxd4+ Kxd4 44. dxe4 dxe4 45. Bf1 e3+ 46. Ke1 Bd3 47. Bg2 Kc3 0-1**

US Open Tournament of Champions Qualifiers

Every state sends representatives to the National Tournaments of Champions: the Barber, the Denker, the newly-named Haring, and the newly-minted senior tournaments at the US Open are competitions of the highest caliber. We are proud to send some of our very best players to this event. We determine which players will represent our state through several trials. Following is a report from each qualifier, along with a few games from the local tournaments and a few from the tournaments of champions. For the scholastic tournaments, after the first round of qualifiers, the winners of each tournament in the north and the south met in the middle at Kings and Queens Academy in Piscataway. Noreen Davisson, the chief TD for the north tournament, wrote:

International Chess Academy hosted the New Jersey North Junior Championship on Sunday, April 28. The High School section started off with a surprise when master Roshan Idnani was held to a draw by A player Vedant Rautela. This trend continued in the second round when Vedant won against expert Yuvanshu Agarwal (maybe the warm up at the NJHSCC on April 27 helped him out). With only five players in the section, everyone but Roshan received a bye. With Vedant getting the last round bye Roshan was forced to win against Yuvanshu to force a playoff. In the G/5;d0 playoff, Roshan scored two quick wins.

The Girls' section offered fewer surprises with expert Angelica Chin (2012) leading the pack, followed by Sophie Rasol (1636), Florina Zhu (1603), Amelie Chan (1553) and Lily Del Pilar (1503). There were no upsets in the first round. In the second, Sophie was surprised by Sharon Pinto (1174). By the fourth round, only two perfect scores remained. Angelica took the black pieces against ten-year-old Florina Zhu. A two-hour

long battle ensued. While the game played on, both the High School and K-8 sections finished, had awards ceremonies and completed their play offs. At the end, Angelica emerged victorious, becoming the North's representative for the second consecutive year.

The K-8 section boasted two experts, Samuel Zhang (2046) and Timothy Xie (2015) and four B players, Roger Zhang (1691), Lev Koganov (1656), Ryan Zhu (1633) and Eric Levin (1605). Eric was upset by Ricky Nakaya (984), a recent arrival from Japan. In round three, Sam was only able to draw Lev, leaving Roger and Ryan as the only perfect scores. Ryan received white and held Roger to a draw. Lev had also scored 3.5/4.0 with a victory over Vedanta Das in the last round, but, due to family obligations, he opted out of the play off. After a brief break, the boys began their G/5;d0 play off, which seven-year-old Ryan won.

Noreen was also the TD for the playoff between the north and south winners:

The tournament format was a two game match with a G/30;d5 time control. If a winner was decided in those games, there would be no need for an Armageddon game, with White receiving five minutes to Black's four and Black receiving draw odds. Ryan and Benjamin (K-8 section) split their G/30;d5 games, with Ryan winning the first and Benjamin the second. Ryan picked white in the toss, giving Benjamin draw odds, and Benjamin won convincingly. Aravind and Angelica won both G/30;d5 games, the girls being the last to finish in each round.



The K-8 and high school players deep in thought during their games.

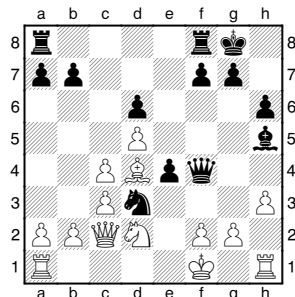
Ben played the following game from his initial qualifier and provided some very detailed annotations.

Lauer, Ben (1852) - Rama, Tejas (2185)

28.04.2019

This game took place in the last and deciding round of the 2019 New Jersey South Junior K-8 Championship. My opponent, Tejas Rama, is a talented master who was the favorite to win the tournament. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.d3** is a sideline which I prefer. White retains an extra pawn, and Black doesn't have many open files, but Black usually gets a good attack on the kingside. **6...h6 7.Nf3 Nxc4!?** is not the main move. The following grandmaster game demonstrates the potential of this line. **7...e4 8.Qe2 Nxc4 9.dxc4 Bc5 10.Nfd2 0-0 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Qf1 Bb4+ 13.c3 Bd6 14.Be3 b5 15.h3 Bc8 16.N1d2 bxc4 17.Qxc4 Re8 18.0-0-0 Bb7 19.Nf1 Re5 20.Bd4 Bxd5 21.Qe2 Bxb3 22.axb3 Re6 23.Ne3 Qb8 24.Kc2 a5 25.Qc4 Qb7 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Rd2 Re8 28.Ra1 Ra8 29.Qd5 Qxd5 30.Nxd5 Re6 31.Ne3 Bf4 32.Ra4 f5 33.b4 Rea6 34.b5 Rb6 35.c4 c6 36.bxc6 Rab8 37.Rxa5 Rxb2+ 38.Kd1 Rb1+ 39.Ke2 Rc1 40.Rxf5 Bc7 41.Rb5 Ra8 42.Nd5 Rca1 43.Ke3 R8a3+ 44.Kd4 Bd6 45.c7 Ra8 46.Nb6 1-0 (46) Nabaty, T (2417)-Hebden, M (2530) Cappelle-la-Grande 2008 **8.dxc4 Bg4 9.c3?! 9.h3** White is better. **9...Bh5 (9... Bxf3 10.Qxf3) 10.g4 Bg6 11.Nxe5 9...e4 10.h3 10.Qa4+? Bd7** White does not win a piece. **10...Bh5?! This** allows White to escape with a better position. **10...exf3 11.hxg4 fxg2 12.Rg1 h5=** with an interesting position, though it is easier to play with Black. **11.Qa4+ 11.g4** The engine's suggestion **11... exf3 12.gxh5 b5°** The position is complex, but White should be better. **11...Nd7?! 11...Qd7 12.Qxd7+ Nxd7 13.Nd4² 12.Nd4?! missing** a better option. **12.Ne5** eliminates the knight on d7 and gets to a pawn-up ending. **12... Bd6 13.Be3 0-0 14.Nd2?! attempting** to pressure Black's weak e-pawn, but allowing Black's knight to reach a powerful outpost that puts pressure on the White king. **14.0-0 Nc5 15.Qc2 Bg6³** to secure the b1-h7 diagonal, especially e4 and d3 (**15...Nd3 16.f3** undermining the knight) . **14...Nc5** The outpost, even though it is powerful and ties down my king, can be easily taken away by f3. **15.Qc2 Nd3+ 16.Kf1 Qe7?! This** is dubious; the diagonal must be secured. **16...Bg6³ 17.Nf5** eliminating one of Black's bishops. **17...Qe5 18.Nxd6 cxd6 19.Bd4?! trying** to misplace his queen. **19.f4!** is an interesting way to gain space since the pawn**

on e4 is protecting the knight. 19...Nxf4 (19...Qe7 20.g4 Bg6 21.f5 Bh7 22.Kg2±; 19...exf3 20.Qxd3+-) 20.Qxe4 Qxe4 21.Nxe4² **19...Qf4?** This is the final blunder. Black loses a piece.



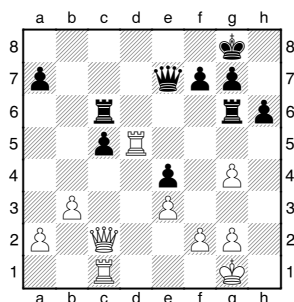
The most active-looking move is also the losing move! 19...Qe7! 20.Kg1 The White king will find some shelter in a surprisingly solid defensive formation, and Black has to demonstrate his compensation for the missing pawn. **20.g3!+- Qg5** 20...Qf5 21.g4 **21.Nxe4 Qg6** 21...Qf5 is the best chance. 22.Qxd3 Qf3 23.Qxf3 Bxf3 24.Nd2 Bxh1 25.Kg1 Bxd5 26.cxd5+- **22.Qxd3 Rae8** 22...f5 23.Nd2 and the pressure dissipates. **23.Re1 Qh7 24.c5** Active play! **24...Bg6 25.f3 f5 26.Nxd6** the discovery has no effect. **26...f4 27.Qd2 Rxe1+ 28.Qxe1 fxf3 29.Kg2** The black pawn shelters my king. **29...Bh5 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.Rf1** solidifying my king's position. **31...Qc2+ 32.Kxg3 Qd3?! 32...Kh7 33.Qe4+ 33.Qxh6+ Qh7 34.Qxh7+** missing an easier win. 34.Bxg7+! The pin kills black 34...Kg8 35.Qxh7+ Kxh7 36.Bxf8+- **34...Kxh7 35.Nxb7 Rf5 36.d6** Black had had enough. **1-0**

Angelica provided the following game from the Ruth Haring tournament.

Li, Marissa (2095) - Chin, Angelica (2064)
06.08.2019

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3 b6 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Rc1 c5 14.Qe2 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Rac8 16.h3 Nf6 17.Ne5 Ne4 18.Qf3 Qh4 19.Ba6 Rc7 20.b3 Qf6? 20...Rb8 with a balanced position. 21.Qe2 21.Qxf6! was possible, leading to 21...Nxf6 22.dxc5 bxc5 23.b4 c4 24.Rxc4, winning a pawn. 21...Bc8 22.Bd3 Rd6 23.Ng4?! missing another chance to win a pawn. 23.b4 c4 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Nxc4 23...Bxg4 24.hxg4 Qe7 25.Qc2 Rf6 26.Rf1 Rcc6 27.Bb5 Rce6 27...Rc8 28.dxc5 bxc5 29.Bd3 Rc6 30.Bxe4 dxe4 31.Rfd1 Rg6 32.Rd5?! leaves White's king open to an

attack. 32.Qd2 Rxc4 33.Qd8+



32...Rxc4 33.Rxc5 Rcg6+- 34.g3 Qh4 35.Kf1 Rxc3 35...Qh1+? 36.Ke2 Qf3+ 37.Ke1 Rf6 38.Qe2 36.fxf3 Rxc3 37.Rh5 Rf3+ 38.Kg1 Qxh5 39.Qxe4 Qg5+ 40.Kh2 Rf2+ 41.Kh3 Qh5+ 42.Kg3 Qh2+ 43.Kg4 h5+ 44.Kg5 Qg3+ 0-1

Todd Luna wrote the following piece about his experience as the senior representative. I played in the National Senior Tournament of Champions, a six round event in Orlando, Florida that ran in conjunction with the United States Open Championship with 44 players who represented their respective states. My score of 3.5-2.5 placed me in a 4-way tie for 14th through 18th place. In general, I felt like the level of play was relatively high for a senior event. My best game was in round two, which I won against Richard Hobbs of Montana; this was the only game Richard lost while finishing with an even score.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. g3 a6 7. Bg2 Nf6 8. 0-0 Be7 9. Be3 0-0 10. f4 d6 11. Qe2 Bd7 12. Rae1 (the best move was 12. Nb3, and Stockfish gives white +0.54) Nxd4 13. Bxd4 e5 14. Be3 (Black has a -0.43 advantage according to the engine) Rc8 15. f5 b5 16. Rf2 b4 17. Nd5 Nxd5 18. exd5 Bb5 19. Qh5 f6 20. g4 Bd8 21. g5 fxf5 22. Bxg5 Qf7 23. Qh4 Bxg5 24. Qxg5 Qf6 25. Qd2 Rc4 26. Re4 R8c8 27. Rxc4 Rxc4 28. Qe3 Rd4 29. h3 Qh4 30. Kh2 Rf4 (Black has played actively; emphasizing the better bishop is the main theme in this game, and now the transition into the ending leads to a forced win) 31. Rxf4 Qxf4+ 32. Qxf4 exf4 (notice that Black has cleared the e5 square for the Black king) 33. Be4 Kf7 34. Kg2 Kf6 35. Kf3 Ke5 36. c3 bxc3 37. bxc3 Be2+ 38. Kxe2 Kxe4 39. c4 Kxf5 40. Kf3 Kg5 0-1 White could have tried 36. f6 Kxf6 37. Kxf4 g5+ is still winning for Black, however. After this game I got a good position against GM Enrico Sevillano, though I

made one crucial mistake, and my experienced opponent did not give me a second chance.

I drew rounds 4 and 5 in tough games and went on to win my last round game to finish with a plus one score. It was a mediocre event for me as I lost 10 rating points. Overall, it was not great but also not a disaster.

New Jersey Grade School Championships Report

by organizer Hal Sprechman

The 2019 NJ Grade School Championship was held November 24th. 432 children participated in 13 sections. The Student Life Center at Brookdale Community College was filled to capacity. All standings can be found on the NJSCF website. Special thanks to the tournament staff: Jim Mullanaphy, John Bartlett, Anand Mishra, Kameliia Sharuda and of course Diana Tulman!

Below are the individuals and team winners in each grade.

Grade	Individual	Team
K	Leo Luo	Princeton Charter
1	Daniel Chapnik	Princeton Charter
2	Derek Li	Princeton Day
3	Olivia Laido	Holmdel Village
4	Rishi Madiraju	Princeton Charter
5	Claire Cheng	CMS Elementary
6	Gary Leschinsky	Memorial Junior
7	Eric Levin	Community
8	Eric Wu	Sparta
9	Jack Silver	John P. Stevens
10	Jonathan Chin	BCA
11	Roshan Idnani	Newark Academy
12	Ansh Shah	CBA

NJ Open Recap

by organizer Hal Sprechman

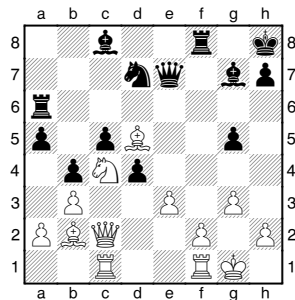
The 72nd New Jersey Open was held August 31st through September 2nd 2019 at the Hyatt Hotel in Morristown. Five GMs and five IMs competed among 163 players. No one had gone undefeated in the open section in more than 20 years. Last year, there was a five way tie for first place with 5 points. In 2011, there was a seven way tie with 4.5 points. This year, GM Alexander Fishbein went undefeated. There was a tie for 2nd and 3rd with 5 points between GM Joel Benjamin and IM Raja Panjwani. Over \$10,000 in prizes were won between the Open, U1800 and U1600 sections. The 1st place player in the U1800 section was Aleksey Sergeev with 5.5 points, which put him 1.5 points ahead

of 2nd place. In the U1600 section, Vedanta Das took 1st place with an undefeated record.

The 2019 NJ Scholastic K-8 Championship had 126 players in three sections. The U1200 section was won by Alexander Yu. The U900 section was won by Manish Kashyap, and the U600 section was won by Kush Modywith 4.5 points out of 5 on tie breaks over Leah Zaytman. The following is one of the most impressive ones played in the open section. It features a massive upset owing to some dominating play by an expert against NJ mainstay GM John Fedorowicz.

