

Atlantic Chess News

Annual Edition, 2022 WORLD & U.S. AMATEUR TEAM EAST

Welcome!!

Here we are, in a different time with much of the world struggling with the continuity of COVID.

But we will take our precautions: wear your mask, sanitize your hands before and after each game, and head back to your room or outside the hotel after your game.

We are letting air in from the outside as much we can during the weekend, including the roof vents for air exchange.

Thank you all for playing. I am reminded of the simple times of years past. Try to recall those too when you sit to play or see old friends.

The new restaurants at each of the entrances to the hotel, Seasons 52 and Tommy's Tap Room, are both excellent. And across the highway opposite the Wendy's is Chick-fil-a and two other new restaurants, Chipotle and Chop.

Here, too, not unlike in your hometowns, restaurant staffing is tight, so allow extra time.

This is an east coast chess reunion in a difficult period for the world. We will see it through!

Just remember your good friends pawn promotion, the Sicilian, the Petroff, the Queens Gambit, and the good old Ruy Lopez. They are still around and have survived COVID very well!

Stop by and say hello!

Steve



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Letter from the Editor:

Welcome back, everyone! As the COVID-19 pandemic nears the end of its second year, we are excited that we managed to bring the Team back to Parsippany this year. Despite this success, it has undoubtedly been a tough year. Several over-the-board clubs events have returned. We were lucky enough to host a very successful US Open this past summer as well as a very well-attended NJ Open over Labor Day weekend. However, many clubs and academies are either still closed or mostly online as players try to get back to normal while keeping themselves and their loved ones safe.

2021 was also a tough year for our Team team. Glenn Petersen was, among many other things, the founder of the ACN, the editor of Chess Life, and the progenitor of Chess Life for Kids. Carol Jarecki was one of the longest-serving TDs at this event and one of the most accomplished arbiters in the world. Ken Ballou was a walking encyclopedia of rules knowledge and a man of impeccable integrity. Joe Ippolito was not only the friendly man at the Team TD desk who took your money but also one of the best chess advocates NJ has ever had. If you are reading this magazine, your life has probably been touched in some way by each of these remarkable chess people. You can read more about them starting on page 12.

Despite some setbacks, the chess community has been resilient through this pandemic. With the explosion of online chess in the past few years, we are now excited to welcome many new members to the tournament chess community. Meet some new friends and make sure you say hi to your old ones, and I wish everyone a fun and safe tournament and year to come.

Warm Regards,

Your Editor,

Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein

This issue is dedicated to the ACN's founder, the dearly departed Glenn Petersen. You can read a beautiful remembrance written by his friend and co-founder Pete Tamburro on page 12.



The World Amateur Team tournament and Atlantic Chess News are sponsored by the New Jersey State Chess Federation and the United States Chess Federation.

We Want Your Games!

This magazine is a celebration of the year in NJ chess. By playing in this or any of our other tournaments, *you* are an important part of NJ chess! If you play a game that you think was particularly good, exciting, or otherwise interesting, make sure to put it in the labeled basket at one of the TD desks. As you will see in this magazine, we love to publish your games, whether you are a beginner or a grandmaster. We are also looking for writers and annotators: If you have a chess story you would like to tell or think you could bring some interesting analysis to the games we collect here, let us know! Please feel free to contact the ACN staff about these or any other inquiries at acneditor.njscf@gmail.com.



Last Year's Winners: Teachers on Top at Team Tournament



The 2021 winning team, from left to right in board order: GM Mackenzie Molner, Jason Lu, Sean Finn, and Ed Knesevich. Molner's photo courtesy of John Hartmann, others courtesy of subject.

Chess often imitates life: a student learns from, and eventually surpasses, their teacher. Then they become a teacher, only to one day be surpassed by their own student. At the World Amateur Team 2021, however, the teachers broke the cycle, if only for a moment. NJ chess teachers GM Mackenzie Molner, Sean Finn, and Ed Knesevich along with one of Mackenzie's top students, Jason Lu (who played on board two) came out on top at last year's online rendition of the Team. While overall attendance took a hit compared to some of the record-breaking numbers of people who played in the past few in-person events, the competition was still fierce. This team, named "The Secret Square" after the all-important f2/7 square that decided many of the bughouse games that they played together leading up to the event, took first place by tie-breaks over a whopping six other teams who also finished the event on 5.5/6. This was a particularly special victory for the adults on the team, who have all been playing this tournament for around 20

years. Everyone on the team grew up in the New Jersey Chess scene, and they met and became friends at the many tournaments and academies around New Jersey. (You can see how NJ's clubs and academies are adapting and reopening this year on page 9.) Mackenzie (or Mac, as his friends call him) and Sean have been playing together for many years. Ed joined them a few years back, and Jason joined their crew this year since some of their other friends from previous years were unavailable for the online event. For this group, playing was more about competing in the company of friends than trying to build an optimal team, so it was serendipitous that they clocked in just two points below the limit at 2198. To quote Sean, "This is THE New Jersey tournament, so, as players who all grew up here, winning the Team tournament was really special to all of us."

The pandemic meant strange times and tumultuous transitions for many of us, and the chess industry was no exception. Mac described the situation brief-

ly: "Things like school programs shut down almost completely, and teachers had to rely on other forms of instruction like private lessons or group classes. For some people it went well, though, because there weren't a lot of other activities that people could do online during the pandemic." Mac uses his extensive chess knowledge and experience as a prodigious youth player to teach NJ's top talent at grandmastermac.com. Ed combined his professional experience in PR with his love of chess to form chesswired.com, an organization that specializes in bringing group chess classes to interested parties and selling chess equipment to new members of the community. Sean is another NJ native who grew up playing in tournaments around the state. After college, he found fulfillment teaching and writing about chess full-time. For more information, check out seannoahfinn.com.

Almost exactly a year after in-person chess evaporated in March 2020, the 2021 Team tournament served as an unneeded reminder of how different the past

year had been. The winning team agreed that while it was missing some of the magic of the in-person event, they were glad the tournament did not skip a year entirely. Sean and Mac both appreciated the ability to watch other games very easily. This let them track their own team's progress as well as letting them keep an eye on all their students who were also playing without having to schlep from room to room.

The pandemic was an opportunity for novel online ventures as new people started playing the game. During the pandemic, Mac and Sean, along with their friend John Mulanaphy, founded Passers. gg, a new online chess organization which provide coverage of the tournament. Ed is now involved as well. As chess streaming continues to grow, these teachers are looking toward the future of chess content and getting in on the ground floor.

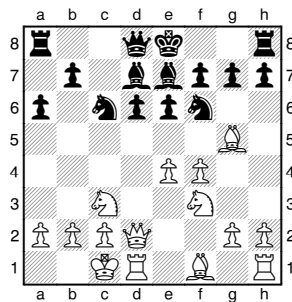
GM Mac annotated several games from his team's winning run in an article he published on Chess Life Online. The following content is reprinted with permission of US Chess. This material was originally published on www.uschess.org on June 23, 2021. Enjoy!

This game is from the first round of the tournament. It was a good performance from my student, NM Jason Lu. Jason won a smooth game in nice fashion which helped set the pace and standard for the tournament.

Lu, Jason (2034) -

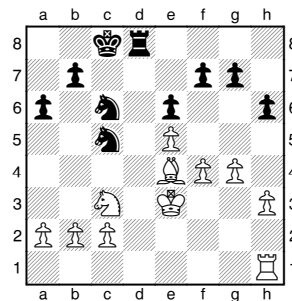
Liao, Connor (1430)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 Bd7 Not Black's most common choice. Normal is 6... e6 **7. Qd2 e6 8. O-O-O a6 9. f4 Be7 10. Nf3!?**

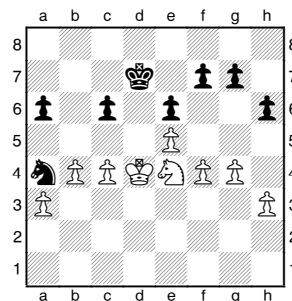


A strong retreat. Black's cramped position is not easy to handle, and he needs to find a solution to the threat of e4-e5. **10... Ng4?** A costly mistake. Black most likely feared the e4-e5 pawn push, but trading the dark-squared bishops was too big a price to pay. Better was 10... b5! Black has to try to soften up White's center before it completely steamrolls the Black position. The plan could continue 11. Bf6 (Worse is 11. e5 b4 12. exf6 bc3 13. Qc3 gxf6) 11... gxf6 with a complex position and a big fight. **11. Be7 Qe7** Now the d6-pawn has softened up significantly. White needs to be careful not to rush in too quickly to capture the pawn. **12. h3!** pushing the knight back so that White can capture the pawn on d6. Of course not 12. Qd6?? Nf2 **12... Nf6 13. g4!** Jason is mindful of his opponent's potential counterplay. If he captures immediately, Black may have some play involving Nf6-h5. After 13. Qd6 Qd6 14. Rd6 Nh5 15. Ne2 Nf6, the White pieces are a little awkward, but he still has the advantage after 16. Ng3 h5 **13... O-O-O** Now Bd7-e8 is a threat, so White should capture the pawn. **14. Qd6 Be8** Black could get clever with 14... Nd5 15. Qe7 Nde7, but it doesn't make a big difference. **15. Qe7 Rd1 16. Kd1 Ne7 17. Bd3 Bc6 18. Ne5 Rf8 19. Kd2 Nd7 20. Nc6 Nc6 21. e5 h6 22. Be4** Perhaps more precise is 22. Ne4! heading towards the outpost on d6 with good play. **22... Rd8 23. Ke3**

Nc5



It looks like 23... Kc7 preventing White from damaging the queenside pawn structure would be ideal for Black, but it ends up being a bit slow: 24. Bc6 Kc6 25. Rd1 and here, in order to untangle the d7-knight, Black has to guard the d8-rook. This gives White time to bring his knight to d6. 25... Kc7 26. Ne4+ **24. Bc6!** Perfect timing. Jason damages Black's pawn structure and gives himself some targets on the queenside to eventually attack. **24... bc6 25. b4** Gaining space on the kingside would also be a good plan: 25. h4 Kc7 26. h5 and White can open another front on the kingside by playing g4-g5 and giving the rook targets. **25... Nd7 26. Rd1 Nb6? 27. Rd8 Kd8 28. Kd4! Kd7 29. Ne2** A common idea in endgames with an advantage is to fix a weakness on a square where it will be a permanent target. When White plays 29. a4! with the idea of a4-a5 in the near future, it will create a weakness on a6. White can then play Nc3-e4-c5 with a winning advantage, i.e. 29... Kc7 30. a5 Nd7 31. Ne4. **29... Nd5 30. a3 Nc7 31. c4 Na8 32. Nc3 Nb6 33. Ne4 Na4**



34. g5 Trading immediately leads to a winning position. 34... Nc5 35. Kc5 Kc7 36. h4. **34... h5 35. Nc5 Nc5 36. Kc5** Jason shows off some simple but effective winning technique to bring home the full point. **36... Kc7 37. h4 g6 38. a4 a5 39. ba5 Kd7 40. a6 Kc8 41. Kc6 Kb8 42. c5 Ka7 43. Kd7 Ka6 44. c6 Ka5 45. c7 Ka4 46. c8Q Ka3 47. Qb7 Ka4 48. Kc6 Ka3 49. Kc5 f5 50. Kc4 Ka2 51. Kc3 Ka1 52. Qb2#** A smooth game from Jason that helped set the stage for our team throughout the tournament. **1-0**

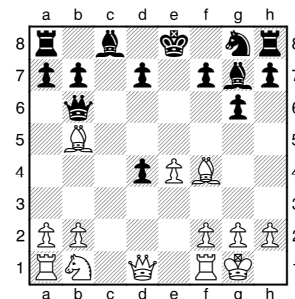
My 4th round game was one of my most memorable of the tournament. It was a quick game but felt impactful because of the team studying we did on the Sicilian Defense before the tournament began. My opponent walked into a line of the Rossolimo variation that we all studied in great detail. It only took one mistake for my opponent to end up in a dire situation. To me, the game was representative of the hard work and progress we made leading up to the tournament. Hopefully the reader will get some enjoyment out of it as well.

Molner, Mackenzie (2406) - Mundayat, Abhinav (2073)

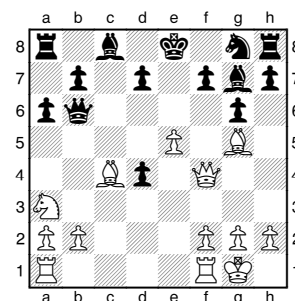
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 This move is the so-called Rossolimo variation. It is named after Nicolas Rossolimo, an American grandmaster who played some very nice games with it. It looks like it should lead to less aggressive and combative games compared to the Open Sicilian, but there are lines which can lead to quick confrontation. **3... g6** The most popular alternative to the game continuation is 3... e6 with one idea being that Black wants to play Ng8-e7

to defend the c6-knight and avoid doubled pawns on the c-file. This line is out of fashion in elite chess, but it is certainly playable. Another move, tried by GMs Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana, is 3... e5!? It doesn't have the same level of respectability but does have a decent bit of surprise value.