Chakka, Pardhav (2070) - Fedorowicz, John (2475)

An expert outplays a veteran grandmaster in a tense struggle in all phases of the game. **1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. Nc3! b4! 15. Nb1** Well, this is a unique approach, and it's against a GM who wrote a book on the Benko Gambit! **5... g6 6. b3! "Left Bank" chess! 6... Bg7 7. Bb2 O-O 8. Nd2 d6!?** It appears that Black should not have allowed the extra tempo for White to play g3 and should have immediately played **8... e6 9. dxe6 dxe6. 9. g3 e6 10. dxe6 fxe6 11. Bg2 d5** We have ourselves an equal game, but the bishop on g2 is really annoying. **12. Nh3** Of course, White keeps the diagonal open. Not only that, but there is a nice square on f4, hitting d5, available. **12... a5 13. cxd5!** The pressure on d5 also involves the knight on f6. If the horse moves, White gets to exchange bishops and create weak dark squares around the Black king. Is White's gamble paying off? **13... exd5 14. Nf4 Ra6 15. O-O d4** Maybe he didn't like **15... g5 16. Nd3 Nbd7 17. Rc1 Qe7 18. Bxf6 Nxf6 19. Rxc5** but the d4 move gives up c4. This is a very tense middle game. **16. Rc1 Qe7 17. Qc2 Nbd7 18. Nc4 g5** Yeah, you can't let the knight stay there. **19. Nd5 Nxd5 20. Bxd5+ Kh8 21. e3!**



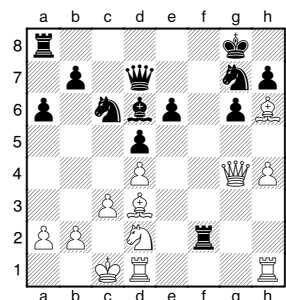
Perfect timing! Any other move would bring about an equal game. The Black king's position is getting breezier, and that

knight on c4 gets to recapture on e3--no small thing. **21... dxe3** If **21... Nf6 22. Bg2 ! dxe3 23. Nxe3** and the backward c5 pawn disappears. **22. Bxg7+** A bit more accurate would be **22. Nxe3 Bxb2 23. Qxb2+ Qg7 24. Qxg7+ Kxg7 25. Rfd1. 22... Qxg7 23. Nxe3 Raf6 24. Ng4 Rd6 25. Rfd1 Nb6 26. Ne3 Nxd5 27. Nxd5** White could maintain a durable slight edge with **27. Rxd5 Rxd5 28. Nxd5 Be6 29. Nb6 (29. Qxc5 Rf5) 29... Rf5 30. Nc4 27... Bg4** It's very surprising that our GM, who is known for his active play, does not try **27... Bb7 28. Ne3 Rxd1+ 29. Rxd1 Qf6 28. Qxc5 Rfd8** It's at this point we wonder if the score-sheet is correct. How could Black have missed **28... Qe5 ! 29. Rd3 Rc8 ? 29. f3 Qe5** is one move late. **29... Bxf3 30. Qxd6 Rxd6 (30... Qa7+ 31. Qc5 Qxc5+ 32. Rxc5 Bxd1 33. Rxa5 Rb8 34. Kf2 +/-) 31. Rc8+. 30. fxc4 Rxd5 31. Rxd5 Qxd5 32. Qxd5 Rxd5** A difficult endgame ensues. White has the extra pawn, so it's an uphill fight for Black, who has drawing chances.} **33. Rc2 Rd4 ?!**, but this doesn't really seem to be the counterplay Black needs. Maybe he should drop the rook way back to be able to check along the e- and f-files to keep the king out. He can't do that from d5. **34. Kf2 Rd5 35. Ke3 h6 36. Ke4** This active king is a major headache for Black, who has no distinct counterplay with his rook because the white rook is keeping things secure at home. **36... Rd7 37. h4!** mobilizing the pawn majority. Black's in trouble. **37... Kg7 38. hxcg5** White is in no hurry here. More precise was **38. Rc5 38... hxcg5 39. Rc5 a4 40. Rxcg5+** Black could resign here, but why not play a few more moves, just in case? **40... Kf6 41. Rb5?!**, and here is the case! White has played stellar chess up to this point, but a lot easier was **41. Rf5+ Kg6 42. bxa4 Rd2 43. Rb5 Rxa2 44. Rxb4 Kg5 45. Kd5** and the king gets to escort the a-pawn down the file. **41... a3 42. Rxb4!?** The prolonged tension in this game is affecting both players. Most Monday morning QBs will see **42. Ke3 Rc7 43. Rxb4 Rc3+ 44. Kd2 Rxc3 45. Re4 Rg1 46. Re2. 42... Rd2 43. Ra4** There is something screwy with the scoresheet here. It ends here, but we're not sure what the final move was. In any event, White outplayed a GM in the opening, middlegame, and endgame--certainly a memorable performance! **43... Rxa2 44. Mystery Move! Black Resigns**

The Soparnos: The Final Episode

Continued from page 11

the position like a gambit! **12. Nxc6 bxc6 13. Bxc6 Rb8** Black has fantastic piece play, and White will never have a safe place to castle. **12. Nxd7 Qxd7 13. Qf3 0-0 14. 0-0 a6 15. Bd3 f5! 16. Bh6 16. gxf5! 16... fxcg4 17. Qxcg4 Rxf2 18. h4!**



Black has a hard time dealing with the simple plan of advancing the h-pawn. Black makes an immediate mistake in response. **18... Nf5 19. Qg1! Bg3??** Now Black faces crushing material losses. **19... Rxd2 20. Bxd2+-; 19... Nxe6** This was best, although the position is close to lost anyway. **20. Bxf5 Rxf5 21. Qxcg3 Rc8 22. Kb1** Black threw in the towel. **1-0**

The Sopranos surprised many people by drawing the Saint Louis Arch Bishops in the first week of the playoffs, but it was unfortunately insufficient to advance as Saint Louis had draw odds based on their regular season record.

The 2020 PCL season may have started, but the PRO Chess League that started in 2017 is gone. While these changes may have been implemented in an appeal to sponsors, it is hard to understand an informed sponsor seeing an investment in a PRO Chess League team as a reliable one after the surprising changes made right before what was supposed to be the beginning of a new season for many disappointed teams. Fear not, chess fans, for bigger and better things lie ahead for NJ chess as well as the talented players of the NJSCF-backed Sopranos Team. You haven't seen the last of us!

Celebrating Chess: Clubs, Teams, and Organizers

Last year, we ran an article celebrating the career of Eugene Salomon, a chess player of more than 80 year and “retired” New Jersey master. While he no longer plays serious chess, he has recently become an author of several articles. In light of the 50th anniversary of the Team, he wrote this article commemorating his experiences with team chess. Whether this is your first time on a chess team or you are a veteran of this (or any other) cooperative tournament, hopefully Eugene’s experiences and insight will inspire you to keep playing team chess.

Upon returning from a beautiful vacation down memory lane in my native Spain last July, I gave a conference at the Toms River Chess Club on October 10th, 2019. I filled the conference with anecdotes from my 75+ year chess-career in Spain, Cuba, and the U.S. The primary focus, however, was on my 50-year journey in the U.S., starting with the 1968 New Jersey Open, which I entered as an unrated player and exited with a master’s rating. My very first game in the U.S. was the most emotional chess game of my life. My father, who taught me how to play as a child, had just died, and after 16 years retired from chess, I felt that I had to play again! I played the tournament, and especially the first game, with a mental intensity that I have not experienced in any of my other hundreds of tournament’s matches. *



Left to right: Gene Salomon and his friend Dr. Richard Lewis (picture credit to Stephen Shoshin)

At the conference, I was introduced by my friend of 50 years, Dr. Richard Lewis. He is a chess teacher with 36 years of experience who volunteers to teach underprivileged children in Africa. At the end of the conference, I shared with Rich a crazy idea: this coming February is the 50th anniversary of the World Amateur Team Tournament---what about entering a team of old friends who witnessed the first one back in 1970?

2020 should be a year of half century celebrations, especially for New Jersey and for those of us who have been active in chess during the last 50 years. There is much to celebrate, and I was privileged to participate in New Jersey chess from the days of the Westfield Chess Club’s



From left to right: Joe Graves, Wayne Conover, GM John Fedorowicz, FM Mark Pinto, Gene Salomon, and Steve Pozarek. (Photo credit to Steve Pozarek.)

dominance in the 1970s under the great organizer Denis Barry to the Toms River Chess Club celebrating its 56th anniversary in 2020.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the unsung heroes—the chess organizers who make things happen. Steve Doyle is a legendary, living example: he was one of the pioneers at the Toms River Chess Club, where he was able to organize conferences and exhibitions by true chess giants. For the last 30+ years, he has been directing the monumental World Amateur Team Tournament which will, I’m sure, become his legacy.

Over the years, my favorite experience in chess has been playing on a variety of teams. For the last couple of years, I have enjoyed writing articles sharing my cherished memories.

During my last 52 years as a chess player, coach, and lecturer in the U.S., my path and Steve’s have crossed many times. Because team play and friendships in chess often go together, I will share with you some anecdotes of my 75+ years of chess life as part of many chess teams and pleasant memories of several team tournaments I played in the U.S.

I played on my first chess team in 1943 as “the child chess prodigy” of my hometown—Gijon, Spain—against

arch-rival Oviedo. The organizer of the event was a legendary figure, Felix de las Heras, who went on to organize the Gijon International Tournament from 1944-1965, where I met and interacted with my idol, Alekhine. Felix Heras would, years later, become the President of the Spanish Chess Federation and a Vice-President of FIDE.

The last chess team of which I was a member, just as I was ready to retire from competitions, was in 1997. It was at the US Amateur Team, where I competed alongside my friends Steve Pozarek (a past NJ Open Champion) and Wayne Conover (a past member of the U.S Olympic Correspondence chess



Gijon 1944- Banquet honoring Alekhine after the Gijon First International, from left to right: Felix de las Heras, the author and Alekhine. (Photo credit to Gene Salomon).

team). The organizer of the event was, of course, Steve Doyle. In 2014, I had an emotional visit at the tournament with my chess teammates and friends from the early 1970's, which we captured in the memorable picture above:

During my 19 years of life in Spain (of which I spent five or six playing chess), 13 years of life in Cuba (only one playing chess), and 59 years of life (30 years of chess as a player) in the U.S., I had the good fortune of being a member of five historic clubs: El Casino in Gijon, Maudes in Madrid, Club Capablanca in Havana, the Westfield Chess Club in New Jersey, and the Toms River Chess Club in New Jersey. I cherish memories of these clubs. One common thread is my participation in their teams:

- El Casino – 1943 Gijon team, which soundly defeated rival Oviedo
- Madrid – 1947 Maudes team, the champions of Castille
- Havana – 1952 team champions (Cubana-leco Club)
- Havana – 1952 Capablanca Chess Club's team, playing against a strong Central American team in San Salvador
- Westfield, N.J.—Westfield Chess Club's team, which won the New Jersey Chess League throughout the 1970s and 80s.

My Writing

Two and a half years ago, I had a unique and inspiring three-hour interview, in Madrid, with the Spanish historian and writer Miguel Angel Nepomuceno, who honored me by writing a series of biographical articles about me in his column at the Zendalibros web publication **. That interview inspired me to become a writer. Since then, I have written several articles (always in both Spanish and English). The book *The Gijon International Tournament—1944-1965* by Luis and Pedro Mendez Castedo was recently published in English by McFarland. In a way, it is a testimonial to both Alekhine and Heras. During the first such tournament in 1944, I acted as a "gofer" for the organizers, interacting with Alekhine, and later participated as a player in the Gijon IV International in 1947. To write the foreword to this English edition of the book and to contribute with photos and anecdotes, after more than 70 years, was indeed a pleasure.

I hope that someday, there will be a book about the legacy of another exceptional chess organizer, my friend Steve

Doyle, and his 40+ years of dedication to the Team.

The E-Book *40 Years of Friendship—100 Games of Chess* that I wrote with co-authors Steve Pozarek and Wayne Conover has a lot of information about clubs and teams. Following is a paragraph from the prologue, which was written by Steve Pozarek, that shows how deeply rooted we have become in New Jersey chess:

"Our 40-year friendship started when we became teammates at the Westfield Chess Club in the early 1970s. Our team won the North Jersey League for many years in a row, and – as they reminded me – I was the team's captain during that time. They further argued that there is a lot of New Jersey chess history contained in the following pages, and as the only NJ state champion among the three of us, I am a special part of that history. Ultimately, a lot of this book is about team chess and team chess tournaments, and they knew that I was twice a member of the winning team at the U.S. Amateur Team Championship. So... I was elected!"

Commenting on the history of Westfield and Toms River, my friend and co-author Wayne Conover reminds me that he was part of the original Toms River Team under Steve Doyle's banner when they met, and they tied against Denis Barry's legendary Westfield Team in the early 1970s.

Steve Pozarek, my other co-author, who was a winner of the tournament twice, reminded me that he also won a prize for the best family team, playing with his father and his uncle, and I was an honorary member of the Pozarek Family.

Final Thoughts

This article, while a good start, is not even close to enough to talk about all of the great things in New Jersey chess. In late April, I will be moderating another panel at the Tom's River Chess Club. This time, it will cover all of the chess clubs that I have enjoyed over my 30 years of chess in New Jersey. If nothing else, it will help me fulfill a promise to Steve Doyle: last year after a lecture at our club, I vowed to break the club record for oldest speaker at age 92. With the above event, I will accomplish this. I will moderate, Steve Doyle will be the keynote speaker, and Glen Peterson, Rich Lewis, Dr. Leroy Dubeck, and Pete Tamburro will also be

sitting on the panel. The event will be called "Memories- Half a century of Chess in New Jersey." The video-taped panel discussion will take place at Toms River Town Hall in the Community Room on April 23rd at 7:00 P.M. We look forward to your attendance to help us celebrate 50 years of chess in New Jersey!

*You can see the game at <http://www.historiadelajedrezespanol.es/visor/pozarek-salomon.htm>

**You can read the article at <https://www.zendalibros.com/eugenio-salomon-rugarcia/>

*** You can read the English versions at <http://www.historiadelajedrezespanol.es/articulos/salomoneng.htm>



I am proud that Steve Doyle and I both share the "honor roll" with Botvinnick, Tahl, Petrosian, Korchnoi, Kamsky, Caruana, and other luminaries. (Photo credit to Steve Shoshin).



Left to right: Steve's father, Joe Pozarek, Steve Pozarek, Frank Pozarek (Steve's uncle), and the author (photo credit to Steve Pozarek).

2019 USATE/WAT Winners!

We have prizes for more than just the best team overall! Check out last year's best teams and players in many categories!

Team Prizes:

Overall Winners:

1st Place-Princeton Orange

2nd Place-Chess NYC 1st Kings

3rd Place-Princeton Black

4th Place-Tuhnm's Triple Threat

5th Place-The Rook of Mormon

Class Prizes:

U2100: Masters of the Exchange

U2000: We Won't Come Short of Winning

U1900: Li Kingsmen

U1800: Draw Blood Not Chess

U1700: Magbutt Fartlessons

U1600: Cornell B

U1500: Team Salami

U1400: AcademyTY

U1300: Team Inovation Center

U1200: Can You Don't

U1000: Hopkins School Grey

Best in State:

Connecticut: Connecticut's Finest

Delaware: Black Pawnther

Maryland: Sons of Bishops

Massachusetts: 4 Fish No Fins

New Jersey: West Orange Kings

New York (Benjamin Award): Chess NYC 1st Kings

Pennsylvania: Masters of the Exchange

Rhode Island: Brown Chess Team

Virginia: Blunders Be Gone

Miscellaneous Honors:

Top college team: MIT Stable Geniuses

Top High School Team: Hopkins School Maroon

Top Middle School Team: SA Hudson Yards

Top Elementary School Team: Detention in the Center

Top Scholastic Team (Collins Award): STONE-WALL DEFENSE SHUTDOWN

2nd Scholastic Team: ZZZ...Quiet Moves Mixed

Doubles: If We Don't Win Its Rigged

Seniors: SENIOR BLUES NO WAY

Company Team: Impact Coaching Network

Family: Chess Fun Way

Parent/Child: R to222 D2

Top Future Team: ABC Rising Stars

Military: 4 Knights U10

Top Military College: Naval Academy

Best Gimmick: Prawn Sacrifice

Best Youth Gimmick: The Incredibles

Best Name: Magnus Smoked Caruana

Runner-Up: Brett Kavanaugh Touched My Queen

Individual Prizes:

Upsets!

Round 1: Calvin Du (470 points)

Round 2: Iian Dailis (711 points)

Round 3: Alex Gong (1006 points)

Round 4: Saanvi Borra (950 points)

Round 5: Veerteeg S. Minhas (1024 points)

Round 6: Manish B. Kashypap (679 points)

Board Prizes (all with perfect scores unless otherwise noted):

Board 1: NM Richard Tuhrim, IM Thomas Bartel, IM Yaacov Norowitz, FM Nathan Solon

Board 2: NM Zachary Tanenbaum, NM Aaron S. Balleisen, FM Leif Pressman

Board 3: Frank Lee Ashmun, NM Christopher Yang

Board 4: Samantha Dong, Mark Peastrel, Vrithik Umapahty, Arturo Ruiz Martino, Perryn Chang, Sophie Morris-Suzuki

Top Alternate: Florina Zhu (4.0)

Games from the 2019 Team

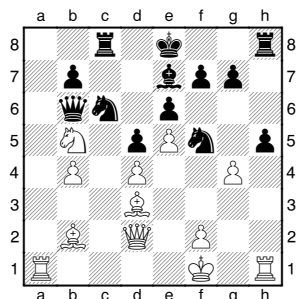
with annotations by Pete Tamburro

If your game isn't in here, it's probably because I couldn't read the score, couldn't read the players' last names, the score itself had errors, the copy was too light, it was full of errors that did no credit to either player, or you didn't turn it in. Unfortunately, we do have limited space. IF YOU HAVE A GOOD GAME, PLEASE PUT A STAR ON IT WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS. -Pete

(1) **Edelman, Dan (2403) -**

Barash, Anton (2094)

A terrific way to start off our collection of games! Watch out for the blockbuster final move. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5** Nice to see there are still Advance Variation standard bearers out there. There goes all black's Winawer or McCutcheon prep! **3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Be2** A surprise! White does not choose the generally preferred 6.a3 or the gambit line with 6.Bd3 **6...cxd4! 7.cxd4 Nge7 8.Na3 Nf5 9.Nc2** Both sides have what they want. It's equal, but not necessarily drawn. There's a difference. **9.... Bb4+ 10.Kf1!** Moving the king loses the castling privilege, but it isn't as horrible as in the open games. His king is pretty safe there. He gets complications without sacrificing a pawn as in 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 Qxb2 12.0-0 Qb6 13.Bd3 Qa5 14.Qf4 h6 15.Rfb1 with equal chances. **10...Be7 11.h4!** Now threatening to play g4. **11...h5 12.b4!** More solid was 12.Bd3 **12...Bd7 13.a3 Rc8 14.Bb2?!** White has time to get his king's house in order with 14.g3 a6 15.Kg2 **14... Nd8?** There is no future for the knight on d8. He now has the rook to support a Nc4 move, so he should play 14...Na5 with a positional edge. **15.Qd2 a5 16.Nfe1 Bxh4** One of the ideas of Bd7 (and I guess Nd8 here) in the Advance French is to play 16... Bb5, and after 17.Bd3 Nc6 18.g3 Bxd3+ 19.Nxd3 0-0 20.Kg2 Rc7 Black's doubling on the c-file will give White something to think about. **17.Nd3 axb4 18.axb4 Bb5 19.Na3 Bxd3 20.Bxd3 Be7** Was the pawn grab worth it? **21.Nb5 Nc6 22.g4!**

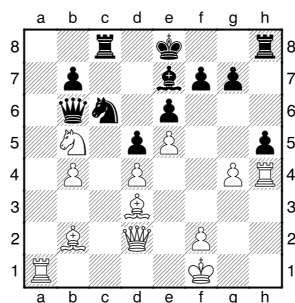


It's moves like this that can make life miserable for pawn grabbers. You have to choose wisely as to the square to which you will go. **22...Nh4** It looks breezy, but the retreat was

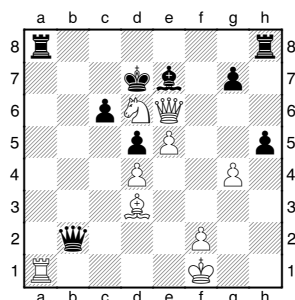
to be considered: **22...Nh6 23.Rxh5 Kd7**

24.f3 Nxb4 25.Bc3 Nxd3

26.Qxd3 f5!! 27.exf6 gxf6 23.Rxh4!!



A fine, and not obvious, exchange sacrifice. The logic of it, though, is clear--the bishop is overloaded with defending the knight on h4 and the d6 square. Can't do both! **23...Bxh4 24.Nd6+ Kd7 25.b5 Ra8 26.bxc6+ bxc6 27.Qf4?!** White can draw with 27.Rb1 Ra2 28.Qf4 Rxb2 29.Qxf7+ Kd8 30.Rxb2 Qxb2 31.Nb7+ Kc8 32.Nc5 Kb8, but White decides to risk a loss to pull off a giant swindle! Gutsy move. **27... Qxb2 27...Rxa1+! 28.Bxa1 Be7 29.Qxf7 Rf8 30.Qxg7 Qa5 31.Bb2 Qd2** is decisive. Black, however, is eager to regain the material and presents White with an opportunity to dazzle us with a queen sacrifice. **28.Qxf7+ Be7 29.Qxe6+!!**



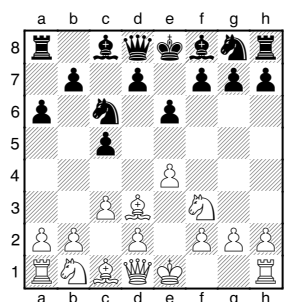
concludes a boldly played game by Edelman.

1-0

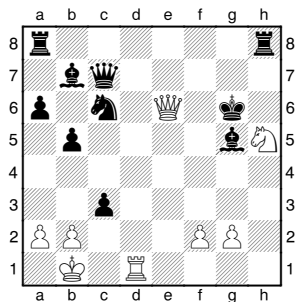
(2) **Chaiet, Scott (1813) -**

Khan, Shadman (1582)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 a6?! Simple and effective is 3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 **4.Bd3?!** White can get an easy slight edge from 4.d4 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bd3 **4...Nc6**



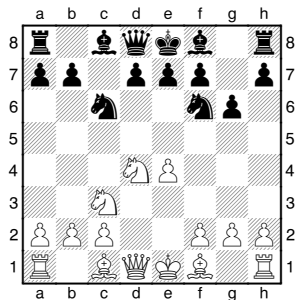
The "d5phobia" is puzzling. **5.Bc2?!** Wow! Back to the 1830s and MacDonnell-La-bourdonnais. It didn't work then, and it shouldn't work now. **5...Qc7** Yes, I'll repeat myself: d5, d5, d5. **6.Qe2 Nf6 7.d3** To give White the benefit of the doubt, he must have chosen this move to create an original position so his opponent would have new problems to solve. **7...Be7 8.Bg5?!** White finally makes an aggressive move, but the bishop has no future there. It would have been better to wait on that and castle and develop the knight. **8...d6** Kick him: **8...h6 9.h3 0-0 10.Nbd2 b5 11.Nf1 Bb7** If you are familiar with King's Indian Attack theory (here there is no Bg2), then you would play 11... a5 to initiate a pawn storm on the queen-side with Ba6 and Rfc8. **12.Ng3 h6! 13.h4?!** No guts, no glory, eh? It should just lose. There's no doubling on the h-file that can happen quickly enough, nor a queen to get to h5. **13...hxg5! 14.hxg5 Nh7** Even 14... Nd7 works. **15.Rxh7** In for a penny, in for a pound, as they used to say in merry old England. **15...Kxh7 16.0-0 Rh8** Black now has an escape route. **17.e5 g6** Dare I repeat myself? **17...d5! 18.d4+ Kg8 19.g6 cxd4 20.gxf7+ Kxf7 21.Nxd4 Qxe5 18.d4 cxd4 19.Nh5 dxc3 20.exd6 Bxd6 21.Nh4 Bf4+ 22.Kb1 Bxg5 23.Nxg6** Santa presses forward with more gifts! **23...fxg6 24.Bxg6+ 24...Kxg6** Winning for Black is 24...Kh6! and White has nothing: 25.Qxe6 a) 25.Rh1 Nd4 26.Nf4+ Kg7 27.Nxe6+ Nxe6 28.Rd1 Nf4; b) 25.Bc2 Qe5 26.Qg4 Raf8 27.f4 Rxf4! 28.Nxf4 Qxf4 29.Qxe6+ Kg7 30.Qg6+ (30. Rd7+ Kf8) 30...Kf8 31.bxc3 Qf6; 25...Nd8 26.Qd6 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 Be7 28.Rb6 Kg5 29.Ng3 Bc5 **25.Qxe6+**



Now, it should be a draw, but Black finds a way to lose. **25...Kxh5** 25...Bf6?? 26.Qxf6+ Kh7 27.Rd6 and White will probably win; (The draw comes from 26.Qf5+ Kh6=) 26...c2+ 27.Ka1 c1Q+ 28.Rxc1 Bxc1 and Black wins. **26.Rh1+ Bh4 27.Qf5+ Kh6 28.Rxh4+ Kg7 29.Rg4+ Kh6 30.Qg6#** won by pure chutzpah!
1-0

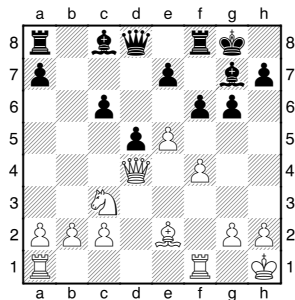
(3) Sittipongpittaya, Apirach (1373)- Trueman, William (1875)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
I put this note here so you will see the difference later of playing Nxc6. 4...g6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.e5 Qa5+ **5.Nc3 g6**



Now we have a kind of "delayed accelerated" version of the Dragon. Usually you see 4...g6. In any event, Black does not play d6 so he can play d5 in one move, the point of the Accelerated Dragon. My new book, *Openings for Amateurs, Next Steps*, covers the Accelerated line from the Black point of view. **6.Be3** See the note to move four. There is no queen check with the knight on c3: 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nh5 8.Bc4 is, thus, a good line for White here. Black has annoying knight on the rim problems, but it's defensible. **6...Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 d5!**

Black understands his opening system! The one move leap to d5 equalizes. **9.Nxc6** No worries for Black come from 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bd4 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bf5 **9...bxc6 10.e5 Ne8!** OK, now Black is really impressing me! He has a great PLAN for his knight. He's not just moving it willy-nilly to some square. **11.Bd4** No better is 11.f4 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Na4 Nd6 **11...Nc7 12.f4 Ne6** The knight's path has taken Black to a key square where it now attacks the bishop. 13.Kh1 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 f6!



There are times when you play this and times when you don't. This time, you do! The white pawn advance loses all its steam. **15.exf6 Bxf6!** Black keeps up the pressure. Recapturing with the pawn didn't do that. **16.Qc5 Qb6!** Oh, absolutely! I'm running out of exclamation marks! That nasty Dragon bishop would rule the board with the queens off. Good for Black for understanding that! I hope younger players learn from this game. **17.Qa3 a5** Or 17...Rb8 Either is fine. **18.Qa4 Ba6** More pressure could have been brought to bear with 18...Rb8 19.Nd1 Bf5 20.c3 e5 What Black plays, though, keeps the edge. **19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.Rab1 Qb4 21.Qb3 Bxc3?** Time to redeploy. White makes a move that could have helped White. 21...Raa8 **22.Qxc3?** 22.bxc3! Qc5 (22...Qxb3 23.cxb3) 23.g3 Raa8= **22...Qxc3 23.bxc3 a4** 23...Raa8 24.g3 e5 25.fxe5 Rae8 26.Rfe1 Rf3 27.Rb3 Rf2 28.Rb2 Rf5= **24.Rb7? e5 25.g3 exf4 26.Rxf4 Rxf4 27.gxf4 Ra5** This does it.

The white mistake of allowing the doubled c-pawns costs the game. **28.Kg2 Rc5 29.Rb2 Rxc3 30.Kf2 a3** The first part of this game was a textbook lesson. We all need to work on endgame play!
0-1

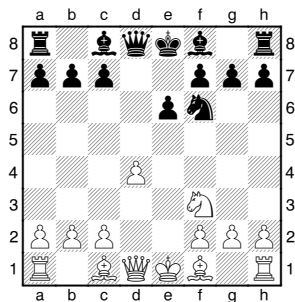
(4) Marcus, Neill (1669) - Borra, Saanvi (751)

Appearing next in my stack of scoresheets are the upsets: how to's on losing to people 500 points or more lower rated than you. We won't do the whole game because generally the despondent higher rated player keeps playing, hoping for some miracle that rarely comes. **1.Nf3 Nc6** Well, US master Weaver Adams used to play this back in the 1940s and 1950s. The proper reply is to play 2.d4.

2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e5 4.d3 e4 You can get into a reversed Dragon with 4...d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5, but many people don't like being a move down in the line. **5.dxe4 Nxe4 6.Qd3** Here, the higher rated player starts on a misadventure with his queen in the opening--with the usual result. Better was simply 6.Bg2 Bc5 7.0-0 d6 8.a3 a5 9.Qc2 Bf5 10.Nh4 Nd4 11.Qd1 Bg4 12.Bf3 Bxf3 13.exf3 Nf6 14.Re1+ Ne6 15.Nc3 **6...Nc5 7.Qe3+ Be7 8.Bg2 Nb4 9.Qc3 Ne4** Objectively better was 9...0-0, but Black offers a delectable goodie on g7. Children (and adults!) should be warned about accepting gifts from strangers. **10.Qxg7?? Bf6 11.Qg4** Only marginally better was 11.Qh6 Nc2+ 12.Kf1 Nxa1 **11....d5** After the discovered attack, White falls on his sword. **12.0-0 Bxg4 13.Na3 dxc4 14.Bf4 Bxf3** and finally resigned on move 28. This is a great lesson on fooling around with your queen in the opening.
0-1

(5) Chan, Jaden (1293) - McKeen, Tim (1814)

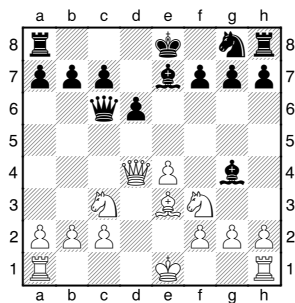
A British champion once dropped a piece in the opening to a queen check. Tim McKeen, who is a good, experienced player, joins that elite company before move ten. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6**



7.c4? Better is 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne5 c5 (9...Qxd4 10.Bxh7+) 10.dxc5 Bxc5 where White has a nice knight outpost on e5 and a mobile queenside pawn majority. *Openings for Amateurs-Next Steps* (out soon!) has a section on how to do this. **7...Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Qe7 9.Qa4+** and resigned on move 33. **1-0**

(6) Wong, Angelina (959) - Misko, Matthew (1910)

Oh, boy--951 points. What went wrong?? **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nc6 4.Nc3** An excellent alternative is 4.Bc4 entering the "Half-Italian Game." And if 4...Bg4 5.h3 (or the completely unexpected 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5!! for which you will have to read my new book.) 5...Bh5 6.d5 Nb8 7.Nc3 with a healthy space advantage. **4...Bg4 4...exd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0-0? 5.Bb5** Going into a Ruy Lopez can only be good! Also quite good is 5.d5 Nd4 6.Be3 Nxf3+ 7.gxf3 Bd7 8.Rg1, and the doubled pawns will be erased by f4. White will castle queenside and have good prospects on the kingside whether Black castles there or not. **5...exd4 6.Qxd4 Qd7 7.Bxc6 Qxc6** If you want a double-edged, lively game with a lower rated player this might be best: **7...bxc6 8.Be3 c5** White still has an edge, but a lot can happen. **8.Be3 Be7??**

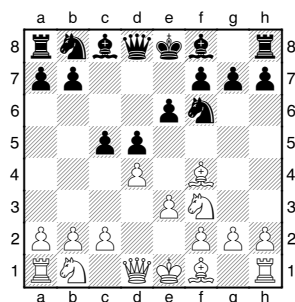


Incomprehensible! **9.Qxg7 Bxf3** It's over. The other alternative doesn't work either: **9...Bf6 10.Qxg4 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qxc3+ 12.Ke2 10.gxf3??** NO. It isn't over!! White misses 10.Qxh8 **10...0-0-0??** Have mercy! Black gets a winning position after 10...Bf6

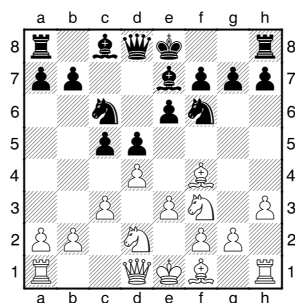
11.Qxh8 Bf6 12.Qxh7 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Qxc3+ 14.Ke2 Qxc2+ 15.Bd2 Qc4+ 16.Ke1 d5 17.Rc1 Qxa2 18.Qxf7 c6 19.exd5 Kb8 20.Rg1 1-0

(7) Varelos, Carlos (1769) - Tsang, Justin (1257)

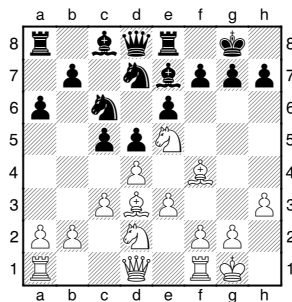
This one is a knock down, drag out brawl --only decided on the last move (move 41). What's funny is that it comes out of the London System, which can bore people to death--unless Black tries to win instead of just draw. **1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 c5**



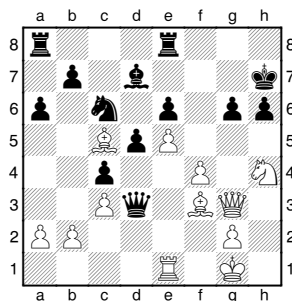
The All-Purpose Defense. A handy tool for young players. **5.c3** One of the big themes of the London is that's it's an improved Colle System because the queen's bishop is outside the pawn chain. It also doesn't require e4. It can hang its hat on Ne5. **5...Nc6 6.Nbd2 Be7** The move played is fine. Black can also challenge the bishop with 6...Bd6 or try to exchange knight for bishop because White didn't take the precaution of playing h3 earlier. **6...Nh5 7.h3!**



Better late than never. **7...a6?** Easy equality comes from: **7...0-0 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.Ne5 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bxe5 11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8!!** Let's get your last undeveloped minor piece set before picking a rook move. **9...b6 10.Qe2 Bb7 10.Ne5 Nd7??** A blunder! Black needed to first exchange the knight, then play to d7. **10...Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nd7 12.Qh5 g6=**