4. O-O One benefit of the Rossolimo for White is that it is easy to quickly castle and grab a lead in development. Part of Black's strategy involves minimizing the impact of this while still fighting for control of the center. A serious alternative is 4. Bc6. **4... Bg7 5. c3** I like this move, aiming to play d2-d4 while Black is taking some time to get their pieces out. Caruana tested 5. Re1 e5 6. b4 in his World Championship match against Carlsen, getting to positions with very interesting play. And 5. Bc6 is still a serious move to consider. **5... e5** Black fights for control of the d4-square with as much force as he can muster. This is one of the main ways of handling the position for Black, along with 5... Nf6. **6. d4!** Despite Black's strong control of this square, White needs to strike here anyway in order to open up the position to make use of the lead in development. **6... cd4 7. cd4 Nd4?! White's initiative is kept at bay with 7... ed4!. 8. Nd4 ed4 9. Bf4** The bishop is heading to d6 where it will be very inconveniently placed for Black, obstructing the d-pawn and inhibiting queenside development. My opponent's next move is certainly designed to prevent this move, but there is a major tactical flaw. **9... Qb6??**



10. Na3! Qf6 My opponent tries to gain a tempo, but this is yet another queen move. Black is falling desperately behind in development, and, if action isn't taken to quickly castle, it is likely Black's king will be stuck in the center. The most natural move would be 10... a6?, but here we see the point of 10. Na3. White plays 11. Nc4! Qb5?? 12. Nd6 winning Black's queen and, soon, the game. **11. Qd2 a6 12. Bg5** I also considered 12. Nc4 during the game. It looks like the threat of Bf4-e5 could be potentially powerful, but it doesn't work out after 12... ab5 13. Be5 bc4 14. Bf6 Nf6. Black has rightly exchanged the queen for three minor pieces. White has lost all initiative, while Black has improved their development and stands better. **12... Qe6 13. Bc4 Qd6 14. e5 Qb6** is the fifth queen move and the last lost tempo Black can afford. **15. Qf4**

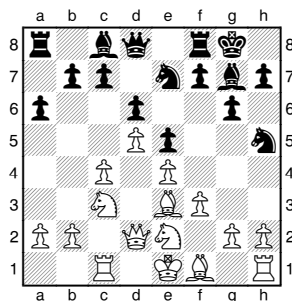


The f7-pawn cannot be defended without incurring heavy material losses, so my opponent resigned. **1-0**

In this game, our board three player, Sean Finn, won a vital game in our push towards victory as a team. After a loss on board four, we needed a resounding performance on the remaining boards to get the win. Sean came through with flying colors in an opening that he has a lifetime of experience in.

Zhu, Jenny (1904) - Finn, Sean (2175)

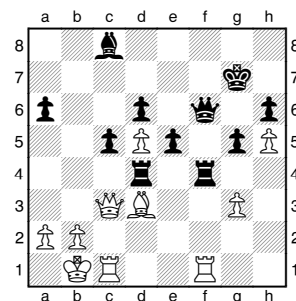
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nge2 O-O 6. f3 Nc6 7. Be3 a6 8. Rc1 e5?! Most likely this is not the best move here. Black's most common plan in this variation is to play 8... Bd7! with the idea of protecting the c6-knight and playing ...b7-b5 at a later time. Another way to achieve the same idea is 8... Rb8 9. Qd2 Bd7. 9. d5! White closes the center and gains time against the knight on c6. 9... Ne7 10. Qd2 Nh5



Here the best option for Black is 10... Ne8! In the King's Indian, Black needs some kind of pawn strike against the White center. The most common way to achieve this is playing f7-f5, focusing attention on the kingside where he has a space advantage. Sean's move in the game aims to accomplish the same thing, but, unfortunately, allows White a nice response. **11. Bh6?** Samisch players should play the thematic **11. g4!** as White entertains the idea of a kingside attack,

and here there is no tactical reason not to play it. For example, if **11... Nf4** (the typical reply to g2-g4) **12. Nf4 e4 13. Bf4 f5 14. h3!** White has a complete grip on the position. Black lacks counterplay in return for the pawn. **11... f5** Black should insert **11... Bh6 12. Qh6** and only then push **12... f5. 12. Bg7 Kg7** This exchange significantly helps Black. It removes Black's worst piece and leaves White weak on the dark squares. **13. Ng3! Nf4** Not **13... Ng3?** **14. hg3** when White would be poised for a dangerous attack. **14. h4 h6** Another good option was **14... Ng8. 15. Nce2 fe4?** Black gets an overwhelming space advantage after the superior **15... Ne2!** **16. Be2 f4! 17. Nf1 c5! 16. fe4?** White absolutely has to get the knight back into the center with **16. Ne4!** so that it has a purpose. On g3 it is dominated by the g6-pawn. **16... c5** A nice idea by Sean, limiting counterplay while also getting ready to open up a second front with the move b7-b5. **17. Nf4 Rf4 18. Be2 Ng8!** Another strong maneuver, bringing the knight back to the center where it exerts pressure on e4 and helps cover other important kingside squares. **19. h5 g5** A position like this illustrates why it is in Black's interest to trade off his dark-squared bishop -- it would be completely shut in were it still on the board. Instead, White has the same problem for his bishop. Also good was **19... Qg5. 20. Rf1 b5?** Preparing the pawn push with **20... Bd7!** was more prudent. **21. Kd1?** Here White missed a surprising resource with **21. b4!** when White is right back in the game. The center becomes very unstable, and the White pieces get active. After **21... cb4 22. c5** the game becomes very complicated. Black's pieces on the back rank are

seriously misplaced. **21... Nf6 22. Qd3?** The last chance to continue the fight was **22. b4! 22... bc4 23. Qc4 Rb8!** Now Sean is totally in control. White's pawns are overextended and Black has tremendous counterplay on the dark-squares. **24. Kc2 Rb4!** White's position collapses. **25. Qd3 Rd4 26. Qc3 Ne4 27. Ne4 Rde4 28. Bd3 Rd4 29. Kb1 Qf6!** I remember watching the game while playing mine and thinking that Sean is setting a trap for his opponent. Although it looks like Black is simply making a developing move, there is a hidden threat behind it. Sean avoided **29... Rd3?? 30. Qd3 Bf5 31. Qf5 Rf5 32. Rf5** which would be an absolute disaster for him. The White rooks are going to be very active and presenting problems for the Black king. **30. g3?**

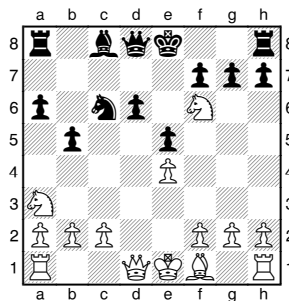


White doesn't notice Black's idea. I like to remind students to always be alert to your opponent's active moves. Instead of moving the f4-rook, Black has a better option. **30... Rd3! 31. gf4** The main idea was **31. Qd3 Bf5!** when the f5-bishop defended by the queen as well as the rook. After **32. Qxf5 Qf5** it's mate in five! **31... Rc3** Black's advantage here is completely unstoppable. Sean advances his kingside pawns and White soon resigns. **32. Rc3 ef4 33. Ka1 g4 34. Rc2 f3 35. Rcf2 Bf5 36. Rg1 Qg5 37. a4 Be4 38. a5 g3 39. Rff1 f2 0-1**

Heading into the final round, our team was 5-0 and we were paired against another New Jersey team that we were very familiar with. Eventually the match was tied 2-2, and this was our team's only win. Our entire team had been studying the Sicilian in preparation for the tournament, and our fourth board, Ed Knesevitch, was able to put some of that practice to use in this game.

Evans, Serena (1515) - Knesevich, Ed (1875)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 Serena opts to go into the mainline of the Sveshnikov Sicilian. The biggest upside to White's position is the fantastic outpost on d5. Black will often gain the bishop pair and have counterplay against the center using pawn strikes like f7-f5. 7... a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Nd5 Be7 10. Bf6 Bf6 All standard theory thus far. 11. Nf6?

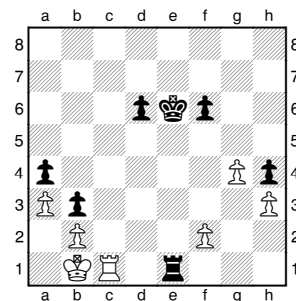


Serena veers off the beaten path. The d5-knight is a more valuable piece than the f6-bishop. White should play to maintain her powerful grip on the light squares while bringing the a3-knight back into the game. The two key moves here are 11.c3 and 11.c4. 11... gf6?

There are many positions in the Sveshnikov where Black wants to capture back towards the center, but this is an exception. After 11... Qf6! Black's activity will lead to a

better game. He will have no issues with castling and will quickly be able to complete his development while White still needs more time to bring the a3-knight back into the game. 12. c4 Qa5 Black can occupy the juicy d4-square immediately with 12... Nd4! 13. cb5 Qa5 14. Qd2 ab5 and Black has an advantage. 13. Qd2 Qd2 14. Kd2 b4 15. Nc2 f5 16. ef5 Bf5 17. Ne3 Serena should trade the bishops if allowed. After 17. Bd3 Bd3 18. Kd3 f5 19. a3 she would even be pushing for an advantage if she can soften up the queenside a bit. 17... Be6 18. g3 Creating a grip on f5 with 18. Bd3! would be very valuable. 18... Nd4! 19. Bg2 Ra7 20. Rac1 Rc7 21. Nd5 Bd5 22. Bd5 The position is equal after 22. cd5 Rc1 23. Rc1 Kd8. White's control of the c-file is counterbalanced by their bishop lacking scope, and Black has a strong knight on d4. 22... Ke7 23. Rhe1 f6 24. Rcd1 Rc5 25. Kc1 Kd7 26. Kb1 b3? Connecting the queenside pawns with 26... a5 is a strong idea, and exchanging the h-pawn with 26... h5 would be an ideal plan, opening up the h8-rook and getting rid of an isolated pawn. 27. a3? After 27. ab3! Nb3 28. Re3 Nd4 29. g4 the rook's access along the third rank will give White the chance to attack Black's isolated pawns. 27... a5 28. Re4 h5! 29. Re3 h4 30. g4 Rh7 Around here it looked like either team could win the match, so we really needed Ed to press for a win, and he delivered! 31. h3 a4! 32. Rf1 32. f4 would help restrict Black's kingside advances. The e5-pawn is tied to the knight, and the f6-pawn needs to guard the e5-pawn. If White can play f4-f5 next, the position will be completely locked up. 32... Ne6 33. Be6 Ke6 34. Rc1 Rhc7 35. Rec3 e4? Much cleaner

is 35... f5! with a huge advantage. 36. Re1 Rc4 37. Re4 Re4 38. Rc7 Re1 39. Rc1



39... Re2 Everyone knows that trading when ahead in material usually leads to victory. After 39... Rc1 Black may not lead in material, but the difference in king activity is key: 40. Kc1 Ke5 41. Kd2 Kf4 42. Ke2 d5 43. Kd3 Kf3 44. Kd4 Kf2 45. Kd5 Kg3 46. Ke6 Kh3 47. Kf6 Kg4 with a trivial win. 40. Rf1 f5 Why not just push the d-pawn down the board with 40... d5? 41. g5 Kf7 42. Kc1 Kg6 43. f4 Rc2 44. Kb1 d5 45. Rc1 Rf2 46. Rc6 Kf7 47. Rc7 Ke6 48. g6 Rf4 49. g7 Rf1 50. Rc1 Rc1 51. Kc1 Kf7 52. Kd2 Kg7 53. Ke3 Kf6 54. Kf4 d4 55. Kf3 Ke5 56. Ke2 Ke4 57. Kf2 f4 58. Ke2 f3 59. Kf2 d3 60. Ke1 Ke3 61. Kd1 f2 62. Kc1 f1Q# A crucial and much needed victory for our team. At this point in the match, I was still playing my own game against International Master Dean Ippolito. I was pushing for a win, but eventually the game leveled out to a three-fold repetition, landing us in a massive tie for first with 5.5/6. We were very fortunate to come out ahead on tiebreaks. 0-1

2021 NJ Grade School Chess Championships Report

by Chief TD Hal Sprechman

Until August, it was unclear whether or not we would be able to hold this tournament OTB. Brookdale Community College was not able to commit to holding the event any earlier. I should have guessed that we would have great attendance due to people registering for the November 21st tournament in the middle of August! With less than one week before the tournament, I committed to two additional rooms. We would have up to 400 in the main room and up to 60 each in two small meeting rooms. Our attendance broke a record with an increase of 20 per cent over 2019. We had 492 players! The following are the 2021 NJ K-12 Grade Champions:

Kindergarten: Charlotte Martin 5-0

1st Grade: Jayden Li

2nd Grade: Santhosh Ayyappan

3rd Grade: Anson Leong

4th Grade: Will Nieder

5th Grade: Audrey Keyan Li

6th Grade: Rishi Madiraju

7th Grade: Quan Tran

8th Grade: George Yimin Chen

9th Grade: Eddy Tian

10th Grade: Jayson Lu

11th Grade: Aditya Raj

12th Grade: Roman Brustein

2021 NJ Open Report

by Chief TD Hal Sprechman

The 73rd Annual New Jersey Open was held Labor Day -Weekend. We held off scheduling it in person until the last minute. It was scheduled in June to appear in Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids in August. We did not know whether players would come back at this time due to concerns about COVID-19. The result, however, was a great tournament. We had 198 players participating in the NJ Open. There were three GMs and two IMs competing. The top 18 boards had a separate room where the lighting was excellent and the players would not be disturbed. In the final round, GM John Fedorowicz and GM Alex Fishbein drew and finished with 5 points. Sounak Bagchi, an expert, beat a master in the last round to also finish with 5 points to become NJ Champion! The U1800 section was won by Shashank

Badrinarayanan on tie-breaks, and the U1600 section was won by George David-Diver also on tie-breaks.