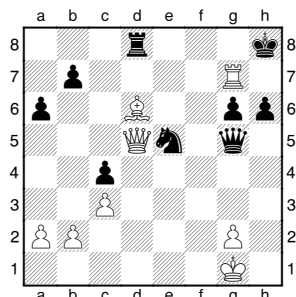


11.Qh5?? Every chess player has to know their standard attacking patterns. You ALWAYS look at Bxh7+, especially with f7 undefended! White misses a win. **11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Nxf7 Qb6 13.Qh5+ Kg8 14.Nh6+ gxh6 15.Bxh6 Bf8 16.Qxe8 11...g6 12.Qg4 Ndx5 13.dxe5 Bf8** trying to protect the dark squares. **14.Bg3?** If White wants some remnant of an attack, it's going to be with f4 and f5 supported by a pawn on g4. The bishop should go all the way back to h2. That's what h3 was all about. **14...Bg7 15.f4** White could just play to draw with a solid **15.Nf3 15...Qb6! 16.Nf3 c4 17.Be2 Qxe3+ 17...h5 18.Qh4 Qxb2 18.Rf2 Bf8! 19.h4 Kg7 20.h5** Both sides are really going at it here. Chaos reigns supreme! **20...h6?** Black should have gone with the plan initiated by Bf8 **20...Bc5 21.hxg6** White had to ask himself what pieces weren't useful in the attack. The queen rook can't do much, but repositioning the bishop would have led to a nasty attack. **21.Bd1 Be7 22.Bc2 21...fxg6 22.Re1** A good chance, but hard work was **22.Nh4 Qe4 23.Bf3 Nxe5 24.fxe5 Qxg4 25.Bxg4 Bc5 26.Nf3 Bxf2+ 27.Bxf2 22...Qe4 22...h5 23.Qh3 Qe4 23.Nh4 Bc5 23...h5 24.Kf1?? 24.Bf1 24...Bxf2 25.Bxf2 Ne7 26.Qg3 Kh7 27.Bc5 Bd7 28.Kg1** It's now anybody's game. **28...Nc6** Taking away the key defensive piece. White doesn't notice. **28...Qc2; 28...Bc6 29.Bf3 29.Bh5!+- 29...Qd3**



30.Qg4?? Trapping the queen would have been fun: **30.Qf2 b5 31.Rd1 30...Rg8** A new defender arrives. **31.Rd1 Qc2 32.Bxd5! exd5 33.Qxd7+ Rg7 34.Qxd5**

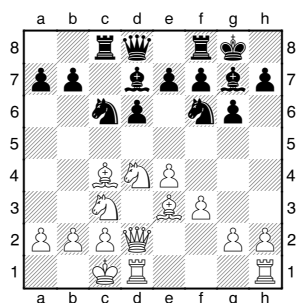
Rd8 35.Bd6 Qe2 35...Ne7 36.Rf1 Qg4 37.Nf3 Qxf4 Both sides have played well for seven moves, but... **38.Ng5+?? 38.Nd4 Ne7 39.Qa5 Qe3+ 40.Kh2 Rdg8 38...Qxg5** Yes, queens move backward! **39.Rf7 Nxe5** We don't know the time pressure here, one move before 40, but Black could have put it away with **39...Rxf7 40.Qxf7+ Kh8 40.Rxg7+ Kh8**



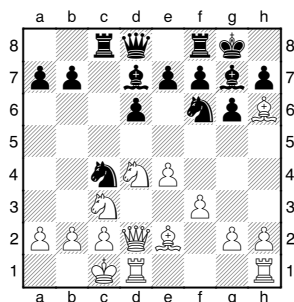
Better, forcing a draw, was **40...Kxg7 41.Bxe5??** White misses his last winning chance with **41.Rg8+ Rxg8 42.Bxe5+ Rg7 43.Bxg7+ Kxg7 44.Qxb7+ Kg8 45.Qc8+ Kg7 46.Qc7+ Kh8 47.Qxc4 41...Rxd5** A nerve-racking game!
0-1

(8) Tavares, Jarod (1926) - Durbha, Antara (1589)

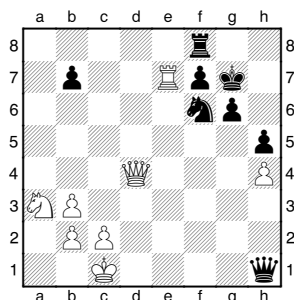
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8



OK, everybody knows the first ten moves in the Dragon. Do they understand the demands of the position? That's another story. **11.Be2?** Did you know that there are over 5,000 games here on Chessbase that put the bishop on b3 and only 50+ go to the next most popular move, **11.h4?** I guess it's time to learn move 11. **11...Ne5** Now that White has played the time-wasting **Be2**, Black can afford to play a move for which there is usually not enough time: **11...a6**. That's the difference between memorizing and understanding an opening. **12.Bh6 Nc4**



The same point as previous remarks. Better is **12...Bxh6! 13.Qxh6 Qa5 14.g4 Rxc3!** You have to know how to sacrifice the exchange on c3 in the Dragon. **13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.h4?** Better to play **15.g4** first to discourage **h5**. **15...h5! 16.Qe2 Qc7 17.Ncb5 Bxb5** You also have to recognize overloaded pieces. Black could have won here with **17...Qc5 18.b3 Rb4 19.c3 Rc8 20.Qd2 Rxb5 18.Nxb5 Qc5 19.Na3 Rb4 19...Ra4 20.Kb1 Rc8 21.Rd3 Qe5 20.Rd3 Qe5 21.Rb3 Rxb3 22.axb3 d5** The thematic Sicilian d5 move finally makes its appearance on move 22. **23.Qe3 dxe4 24.Re1 Qg3 25.fxe4 Qxg2 26.Qxa7 Nxe4?** More effective was **26...Qg3 27.Qd4+ Nf6 28.Rxe7 Qh1+**

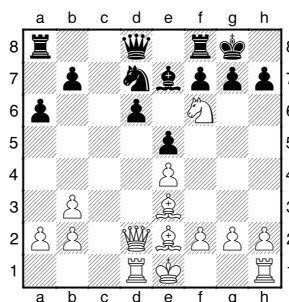


29.Qd1?? The counter-intuitive **29.Kd2!** holds the draw. **29...Qxh4** and wins, but we're not done! **30.Rxb7 Re8 31.Rb4** and White resigned.
0-1

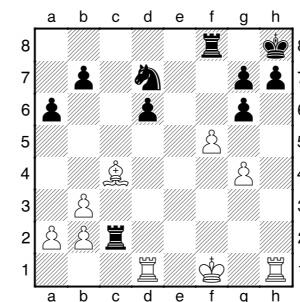
(9) Murray, Paul (1272) - Acosta, Hazel (1048)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 The venerable Najdorf still has a large following. **6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg5?!** Yes, it has been played by GMs, but not very much. It's not bad, and it does get your opponent out of the book, but the bishop doesn't really do much there. The "threat" of **Bxf6** and **Nd5** is not much of a threat. **8...Be6 9.Qd2**

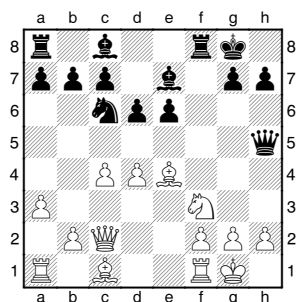
9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Nd5 Nd7 11.Nxf6+ Nxf6 12.Bf3 Qc7 13.Qd2 0-0 14.Rd1 Rfd8 9... Bxb3?? No. Just no. You don't lightly give up your light squared bishop, a defender of the d5 square. **10.cxb3?!** Better is **10.axb3** which allows for c4 at a later time and allows the rook to wander upward if necessary. **10...0-0 11.Rd1** That d6 pawn must be on White's mind, as is **Bxf6**. **11... Ne8** Why clog up the back rank? **11... Nbd7 12.Be3 Nd7 13.Nd5 Nef6 13...Nc5 14.Nxf6+?**



14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qxd6 with a free pawn, as taking the e4 pawn would leave the **Nd7** unprotected. **14...Bxf6??** I actually checked the scoresheet a second time. **15.h4** I checked the scoresheet three times on this move! Why not simply **15.Qxd6?** **15...Rc8 16.Bg5 Rc6 16...Nc5 17.f4 exf4 17...h6 18.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Qxf4 18.Bxf4 Bxh4+ 19.g3 Be7** is better, but still to Black's advantage. **18...Bxg5 18...Qa5+ 19.hxg5 Qa5+ 20.Kf1 Qe5 21.Qf5 Qxf5+ 22.exf5 Rc5 23.g4 Rc2** We have achieved equilibrium, but it doesn't stay that way. **24.g6? 24.Rxd6 24...fxg6 25.Bc4+ 25.Rxd6 25...Kh8**

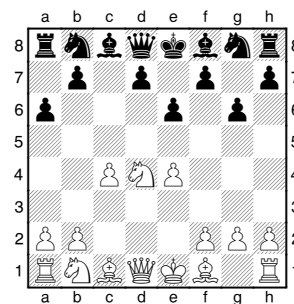


(10) Touhey, Alec - Molodyk, Mikhail
1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.e3
 A rather passive system against the Dutch Defense. **5...0-0 6.Bd3 d6** Quite playable
 is **6...b6 7.e4 fxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Bxe4**
d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Qb3 Be6 = 7.Qc2
Qe8 7...Nc6 8.0-0 Qh5 8...c5 9.e4 Nc6!
10.a3 Quite interesting for both sides was
10.Qb3 e5 11.dxe5 Ng4 12.c5+ Kh8 13.h3
Ngxe5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.exf5 Nd4 10...fxe4
11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4

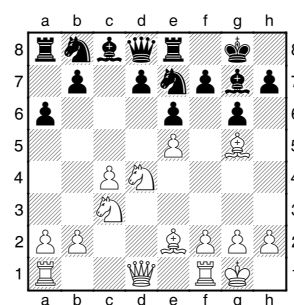


(11) Hutama,Sandi (2192)-Stolyarov,Alan (1933)
1.e4 g6 2.h4!? Sandi Hutama is a very aggressive and imaginative player, so this is not a surprise. However, maybe he's been looking at Alpha Zero's affinity for h-pawn moves! **2...h5?!** Black needs to not be distracted and stick to some thematic plan like this: **2...c5 3.h5 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nc6= 3.d4 Bg7 4.Be3 d6 5.Qd2 Nf6 6.f3 e6 7.c4 Nc6**

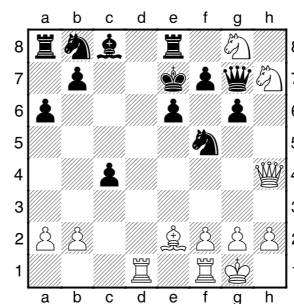
(12) Zeltsan, Joseph (2321) - Robinson, Charu (2023)
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
 Still very popular after all these years.
5.c4 The direct approach. Others prefer piece development. A matter of taste.
 Black will sometimes go into a hedgehog formation against this attempt at a bind.
5...g6?!



One might have expected something along these lines: 5...Qc7 6.Nc3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.0-0 Bc5 **6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be2 Ne7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5!** Although the bishop can be chased, it is a fine move. Any chasing weakens the castled position, and the dark squares are already a problem. **9...Re8 10.e5?!**

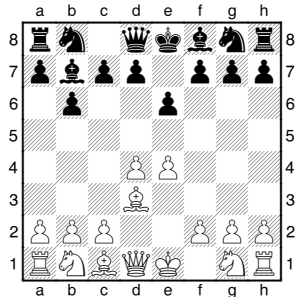


10...d6?! Puzzling on both counts. What's
White got after 10...Bxe5 11.Qd2 d5
12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Nf3 Bg7 14.Bxe7 Rxe7
15.cxd5 Bxc3 16.bxc3 exd5? 11.Nf3
h6 12.Bf6! Remember the dark square
 weakness we were talking about? **12...Bxf6**
13.exf6 Nec6 14.Qd2 Qxf6 15.Qxh6 Qg7
16.Qh4 d5 17.Rad1 Quicker was 17.cxd5
 exd5 18.Nxd5 Nd7 (18...Rxe2 19.Nf6+ Kf8
 20.Rfe1 Re6 21.Ng5 is devastating.) 19.Rae1
 Rf8 20.Bc4 and Black has no way of getting
 his queenside pieces unjumbled. **17...**
dx c4 18.Ne4 Oh, those weak dark squares!
 Quite often e6 and g6 can cause all sorts
 of problems for Black. **18...Kf8 19.Nf6**
Ne7 20.Ng5 Nf5 21.Ngh7+!! Lovely! Black
 resigned. If **21...Ke7 22.Ng8#**



(13) Groseibl,Ron - Sanchez,Cayetana

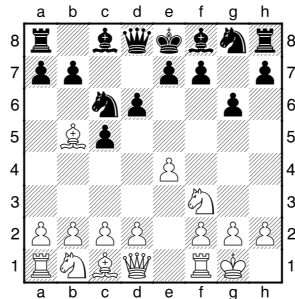
1.e4 e6 As a point of comparison to the later note: 1...b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 f5 4.exf5 Bxg2 5.Qh5+ g6 6.fgx6 Bg7 7.gxh7+ Kf8 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Qg6 Bxf3 10.Rg1 Rxh7 11.Qg3 Be4 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Qf3+ Nf6 14.Qxa8 Nc6 15.Qxd8+ Nxd8 16.Nc3± **2.d4 b6 3.Bd3 Bb7**



The old Owens Defense, which is not seen much anymore with good reason. **4.Be3** Another classical response would be 4.Nc3 f5 5.Nf3 fxe4 6.Nxe4± **4...Nf6** 4...f5 5.exf5 Bxg2 6.Qh5+ g6 7.fgx6 Bg7 8.gxh7+ Kf8 9.hxg8Q+ (9.Nf3 Nf6 10.Qg6 Bxf3 11.Rg1 Qe7 The key difference--there is a good square for the queen in this line.) 9...Kxg8 10.Qg6 Bxh1= **5.f3 d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 c5 8.d5 Be7 9.dxe6** Keep the bishop buried. Don't free up cramped positions. 9.Nh3 exd5 10.cxd5 0-0 11.0-0 Ne5 12.Be2 a6 13.a4 Ng6 14.Nf2² **9...fxe6 10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 11.Nf4 11...d5?** 11...Ne5 **12.cxd5 exd5 13.e5?** Better to win a pawn with this old trick: 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Bxh7+ **13...Nxe5** White is now lost. Black dominates the center in compensation for his being a pawn up! **14.Bf4 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Bd6 16.Rad1 Bxf4** 16...d4 **17.Nxf4 d4?** A move later, it's a mistake. **18.Ne6 Qc8** 18...Qd7 **19.Nxf8 Ba6 20.Nb5 Qc6?** 20...Qxf8! 21.Qc4+ Qf7 22.Qxf7+ Kxf7 23.Nc7 (23. a4 Nd5=) 23...Bxf1 24.Nxa8 Be2 25.Rd2 d3= **21.a4 21.Nxh7! Nxh7 22.Nxd4 21... Kxf8 22.Rfe1 Nd5 23.Qf5+ 23.Nxd4! 23... Kg8 24.Re6 Qd7 25.Qe4 Bxb5 26.axb5 Nc7 27.Re7 Qxb5 28.Rxc7 Rf8 29.Qe7 Re8 30.Qxg7#**
1-0

(14) Baliga,Zubin Maha (2029) - Castillo,Arwin (1300)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.0-0 g6?! 24.Nxd2 Bxb2 25.axb3 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxd3 27.Rxa7 Rxd2 28.Rxe7+ Kh8 29.exf5 gxf5 30.Rc7, although Black would still be better. What follows is a simple and game ending oversight. Been there, done that. **23...Qxe1+ White Resigns**
0-1

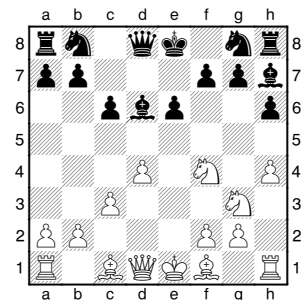


Easily the popular choice these days. It often gets paired with an e5 pawn thrust with lots of complications; HOWEVER, g6 should be played on the THIRD MOVE after a 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6. There IS a reason. See the note to white's 5th move. A decent try is 4...e5 5.c3 a6 **5.Re1!?** White misses the possibility of transposing into a good line of the Qxd4 Sicilian with 5.d4! cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nf6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Nxe5 when no player of the Sicilian would voluntarily go into this position as Black. **5...Bg7 6.c3** Quite playable alternatives are: 6.d3; 6.e5; 6.Bxc6+ **6...Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6 9.d3 Nge7 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Qd1** A good plan that not only fosters queenside structural weaknesses, but prepares a kingside advance would be 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nd2 Rb8 13.Rab1 e5 14.Qg3. It's hard to understand the reasoning behind retreating the queen. **11...Qa5 12.Ba4 b5** Black has now seized the initiative. **13.Bc2 h6** Keep going! 13...b4 **14.Be3** At least hit the undefended d6 pawn to encourage e5 to block the bishop's pressure on c3 and b2, or encourage Qc7 so it can't have as much influence on the queenside counterattack. 14.Bf4 **14...b4** There we go! **15.Qd2 Kh7 16.Bb3** It doesn't really prevent anything and doesn't help attack the king, which it indirectly did on c2. **16...Rad8** They could have played 16...d5 right away. **17.f4 f5** THE thematic move in the Sicilian is 17...d5. Black should have played it here. **18.Bxe6** White has caught a break. Black has chucked a pawn but may have compensation due to his initiative. **18...d5** Finally! **19.Qc2** There's a better chance for equality with 19.exf5 Nxf5 (19...gxf5 20.c4) 20.Bxf5 Rxf5 21.Bf2; and it is unclear whether White can make anything of the passed pawn after 19.cxb4 cxb4 20.e5 Nb8 21.a3 Qa6. Still, it's more fun to be a pawn up. **19...d4 20.cxd4 Nxd4** Much nastier was 20...fxe4 21.dxe4 cxd4 **21.Bxd4** 21.Qc4 would hold. **21...Bxd4+ 22.Kh1 b3 23.Bxb3??** The best chance at mounting a defense was 23.Qd2 Qxd2

24.Nxd2 Bxb2 25.axb3 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxd3 27.Rxa7 Rxd2 28.Rxe7+ Kh8 29.exf5 gxf5 30.Rc7, although Black would still be better. What follows is a simple and game ending oversight. Been there, done that. **23...Qxe1+ White Resigns**
0-1

(15) Hess,Peter (2020) - Hepler,Phil (1840)

A lively contested game of some theoretical interest. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.N1e2 Ah**, this brings your annotator back to the Tal-Botvinnik match. There is a difference, though, in that Tal played 5.N1e2 with the idea of Bc4 coordinating with Nf4 in an attack on e6. I scored very well with that line back in the day, but I dropped it after I saw a game by IM Dean Ippolito where he defeated the system as Black. Still, there are ideas that can translate into this position as we shall see. **7...e6 8.Nf4 Bh7 9.c3 Bd6?! 24.Nxd2 Bxb2 25.axb3 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxd3 27.Rxa7 Rxd2 28.Rxe7+ Kh8 29.exf5 gxf5 30.Rc7**, although Black would still be better. What follows is a simple and game ending oversight. Been there, done that. **23...Qxe1+ White Resigns**
0-1

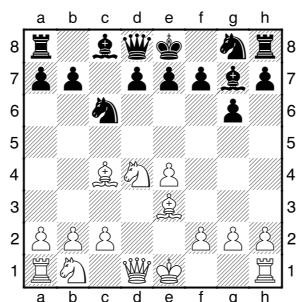


They need to get that queenside Caro knight out to support a possible e5 move and to support a Ngf6. 9...Nd7 **10.Bd3!?** As we learned from the match, the better idea is 10.Ngh5! Bf8 (10...g6 11.Ng7+ Kd7 (11...Kf8 12.Ngxe6+) 12.Be3) 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Nf6 13.Qg3 **10...Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nf6 12.Nfh5 0-0 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Ne4** 14.Nh5 Qg6 15.Qxg6 fxe6 16.Ng3 Bxg3 17.fxe6 Nd7 18.Bf4 e5! equalizes for Black because of White's king position and the subsequent Re8 pin. **14...Qe7 15.Nxd6** Worth a look is 15.Bg5 Qc7 (15...hxe5 16.hxe5 f5 17.gxf6 gxf6 18.Qh3 Bf4 19.Qh8+ Kf7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Nxf6+ leads to mate.) 16.Qe3 (or 16.0-0-0) **15...Qxd6 16.Rh3 Nd7 17.Rg3 e5 18.Bd2 exd4 19.0-0-0** White didn't come to draw! **19...Rfe8 20.Be3 c5 21.cxd4 c4!** Both sides are playing very well. The game is equal, but dangerous. **22.Qd2 Kh7 23.Qc2+ Kh8 24.Qf5 Qe6** Black needed to generate some counterplay. 24...Re7 25.Bf4 Qb4 **25.Rf3 Nf6?** Black had several good defensive moves, but this one is just tactically wrong. 25...Qxf5; 25...Re7; 25...Kg8 **26.d5** White could play 26.Bxh6, but

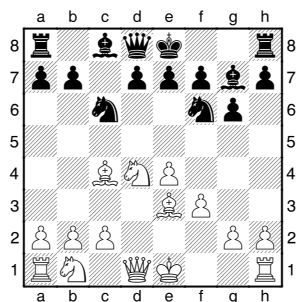
he has other ideas first. **26...Qxf5 27.Rxf5 Kg8** Better, though still leading to an edge for White, was **27...Kh7 28.Bd4 Kg6 29.g4 Nxg4 30.Rf4 Nf6 31.Rg1+ Kh7 32.Bxf6 gxf6 33.Rxf6 28.Bxh6 Nxd5 29.Bxg7** All roads lead to Rome. Also **29.Rg5 29...Ne3 30.fxe3 Kxg7 31.Rd7 Rxe3 32.Rdx7+ 32.Rxf7+ works as well. 32...Kg6 33.g4 Re1+ 34.Kc2 Re2+ 35.Kc3 Re3+ 36.Kxc4 Re4+ 37.Kd5 Rxd4 38.R5f6+ 1-0**

(16) Castillo,Arwin (1300) - Jha,Manav (588)

This game is a lesson in a general flaw in average players' opening study. If you pick an opening system, you can't just memorize the first 5 or 10 moves. You have to know why you're making those moves and what your plan is after you get to move 10. I spent considerable time on the Accelerated Dragon in my newest book, *Openings for Amateurs/Next Steps*. Black should buy a copy. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Bc4** For White, there is the choice of the "dreaded" Maroczy Bind: **5.c4**; White should also know it's useful to develop the horse: **5.Nc3 5...Bg7 6.Be3**



6...Nf6 White's developing the bishop first has its problems, and Black could have pointed them out with **6...Qa5+! 7.c3 (7.Nc3 Qb4) 7...Nf6 8.Nd2 0-0** and White's development with the knight on d2 and pawn on c3 is not as good as having the knight on c3. **7.f3**

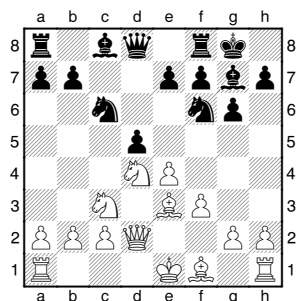


7...0-0 Black is just playing moves without

understanding what the Accelerated Dragon is all about. You don't use a tempo to play d6 so you can play d5 in one move: **7...d5! 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 Qxd5 10.Nxc6 Qxc6 11.c3 0-0** as White's two bishops and easy access to the d-file for the rooks will keep the initiative. **8.Nc3 d6** Another lesson in theory: Because the bishop is unprotected on e3, Black, as he is now castled, can play without being concerned with Nf5, **8...Qb6 9.Bb3**, and now the killer part of this little exercise: **9...Nxe4! 10.Nd5 Qa5+ 11.c3 Nc5 12.Nxc6 dxc6 13.Nxe7+ Kh8 14.Nxc8 Raxc8 15.0-0 Rfe8 16.Bf2 Rcd8 17.Qc2 Kg8** and Black has easy equality. **9.Qd2 Ne5 10.Bb3 Re8?** Better is **10...Bd7** to get the rook to the c-file. **11.0-0-0** Since White has not been challenged by Black, White now has an edge. **11...Be6??** Apparently, Black doesn't know the mantra, "How many times attacked, how many times defended." **12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Bxe6+** Black could have, in good conscience, resigned here. **13...Kh8 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Ng8 16.Qh3 Qa5 17.f4 Nc6 18.f5 gxf5 19.Bxf5 Nf6 20.Nd5 Kg8 21.Nxf6+ exf6 22.Qxh7+ Kf8 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Qg7+ Kd8 25.Qd7#** In our next game, Black has a better understanding of the opening he's using. **1-0**

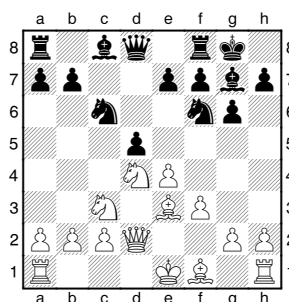
(17) Singh,Arjun (1435)- Lieberman,Jack (1857)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 Since Black ends up in the Accelerated Dragon anyhow, I would recommend playing **2...Nc6** to avoid things like **3.b4** or **3.c3** just to cut down on preparation. **3.d4 3.c3 Nc6 4.d4 d5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Be2 3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3** Most White players that recognize the absence of d6 being played in this Dragon go with **7.Bc4 7...0-0 8.Qd2 d5!**

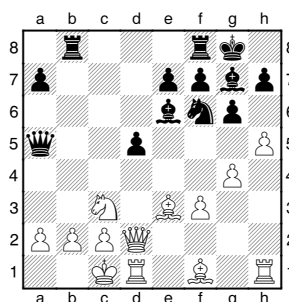


This is the beauty of not having played d6 first. I devote considerable time to the Accelerated Dragon in my next volume of *Openings for Amateurs*, due out pretty

darn soon! All new stuff! **9.Nxc6** Black is doing fine after **9.0-0-0 dxe4 10.Nxc6 Qxd2+ 11.Rxd2 bxc6 12.Nxe4 Nd5 13.Bc5 f5 14.Ng5 Bf6 9...bxc6 10.0-0-0**



Not **10.e5 Ne8 11.f4 f6! 12.exf6 Nxf6**; White's best chance to be just slightly worse would be **10.exd5 Nxd5! 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.c3 Qa5 10...Be6** Rather than make my bishop look like a pawn, I'd rather clear off some of the pawns and then play **Be6: 10...Qc7 11.exd5 Nxd5! 12.Bd4 (12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Qxd5 Bf5 14.Qc5 Qxc5 15.Bxc5 Rfc8 16.g4 Bxc2 17.Kxc2 Rxc5+ 18.Kb1 Rb8) 12...Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Be6 14.Qc5 Nxc3 15.Qxc3 Bxa2**, and if White tries to trap the bishop -- **16.b3 a5 17.Kb2 a4 18.Kxa2 axb3+ 19.Kb1 bxc2+ 20.Kxc2 Ra2+ 21.Kb1 Qa7**, and it's all over. Also playable is **10...Rb8 11.Bxa7 Rb7 12.Bd4 dxe4 13.Ba6 (13.Nxe4 Nxe4) 13...Rd7 14.Bxc8 Qxc8 15.Qe3 exf3 16.Qxf3 Qb8 11.exd5 cxd5** Again, I would prefer to keep the diagonal open. Don't misunderstand; Black is playing very well. It's just nice to be aware of alternatives like **11...Nxd5. 11...Nxd5 12.g4** White doesn't understand that the attacking horse has left the barn. Black has the initiative. **2...Qa5 13.h4 Rab8!** This is a great move. There is now a rook, queen and two bishops aimed at the White king AND the rooks are connected. White, on the other hand, has disconnected rooks, a bishop sitting at home, and the Q/B battery hitting h6; any threats from the h5 push are not in time. **14.h5**

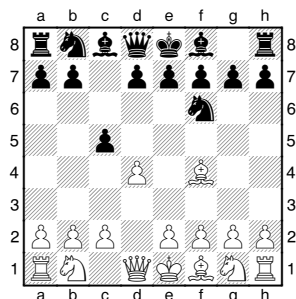


A better defense than what follows would

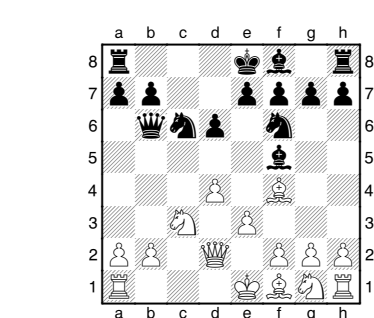
have been 14.Bd4 Rfd8 15.a3 (15.h5 Ne4!) 15...h5! 16.gxh5 Nxh5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qd4+ Kg8 where White's attack has dissipated, while Black still has some chances to win. Routine can be a good thing in checking for tactics, but it can be a bad practice for prosecuting an attack. White is ignoring his opponent. You can't do that as the last annotation made a stark contrast between the two possible positions. **14... Rxb2!** is a thematic sacrifice, but you have to know it. Another one to know is 14... Ne4! 15.fxe4 Qb4 16.b3 Bxc3 The Ne4 idea pops up in Dragon positions, BUT I LOVE the big KABOOM on b2. That's how you play the Dragon! **15.Kxb2** An attempt to wriggle out fails miserably: 15.Re1 Qa3 16.Bd4 Rb4+ 17.Kd1 Rxd4 18.Qxd4 Ne4 **15...Qb4+ 16.Kc1 Ne4** Black can use his later ideas a bit earlier: 16...Qa3+ 17.Kb1 Ne4 **17.Bc5 Nxc5 18.hxg6 Qa3+ 19.Kb1 Rb8+ 20.Bb5 Rxb5+ 21.Nxb5 Qb2#** Nicely done!! That's what happens when a good 1900+ player uses the Dragon. He understood not only the d5 idea, but also how to attack the White queenside-castled position. Bravo, Jack Lieberman!

0-1

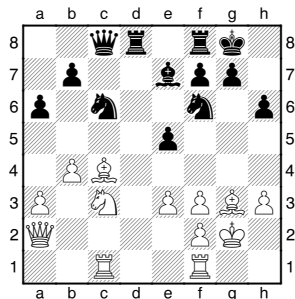
(18) Huang, Alan (1990) -
Chen, Jacob (2230)
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5!



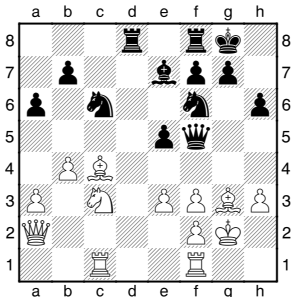
About as thematic as you can get. The bishop abandons the protection of b2, and Black is ready to counter with Qb6. **3.c3** The opening by White is insipid. He might as well have gone with 3.dxc5. At least it would stop Qb6! **3...Qb6 4.Qc2 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.e3 d6 7.Nc3 Bf5 8.Qd2**



8...h6 Very active would be 8...e5! 9.Bg3 (9.d5 Nb4; 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Bg3 Rd8) 9... exd4 10.exd4 Be7 11.Nf3 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Be2 d5 **9.Bc4?** There's a wild line worth looking at: 9.d5 Nb4 10.Rc1 Qa5 11.Bg3 Rc8 12.f3 Nc2+ 13.Rxc2 Bxc2 14.Qxc2 Nxd5 15.Kd2 **9...e5!** There we go! **10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Bg3 Bb4 12.Nf3 Qa5** Why not take advantage of c3 and hit the queen at the same time? 12...Ne4 13.Qd5 0-0 14.0-0 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bxc3μ **13.0-0 Rd8 14.Qe2 0-0** The opening is now definitely over. The middlegame begins. Black's attack on c3 is white's first concern. His limited king's bishop is another. White deals with the c3 item first. **15.Nb5 a6 16.a3 Be7 17.b4 Qb6 18.Nc3 Bg4** The game is pretty equal. It's hard to say what is best. Here's one possibility: 18...e4 19.Ne5 Bd6 20.Nxc6 Qxc6 **19.h3 Bh5 20.Qa2!** Nice "horizontal" move. **20...Bxf3 21.gxf3 Qc7 22.Rac1 Qc8 23.Kg2!**



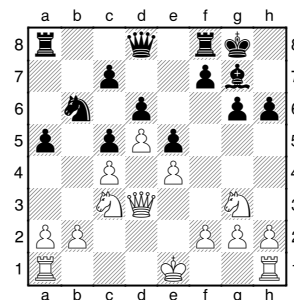
White has slowly, almost imperceptibly, built up a slight edge. He's got the two bishops, his rook is opposite the queen, and the Q/B battery has no opposite number for Black. **23...Qf5!**



Black makes a bold decision to go after the weaknesses in White's kingside pawn structure. **24.Nd5?** This justifies Black's gamble. Better was 24.Rfd1 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 e4 26.fxe4 Nxe4 27.Rd5 **24...e4! 25.Nxe7+** White overvalued "winning" the bishop. **25...Nxe7 26.Qe2 Be2 exf3+ 27.Bxf3= m26...Nh5 27.f4** Imprisoning the bishop. 27.fxe4 Qxe4+ 28.Qf3 Qxf3+= and the two bishops may be one bishop soon. **27...Nxg3 28.fgx3 b5** Now Black has the initiative again and a nice square on d3. The game for White quickly goes downhill. **29.g4 Qf6 30.Bb3 Rd3 31.Bc2 Rxa3 32.Bxe4 Qe6 33.Kf3 f5 34.Bb7 Qb6 35.Bxa6 Qxa6 36.Rc5 Qe6 37.Rxb5 Nd5 38.Re1 Rxe3+ 39.Qxe3 Nxe3 40.Re5 fxe4+ 0-1**

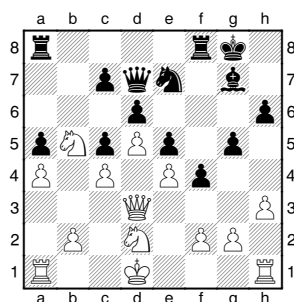
(19) Kernighan, Mark (2239) -
Chin, Damien (1642)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nge2 Also possible is 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 but the veteran master is in no hurry. Take the 600 point lower rated played down an unfamiliar road. **6...e5** Perfectly good is 6... c5 with chances of turning it into a Dragon Sicilian with cxd4 if White doesn't play d5. **7.d5 Nbd7 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bd2 Nc5 10.Bc2 a5** Black seems to know what to do: anchor the knight at c5 and prepare for an eventual f5. **11.Ng3 Bd7 12.Be3 b6 13.Bxc5** Not quite sure about the hurry to give up the bishop. He could play moves like h3 and 0-0 to see what Black does and then take. Maybe it's just six of one and half a dozen of the other. **13...bxc5 14.Ba4 Bxa4 15.Qxa4** White has now given Black a bunch of weak light squares and an isolated a-pawn. Black is not ready to play an f5 thrust, but he could go with h5 and h4 for counterplay. **15...Nd7 16.Qc2!** The queen has to move anyhow after Nb6, and this stops f5. White's strategy is modest, but, so far, reasonably effective. **16...Nb6 17.Qd3**

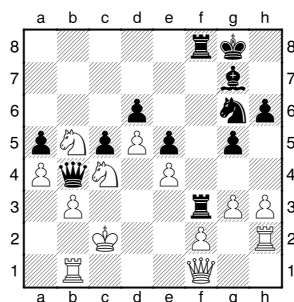


There was a more aggressive path: 17.Nb5 Qd7 18.a4 f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Nh5 f4 (20...