The NJ K-8 Championship was also held Labor Day Weekend. 154 players participated in the tournament, making it a great success! The U1200 section was won by Quan Tran. The U900 section was won by Sahana Ramesh. The U600 section was won on tie-breaks by Medha Sri Garantla.

Stockton High School Chess Tournament Report

by Nicholas Carlson and Dr. Brad Forrest

In an era where nothing has been “business as usual,” the Osprey Chess Club of Stockton University is grateful for the NJSCF’s continued financial support of the annual Stockton High School Chess Tournament in an online environment.

On February 27, 2021, the Osprey Chess Club held the fourth annual Stockton High School Team Chess Tournament. The tournament grew substantially this year as 43 students from six schools competed. The tournament’s success was a testament to the willingness and ability of chess people to adapt to pandemic life; the tournament was hosted on Chess.com, and competitors were observed on Zoom to ensure fair play. The tournament lasted 4 rounds, used a 25-minute time control with a one second increment, and was USCF-rated. The participating high schools were High Technology High School, Clearview High School, Oakcrest High School, Christian Brothers Academy, Cherry Hill East High School, and Cherokee High School.

This year’s tournament was very closely contested; High Technology High School successfully defended its title by earning 12.5 out of a possible 16 points. In second place was Christian Brothers Academy, which earned 12 points, and third place went to Cherry Hill East High School, which earned 11.5 points. The highest scoring players for High Technology were Ivan Wong, Abhinav Ramidi, Ayush Pathy, and John Szumowski. The top scorers from Christian Brothers Academy were Maxim Sergeyev, Christo Tsimbinos, Alec Almeida, and John Francis Gray.

Cherry Hill East’s highest scoring players were Manish Thirumoorthi, Connor David Reilly, Noah Shi-Hao Yang, Samuel Richie Wang, and Diego Villa.

In celebration of the tournament and to highlight the ability of the players, we have included the tightly played fourth round game between then-undefeated players Abhinav Ramidi and Manish Thirumoorthi. Time pressure was a major factor in this game; both players had under 5 minutes remaining by move 35.

The organizers of this tournament, Dr. Brad Forrest – Associate Professor of Mathematics, Nicholas Carlson – President, Osprey Chess Club, Christian Discenza – Vice President, Osprey Chess Club, and Club member Sam Smith, would like to again thank the New Jersey Chess Federation for their generous and continued support of the Stockton University High School Team Chess Tournament.

Ramidi, Abhinav (1467) -

Thirumoorthi, Manish (UNR)

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc4 Nf6 4. Bg5 Nbd7 5. Nf3 c6 6. E3 Qa5 7. Bxf6 Nxf6 8. c5 Ne4 9. Qc2 b6 10. cxb6 axb6 11. Bd3 Nxc3 12. bxc3 Ba6 13. O-O Bxd3 14. Qxd3 c5 15. a4 c4 16. Qc2 b5 17. Ra2 b4 18. cxb4 Bxb4 19. Ne5 O-O 20. Rb1 Bd6 21. Nf3 Rfb8 22. Rba1 h6 23. e4 Rb4 24. exd5 exd5 25. h3 c3 26. Nh4 Rxd4 27. Nf5 Rd2 28. Qc1 Be5 29. Ne7+ Kf8 30. Nc6 Qb6 31. Qa3+ Kg8 32. Rxd2 Qxc6 33. Re2 Bf6 34. Qa2 d4 35. Qc2 Qc4 36. Qe4 Rxa4 37. Qe8+ Kh7 38. Qe4+ g6 39. Rxa4 Qxa4 40. Qd3 Qc6 41. g3 Kg7 42. h4 Qa4 43. Kh2 Qa1 44. f3 Qf1 45. Qe4 Qd1 46. Re1 Qd2+ 47. Re2 Qd1 48. Re1 Qb3 49. Qd3 Qa2+ 50. Re2 Qa1 51. g4 Qa4 52. h5 g5 53. Re4 Qa2+ 54. Re2 Qa4 55. Kh3 Qa1 56. Kg3 Qg1+ 57. Rg2 Qe1+ 58. Kh3 Qh1+ 59. Rh2 Qg1 60. Rg2 Qh1+ 61. Rh2 Qg1 62. Rg2 Qe3 63. Qxe3 dxe3 64. Re2 Bd4 65. Kg2 Kf6 66. f4 gxf4 67. Kf3 Ke5 68. Rc2 f5 69. gxf5 Kxf5 70. Re2 Ke5 71. Rc2 Kd5 72. Re2 Kc4 73. Kxf4 Kd3 74. Kf3 c2 75. Rxc2 Kxc2 76. Ke2 Bf6 77. Kf3 Kd2 78. Ke4 Bg5 79. Kf5 e2 80. Kg6 e1=Q 81. Kf7 Qe5 82. Kg6 Qf6+ 83. Kh7 Qf7+ 84. Kh8 Bf6# 0-1

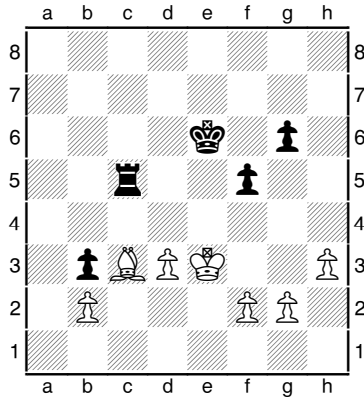
Back to the Board in 2022

The last two years of life inside and outside of the chess scene have been difficult and strange. Here in February 2022, we have fought through original COVID and several variants, and while the pandemic is not over, many things are starting to get back to normal. OTB chess is one of these things, so we've compiled a list of chess clubs, academies, and organizations that offer in-person meetings, tournaments, and lessons. This may not be a complete list because a) new places are opening up every week and b) there are so many great places to play chess in NJ that it is hard to track them all down! For an up-to-date list, keep an eye on njscf.org/nj-chess-club-list. If you think there's something missing, let us know at acneditor:njscf@gmail.com.

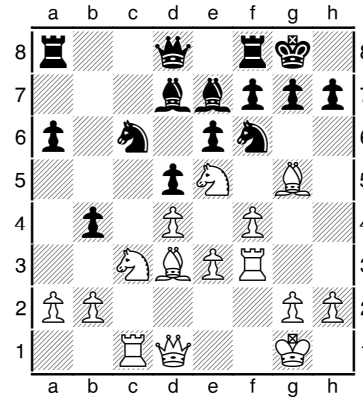
Name	Contact Name	Contact Information	Description
AlphaMinds Academy	Anna Novosyolok	alphamindsacademy.com ; info@alphamindsacademy.com ; 201-844-8535	Afterschool programs and rated tournaments
Bergen Chess Mates	Ron Groseibl	ron.groseibl@gmail.com	Monday night, outdoor meetings from 7-11 PM in Ridgewood; tournaments resuming in the spring
Chess Kings & Queens	Magesh Panchanatham	chesskingsandqueens.com ; info@chesskq.com	Classes and monthly rated tournaments in Piscataway
ChessWired	Ed Knesevich	chesswired@gmail.com	Private and group classes by arrangement, clubs in Butler, Parsippany, and Morris Plains
Kenilworth Chess Club	Jack McCorkell	kenilworthchessclub.org ; jackmccorkell@prodigy.net ; 201-206-9209	Meetings on Thursday nights at 7:30 PM at the Kenilworth Recreation Center
Diplomat Chess	Rob Lazorchak	diplomatchess.com ; info@diplomatchess.com ; 908-656-2903	Afterschool programs and summer camps in the Belle Meade area
Frank's Chess Academy	Frank Romano	frankschess.com ; frank@frankschess.com ; 201-961-4029	Private and group lessons, rated tournaments, and extensive library for students
GrandmasterMac	Mackenzie Molner	grandmastermac.com	Afterschool programs in the Newark area
Hamilton Chess Club	Ed Sytnik	sites.google.com/site/hamiltonchessclub ; 609-758-2326	Monday/Wednesday meetings from 7:30-10:30 at the Switlik Park Pavillion, tournaments starting soon
International Chess Academy	Diana Tulman	icakidsonline.com ; chessdirector@icanj.net ; 201-797-0330	In-person and hybrid classes in Glen Rock and Teaneck and weekly rated quads in Glen Rock
Livingston Scholastic Tournaments	Oluwaseun Bisiriyu-Salam	livingstonchess.com ; livingstonchess@gmail.com ; 973-687-0785	Monthly rated quads
Princeton Chess Academy	Andy Dong	princetonchessacademy.com ; princetonchessacademy@gmail.com ; 609-651-6520	In-person classes at the Windsor Athletic Club
Monmouth Chess School & Club	Dr. Michael Koblentz	monmouthchess.com ; learnchess@optonline.net ; 732-219-0916	Classes, meetings, and tournaments all day on Sundays, private and afterschool classes during the week
Newark Chess Club	D. Oliver Scipio	newarkchessclub.com	Extracurricular chess programs for schools in Newark
Royal Academy USA	Prashant Pasarkar	royalacademy3.wixsite.com/chess ; ppasarkar@gmail.com ; 201-245-6586	Coaching and rated tournaments every other week in Fair Lawn
Toms River Chess Club	Nick Carlson	TomsRiverChess@gmail.com	Meetings at 5PM in the Tom's River Municipal Building basement
Westfield Chess Club	John Moldovan	westfieldchessclub.org ; westfieldchessclub@gmail.com	Various rated tournaments on some Sundays
West Orange Chess Club	John Hagerty	westorangechess.webs.com ; buickchess@gmail.com	Meetings at the Toby Katz Community Center on Tuesdays from 6-10
Wizards of the Mind	Robert Milman	wizardsofthemind.com ; info@wizardsofthemind.com ; 973-262-1395	In-person and hybrid classes in Springfield
Woodbury Chess Club	Henry Feltman	woodburychessclub.com ; woodburychessclub1@verizon.net ; 856-845-5094	Meetings and tournaments on Tuesdays at 6:30 at the Presbyterian Church of Woodbury

Puzzles!

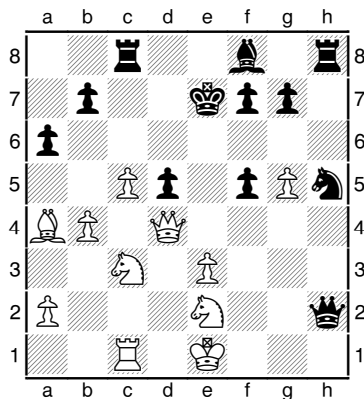
Between last year's Team and US Open (which was held right here in NJ, more details on page 17), some very interesting games have been played. That includes some instructive positions that were reached. Try to find the brilliant moves that these players found at the board last year. You can check the answers on page 23.



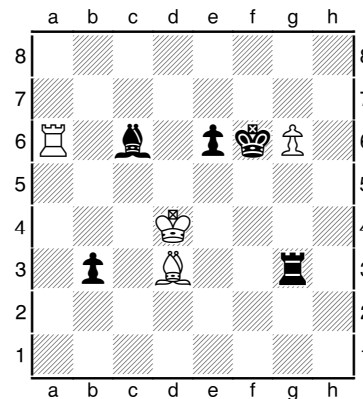
1. White, feeling their king was too passive on d2, played 40. Ke3??. Why the question marks?



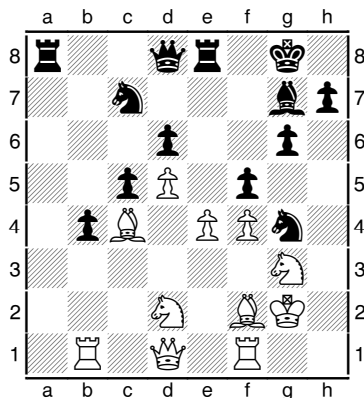
2. GM Akobian beat an expert in just 18 moves in this game. How did he do it?



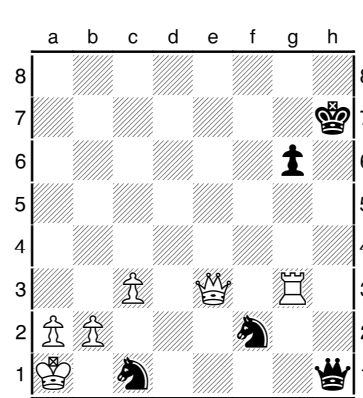
3. White just sacked an exchange, but they had a plan. Checkmate Black before the king has a chance to hide.



4. Black is better here even after a passive moves like Bd7. However, there are two cool moves that win by force right away. Can you find them?



5. Find how Black, to move, can win an exchange.



6. Black just played 54. ...Nxc1. If Black can play Nb3, it will be checkmate, but White won after a forced mating sequence. Find it.

Memories of Morphy

by Steve Doyle

My first brush with Paul Morphy was in 1985. The US Chess Federation had been offered a chance to purchase the original tea service from 1857 that was given to Morphy as a prize for winning the first American Chess Congress.