Bh8 21.Ra3!) 21.0-0-0 17...Qd7?! Black prepares f5, but he didn't have to wait. He could have precipitated a crisis with 17...f5 18.Nge2 (18.exf5 gxf5 19.Nxf5 e4! 20.Qh3 Qf6 21.g4 Nxc4) 18...Qg5 19.0-0 h5 18.Nf1 f5 19.Nd2 f4 Would be better to clear the file for the rooks and also get some chances on the queenside with 19...fxe4 20.Ncxe4 a4 20.Qe2 Qf7 Black could have just castled or played Nf3. The played move is a bit odd. 21.Kd1 Qd7 22.a4 Nc8 23.Nb5 Ne7! Black's pieces are now starting to look like a team on the kingside. White is suddenly in need of putting a defense together. 24.Qd3 g5 Black could try starting some trouble on the queenside to discourage the White king from going there. 24...c6 25.dxc6 Nxc6 25.h3



25...Ng6 Thematic, but not best here because it takes away a benefit of c6 and Nxc6. Black could try 25...h5 26.Qe2 g4 27.hxg4 hxg4 28.Rh4 and White is winning!; 25...Bf6 26.Qe2 Kg7 27.Qg4; but best seems 25...Rf6 26.Ra3 c6 26.Kc2 f3? A bit optimistic. not 26...Rf7; but 26...Ne7 27.Nxf3 Nf4 Too routine. Better was 27...Nh4 28.Rag1 Rf4 28.Qf1 Rab8 29.Nd2 c6 It's too late. There's no knight to recapture. 30.Nc3!? 30.dxc6 Qxc6 31.f3 and the glaring hole on d5 along with the weak backward pawn on d6 will be fatal. 30...Qb7 31.Rb1 cxd5 32.cxd5 Qb4 Black had a chance for good counterplay with 32...c4 33.f3 (33.Nxc4 Qb3+) 33...Qb6 as long as White didn't respond with Nb5! 33.g3 Ng6 Now something bad is going to happen to the Black queen. 34.Nc4 Rf6 35.b3 Rbf8 36.Rh2 Rf3 37.Nb5!

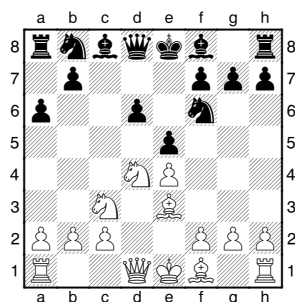


The queen is trapped without even being attacked! 37...Rxb3 38.fxb3 Of course! It's over. The rooks will run rampant on the kingside. 38...Rxf1 39.Rxf1 Bf8 40.Rhf2 Be7 41.Rf7 Kh8 42.Na7 Qb8 43.Nc6 Qc7 44.N4xa5 Kg8 45.Nxe7+ Nxe7 46.Nc6 A very patient game by the master. Some real promise was shown by the lower rated player.

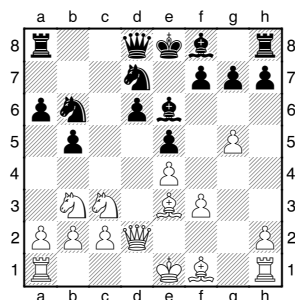
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(20) Liu,Bowen (1771) - Mujumder,Sameer (2270)

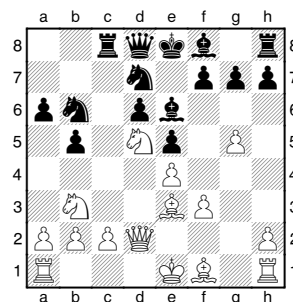
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5



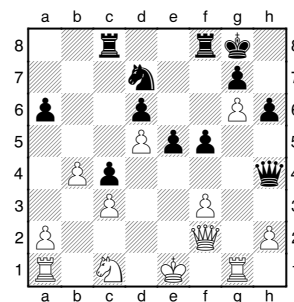
7.Nb3 Both sides dutifully follow the most popular path, but there is no reason not to play 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc4 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.0-0, and this position is also equal, but White's pieces are at least better coordinated than in the mess that evolves in the game. 7...Be6 8.f3 Again following book, and again there's no reason to not play Be2. 8.Be2 8...Nbd7 9.Qd2 b5 10.g4 not paying sufficient attention to Black's queenside play and letting equality slip away. 10.a4 b4 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb6 13.Bxb6 Qxb6 14.a5 Qb7 10...Nb6 11.g5 Nfd7



12.Nd5 It won't help to play 12.f4 g6; but a lively encounter ensues from 12.Na5 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Qxa5 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Bh3 Qd5 17.Qe2 Rc8 18.0-0 12...Rc8!



Black's plan is thematic and coordinated. 13.c3? If you insist on playing into this Najdorf swamp, you have to know the important games. Judit Polgar beat Boris Gelfand back in 1996 in this very position. She castled and eventually won. There are interesting notes in Chessbase on this game. The Polgar game went 13.0-0-0 Bxd5 14.exd5 Nc4 15.Qf2, and Black went wrong by not taking the bishop on e3. 13... Bxd5 14.exd5 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Nc1 Be7 Black could play 16...h6 to get the queen check. 17.b4 0-0 White is short a knight over on the kingside. Thus, the attack is going nowhere. 18.Rg1 White needs to bring in the cavalry: 18.Ne2 18... f5! White is now unofficially toast. What a disorganized mess of a position. 19.g6 Bh4+ 20.Bf2 h6 21.Bxh4 Qxh4+ 22.Qf2

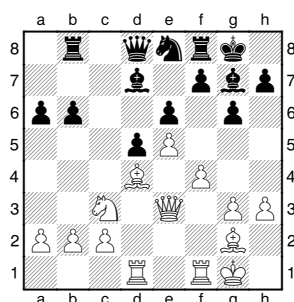


Praying for an exchange to lessen the pressure, and White's prayers are answered!! Any retreating queen move is a slam dunk win. 22...Qxf2+? 23.Kxf2 Nb6 Now Black has to exert a little effort. The win just takes a little longer. And if Black had made one other second-rate move, White might have survived, but Black went back to playing precisely. 24.Ne2 f4! 25.a4 Rf6 26.a5 Nxd5 27.Rad1 Ne7 28.Rd2 Rc6 29.h4 Rxb6 30.Rxb6 Nxb6 31.h5 Ne7 32.Kg2 Kf7 33.Kh3 Ke6 34.Kg4 Rc7 35.Rd1 Nf5 36.Re1 Ne3+ 37.Kh4 Ng2+ 0-1

(21) Rigai,Jon (1840)- Colure,Thomas Sean (2200)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 This starts out as a Grand Prix Attack. Black picks a lesser

known but good path, and things get interesting. **3...a6 4.Nf3 d6** Generally recommended and followed up by d5 is 4...e6 **5.g3** A playable alternative is 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.Nxc6 Bxc6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Qf3 g6 10.0-0-0 **5...g6** Botvinnik's idea is also good: 5...e5 **6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.d3 0-0 9.h3** Now, we are in a Closed Sicilian. **9...Rb8 10.Be3 Bd7** Black might do well to put more pressure on the queenside with 10...b5 11.a3 Nd7 **11.e5!?** He could have built it up a bit more with Qe1. **11...Ne8 12.Qe1 b6** A key in Closed Sicilian lines is for Black to control or occupy d4. Thus 12...Nc7 13.Rd1 Ne6 **13.d4! cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 e6** Black could simplify here with 15...dxe5 16.Bxe5 Bxe5 17.Qxe5 Nd6 18.Nd5 Be6 19.Rad1 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Qc8 **16.Rd1 d5 17.Qe3**

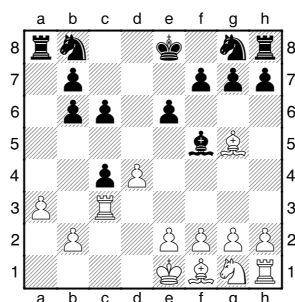


If you're Black, you have to start paying attention here. Where's your counterplay? If you're White, you're looking at g4 and f5. **17...Bc6 18.Rf2 Bh6 19.g4 Kh8 20.Rdf1 Rg8 21.Qd3 Nc7 22.a4** Why bother? Look at the kingside! If anything, the queen's knight will go to c3-e2-g3. **22...b5 23.f5!?** Whee! Is it just a bit too soon? **23...b4** It starts to get awkward after 23...gxf5 24.gxf5 Qg5 25.Ne2 Rbc8 **24.fxe6 fxe6?** 24...Nxe6 25.Ne2 (25. Rxf7 bxc3) 25...Bxa4 26.Rxf7 Bb5 27.Qf3 Bxe2 28.Qxe2 Nxd4 **25.Ne2 Bxa4 26.Rf7** First control f8. **26.Bc5 26...Bb5 27.Qf3 Be8** Black is helped by White now giving away pieces faster than the eye can see. **27...Rf8 28.Rxc7??** White would have an edge after 28.Rf6 Bg7 29.Qe3 Bxf6 30.exf6 Bf7 31.Nf4 Rb7 32.Nxe6 Nxe6 33.Qxe6!! Rc7 (33... Bxe6 34.f7+) 34.c3 **28...Qxc7 29.Qf6+ Bg7 30.Qxe6 Bb5 31.Nf4 Bxf1 32.Nxg6+ hxg6 33.Qxg6 Rgf8 34.Bxd5 Bd3 35.Qh5+ Bh7 36.Be4 Bf6 37.exf6 Qg3+ 38.Bg2 Rbd8 39.Qh6 Rf7 40.c3 bxc3 41.bxc3 Rb8 42.Qc1 Rb1 0-1**

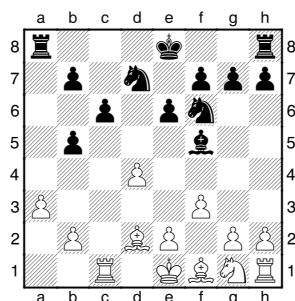
(22) Gertler,David (2231) - Chen,Ian (1783)
1.d4 d5 2.Bg5!? For old-time NJ and PA

NJ State Chess Federation

chess players, this is known as the Ruth Attack, after Bill Ruth, who was champion of both those states and played this regularly. A Nf6 response would turn it into a Tromposky. **2...Bf5 3.c4 c6 4.Qb3** Although the queen's bishop leaving the protection of b2 usually signals White to play Qb3, developing with 4.Nc3 is better because, with c6 played, the Qb3 approach doesn't work as well. **4...Qb6** This idea is mentioned in Masters of the Chessboard by Reti in a slightly different position. The idea is that exchanging on b6 opens a file for the black rook. White, however, decides that's OK. **5.Qxb6 axb6 6.Nc3 6.cxd5** He could create isolated and doubled pawns with 6...cxd5 **6...e6 7.Rc1 Bb4?!** There is no hurry to give up the bishop, to which Black is committing to here. Better is 7...Nd7 to support Ngf6 and decide later about the best square for the bishop. **8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.Rxc3 dxc4**

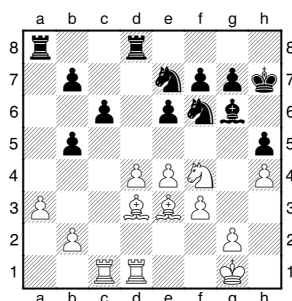


This is not really necessary or even good. Why abandon attacking e4, when, with the bishop on f5, you should anticipate f3 and e4 being on White's mind. **10.Rxc4 b5** Black has to remember that development is more important than a one shot attack on the rook. Get the knights out to d7 and f6! **11.Rc1 Nd7 12.Bd2** When I saw this, I liked it because it retreats to apparently deploy to the a3-f8 diagonal. **12...Ngf6 13.f3!**



A proper positional move to make Black regret dxc4. **13...0-0 14.e4 Bg6 15.Ne2 Nb6 16.Nf4 Rfd8 17.Be3** He could have

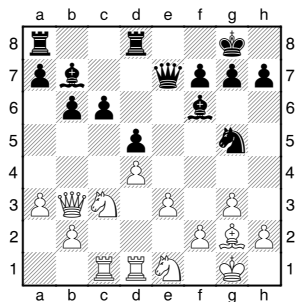
also played Bb4, but this move has a nasty threat of d5. **17...Nc8 18.h4!** Another nice move, building up one advantage after the next. You may have noticed that White really already has the two bishops. He doesn't even need to take the other bishop. **18...h5 19.Bd3 Ne7 20.0-0** In the long run it doesn't matter, but a bit more precise is getting the king into the game with **20.Kf2 20...Kh7 21.Rfd1**



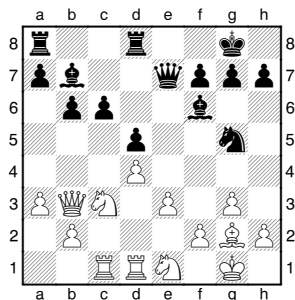
White's dominance of the board is evident even though he has no piece or pawn beyond the 4th rank. **21...Nd7 22.Bb1 e5 23.Nd3** Everything works here. Also very good was **23.dxe5 Nxe5 24.Bd4 Nc4 25.Ba2 23...exd4 24.Bxd4 Rac8 25.Nf4 Kg8** Black has no good moves. He is lost with no fireworks: just a good plan vs. no plan at all. **26.Ba2 Kf8 27.Rd2 Kg8 28.Rcd1 Nf8 29.Bc5 Rxd2 30.Rxd2 Re8 31.Bxe7 Rxe7 32.Rd8 Bh7 33.Nxh5 c5 34.Bd5 c4 35.Rb8 b6 36.Rxb6 Nd7 37.Rb7 Kf8 38.Bc6** Very well played and quite instructional!
1-0

(23) Fedorowicz,John (2467) - Kernighan,Mark (2200)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 b6 6.Bxf6! My first thought was that the Fed (prominent local GM John Fedorowicz) had some attacking ideas in mind after Black castled with h4, a la Marshall. **6...Bxf6 6...gxf6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 Rg8 9.Rc1 c6 10.Qc2**, and the Black king has no secure place to go. **7.cxd5 exd5 8.g3** A rare, if not unique, strategy. **8...Bb7 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Rc1 Rd8 12.e3 Nd7** Some thought should be given to **12...c5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Qd2 Na6 13.Qb3 Nf8 14.Rfd1 Ne6 15.Ne1 c6 16.a3 Ng5**

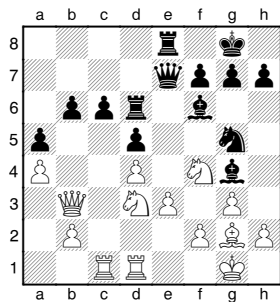


There has been a lot of jockeying for position, so to speak. The game is equal, with lots of possible paths to tread. **17.Nd3 Rd6** Now c5 is not possible: 17...c5 18.Nf4 c4 19.Qb5 **18.a4 Bc8 19.Nb4** White seems to be building up on those c6 and d5 squares with some effect. Black has means of defense, though. Interesting would have been 19.h4 **19...Bd7** Developing and getting ready to play Rc8. He could have tried 19...Nh3+ 20.Bxh3 Bxh3 21.a5 Bg4 22.Rd2 Rb8 **20.Ne2 Re8** They lost me on that one unless it's part of a kingside demonstration being planned. **21.Nf4 a5** Some kingside activity could have been drummed up with 21...Ne4 22.Rc2 g5 **22.Nbd3 Bg4!**