The prize was presented by then Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes. The set was divided between two family members. One got the tray, and the other got the pieces (coffee pots, tea pot and sugar bowl creamer). We found a common place on price, and the first major acquisition was made for what has become our wonderful World Chess Hall of Fame and museum.

Paul is buried in the St. Louis Cemetery. People who visit often leave chess pieces through the fence. He was only 47 years old when he died.

Paul visited NJ in 1857. He came to the home of Eugene Cook, whose extensive book collection is preserved at the Princeton University library.

"On Sunday, December 6, Morphy visited Eugene Cook in Hoboken, New Jersey, accompanied by Fredrick Perrin, W. J. A. Fuller, and D. W. Fiske. While there, the three visitors played a consultation game against Morphy, which they won. Cook, a brilliant problemist, was an invalid confined to his house most of the time. When the First American Chess Congress was published, the frontispiece was a chess problem composed by Cook and 'Dedicated with the Highest Esteem and Admiration to Paul Morphy, the Only.'"
-- from Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess by David Lawson



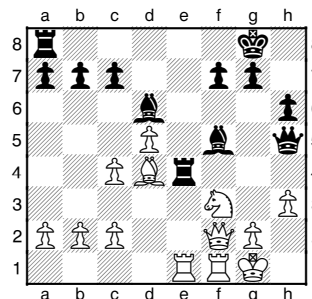
The Morphy family tombstone (photo courtesy of Steve Doyle)



Morphy lived at 417 Royal Street. The restaurant that is currently at that location contains an homage, the Morphy Room. (photo courtesy of Steve Doyle)

Fiske/Fuller/Perrin - Morphy, Paul

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.d3 h6 7.Nf3 e4 8.Qe2 Nxc4 9.dxc4 Bc5 10.h3 0-0 11.Nh2 Nh7 12.Be3 Bd6 13.0-0 Qh4 14.f4 exf3 15.Nxf3 Qh5 16.Nc3 Re8 17.Qf2 Nf6 18.Bd4 Ne4 19.Nxe4 Rxe4 20.Rae1 Bf5



21.Rxe4 Bxe4 22.Nh4 Rf8 23.c5 Be5 24.Bxe5 Qxe5 25.c4 g5 26.Nf3 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Re8 28.f4 Qe3 29.fxg5 hxg5 30.Qxe3 Rxe3 31.Kg2 Kg7 32.d6 cxd6 33.cxd6 Rd3 34.c5 Kg6 35.Rf3 Rd2+ 36.Kg3 f5 37.Rb3 f4+ 38.Kf3 Rh2 39.d7 Rxh3+ 40.Ke4 Rh8 41.Rxb7 Kf6 42.Rc7 Ke7 43.Rc8 Rd8 44.Rxd8 Kxd8 45.c6 a5 46.Kd5 Ke7 47.Ke4 Kd8 48.b3 Ke7 49.a3 Kd8 50.b4 1-0

Remembrances

One of the reasons that the World Amateur Team is a fan-favorite event is the team element. A team picks you up when you fall and makes your victories sweeter because they were achieved with friends. Sadly, the team that brings you the Team has lost some members this year. Glenn Petersen founded this publication and, while he was not always that involved in the Team, he was a crucial member of New Jersey and US Chess and one of the most prolific and prominent editors in all of chess journalism. Carol Jarecki, Ken Ballou, and Joe Ippolito were all Team tournament directors whose faces you may recognize and whose presences you will miss if you ever met them. Here we remember the examples they set and the many smiles for which they were responsible so that we can carry on their legacy.

Glenn Arne Petersen (June 23, 1949 - August 16, 2021)

by Pete Tamburro

Reprinted courtesy of American Chess Magazine (Issue 23)

What is the measure of a man's professional life? Was it his longevity in the field? Could it be the achievements accomplished in those years? Or is it best to measure his demeanor and how he interacted with others? Did he sacrifice his personal feelings and comforts in order to produce a quality body of work? Did he encourage others to perform? Was he devoted to his chosen profession?

In Glenn's case, the answer was "yes" to all the above questions. We honor him, not because he was famous in today's chess circles or because he was a grandmaster. We honor his contributions and devotion to chess. In fact, we honor a lifetime of devotion to his beloved passion. We were close friends for over 50 years. We met in college. He ran our chess club, which he started. There was never enough chess to play. One of his sisters told me that when Glenn was a little kid, he would find someone, anyone, to play, and if he couldn't find anybody, he would play against himself. The play was the thing. Once he smuggled me out of the college infirmary to play first board against a rival college that night. Fortunately, my opponent fell into an early trap after ten minutes, and Glenn quickly draped my overcoat over me and helped me out of my seat and back to the infirmary. As we walked out the door, the opponent's girlfriend muttered, "I came all this way for THIS?"

We were a small college, but we challenged schools like Penn State, whom we lost to, and Georgetown, whom we surprisingly beat. Glenn was our motivator, our cheerleader, and the guy that got us out of bed to go play chess.

While I was in grad school, Glenn showed up at my home with an idea for a chess newspaper—the Atlantic Chess News. He talked me into it and dramatically changed my whole relationship to chess, and, for that,



Photo courtesy of Mike Sommers

I asked my fellow New Jerseyans and some others to give their thoughts:

STEVE DOYLE: This was how I remember meeting him. I was likely promoting some event at Toms River and sent him an article and was so impressed when he called me. Likely 14 years old. He spoke on my behalf and I was added as a USCF voter at age 15. And joined the NJ board. The year was 1975. We began a friendship that spanned all these years. Together we ran the NJ Open and US Amateur for decades. We were all part of the "teams team" for more years than I can remember. He was most happy editing and producing magazines and newspapers for chess players to enjoy. And he did great. His work was enjoyed by more people over coffee than anyone else is the chess world for the largest period. I will miss him dearly as he would say: -30-
NOREEN DAVISSON: Glenn was a friend and mentor. He brought me to Jack Hutton at Princeton to run a small college tournament, so Jack would feel comfortable with me as computer TD for the Pan Ams later that year. Glenn explained the differences between USChess rules and FIDE laws completely to me. I spoke to Glenn a month or two ago about dialysis options, since my husband has been on dialysis for the last three years. It has been a very tough year for American arbiters.

BRIAN CIGE: He was the friendly, professional, who ran the Somerset Quads in the early 90s, and while we did not socialize he always made me feel welcome, helped me grow in my love of the game.

JOSEPH IPPOLITO: My first meeting with Glenn was with him directing his Sunday, Somerset Quads. Without the use of computers, only those 3x5 cards, Glenn meticulously ran a crowd favorite tournament. I always remember him having the highest of ethics, encouraging, and knowledgeable beyond belief. Any question concerning chess history in New Jersey was answered matter-of-factly and without hesitation by Glenn. His work as editor of Chess Life, School Mates, as well as our own Atlantic News, was enlightening and professional. I will miss Glenn and heartbroken with his loss.

LEO DUBLER: Glenn ran a number of

tournaments that I organized. He was a very patient and kind person. Glenn cared about the players. He wanted to make sure they had a positive experience and that any concerns they had were heard. Even if a player was angry or not articulating their point well, Glenn would look past that and patiently listen to them and then try to address their concerns.

MIKE SOMERS: I first met Glenn at Edison quads and was struck by his brilliant use of 3x5 cards for repeat quad participants! It made reg. and pairing quick and efficient. Several years later in 1982 my wife and I hung out with Glenn and Martha at Minnesota US Open, enjoying several dinners and lunches together. Glenn was an amazing crossword puzzler also. He was one of those guys who did them in ink and only would use across clues. At NJ board meetings Glenn would always provide keen observation on any topic, especially when it came to historical perspective on any discussion at hand. When I reached a 2000 rating my wife threw a little party, which Glenn drove a long distance to attend. The gift he gave me was a book on GO and a small set to go with it. The inscription on the book, which I still have is this: Now that you are a chess expert you can move on to GO because you'll never master that game! That was Glenn! I will miss him, NJ chess will miss him.

HAL SPRECHMAN: On August 1st of 1993 I attended with my son Daniel our first First Sunday of the Month Quads. I had started a chess club in Daniel's elementary school and Glenn shared valuable tips for running a successful chess club. He suggested using a ladder in one form or another and for many years I ran tournaments using those 3x5 cards. He was always willing to help and I visited him at his apartment to pick up Chess Life, Chess Life for Kids and Atlantic Chess News to give out at tournaments. He ran the 1st Sunday of the Month Quads for 25 years. The last was 3/14/99 and he gave out free mugs commemorating the event. He will be greatly missed.

IM DEAN IPPOLITO: Glenn was an amazing person. He always said something important or interesting whenever he spoke. He was a positive influence on myself and all other players with whom he dealt. He helped inspire my love of chess by encouraging me every time I played in his monthly tournaments starting in the mid 80's. It's a great loss to chess, and to everyone who knew him.

ANAND MISHRA: I first met Glenn during the early 80's in a tournament in a tournament in South Jersey. He struck me back then as a TD who had his act together. Through the years he and another mentor of mine, Gene Artis, always encouraged me to get involved in chess activities outside of just playing the game. He spoke with a calm, unassuming manner and I will never forget his laugh after he told me what was going on in the chess scene. Almost every USATE I attended during the 90's and 2000's+, I would see him and we'd chat about various topics. He kept me abreast about Gene Artis's affairs and he was also the first person to tell me Gene had passed away. At a diner in Freehold, he met me one very stormy night in summer 2018 and we talked about the chess league that he was involved with during his

I am eternally indebted. This was 1973. There were no computers, no Chessbase, and diagrams had to have the pieces pasted by hand onto empty diagrams. Then, our typed copy had to be typed into strips the width of a column and very long. They would be passed through a device that waxed the back of the column. Photos had to be "veloxed" (put the dots in) and waxed. Then, you had to go to the story boards and put the strips down, cut them at the bottom of the page when you ran out of room. We actually cut and pasted for real. It was tiresome work. As my professional life and then my marriage came along, I spent less and less time doing the grunt work, and Glenn spent more and more time. I did the fancy stuff: cover Spassky's simul at Chess City in Manhattan or write an opening column or do book reviews. His first issue's editorial promised readers we would not be a fly-by-night operation. We were here to stay. The Atlantic Chess News is still around as an annual (just won another award) that is freely distributed at the World Amateur Team Tournament. [You are holding it in your hand!]

Glenn did the real newspaper work. He would personally go to all the leagues in New Jersey and even New York to get results and games and stories. The first issue was eight pages—high school results, Raritan Valley League, Shore Chess League, South Jersey Chess Association, Essex-Union County Chess League, Hudson County League, Tri-County Industrial League, Morris County Industrial League, et al. We had openings articles, amateur corner, and endgame articles. After becoming the official organ of the NJSCF, we ran into censorship demands and threats of losing funding from the president of the NJSCF. We had knock down drag out meetings, but Glenn held firm. The irony was that all of us were friends and remained so. It was an honor to be associated with a man of principle.



Glenn playing at the World Amateur Team (photo courtesy of Mike Sommers)

My Theory of Szen article had captured Chess Life editor Burt Hochberg's attention, and to encourage a new publication he printed it in Chess Life. Executive Director Ed Edmondson wrote a glowing letter we put on the front page of the newspaper. To have the higher ups at the USCF promote us was a huge help. Those were the good old days! Thanks to the untiring effort of Glenn, the Atlantic Chess News became known nationally and internationally by the 1980s. He expanded it to over 20 pages, and once to 40 pages. Glenn started doing interviews with top names like Maya Chiburdanidze and Eduard Gufeld. Frank Brady wrote an AVRO article. More writers wanted in on the action. There were international tournaments in NJ, PA and NY and the ACN was covering them. He even created a 12 page insert on chess in education with a bevy of contributors like former executive director Dr. Gerard Dullea (with the cooperation of Chess Life editor Don Maddox), past USCF president, Dr. Leroy Dubeck, International Master Michael Valvo and myself—all for distribution to schools to help them create programs. Glenn had to stop after 1976, but others took over. He came back in the 80s and created a masterpiece.

In a relatively short time, Glenn had earned the respect and admiration of people throughout the chess world. He was making something special happen. In addition to all this, he became president of the New Jersey Chess Federation from 1979 to 1982. He also managed to initiate a remarkable First Sunday of the Month Quads event from 1974 to 1999. This ran for 309 consecutive Sundays as evidenced by the lovely cup he provided participants from those years when he finally stopped it. Just days before his death, he was recalling a young John Fedorowicz and a young Irina Krush participating. It was a launching pad for a host of NJ chess players. He was also a FIDE arbiter and directed over 60 national tournaments. Players always remarked on his calm, his objectivity and his exceptional competence.

His integrity was unquestioned. When the first USCF popular vote election took place, a big question for the Policy Board was whom could they trust to count the votes? They picked Glenn. He fell ill and asked his old sidekick to fill in, which I did.

A talent like this man's could not go unnoticed, of course, so the USCF asked Glenn to become editor of Chess Life in 1990. His dream was to be editor of Chess Life. He was steeped in the lore of Chess Review and even the early Chess Life newspaper. Yet, even though the magazine was excellent, he kept running into bumps. He had a great article on bookseller Bob Long going into the magazine and had an executive director come in and, as Glenn characterized it, "ripped it out because Long was competition for USCF book sales." Glenn believed the function of the USCF and Chess Life was to promote all US chess. I once asked him why he didn't become executive director. His reply was quick and simple: "I love being editor. That's all I want to do."

Unfortunately, chess politics in that era was, well, political. He got nudged out as editor in 2000. One reason someone told him was that they couldn't have a remote editor. Not long after, the new CL editor was—remote! Glenn had been commuting to New York State from central New Jersey, over two hours one way. It tired him. He often slept on the couch in his office. I had been up there a fair amount during that period and noticed

time with Toms River chess and clubs around North Jersey. He encouraged me to take on creating a new online league (pre-Covid) and guided me through some challenges I may face. He shared news about his own family and the various health problems he fought with. I'll never forget Glen and all the things he did for chess in South Jersey and at the National level. RIP to a truly gentle giant among our chess community.

MICHAEL KHODARKOVSKY: Glenn indeed was an exceptional person. I did have a privilege to know him well since the mid-90's. First, I knew him as an arbiter who was running his quads in Somerset, or various NJ State Championships where my students played and winning. And later, in the first decade of this century when I was running NJ Futurity International tournaments, I was happy to have him as Chief Arbiter of those great tournaments that we pulled together for the growth of NJ youngsters. Then, I knew him as an editor of Atlantic Chess News and Chess Life. To this day, I believe, Glenn was one of the best chess editors I ever knew. On the top of all his accomplishments, Glenn always been a thoughtful, humble, and respectful person, whether in his official capacity or just a friend and colleague who visited me at my home in New Jersey. Glenn will be missed by all who knew him.

GM ALEX FISHBEIN: Very sorry to hear. Best Chess Life editor (among many other things) that I ever worked with.

JACK McCORKELL: I met Glenn for the first time at the NY Open in 1985, which was my first visit to a chess event in over 20 years. Shortly after introducing himself upon learning from a mutual friend that I was multilingual, he introduced me to Jorge Zamora's parents and Jorge, who were up from Central America for Jorge's debut tourney in the USA... Glenn then arranged a sit down 5-minute blitz 4 game session to warm Jorge up for his first round. I met Glenn quite a few times since, and even when he was having serious health problems his quiet humility and attentive host demeanor never wavered from the day I first met him. Glenn's passing is not only a great loss for his friends, family and the chess community, it's a tremendous loss for humanity, for his persona was a standard to aspire to.

GEORGE MIRIJANIAN: Glenn's comportment was a standard to aspire to. He was calm and cool under pressure. Where others would be flustered under the pressure, Glenn maintained his composure. He would be the type of TD I would want at my tournaments. His contributions to chess in this country were enormous. We should all be thankful that we had the opportunity of seeing this fantastic man doing wonderful work for US Chess. May he rest in peace.

two key things: he knew the entire USCF operation and knew what they had to do. The staff routinely went to him to get problems solved. It wasn't his job description, but he solved them, or at least showed them the way. Secondly, he never made his numerous displeasures and disappointments public. He used me as a sounding board. He so loved being editor that when they had the nerve to ask him to be an interim editor, he did that in 11/2003-12/2003 and, then again, for a longer stint from 04/2005 to 02/2006 as a variety of editors fell by the wayside. The USCF had him do other things as well. Their release mentions them: "He held a number of positions at US Chess: Assistant Director, Chess Life Editor, Director of Publications, Publications Consultant, and Scholastic Editor."

Then, came the introduction of Chess Life for Kids. Glenn became the first editor of that in 2006 and served our scholastic community in that capacity through 2017. Just like the start of Atlantic Chess News, he called on me to write for him. He had also asked me to write the USCF's syndicated column that went to over 200 newspapers, which I did under his tutelage. He once edited out my reference to Vladimir Nabokov as author of Lolita when presenting a composition of that famous author. I asked him why? He said it might offend some Midwest sensibilities! He had me write about 64 articles in that period about whatever he wanted me to do. He was always filled with ideas about how kids would best learn from magazines articles. He was right. He knew what would raise the level of kids' play. Challenge them and explain in simple terms. Of course, he had the same types of experts, even though the names changed, give input on what CL4K should be like, but he soldiered on, even as his health and the personal in-home care of and early death of his son had weighed heavily on him.

Glenn was inducted into the Chess Journalists Hall of Fame. Rightfully so, as this giant of American chess was a journalistic force from 1973 to 2017—45 years of devotion to a game he loved. The players and organizers in the game loved him back. This last year of visiting with Glenn broke my heart. There was an unspoken understanding that he was dying. He kept giving me his photo albums, books and his beloved ACN issues. He didn't want them to be lost. This remembrance doesn't want Glenn to be lost. The measure of this man was his devotion, his extraordinary skills in more than one endeavor or task, his interactions with players of all stripes and his uncommon decency as a human being and close friend. This piece was the toughest one you made me write, old friend.

Kenneth Robert Ballou (1961-2021)

taken from the obituary on everloved.com

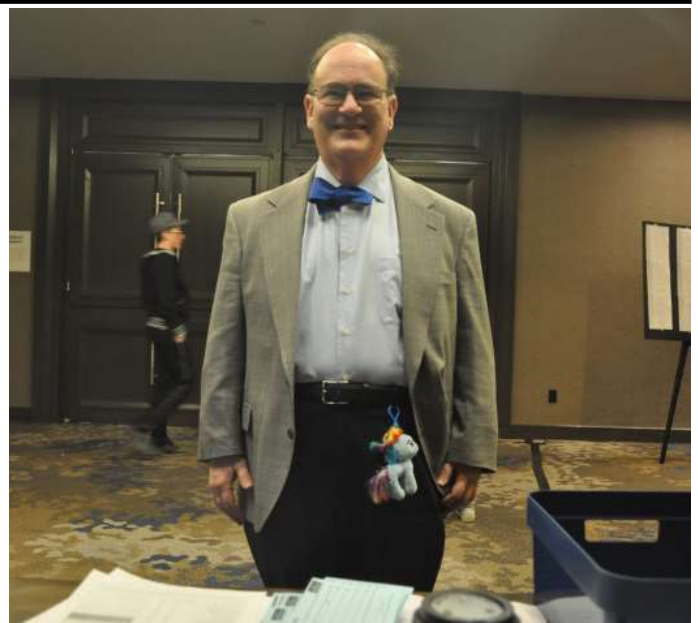
Kenneth Robert Ballou, 59, of Framingham, Massachusetts, passed away unexpectedly on April 16th, 2021. Ken was born in Rhode Island and has been a Framingham resident for some 20 years. He graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT Class of 1983) with degrees in mathematics and physics. He subsequently spent five years at UC Berkeley while working towards a Ph.D. in mathematics.

Ken did not have a lot of family, but he more than made up for it with friends. He will always be remembered for his kindness, brilliance, wit, sense of humor and his willingness to mentor. We all have our favorite "Ken Quote", but this one stands out: "Be curious, people!" The only thing larger than Ken's intellect was his heart.

Ken had a long, distinguished career in software engineering with notable contributions in the areas of networking, security & cryptography.

Ken was a life member of US Chess. He directed 291 tournaments according to US Chess records, with a total of nearly 1,400 sections under his oversight. Ken,

"Unfortunately, I only knew Ken for a few years. Despite this, every time we worked together at the Team, he happily taught me something new about running tournaments. His dedication and integrity inspire me to be a better TD and person. Rest in peace, Ken."
- Local TD Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein



aka “Chief TD,” began directing tournaments at the MetroWest Chess Club (MCC) in 2005 and quickly progressed to the highest levels of chess officialdom. Ken was a US Chess National Tournament Director and a FIDE International Arbiter. He was also Chair of the US Chess Rules Committee and Elections Committee. He served on four other US Chess committees and was the US Chess Parliamentarian, running the Annual Delegates meeting. Along with countless MCC and other local events, Ken was the Chief TD/Arbiter for the 2018 US Championships, Millionaire Chess 3, and the 2017 Champions Showdown at the St. Louis Chess Club featuring GMs Carlsen, Caruana, Nakamura, Liren, So, Grischuk, Topalov, and Dominguez. His contributions to MCC are immeasurable. Most recently he served on the Club’s Board as Treasurer, but he will be remembered as a constant presence, running nearly every tournament.

Carol H. Jarecki (February 13, 1935 – June 13, 2021)

by David Cole

What was unique about Carol Jarecki was that she got involved in chess initially as a chess parent for her prodigy son, John, and, upon seeing John compete, Carol took an active interest in helping out and became a tournament director. She eventually obtained the International Arbiter title and National Tournament Director title. For many years, she lived in Red Bank, NJ and served on the Board of Directors for both the NJSCF and the New York State Chess Association. Carol could be seen directing different tournaments all over the country and was a fixture at numerous World Opens, and her latest role was, of course, at the World Amateur Team Tournament in Parsippany, NJ. She would always welcome all of the participants with Steve Doyle to kickoff the Team event, and she was always going over the rules, particularly the new rules that came into effect since the previous team event.

Carol brought with her a multitude of talents including being a pilot and a nurse, and it was not too uncommon for Carol to pilot her own plane to the different events that she directed. When it comes to tournament directing, Carol was just simply the best of the best, and she was widely requested from organizers around the world to direct different events. She will, of course, be missed. A lot of people relied on Carol’s knowledge of the rules, and she was a very fair arbiter who graciously handled the numerous disputes that came her way.

She had such a calm demeanor when it came to explaining her rulings during disputes, and she was widely respected. Other tournaments at which Carol was Chief Arbiter included the 2005 HB Global Chess Challenge in Minneapolis, the 1995 World Championship Chess Match in New York City between Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand, and the 1997 match between Deep Blue and Garry Kasparov. Also, she was the director of the 2012 Women’s Olympiad and the 2013 Women’s World Championship.

Another of her recent tournament directing activities was the 2019 Cairns Cup in St. Louis. She was so unselfish in imparting her knowledge of the rules to up and coming tournament directors, including myself. She was also given credit for the 4th Edition of the Rule Book as she was a great source of knowledge to those that sought it.

I knew that this year’s Team will be different as Carol had been in failing health over the last few years, though she always managed to show up at the Team to fulfill her role as well as anybody. She passed away on June 13, 2021 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 86.



Carol making an announcement at the Team (photo courtesy of Mike Sommers)

Team boss Steve Doyle remembers his friend: I remember one night I had a family obligation and asked if she would be sub TD. The rest was history, from dozens of Teams to US Opens, Olympiads, and world championship events, from FIDE to rules to just being a great friend. She was a guest at our wedding and wonderful companion and friend. Oh my God I will miss her so much. Rest in peace dear Carol.



Carol and Joe (P.C. Mike Sommers)

Joseph Ippolito (1943-2022)

by David Cole

When I first met Joseph Ippolito, he was a big supporter of scholastic chess in NJ, and I had just formed my own chess club in my home town of Washington Township. I came up with doing a scholastic tournament to celebrate National Chess Day, and Joseph brought [his children] Dean and Gina to compete in the tournaments that I ran and organized. Joseph was unselfish in driving results by wanting to get chess in more schools, and, by profession, Joseph was a teacher at the Grant School in Ridgefield Park, NJ. He was a tireless worker for our game, and, for many years, he was a board member and former president of the NJSCF. I could remember attending meetings at the Dunellen Chess Club where Glenn Petersen, Carol Jarecki and Joseph were very active board members of the NJSCF and how much effort Joseph put into promoting scholastic chess.

This year's Team will be very different as a few faces behind the registration desk will be missing. I always visited the event every year, and Joseph would always see me, and ask, "How are you doing these days, David?" Joseph was so outgoing, he would always be glad to see me and, when I was living in St. Louis, he knew about my organizational efforts to get the US Open when I first moved there, and he was so unselfish in offering up his suggestions about putting together the best possible bid. He was a driving force in securing the 1986 US Open bid here in NJ, and I can remember sitting in those Dunellen meetings as a visitor and learning the bid process. RIP Joseph Ippolito, you will be missed by many chess friends and family!



Joe minding the TD desk at the Team (photo courtesy of Mike Sommers)

"I remember when I went to my first board meeting and Joe was one of the first to come over and say hello. He was always kind and caring, happy to strike up a conversation. He had a way about him to make you feel like you were a part of the family whether you had known him for ten minutes or ten years."

-NJSCF Treasurer Aaron Kiedes

US Open Again!

One of the marquee moments in the reopening over the past year was the return of a major nationwide tournament, the US Open. Between the main event, the side events, the invitationals, and the governance meetings, the US Open is a celebration of every aspect of chess and the chess culture of the whole United States. It was a big year for NJ, which hosted its first US Open since 2007. With people clamoring to get back to the board, the tournament had its biggest turnout in years with over 500 players. GM Alekandr Lenderman, a former US Championship competitor, won the event with 8.5/9. He only dropped half a point in the last round to GM Benjamin Glendura to finish half a point ahead of newly-minted teenage GM Hans Niemann. Lenderman plays for the prolifically successful Webster University Chess Team alongside NJ's top finisher, GM John Burke, who ended with 7.5 (check out one of his games below).