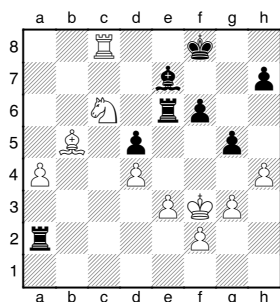


23.Qxb6!! After a rather long period of maneuvering, the Fed blows up the calm of the game with a worthwhile exchange sacrifice wherein he accomplishes several things: he gets the sole light-squared bishop on the board; he creates a weakness in with the backward pawn on c6; he isolates the a5 pawn, which, if it goes, creates an outside passed pawn; he puts immense pressure on d5 if the c6 pawn goes; and he creates a nice outpost for the knight on c5. One can't ask for much more! **23...Bxd1 24.Rxd1 Qd8 25.Qb3 Ne6 26.Rc1** I was expecting 26.Nxe6 Rdx6 27.Nc5 R6e7 28.Rc1 **26...Nxf4 27.Nxf4 Bg5 28.Ne2** Why not Nd3? **28...Qa8** Black might have tried renewing the kingside activity with 28...h5 29.h4 Bh6 30.Rc3 Rf6 31.Qc2 Qd6 **29.h4 Be7 30.Nf4 Rb8 31.Qc2 Qb7 32.Nd3** back in

the stable where he belongs. **32...Qb3 33.Ne5** White could have initiated the exchange: 33.Qxb3 Rxb3 34.Ne5 Rxb2 35.Nxc6 Bf8 36.Nxa5 Rb4 37.Rc8 g6 38.Bf3 Rxa4 39.Nb7 Ra1+ 40.Kg2 Rd7 41.Nc5 **33...Qxc2 34.Rxc2 Rb6 35.Rc5 g6** Black shouldn't be so generous with his a5 pawn. 35...Ra6 36.Bf1 Re6 37.Bxa6 Bxc5= **36.Rxa5 Rxb2 37.Ra7** Now that compensation discussed above has come into play. **37...Kf8 38.Rc7 Rb1+ 39.Bf1**



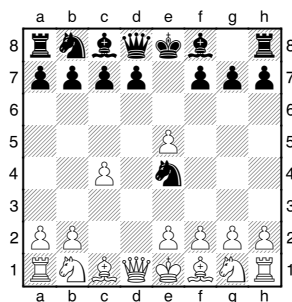
39...f6?? Wasting a precious move to force White to do something he was going to do anyhow should have been fatal. A defense was available with 39...Ra1 40.Nxc6 Re6 41.Ne5 (41.a5? Bd6 42.Rc8+ Re8 43.Rxe8+ Kxe8 44.Kg2 Kd7) 41...Rxa4 42.Bh3 Rea6 **40.Nxc6 Re6 41.Kg2** Even more decisive was 41.Rc8+! Kg7 42.a5 Ra1 43.a6 Bf8 44.Rc7+ Kg8 45.Kg2 f5 46.Be2 Rf6 47.Bf3 Rxa6 48.Bxd5+ Kh8 49.Ne5 **41...Rb2 42.Rc8+!** There we go! **42...Kf7 43.Kf3 Ra2 44.Bb5 g5 45.Rc7!** The escort service is set up for the a-pawn while the pressure on e7 keeps three Black pieces tied up. **45...Kf8 46.Rc8+** Passed pawns must be pushed! 46.a5 **46...Kf7 47.Rc7 Kf8 48.Rc8+**



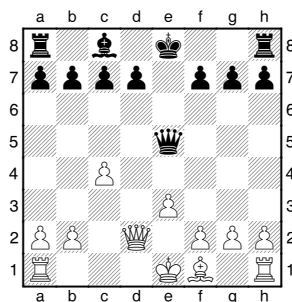
It can't be time trouble as we're after move 40. Black is lost. What a mystery. 48.a5 gxf4 49.a6 h3 50.a7 Rxe3+ 51.fxe3 h2 52.a8Q+ Rxa8 53.Kg2 ½-½

(24) Potts, Christopher (1957)-
West, Jim (2203)

Oh my, does this game bring up memories! Back in 1964, at the NJ Open, I was playing against Arthur Bisguier in a simul. I played the Budapest against him--you know, to play something he wasn't used to seeing--and he came to the board and looked at me and said with a big grin, "You play THIS against ME!?" Little did I know that he was the foremost expert on the opening. I got crushed like a bug with a system that was simple and strong. I then switched to the Fajarowicz line with Ne4 rather than the normal Ng4 and even beat a master with it. It's nice to see NM West still plays it after all these years. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ne4**

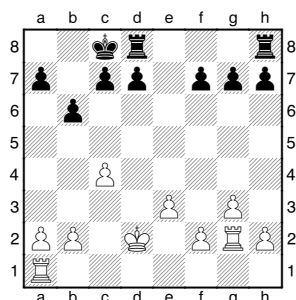


4.Nf3 I gave up the Fajarowicz because of a simple idea: 4.a3! Even Bisguier started playing that as White! 4...Nc6 a) There is much mischief in 4...b6!? 5.Qd5 Nc5 (5...Bb7 6.Qxb7 Nc6 7.Nc3 Nc5 8.Bg5±) 6.Nf3 (6.Qxa8 Bb7 7.Qxa7 Nc6 8.Qxb7 Nxb7) 6...Bb7 7.Qd1 Nc6 8.b4 Ne6 9.Bb2²; b) The quirky queen move can be met calmly: 4...Qh4 5.g3 Qh5 6.Bg2 Qxe5 7.Nf3 Qh5 8.Nd4 Nf6 9.Nc3±; 5.Nf3 d6 6.Qc2 d5 7.e3 Bg4 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Bc4 Qa5+ 10.b4! Bxb4+ 11.axb4 Qxa1 12.Qxe4 Bh5 13.e6!± Bisguier-Ljubojevic, Malaga, 1971, 1-0 in 35. **4...Bb4+** Your annotator feels obligated to the initiated to present this hoary old trap (it's amazing how many people fall into it): 4...d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.g3 Nxf2! 7.Kxf2 Bxg3+ 8.Kxg3 Qxd1 5.Nbd2 Nc6 6.e3 Qe7 7.Qc2 Nxd2 8.Bxd2 Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Qxe5

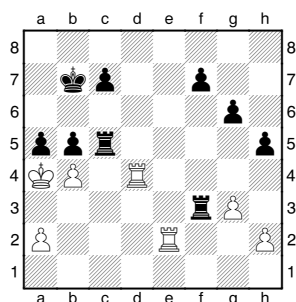


If White doesn't know the critical lines, then

the nice thing about the Faj is that equality comes easily. In this position, White can castle queenside right now or play Be2 and then castle kingside with complete equality. However, things go horribly wrong, starting with what looks like an additional guarantee of equality. **11.Qd4 Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2** So far, so good. Nothing is going on here. Where should we go for dinner? **13...b6 14.g3 Bb7 15.Rg1 0-0-0 16.Bg2? 17.Rxg2**



When you have fianchettoed your rook, something has started to go wrong. **17...d5!** People with a Budapest Gambiteer's attitude will always find a way to attack the king. **18.cxd5 Rxd5+ 19.Kc2** Another step towards Troublatown. Awkward but defensible was **19.Ke1 Rhd8 20.f4 19...Rhd8** Who's your daddy now, d2 square? **20.f3?** A demoralizing defense was **20.Re1 Rc5+ 21.Kb1 Rd2 22.Rc1 Rxc1+ 23.Kxc1 Re2**, but a decent chess player wins this every time as Black. **20...Rc5+ 21.Kb3 Rd3+ 22.Kb4 a5+ 23.Ka4 Rxe3 24.Rd1 Kb7 25.b3 Rxf3 26.Re2 h5 27.Rd4 g6 28.b4 b5+**

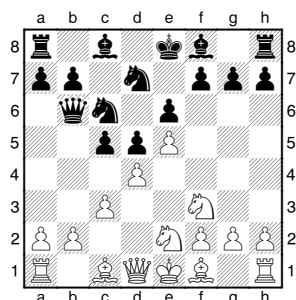


A delightful and appropriate way to end it all. Black gambits a pawn for mate next move. Now you know why a lot of 1920s masters played **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3! 0-1**

(25) Masino, Matthew (2026) - Fireman, Rich (1885)

What would be an annual games collection

without a Rich Fireman game? He is truly a Team stalwart--and a very good player. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2** an old try. **5.f4** is better because it is less strenuous and cumbersome to support the center. **5...c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Nf3 Qb6**

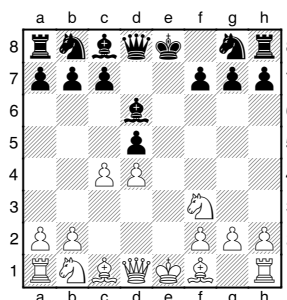


Black has already equalized with active play on the queenside. **8.b3** White needs to stop eventual checks. **8.a3 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 f6** The once proud white pawn center is now under attack everywhere by seemingly everybody. **10.exf6 Nxf6** More precise was **10...Bb4+** to get the check in. Recapturing with the knight allows **a3**. **11.a3 Bd6** Eleven moves in and White has a dismal position. Black is ready to castle. It will take White three moves if he's allowed. Black is all ready to go after castling, with **e5** as a real possibility. **12.Be3??** just flat-out loses a pawn. **12...Bxa3 13.Nc3 Bb4 14.Bd2 0-0 15.Nb5 Bd7 16.Bd3 a6** Everything wins. **17.Bxb4 Nxb4 18.Nc3 Rac8 19.Na4 Bxa4 20.bxa4 Nxd3+ 21.Qxd3 Qb4+ 22.Kf1??** Out of the frying pan, into the fire. White had to bite the bullet, exchange queens, and see if Black could play winning rook and pawn endings. **22.Qd2 Qxd2+ 23.Nxd2 Rc2 24.Nf3 Rfc8 25.0-0 22...Ne4 23.Kg1 Qb2 24.Qf1 Rc2 25.Rb1 Qc3 26.h4 Rxf2 27.Qd1 R2xf3** The shortest way was **27...Qe3**, but it doesn't matter as White falls on the sword by taking the rook. **28.gxf3 Qe3+** nice workmanlike destruction of White's dubious opening. **0-1**

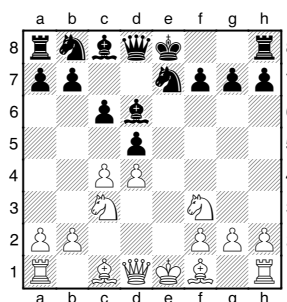
(26) Fishbein, Alex (2584) - Maxfield, George (1970)

This is an interesting game because a grandmaster chooses a level opening and then allows his opponent to come up with less than precise moves that add up suddenly into a lost position. It's not the opening system, but a lesser understanding of the demands of the position that brought about the loss. **1.e4**

e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c4!

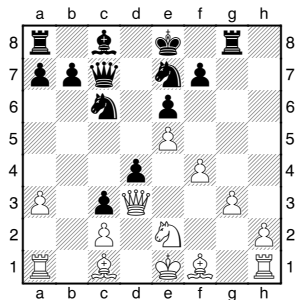


The more modern version. **Nf3** was a developing move and a waiting move. White waits for a king bishop move and THEN plays **c4**. Otherwise, there is a one-move bishop check on **b4** that makes equalizing very easy. **5...c6** apparently worried about White playing **c5**, but that wouldn't be so terrible. Black could play **Nf6** and then retreat **Be7** if **c5**. Then, they could hit the **c5** pawn with **b6**. **6.Nc3 Ne7?**

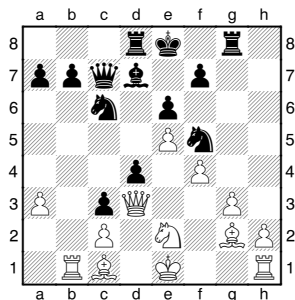


Black is still playing the old **Ne7** and **Bf5** idea which is played in the Winawer exchange variation. This is different. There's a pawn on **c4**. **7.Bd3** White could even have played the sharper **7.c5 Bc7 8.b4 b6 9.Bd3 a5 10.b5!**, but the way he chose is very simple and good. There was no advantage to Black giving up the center. **7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 0-0 9.0-0 Bf5** another small inaccuracy. It's better to prevent **Bg5** with **9...h6 10.Re1 Nd7 11.Bg5 11.Nh4** is fine, too. **11...Kh8** One more little sin. At least try to get the king bishop with **11...Nb6** and unpin with **Qc7 12.Nh4 Bg6 12...f6 13.Bd2 Nb6 14.Bb3** and White's still better, although the line chosen made things worse. **13.Nxg6+ fxf6 14.Ne4 Nf6** If Black moved off the **a3-f8** diagonal, White would be able to consider **Nc5** and **Ne6**. **15.Nxf6 gxf6** But, suddenly, the exchange is lost. It happens just like that. No grandiose attack. Just good solid moves on White's part and a disorganized defense on Black's part. **16.Bh6 Qc7 17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.g3 f5 19.d5 c5** to stop the deadly **Qd4+**. **19...f4 20.Qd4+ Kg8 21.dxc6+ 20.f4 a6 21.a4 a5 22.Qb3** to allow the rooks to double on the **e-file**. **22...**

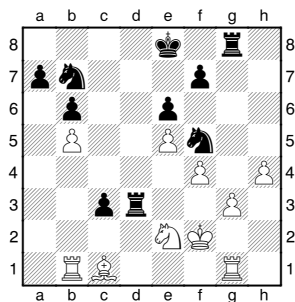
b6 23.Re6 Kg8 24.Rae1 Qd8 25.Rxe7! 1-0
(27) Sharp,Dale (2027)- Tuhrim,Richard (2317)
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 dxc3 11.f4 Nbc6 12.Qd3 mainline Winawer through move 12. **12...d4** d4 is sharp and good. More usual is 12...Bd7 **13.g3**



This is a novelty. Perhaps White didn't care for 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Bd7 15.Rg1 Nf5 **13...Bd7 14.Bg2 Nf5** White seems to be successful with his novelty. **15.Rb1 Rd8**



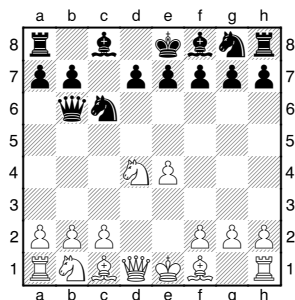
16.h4? The h-pawn push isn't really justified. It creates a weakness on g3 and leaves the king in the center. He should be satisfied with an unclear game after 16.0-0 a6 17.a4 Na5 18.Be4 **16...Na5 17.Kf2 Bc6 18.Bxc6+ Qxc6 19.Qb5 b6 20.a4 d3** Also possible is 20...Rd5 21.Qxc6+ Nxc6 **21.cxd3 Qxb5 22.axb5 Rxd3** Black has a distinct initiative. White has to be very, very careful here in dealing with the intruders. **23.Rg1 Nb7**



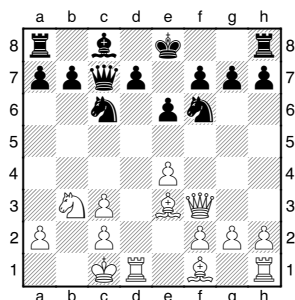
24.Ra1? White misses the idea of going behind the dangerous pawn on c3: 24.Rb4 Nc5 25.Rc4 f6 26.g4 Rh3 27.h5 (NOT 27.gxf5 Nd3+ 28.Kf1 Rf3#) 27... Kf8 28.Ba3 and White is turning things around. **24...Nc5 25.Rxa7 Ne4+ 26.Ke1 c2 27.Nc3 Nxc3** and the game ends abruptly.