Since 2007, when the Denker was the only invitational, the system has grown to include the Rockefeller, Barber, Haring, and Irwin events as well as four sections of the Weeramanty blitz tournament for all of the invited participants. As the host

state, NJ had two representatives for two of the events in order to make the number of players even. NJ's representatives were:

Rockefeller (K-5): Alexander Wang (2124, 4.5/6)
Barber (6-8): George Chen (1706, 3.0/6) & Atharva Makode (1447, 1.5/6)
Denker (9-12): Merric Hu (2275, 3.5/6)
Haring (Girls): WFM Sanjana Vittal (2182, 4.5/6) & Shayla Rana (981, 2.0)
Irwin (50+): FM Gergory Markzon (2200, 3.0/6)

As a team, the NJ players tied for 12th place among the 50 states with 17 out of a possible 25 points. Every state other than Alaska was able to send at least one player.

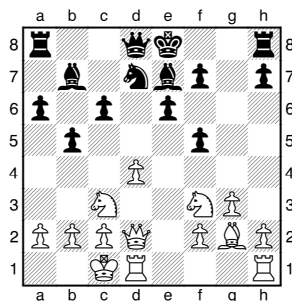
The side events, while less national than the open and invitationals, were still fierce competitions that drew many competitors from outside the tri-state area. Aarush Tippa won the Scholastic Secondary championship with the only perfect score, and Aiden Kennedy tied for first in the Elementary section, which had three perfect scores. Both hail from NJ, and both overcame rating gaps of more than 400 points between themselves and the highest-rated players in their sections. Former NJ champion GM Alex Fishbein

tied for first in the blitz.

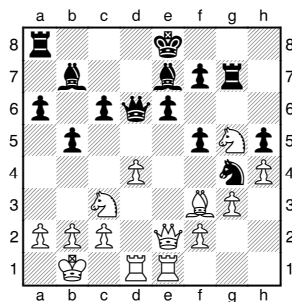
Here are a few top-tier games from the event. The annotator is Maxim Farberov, a USCF expert from New Jersey with 15 years of tournament experience and 6 years of teaching experience. Since the pandemic, he has returned to serious chess with the goal of achieving the national master title.

Burke, John M (2554) - Schmakel, Sam (2409)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 This interesting attempt to unbalance the game is a favorite of former world #2 Alexander Morozevich. **7.Qd2** Burke prepares to long castle since castling short is often dangerous in positions in which Black enjoys the open g-file. **7...f5 8.Nc3 a6** Schmakel now looks to expand on the queenside and place his light square bishop on the long diagonal with **9.g3** but his opponent is determined to beat him to it. **9...b5 10.Bg2 c6** is certainly a concession by Black, who now has every single pawn on a light square. This is not great news for the bishop on c8. **11.Nf3** temporarily blocks the bishop, but the knight will later deploy to e5 or g5. **11...Nd7 12.0-0-0 Bb7**

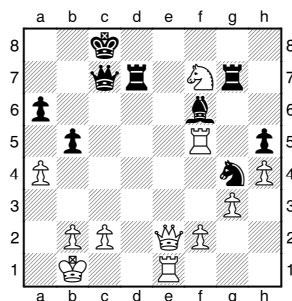


Despite its strange appearance, Black's structure is quite solid; White can only claim a small edge thus far. **13.Qf4** improving the position of the queen. White's plan is now to centralize his other rook and pressure his opponent, who still remains uncastled. **13...h5** It's not so clear what the idea behind this was. Black is still solid for the time being, but White now begins building pressure. **13...Qa5** was perhaps better, threatening b4 and preparing to long castle. **14.Kb1** 0-0-0 **15.Ng5** Rdf8 **16.Rhe1** Qc7 **17.Qe3** Kb8= **14.Kb1** is a useful prophylactic move, ensuring White is safe from any pins on the c1-h6 diagonal. **14...Qb6** preparing to castle, but underprotecting the g5 square. **15.Ng5** With f7 under pressure, castling will now have to wait. **15...Rg8** **16.h4** Rg7 **17.Bf3** continuing to probe at Black's weaknesses. **17...Nf6** **18.Qe5** again preventing black from castling, this time via tactical means. **18...Qd8** 18...0-0? **19.Nxf7!** wins a precious pawn. **19...Re8** (19...Rxf7 **20.Qxe6+** wins the rook) **20.Qxe6+** Kb8 **21.Ne5** and Black's position is left in utter shambles. **19.Rhe1** Now all of White's pieces are officially in the game. **19...Qd6** A queen trade would instantly solve Black's problems, but Burke, of course, isn't interested. **20.Qe2** Ng4



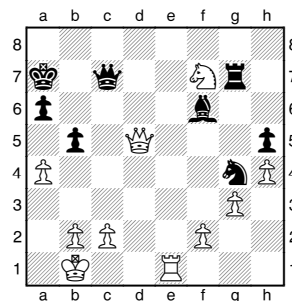
Black blocks the attack on the h5 pawn. Black's position still appears fairly solid, but let's not forget that he still hasn't castled. **21.d5!** a thematic idea,

looking to rip open the center for the rooks while the Black forces sit unprepared. **21...cxd5** **22.Nxd5** looks like a piece sacrifice but isn't really much of one. **22...exd5** **23.Bxd5** **Bxd5** **23...Qc7?** **24.Bxf7+** Rxf7 **25.Nxf7** Kxf7 **26.Qe6+** Kf8 **27.Rd7** and Black will have to part ways with the queen. **27...Qxd7** (27...Qc5 **28.Rxe7** Bd5 **29.Rf7+** Kg8 **30.Qg6+** Kh8 **31.Rh7#**) **28.Qxd7** Be4+- and Black has 3 pieces for the queen but a very loose position. **24.Rxd5** Qc7 taking the rook was, of course, not possible due to Qxe7#. **25.Rxf5** and White emerges with two pawns and a dangerous initiative as compensation for the sacrificed piece. How will Black defend their vulnerable position? **25...0-0-0!** is a resourceful way to use White's weak back rank to quickly get the king out of the center. **26.Nxf7** with another pawn back for white, the material is now mathematically even. **26.Qxe7??** Qxe7 **27.Rxe7** Rd1# **26...Rd7** **27.a4!** Burke doesn't rest for a even a moment; instead, he strikes at his opponent's queenside structure and simultaneously alleviates his back rank issues by gifting his king a flight square. **27...Bf6?**



Faced with a difficult position, Schmakel loses his way in the complications and allows his opponent's queen to penetrate the back rank. **27...Qc4** was a better try. A queen trade would definitely help the Black king feel safer. **28.Qf3!** Kb8 (28...Qxa4?? **29.Qa8+** Kc7 **30.Qa7+** Kc8 **31.Rc5+** Bxc5 **32.Re8+** +-) **29.axb5** Rg6! is a hard move to find to make this variation work. (29...axb5 **30.b3!** Qb4 **31.Re4** and Black again finds themselves unable to overcome White's superior activity, although the ensuing variation is still complex and forces both sides to be quite precise. **31...Rd1+** **32.Qxd1** Qxe4 **33.Qd7** Qe1+ **34.Kb2** Bf6+ **35.Rxf6** Nxf6 **36.Qd6+** Kb7 **37.Qxf6+-**) **30.Ne5** Nxe5 **31.Rfxe5** Rd2 **32.Qe4** Qxe4 **33.R1xe4** Bd8 and White has many pawns for the bishop, but in practice this is still rather unclear.

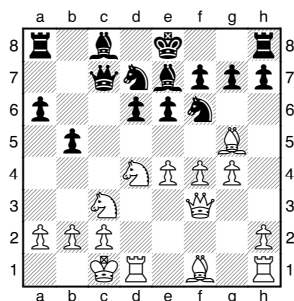
28.Qe8+ Kb7 **29.Rc5** and now Black is officially in trouble. Notice how most of their pieces are stranded on the opposite side of the board as the enemy approaches their king's position. **29...Qxc5** **29...Rgxf7** was perhaps a better try but unlikely to end in a different outcome. **30.Rxc7+** Rxc7 **31.axb5** Ne5 **32.bxa6+** Kxa6 **33.Rxe5** Bxe5 **34.Qxe5+-** Sometimes two rooks can defeat a queen, but not when the queen has an army of pawns to back it up. **30.Qxd7+** Qc7 **31.Qd5+** Ka7



32.Re8 White's final piece comes in for the kill, and now Black is truly finished. **32...bxa4** **32...Rxf7** **33.a5!** and the only way Black staves off mate on a8 is by giving away half their army. **33...Bd8** **34.Rxd8** Qxd8 **35.Qxd8+-** **33.Nd6** And with Ra8 and a mating attack against the defenseless king on the way, Black decided it wasn't worth delaying the inevitable and succumbed to defeat. The young NJ GM gave a great demonstration on the power of active pieces. **1-0**

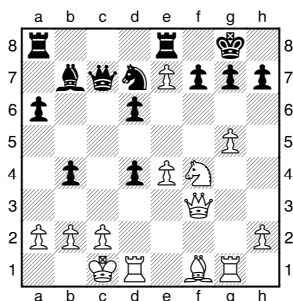
Molner, Mackenzie (2517) - Girsh, Daniel (2206)

White's name may seem familiar; he was one of the winners of last year's team tournament, which you can read about on page 3. **1.e4** c5 **2.Nf3** d6 **3.d4** cxd4 **4.Nxd4** Nf6 **5.Nc3** a6 A Najdorf Sicilian is employed by the national master. Let's see how his grandmaster opponent will handle it. **6.Bg5** opting for the main line **6...e6** **7.f4** Be7 **8.Qf3** Qc7 **9.0-0-0** Nbd7 and we are officially in the main line of one of the sharpest openings this great games has to offer. **10.g4** As is customary in the Najdorf, White has castled queenside and is now focused on assaulting his opponent on the opposite side of the board. **10...b5**

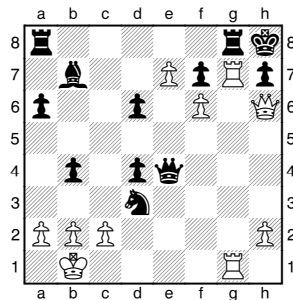
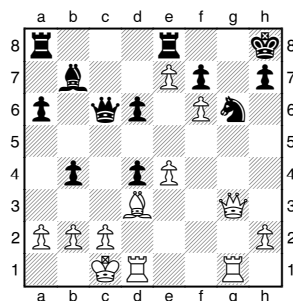


Meanwhile, Black wastes no time launching counterplay of their own. **11.Bxf6** It may seem strange to give up the bishop seemingly unprovoked, but the idea is to get g5 in quickly. Whoever can get their attack off the ground faster will be in the driver's seat. **11...Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 0-0** is the first notable deviation from theory; Bxg5 and Nc5 are more common, but the latest trend seems to be ignoring the hanging pawn on g5 in favor of castling, which does appear to be safer. **13...Bxg5+** is the natural alternative, which has been seen thousands of times on the master level. A sample line goes **14.Kb1 Ne5 15.Qh5 Qe7 16.Nxe6! Bxe6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Qh3 Kg7±** and, with a safer king and plenty of open lines to start an attack, White definitely has the advantage **14.Rg1** guarding the g-pawn while introducing another dangerous attacker. Black must now act quickly. **14...b4!** Black kicks the knight away from the center so that they can play e5 without allowing it to land on d5. **15.Nce2 e5** side-stepping white's pawn avalanche, but not dodging it entirely. **16.f6!** With a strong dynamic decision that has become the latest theory, White lunges forward before Black has a chance to consolidate their kingside. **16.Nb3?! f6!** and White will now find it difficult to mount a breakthrough. **17.g6 h6 18.Ng3 a5** and Black is now the one ready to start their attack. **16...exd4** Black, of course, wouldn't dare take on f6 and expose their king. **17.fxe7 Re8 18.Nf4?!** Rather than recapturing the pawn on d4, Molner opts for the risky decision to transfer his knight towards the action. **18.Nxd4** was the most natural alternative. **18...Ne5** This is a position that has still been reached a few dozen times within the last decade. **19.Qf4 Rxe7 20.Nf5 Re6** and White is pressing, but Black stands relatively solid. **18...Bb7**

a strong reply by Girsh, who is determined not to allow his opponent to land his knight on d5. **19.Nh5** appears to have been Molner's other idea behind Nf4; the knight is approaching Black's kingside. How will they cope with this provocation? **19.Nd5** would now not be advisable. **19...Bxd5 20.exd5 Rxe7** and Black emerges with a clearly superior position. They control the two open files and also have the e5 and c5 squares as potential outposts for their knight. **19...Ne5?!** may have seemed like a good idea at the time, but Girsh must've missed Molner's next move, or at least underestimated it. **19...Rxe7** This simple recapture is actually all that was necessary for Black to take control of the game. **20.Nf6+** is now not so scary. **20...Kh8** and White has nothing better than to go for the following variation: **21.Nxd7 Bxe4! a strong intermezzo 22.Qf2 Qxd7 23.Rxd4 Rc8 24.Bd3 Bxd3 25.Rxd3 a5** and Black is just comfortably up a pawn with a totally safe king. **20.Nf6+!** Had the rook been on e7, this move wouldn't be anything special, but now Black is faced with the difficult choice between giving up the exchange or grabbing the knight and hunkering down on defense. **20...gxf6 20...Kh8 21.Nxe8** and Black's pieces are unfortunately positioned here. **21...Rxe8 (21...Nxf3 22.Nxc7 Nxg1 23.Nxa8+-) 22.Qf2 Bxe4 23.Rxd4 d5 24.Rxb4 Qxe7±** and White is up a clean exchange, but Black should still be able to pose some practical problems. **21.gxf6+ Kh8 22.Qg3** showing the power of having the open g-file. **22...Ng6** is the only defense, but it appears to hold White off at least for the time being. **22...Rg8?? 23.Qxg8+ Rxg8 24.Rxg8+ Kxg8 25.e8Q#+** **23.Bd3** Amidst all the chaos, Molner finally develops his remaining minor piece. It'll serve an important role guarding c2 and may even join the attack with a possible e5 break. **23...Qc6?**



despite being up a piece for a pawn, the position Girsh was faced with was extremely difficult to play, so it's hard to blame him for not finding the best defense to stave off the impending assault against his king. **23...Rg8** seems to have been a better try, although its not clear whether it would've been enough to save Black. **24.Qg5** as in the game, White's plan is simple; put the queen on h6, bring the rook to h5, and checkmate on h7. **24...Nxe7!?** is enough to win the e-pawn, but not enough to entirely save Black. (**24...d5 25.exd5 Qf4+** even trading the queens isn't sufficient **26.Qxf4 Nxf4 27.Rxg8+ Rxg8 28.d6 Bc6 29.Bf5 Nh5 30.d7 Bxd7 31.Bxd7 Nxf6 32.Rxd4+-** and, with no way to eliminate the passed e-pawn, Black is as good as finished.) **25.Qh6 Ng6 26.Rg5 Ne5 (26...Rac8?? 27.Qxh7+! Kxh7 28.Rh5#) 27.Rg7 Nxd3+ 28.Kd2!** It's actually important to avoid remaining on the back rank; the king will miraculously find safety in the center despite Black's pieces circling around. **28...Bxe4 29.Rdg1 Qc8** the only defense against mate **30.cxd3 Bf5 31.Rxg8+ Qxg8 32.Rxg8+ Rxg8±** and White emerges with a position that should be technically winning. **24.Qg5** Once again, White's plan is rather straightforward. **24...Rg8 25.Qh6 Ne5** making way for the h7 pawn to be defended **26.Rg7 Nxd3+ 27.Kb1! 27.Rxd3** was also winning, but Molner opts to not even risk exposing his king. **27...Qxe4 28.Rdg1**



And unable to meet the dual threats of Rxg8 twice followed by Qg7# and Rx7

with the same idea if the Black rook moves away, Girsh has no choice but to accept defeat. A masterful attacking display by the veteran GM. 1–0

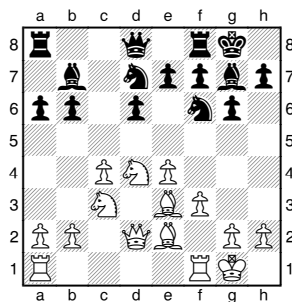
Some Games from the 2021 Team

The annotator for the first two games is Max Farberov. (He also annotated several games from the NJ Open on page 17.)

Mitch Fishbein (2194) -

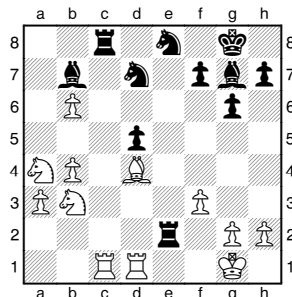
Todd D. Andrews (2354)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 b6 is an interesting approach by Andrews. It's far from the most common but offers a transposition into a Sicilian-like structure. **4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bb7** Black's light-square bishop now takes up a strong post on b7. **6.f3** White must find some way to overcome Black's grip on the e4 square. **6...d6 7.e4** White is now able to achieve the Maroczy bind structure with the traditional clamp on the d5 square. **7...g6** is surprisingly rare in this position but appears to be a good practical try, seeking to fianchetto the dark square bishop rather than going for the traditional Hedgehog setup that one might also see in a Kan Sicilian. **7...e6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Be2 0–0 10.0–0 a6 11.Qd2 Nbd7** is the more traditional Hedgehog setup. **8.Be3 Bg7 9.Qd2 0–0 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.0–0 a6**

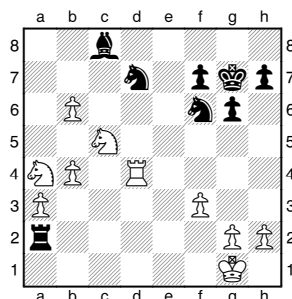


and both sides have officially reached their targeted opening setups. **12.Rac1 Re8 13.Rfd1** White now centralizes his rooks. The next phase of his plan will be to take a dig at Black's queenside pawn minority. **13...Rc8 14.b4 e6** Not interested in waiting around for their queenside to be assaulted, Black now intends to strike back in the center and prepares the thematic d5 break. **15.Nb3 d5 16.exd5 exd5 17.c5** makes sense strategically; rather than capturing on d5 and allowing Black to completely open the center, Fishbein opts to push past, probing at the queenside. **17.Nxd5** was also possible, but it allows Black to achieve their goal of

opening the center and trading off some pieces. **17...Nxd5 18.cxd5 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Nf6** and the d pawn is falling **20.d6 Nd5 21.Bf2 Qxd6 17...Qe7** gaining a tempo on the bishop. Andrews is preparing to strike back. **18.Bd4 a5!?** looking to undermine the defense of the c-pawn. **18...bxc5 19.bxc5 Nxc5! 20.Nxc5 Rxc5 21.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 22.Kh1** and with a passed pawn and the bishop pair, Black has compensation for the sacrificed exchange. **19.a3** was not the most active option, but White's position remains solid. **19.c6!** was better, offloading the c-pawn but preparing to snag the a-pawn. **19...Bxc6 (19...axb4 20.cxb7 bxc3 21.bxc8N! Rxc8 22.Rxc3+-) 20.bxa5 bxa5 21.Nxa5 Ba8 22.Ba6 Rc7 19...a4** and for a moment, it seems that White is in trouble. The c-pawn is close to falling as the knight has to move, right? **20.Nxa4!** Not interested in some passive retreat, Fishbein seizes the opportunity to make a dynamic play! **20...Qxe2 21.Qxe2 Rxe2 22.cxb6** and White has given up a piece but now has 3 passed pawns on the queenside, and Black's light square bishop is rather limited in scope. **22...Ne8?!**



is a step in the wrong direction. Black's minor pieces are starting to idle on the back ranks. White now seizes the initiative. **22...Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Bh6 24.Rc7 Ba6 25.Nac5 Re1+ 26.Kf2 Rf1+ 27.Kg3 Nh5+ 28.Kh3 Nf4+ 29.Kg3 Nh5+= 23.Rxc8 Bxc8 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Rxd5** the material count is now officially equal, but the mass of queenside passers gives White the edge. **25...Nef6 26.Rd4 Ra2 27.Nbc5**



27...Ne5? is the critical mistake. This now allows the White rook to penetrate the back rank! **27...Rxa3** was Black's best hope. **28.Nxd7 Nxd7 29.Rxd7! Rxa4 30.b7 Bxb7 31.Rxb7** reaches a rook ending that should be drawn with best play. **28.Rd8 Bh3!?** The bishop had no good squares, so Andrews decides to use it to take a desperate shot at his opponent's kingside. **29.gxh3 Nxf3+ 30.Kf1 Nh5** The knights are approaching, but the White king will survive long enough to see his army bolstered by a new queen. **31.b7 Rxb2 32.b8Q Rxb3 33.Kg2 Ng5 34.Qe5+f6 35.Qxg5!** is a nice way to simplify, removing the defender of the rook and eliminating any last hopes Black had at a swindle. 1–0

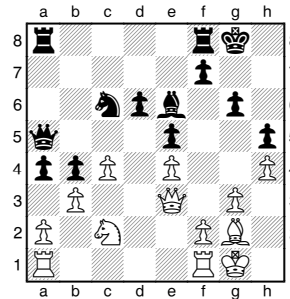
Danila Poliannikov (2359) -

Craig Hilby (2554)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 and we have ourselves the ever theoretical Sveshnikov Sicilian. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5** opting for the most common approach, the so-called "Chelyabinsk Variation," with **9. Bxf6** being the other main alternative. **9...Be7 10.Bxf6** is the main approach to this line. White trades off their dark square bishop to ensure their knight remains unopposed in the center. If White can maintain control over this outpost, they will usually fare well. Black, on the other hand, opts to develop quickly and seek counterplay on one or both flanks. **10...Bxf6 11.c4** opting for the more aggressive c-pawn push. This move is double-edged: it further supports the knight on d5 while striking at Black's queenside minority but also surrenders control of the d4 square for Black's knight to potentially land on. **11.c3** is the most popular move, controlling the d4 square while still allowing the knight from a3 to re-deploy. **11...0–0 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5 11...b4 12.Nc2 0–0** Black leaves the b4 pawn hanging, but White would do well to leave it be. Black already has much initiative after **13.h4** another aggressive choice by Poliannikov. **Be2** and **g3** are more common, but this move seeks to prevent Black's dark square bishop from coming to g5, where it often wants to go. **13.g3** is the most popular move. **13...Bg5 14.Bg2 Qa5 15.0–0 Qc5** where White, with the strong outposted knight and harmonious position, is slightly better, although Black tends to do just fine here; **13.Ncxb4 Nxb4 14.Nxb4 Qb6** and Black has sufficient compensation down the open

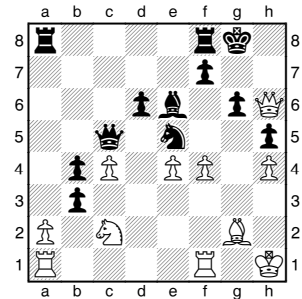
b-file to at least claim equality. **13...a5** **14.g3 Be6** Still very much known territory, this position has been reached over 200 times according to the database. **15.Bg2** 15.Bh3 interestingly seems to score better for White. They attempt to trade off Black's light square bishop to leave them with the bad bishop on f6, which is stuck on the same color as their central pawns. White is not afraid to recapture with the rook and castle by hand. 15...a4 16.Nce3 Nd4 17.Kf1 b3 18.Kg2 Rb8 has been seen in several high profile grandmaster games from over the past few years. **15...g6** Black now seeks to perform a delayed fianchetto of sorts; the queen would really like to move at some point but must first be liberated from its task of defending the bishop on f6. **16.Nxf6+** Poliannikov isn't interested in allowing his opponent to keep their dark square bishop, for which he is willing to give up his strong knight. 16.Qd3 is another approach that has been tried. White opts to castle long or by hand. 16...Bg7 17.h5 a4 with a dynamic fight ahead as pawns are pushed on both flanks. **16...Qxf6** **17.b3** simply defending the pawn on c4 with the hopes of getting the second knight to d5 via e3; however, it still feels as if White is a step behind in development. 17.Qxd6 is out of the question as Black will simply defend their knight and seize the initiative with all their pieces ready to come into the game. Need I remind you that White has yet to castle? 17...Rac8 18.Ne3 Rfd8 19.Qc5 Nd4 and Black begins to develop a terrifying initiative against White's underdeveloped position. Qb6 appears to be the only move that doesn't immediately lose White the game. **17...a4** Hilby doesn't bother defending the pawn on d6, which also would've been fine, but instead seizes the opportunity to put his opponent on notice. **18.0-0 Qd8** The queen now drops back not only to defend the d-pawn but also to reposition itself towards the queenside where Black's play is amassing. **19.Qd2** White has finally connected their rooks and is ready to tackle the middlegame. **19...h5** is a solid response from Black, solidifying their kingside and calling White's bluff on the b4 pawn. **20.Qe3** appears to be aimed at preventing Black's queen from landing on b6. White may also bring a rook to the d-file at some moment to pressure Black's only real weakness, the backwards pawn on d6. 20.Nxb4 fails due to the simple 20...Qa5 with a nasty pin. White can only hold onto their knight at the expense of

their b-pawn, which will lead to the collapse of their entire queenside structure. 21.a3 axb3 22.Qxd6 Nxb4 23.Qxb4 Qxb4 24.axb4 Bxc4 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Rb1 Ra4 and White will be lucky to make a draw in this endgame. **20...Qa5**