0-1

(28) Hanna, Sherif (2161) - Sokolin, Leonid (2553)
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6

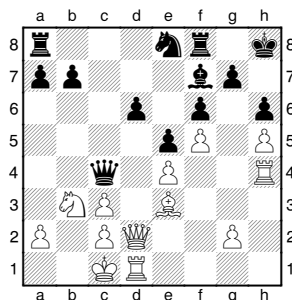


This is a quirky move to catch the unwary. Calm is needed. White does show that, at first. **5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Be3 Qc7** Black has lost time. His only "threat" is to play Bb4 and capture on c3, doubling the pawns on Black's favorite Sicilian file--the c-file. **8.Qf3?!** Considering Black's loss of tempo, it's ok for White to lose one with 8.a3, preventing the pin. **8...Bb4** of course. **9.0-0-0** By castling, White demonstrates a complete lack of position/structural understanding. Stop the madness! Play 9.Bd2. **9...Bxc3 10.bxc3**



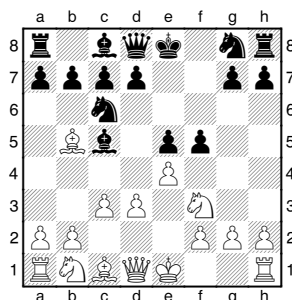
Look at the diagram. Not only has White voluntarily contributed to the ruination of his queenside, but recklessly castles on the Swiss cheese side. **10...d6** Quite good was 10...Ne5 11.Qg3 0-0 12.Bh6 Ne8 13.f4 Nc4 **11.Qg3 0-0 12.Bh6 Ne8** White's simplistic two-shot attack is easily met. **13.Bf4 e5!** shows a very fine understanding of the position. No need to worry about the backwards d6 pawn

because of all the activity Black creates for his pieces. **14.Be3 Be6 15.f4 f6** Black also had 15...Nf6 16.Bd3 (16.f5 Nxe4) 16...Nh5 **16.f5 Bf7 17.h4** Desperate. Useless. **17... Kh8** Black even has time for Rc8. 17...Rc8 **18.h5 h6** In his great teaching work, The Game of Chess, Dr. Tarrasch offered some common-sense advice--play h3/h6 if your opponent is trying to advance all the way to your h3/h6. **19.Rh4 Na5** also 19...Ne7 20.Qf2 Qxc3 **20.Qe1 Nc4 21.Bxc4 Qxc4 22.Qd2**

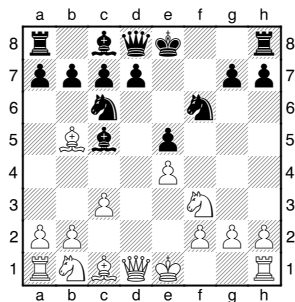


22...Kh7 If Black had a sadistic sense of humor, he could have allowed White his sacrifice on h6 for a little excitement with the same result: 22...a5 23.Bxh6 a4 24.Bxg7+ Kxg7! 25.Rg4+ Kh7 26.Rg6 Bxg6 27.hxg6+ Kg7 28.Rh1 Rh8 29.Rxh8 Kxh8 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Nd2 Qg8 **23.Rdh1 a5 24.Bxh6 gxf6 25.Rg4 Rh8 26.Rg6 Bxg6 27.hxg6+** Something cannot come from nothing. **27...Kg7 28.Qf2 Qxe4 29.Rh3 Qc6 0-1** (in 36 moves)

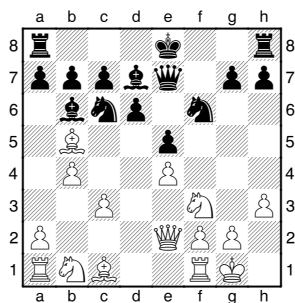
(29) Zhurbinsky,David - Harris,Ian
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 f5 5.d3



This is a weak move that gives the gambit player everything he wants--a passive defense. By far the most popular line is 5.d4, although I would direct the serious student in the d4 line to Gufeld-Kavalek, 1962 (A wowser of a game.) **5...fxe4 6.dxe4 Nf6**



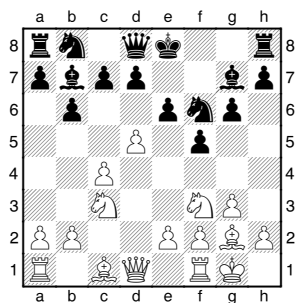
7.0-0 White can't go for the pawn: 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.Nxe5 Qe7 9.Nd3 Qxe4+ 10.Qe2 Ba6 7...d6 8.Qe2 Qe7 9.h3 At least make Black work to castle: 9.Bc4 9...Bd7 10.b4 Bb6



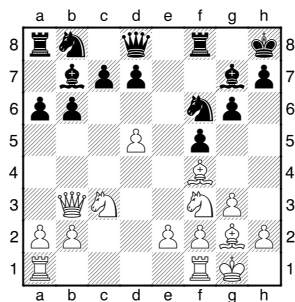
11.Be3 This is a perfect example of what many amateurs do, or, actually, don't do. White's coming Be3 move is asking for a trade of bishops when Black will then be gifted the f4 square for a Nh5-f4 maneuver. Instead, use your knight to try and exchange it for the other player's dark squared bishop and save your clergyman to defend f4. 11.Na3 and if Black tries to avoid it, it weakens their position. 11...a5 12.Nc4 Ba7 13.bxa5 0-0 14.Rb1 Bc5 15.a6 bxa6 16.Ba4 Nd8 17.Bxd7 Qxd7 18.Ncxe5 dxe5 19.Qc4+ Ne6 20.Ng5 Bd6 and Black is ok, but so is White. 11...0-0 12.Nbd2 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 Nh5 Yup. There we go. 14.Qg5 Qe8 Quite rightly avoiding the exchange of queens. 15.Bc4+ Kh8 16.Nh4 Ne7 17.Kh2 Perhaps there's an escape hatch with 17.Rfd1 17...Nf4 18.Qg3 h6 is not necessary. Black could play 18...Qh5 19.Qe3 g5 20.Nhf3 Qh5 21.Ng1 Neg6 More aggressive was 21...g4. 22.Be2 White is defending with all his might. 22...g4 23.Qg3? 23.g3 is better, but the result would only be put off a bit longer. 23...Nxe2 24.Nxe2 gxf3 25.gxf3 Qxe2 26.Qxg6 Qxd2 27.Rad1 Qf4+ 28.Qg3 Rf6 Lots of lines won. This is a lesson in the results of passive play. 0-1

(30) Kahn, Aaron (2431) - Fireman, Rich (1885)

1.Nf3 b6 2.g3 Bb7 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 Doesn't anyone want to come out and play? 5.d4 f5 Ah, here we go! 6.c4 e6 Need to get castled. 6...Nf6 7.Bf4 0-0 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.d5!



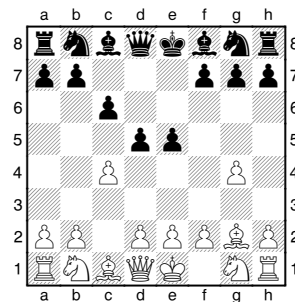
This is a well-known thrust against Leningrad Dutch positions similar to this. 8...exd5 9.cxd5 0-0 10.Bf4 a6 Now get the other knight out: 10...Na6 11.Qb3 Obvious was 11.d6! 11...Kh8



Equally obvious was 11...d6 12.Rfd1 12.Ng5! Ne8 (12...d6 13.Ne6) 13.d6 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Nxd6 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Nf7+ +- 12...h6 13.d6 The game is now over. 13...c5 14.Ne5 Bxg2 15.Nxg6+ Kh7 16.Nxf8+ Qxf8 17.Kxg2 b5 18.Qc2 Nh5 19.Rd5 Nxf4+ 20.gxf4 Kh8 21.Qxf5 Qg8 22.Kh1 Nc6 23.Rg1 Nd4 24.Qh5 Qe6 25.Rdg5 Kg8 26.Rg6 Qf5 27.R1g5 Qf8 28.f5 1-0

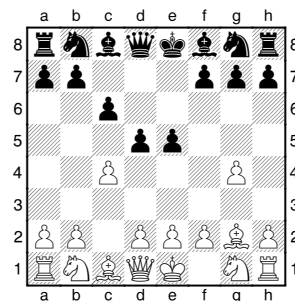
(31) Belke, Tom (1772) - Weaver, Thomas (1721)

1.g4 An affront to good chess! However, the Grobsters are an unrepentant lot. 1...d5 My own approach has been the simple 1...e5 2.Bg2 h5 3.gxh5 Nf6 ; however, d5 can't be wrong. 2.Bg2 e5 Perfectly good as well. Black can even take the pawn to watch white's ridiculous attempt to get the pawn back to achieve a losing position. 2...Bxg4 3.c4 e6 4.Qb3 c6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qxb7 Nd7 7.Nc3 (7.Qxc6?? Rc8) 7...Ne7 8.d3 Nc5 9.Qb4 Bd7 10.Qxc5 Nf5+- 3.c4 c6



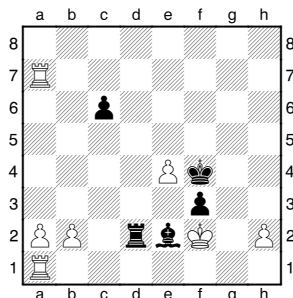
Sufficient, yet again Black can take the pawn: 3...dxc4 4.Qa4+ c6 5.Qxc4 Be6 6.Qa4 Nf6 7.g5 Nd5 8.Nf3 Nd7 The point of all this up to now is that white compromises his pawn structure and usually ends up moving his queen around a lot, while Black develops with highly coordinated piece play and a safe king.

4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Ne7! 6.Nc3

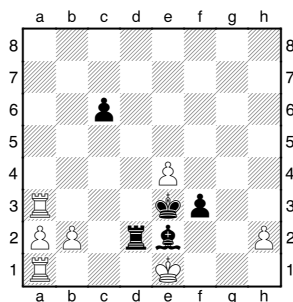


6...e4? This is what Grob players pray for-their opponent making a mistake or not knowing the line they choose well. Here Black needed to play 6...Nbc6 7.Nxd5 Nd4! 8.Qc4 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 and White has no good move to meet Rc8. 7.d3 f5?? Very few Grob players and their opponents seem to realize that one of the points of g4 instead of g3 is to discourage f5. Neither player seems to get that here. 8.dxe4? 8.gxf5 Nxf5 9.dxe4 dxe4 10.Bxe4 Nd4 11.Qa4+ Qd7 12.Qxd7+ Nxd7 13.Nf3± 8...fxe4 9.Nh3 Bxg4 10.Nf4 Nbc6 is too late. 11.Ncxd5 Nxd5 12.Qxd5? 12.Nxd5 maintains the advantage. 12...Bb4+ A reprieve! 13.Kf1 13.Bd2?? Qxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 15.Kxd2 0-0-0+ 13...Qxd5 14.Nxd5 0-0-0 15.Bxe4?? That should have lost. The only way to stay in the game was 15.Ne3 15...Rhe8?? Black could win easily with 15...Bh3+ 16.Kg1 (16.Bg2 Bxg2+ 17.Kxg2 Rxd5) 16...Rhe8 17.Bf3 Nd4 16.f3 Rxe4 16...Bh3+ 17.Kf2 Bc5+ 18.Kg3 Be6 would have been more of a fight. 17.fxe4 Rf8+ 18.Kg2 Bxe2 19.Bf4 g5 20.Nxb4 gxf4 Much better was 20...Rxf4 21.Nxc6 f3+ 22.Kf2 bxc6 23.Rhg1 Rd8 24.Ke3 Rd3+ 25.Kf2 Rd2 26.Rg8+ 26.Rg7 26...Kd7

27.Rf8 27.Rg7+ 27...Ke7 28.Rh8 Ke6 Black could try going into a losing rook and pawn ending to see what kind of endgame player White was. 28...Bd1+ 29.Ke3 f2 30.Rxh7+ Ke6 31.Rxd1 Rxd1 32.Kxf2 Rd2+ 33.Kg3 Rxb2 34.Rxa7 29.Rxh7 Ke5 30.Rxa7 Kf4



31.Ke1?? My above point was well taken. White wins easily with 31.Rf7+ 31...Ke3 Now Black is winning big time! White should be toast, but Black forgets to plug in the toaster! 32.Ra3+

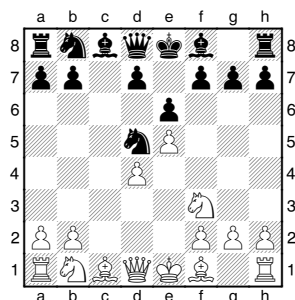


32...Bd3?? Missing a mate!! 32...Rd3 33.Rxd3+ Bxd3 34.Kd1 f2 35.e5 f1Q# 33.Rxd3+ Kxd3 With best play, this comedy of errors should now be a draw, but the laughs keep coming! 34.Rc1 Rxb2 35.Rxc6 Rxa2 36.h4 Ke3 37.Rc3+ Kf4 38.Rc7 Kg3 39.Rg7+ The mutual impotence of both sides should have been recognized by the combatants, and they should have agreed to a draw. 39...Kf4 40.Rc7 Rh2 41.e5 Re2+ 42.Kf1 Rxe5 43.Rf7+ Ke3 43...Kg4 was simple, but is Black trying to win?? 44.Rb7 Re4 45.h5 Rh4 46.Rb3+ Kf4 stumbles into the only way to lose. He draws with 46...Kd2. 47.Rb4+ Kg5 48.Rxh4 and White mated with the queen. If I seem harsh in my criticisms, note that these two players, the winner around 1800 and the loser around 1700, shouldn't have played a game like this: sparse attention given to development, capture possibilities, checks, and even checkmates! C'mon guys, pay attention!

1-0

(32) Deviren,Erdi (2259) - Lee,Miles (1968)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 is a reasonable choice against e6. 3...Nf6 Usually good enough for equality is 3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bd3 cxd4 (6...Be7 7.dxc5) 7.Nxd4 Be7, but White may find the isolated queen pawn a weakness for Black in the middle and endgame. Black needs to promote active, challenging piece play to compensate. The chosen move leads to c3 Sicilian mainline theory, and it's a bit bumpier for both sides! 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4



This diagram is the reason I've like this line. Black's kingside pieces end up on the queenside and leave an open field for the White pieces to flood the area. 6...d6 7.Bc4 A popular move, although I came to have a preference for a3 to avoid the exchanges coming from Bb4+. Also, I have never cared for a bishop on c4 on a diagonal with one black piece and two black pawns. Where's the future for that piece? 7...dxe5 8.dxe5 Bb4+ 9.Nbd2 I played the better 9.Bd2 against Jimmy Sherwin back in the 70s at the Manhattan Open and got an advantage only to fritter it away. 9...Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Not the knight! The queen is used to support Ng5 in many lines as Sveshnikov pointed out in his opus on the c3 Sicilian. 9...0-0 10.0-0 b6 The bishop is needed back at e7. Remember what I said about Black's pieces not being on the kingside while White's pieces are ready to go over there? 11.Qe2 Bb7 12.Ne4 The storm is gathering. 12...Nd7! Excellent defense by Black. He realizes the need to move towards the kingside. If the normal looking 12...Nc6 13.Bg5 and f6 is not a viable reply. 13.a3? Why chase him to where he needs to go? 13.Bg5 Qb8! (13...Be7 14.Nd6!) 14.a3 Be7 15.Rae1 Bd8= 13...Be7 14.Bd2 Nc5 15.Ng3!? Objectively better may have been 15.Rac1 Nxe4 16.Qxe4, but I like White's spirit! Avoid exchanges, move to the kingside, and drum up some play there: make Black continue to play accurate defense. 15...a6

16.b4 Nd7 17.Bd3 Re8 to get the knight to f8 to defend h7. Countering pressure on e5 was a good alternative. 17...Qb8 18.Rac1 b5 19.Ne4 Nf8 20.Nfg5 A well-known thrust in c3 circles is 20.h4! h6 21.Bb1 Rc8 22.h5 Qb6 23.Qd3 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rd8 (A harmless looking move can be fatal: 24...Rc8? 25.Rxc8 Bxc8 26.Nh2) 25.Qb3 Qa7 26.Nh2, and White will continue to add pressure with Ng4. Black should hold, but it's a hard game. 20...f5? 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Rfd1 Bd5 23.Be3 White's array of pieces has more space. Black has a weak e6 pawn. White definitely has an edge. 23...Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Rc8 25.Nc5 White could have pressure everywhere with 25.Nc3 Bf6 26.Nxd5 exd5 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.Qa2 Re5 29.a4 but dropping the knight on c5 is rightfully tempting! 25...Bxc5 26.bxc5 Qf6 27.a4! Bb3 28.Bc2 An alternative was 28.Rd2 Bxa4 29.Be4 Bb3 30.Rd6 Bc4 31.Qd2 Red8 32.Bb7 Rxd6 33.Qxd6 Rd8 34.Qb6± 28...Bxc2 29.Rxc2 bxa4 30.Qxa6 No hurry! 30.Ra2 30...Ra8 31.Qc4 Red8 32.Bd4!? 32.Rdc1 a3 33.c6 Qe5 34.g3 Rdc8 35.Bd4 Qd5 36.Qc3± 32...a3! The bishop is pinned! 33.Ra2 It would have been an interesting struggle to watch if White had tried to win with 33.Rcc1. It would have been a very difficult endgame. 33...Qf7 34.Raa1 Qf4 35.Rac1 Qf7 36.Ra1 Qf4 I really enjoyed going over this game. Both players knew what they were doing, came up with some original ideas, and were not afraid of complications. There were no major blunders. This is the way chess should be fought.

½-½

Pictures from the World Team 2019

Photos courtesy of Mike Sommers









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