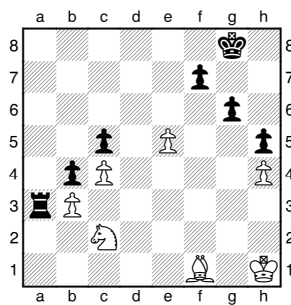
Black now begins to take over with a simple plan -- bring the queen to c5 and offer White a trade which would allow them to transform their weak d-pawn into a powerful c-pawn. **21.Qh6** Clearly sensing Black's queenside pressure building and not interested in waiting around for it to engulf him, Poliannikov goes out on the offensive. What could he have in mind? 21.Rfd1 Qc5 22.Qxc5 (22.Qe1 The position is objectively close to equal but practically tough for White.) 22...dxc5 would already see White in big trouble. The Black knight will eventually come to d4. Should White trade their own knight for it, they will be left to deal with Black's protected passed pawn. Surely no fun to be had there! 23.Bf3 Nd4 24.Nxd4 cxd4 **21...Qc5** **22.Kh1** removing the king from line of fire and preparing to march his f-pawn up the board is an ambitious idea, but will it be in time? 22.Rad1 appears to have been White's objectively best try, but it seems rather dangerous to abandon the a-file and allow Black to infiltrate. 22...axb3 23.axb3 Ra2 24.Ne3 Nd4 The position may still be just about balanced, but it is becoming increasingly harder for White to defend. **22...axb3** Unbothered, Hilby simply captures on b3, gesturing at his opponent "show me what you got." **23.f4!?** Poliannikov goes all in. Leaving the knight on c2 hanging seems crazy at first glance, but the plan is to use the f-pawn as a battering ram to rip open the Black king's defenses. White may have perpetual or even a mating net if Black isn't careful. **23...exf4!** Rather than grabbing the knight, Hilby digs deep and comes up with the only move to refute White's attack outright! 23...bxc2?! 24.f5 is already very dangerous for Black, who

might as well now bail out by allowing White a perpetual. 24...f6 It should be noted that Black cannot allow the pawn to reach f6, at which point White would have the unstoppable Qg7# idea. (24...gxf5?! 25.exf5 Qxc4 26.Qg5+ Kh7 27.Qxh5+ Kg8 and White can now decide if they want to settle for a perpetual via Qg5-Qh5 or even capture the bishop on e6 and play for more; 24...Qxc4?? 25.f6+-) 25.Qxg6+ Kh8 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Qg6+= **24.gxf4 Ne5!**



the IM once again finds the only move to keep himself in charge. He places his knight en prise, but White can only capture at the expense of their position quickly disintegrating! 24...bxc2 again would've allowed White to bail out. 25.f5 gxf5 and again White has at least a draw in hand. 26.Qg5+ Kh7 27.Qxh5+ Kg7 28.Qg5+= **25.axb3** 25.fxe5? would allow Black to breath a heavy sigh of relief. The pawn is no longer on the f-file, which means it cannot reach f6 or be used to expose Black's king. Black can now collect the knight on c2 and calmly convert. 25...bxc2 26.exd6 Bxc4 27.Rfe1 (27.Rf5 is one last desperate try for perpetual, but the queen can easily side step. 27...Qd4) 27...Rxa2 28.Rxa2 Bxa2-+; 25.f5 Ng4 is another key factor of this knight maneuver. Black is just in time to scare the queen away from h6 to save themselves from getting mated on g7. **25...Rxa1** **26.Nxa1** is an ugly looking recapture, but White had no other choice. The Black queen can simply not be allowed to infiltrate via f2. 26.Rxa1 Ng4 27.Qg5 Qf2 28.f5 Qg3 threatening mate on h2 29.Kg1 Bd7 and the White position sits on a knife's edge. 30.fxg6? Qh2+ 31.Kf1 fxg6+ discovered check! And White's king is as good as mated. **26...Ng4** **27.Qg5 Nf2+** **28.Kh2 Ng4+** Why not repeat to show your opponent who's in charge? **29.Kh1 Ra8** and here comes Black's last piece, a bit late, but still in time to make its presence known. **30.Qxc5** There's not much else

to do. Might as well trade down and try to defend an equal material albeit highly unpleasant endgame. 30.f5? would simply allow Black's queen to penetrate. 30...Qe5 31.Qf4 is now forced to cover mate on h2, but White will lose a piece as the rook on f1 is now overloaded. 31...Qxf4 32.Rxf4 Rxa1+ → 30...dxc5 and Black successfully achieves their dream endgame scenario: a rook dominating an open file, a knight powerfully posted in White's camp, and White's vulnerable queenside pawns stuck on the same color as Black's bishop. 31.f5 The master isn't going down without a fight! 31...Ne3 Hilby could've simply dropped his bishop back and kept all his trumps, but he decides to pursue something a bit more concrete. Perhaps he'd already calculated out to a win. 32.fxe6 Nxf1 33.e5 Perhaps the idea that Polianikov was banking on was that Black cannot capture the knight on a1 as the e-pawns are suddenly a problem. 33...Ra7 is a calm defensive move, and White is quickly running out of steam. 33...Rxa1?? 34.e7 and the rook cannot return to stop the pawn from queening as the a8 square is covered by White's bishop! 34...Ne3+ 35.Kh2 Nxe2 36.e8Q+ Kg7 37.Kxe2+- 34.e7 distracting the rook for long enough to save his knight, but it won't be enough. 34...Rxe7 35.Bxf1 Ra7 If only White had one more move, they may have saved their knight, but their pieces are very unfortunately positioned along the back rank. 36.Nc2 Ra3!

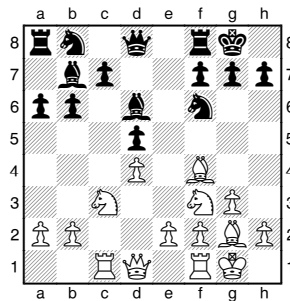


Observe the power of having an advanced pawn in the endgame. The knight cannot afford to capture the rook as Black will simply be gifted a passed pawn that the bishop will not be in time to stop. 37.Ne1 allows white's pieces to be skewered on the back rank, but unfortunately there wasn't much better white could've done 37.Nxa3 bxa3 38.Bd3 a2-+ 37...Ra1 38.Nd3 Rxf1+ 39.Kg2 Rf5 40.Nxc5 Rxe5 Finally, White throws in the towel. They could've tried to win the b-pawn, but ultimately

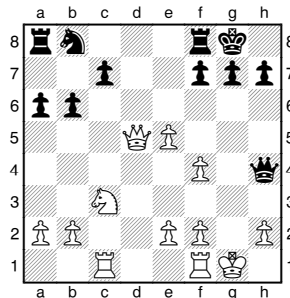
even 2 connected passers would be no match for the rook and Black's superior pawn army. What an impressive display from the IM, who seemed to squash his opponent's threats without batting an eye! 0-1

The annotator for the next two games is CM Ethan Modi, a high school student at Bergen County Academies in Hackensack, NJ. Ethan has participated in over 300 tournaments across the country and overseas. Ethan enjoys directing club tournaments and introducing the game to young aspiring players.

Modi, Ethan (2068) - Khrapatin, Fedor (2000)
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 b6?! 7.cxd5 exd5 b6 is now awkward. 8.Nc3 Bb7 9.Bf4 a6 10.Rc1 Bd6



10...c5 is probably the best chance. 11.dxc5 bxc5 (11...Bxc5 12.Nd4 Nbd7 13.a3 Re8 14.b4 Bf8 15.Nf5 White has better space and generally an easier position.) 12.Qb3 Qc8 13.Na4 The hanging pawn structure is weak and will be exploited with moves like e3 and eventually b4. 11.Ne5 Bxe5?? 11...Nbd7 12.Qb3± Bxe5 13.dxe5 Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Qc4 12.dxe5 Nh5 13.Bxd5 Bxd5 14.Qxd5 Nxf4 15.gxf4 Qh4?? 15...Qxd5 16.Nxd5+-

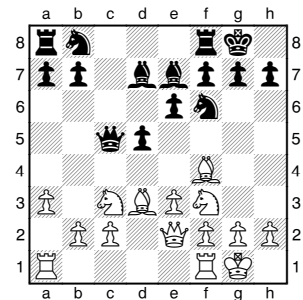


16.Qxa8 c6 17.Qb7 Qxf4 18.Qe7 c5 19.Qd6 f6 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.e6 Rc8

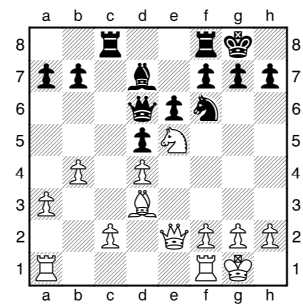
22.e7 Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Qd7 24.Qxd7 Nxd7 25.Rcd1 Kg8 26.Rxd7 Kf7 27.Rfd1 Re8 28.Ne4 Rxe7 29.Rxe7+ Kxe7 30.a3 f5 31.Ng3 g6 32.e4 f4 33.Ne2 g5 34.Rd5 h6 35.f3 Ke6 36.h4 g4 37.Nxf4+ Kf6 38.fxe4 Ke7 39.e5 Kf7 40.e6+ Ke7 41.Rd7+ Ke8 42.Nd5 b5 43.Nf6+ Kf8 44.Rf7# 1-0

Tang, Andrew (2623) - Norowitz, Yaacov (2502)

This is a faceoff between Princeton's GM Andrew Tang and NJ chess teacher IM Yaacov Norowitz. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.dxc5 Qa5+ 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.a3 Qxc5 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2



10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Bc6 13.b4 Qc4 (13...Qh5 14.Qe2 Bxe4 15.Qxe4 Nc6 16.Rad1 Rfd8 17.c4 White has more space and a queenside majority.) 14.Nd2 Qc3 15.Bd3 Nd7 16.Qe2 b6 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Nf6 19.Qe2 and White has two bishops and an easier plan. 10...Nc6 11.Nb5 Rac8 12.b4 Qb6 13.Nd6 Bxd6 14.Bxd6 Nd4 15.exd4 Qxd6 16.Ne5



16.Qe5 Qe7 (16...Qxe5 17.dxe5 Ng4 18.h3 Nh6 19.Nd4) 17.b5! White needs to cut off the bishop from getting to a4 to hold. 17...Rc3 18.a4 Rfc8 19.h3; 16.b5! was another good option. 16...Ba4 17.Rfe1 Rc3 18.Qd2 Rfc8 19.Ra2 Qc7 20.Re2 Ne4 21.Qe1 Nd6 22.f3 Bb5 23.Qh4 Bxd3 24.Nxd3 Nf5 25.Qf2 Qc4 26.Ra1 Qxd4 0-1

2021 Prize Winners!

Team Prizes:

Overall Winners:

1st Place-The Secret Square

2nd Place-DOCA

3rd Place-ICA Freudian Mouseslip

4th Place-Imagine Playing Chess on Valentine's Day

5th Place-Intangibles

Class Prizes (Denis Barry Awards):

U2100: Hydroxychlorokings

U2000: Middlegame Stops

U1900: The Terrifying Thrashers

U1800: Random Guys

U1700: The Chess Geec's

U1600: Beth's Double Pawns

U1500: Achoo (Stevens-A)

U1400: Pawn-Z Scheme

U1000: Gill Knights

Solutions

to the puzzles on page 10

1) 1. ...Rxc3! 2. bxc3 b2 and White has no pieces with which to combat the queen Black will make next move.

2) Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Bxh7+ Kxh7 17. Rh3+ and here Black resigned in the game. He probably realized that after 17.

...Kg8 18. Qh5 while 18. ...Bh4 stops the mate, White is still winning comfortably after 19. Rxb4 Qxb4 20. Qxb4 Nxe5 21. fxe5 bxc3 22. Rxc3 White has a queen and two pawns for a bishop and a rook and their pieces are beautifully placed while Black's do nothing.

3) 1. ...Ke6 2. Bd7+ Kxd7 3. Nb6+ Kc7 4. Qd7+ Kb8 5. Qxc8+ Ka7 6. Qa8#

4) 1. ...Rxd3+ 2. Kxd3 Bb5+ 3. Kc3 Bxa6 led to Black's resignation in the game. Slightly harder to convert and much harder to find is 1. ... Bb5 2. Bxb5 b2 3. Rxe6+ Kxe6 4. Bc4+ Kf6 5. Ba2 stops the pawn from queening immediately, but the rook will keep it safe until the king comes to push it through. No better is 3. Bd3 Rxd3 4. Kxd3 b1=Q+ and White picks up the last Black pawn and wins by promoting their pawn.

5) 1...Bd4! There is no way to stop a knight fork without losing an exchange. For example 2.Qe2 Nxf2 3.Rxf2 Bxf2 4.Qxf2; 2.Bxd4 cxd4 3.Qf3 Ne3+ 4.Kg1 Nxf1 5.Rxf1

6) 1. Qe7+ Kh6 Now there are two moves that both mate in 5: 2. Qf8+ Kh7 3.Qf7+ Kh8 and 4. Qf6+ Kg8 5. Rxg6+ Kh7 6.Qg7# or 4. Qe8+ Kg7 5.Rxg6+ Kh7 6.Qg8# both work. Also possible is 2. Qg5+ Kg7 3. Qxg6+ Kf8 4. Qf6+ Ke8 5. Rg8+ Kd7 6. Rg7+ Kc8 7.Qf8#.

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

Best from Each State:

Connecticut: Hopkin's Grey

Florida: 4th Board Man Gets Paid

Maryland: Team Mumpai

Massachusetts: We Won't Come Short of Winning

New Jersey: The Secret Square

New York (Benjamin Award):

Stalemated by COVID Since USTATE

Pennsylvania: Russian Mafia

Virginia: Quaranteam In VA

Miscellaneous Honors:

Top College Team: Princeton Tangerine

Top HS team: ICA BCA I

Top Middle School: Virus Killer

Top Elementary School: Killer KnightsTop Scholastic Team (Collins Award):

Stalemated by COVID Since USTATE

Mixed Doubles: Quaranteam In VA

Top Senior Team: Socially Distant Opposition

Top Female Team: Knights Of The Square Table

Top Family Team: All Ng The Family

Top Parent/Child Team: The Eagle Fang Attack

Top Future team: Magical Chess

Best Name: Find Me 11,780 More Pawns

Perfect Scores!

Bd 1: IM Yaacov Norowitz
(Yaac Attack)

Bd 2: NM Ian Harris (DOCA)

Bd 3: FM Karl Dehmelt
(Socially Distant Opposition)

Bd 4: Arsh Shah
(Please Cheat Fairly);

Ben Mirtchouk
(Achoo (Stevens A))

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